

ANERA'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

This is our tenth anniversary at ANERA. But we're not going to have a big celebration. It's not that ANERA hasn't compiled an excellent record of assistance to Palestinians and civilian victims of war in the Middle East—we have. And it's not that what we're doing hasn't made a real difference—it has. But our tenth anniversary also means 10 more years have passed without adequate consideration of Palestinian human rights—and that makes it hard to celebrate.



In July 1977, John P. Richardson (left foreground) offers a hand to a Palestinian family fleeing the Israeli-occupied West Bank over the Allenby Bridge, badly damaged in the Arab-Israeli war just a few weeks earlier. Joining ANERA in 1968, Mr. Richardson served as President from September, 1973 to September, 1977.

these groups were matched by the Near East Emergency Donations (NEED), a temporary group organized immediately after the June War with Presidents Eisenhower and Truman as the honorary chairmen and dedicated to providing relief for the Palestinians, Egyptians, and Syrians who had been displaced during the war.

There are many people without whose efforts ANERA would not have reached its tenth anniversary. Four men were especially instrumental. James Sams (an attorney in Washington, D.C.) and Orin Parker (President of AMIDEAST) were two of ANERA's first organizers. They contacted John Davis, former Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and former Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), to be ANERA's first President; John Richardson, then with American Friends of the Middle East, became ANERA's Executive Director.

Over the past 10 years a lot has happened: there have been three wars in the Middle East; Israelis and Palestinians, however remotely at this writing, are beginning to recognize the rights of the other; ANERA's personnel and emphasis of projects have expanded and changed; and the amount of ANERA aid to projects in the Middle East has increased 17 times what it was in fy69 to what is projected for fy79 (from \$96,130 in cash and kind to \$1,675,600).

The support of those receiving this Newsletter has been vital to our efforts. But we know you'll understand when we tell you we don't want many more anniversaries. We'd rather have the main reason for ANERA's existence—the plight of the Palestinians—resolved fairly. Then we can all really celebrate.

In 1967 when the idea for ANERA developed. American financial and emotional support for Israel was overwhelming. If the Palestinians were dealt with at all (usually they were simply referred to as "Arabs"), it was only in relation to Israel; rarely were they seen as a people in their own right, whose future was as important as the future of the Israelis.

But there were some Americans who, whatever their diverse commitments to Israel, were united in their concern about what was happening to the Palestinians. The June War of 1967 was a turning point for these Americans in the United States as it was for Palestinians in the Middle East. There was a new awareness that the previous 20 years' efforts had brought the Palestinians not much closer to an impartial consideration of their aspirations.

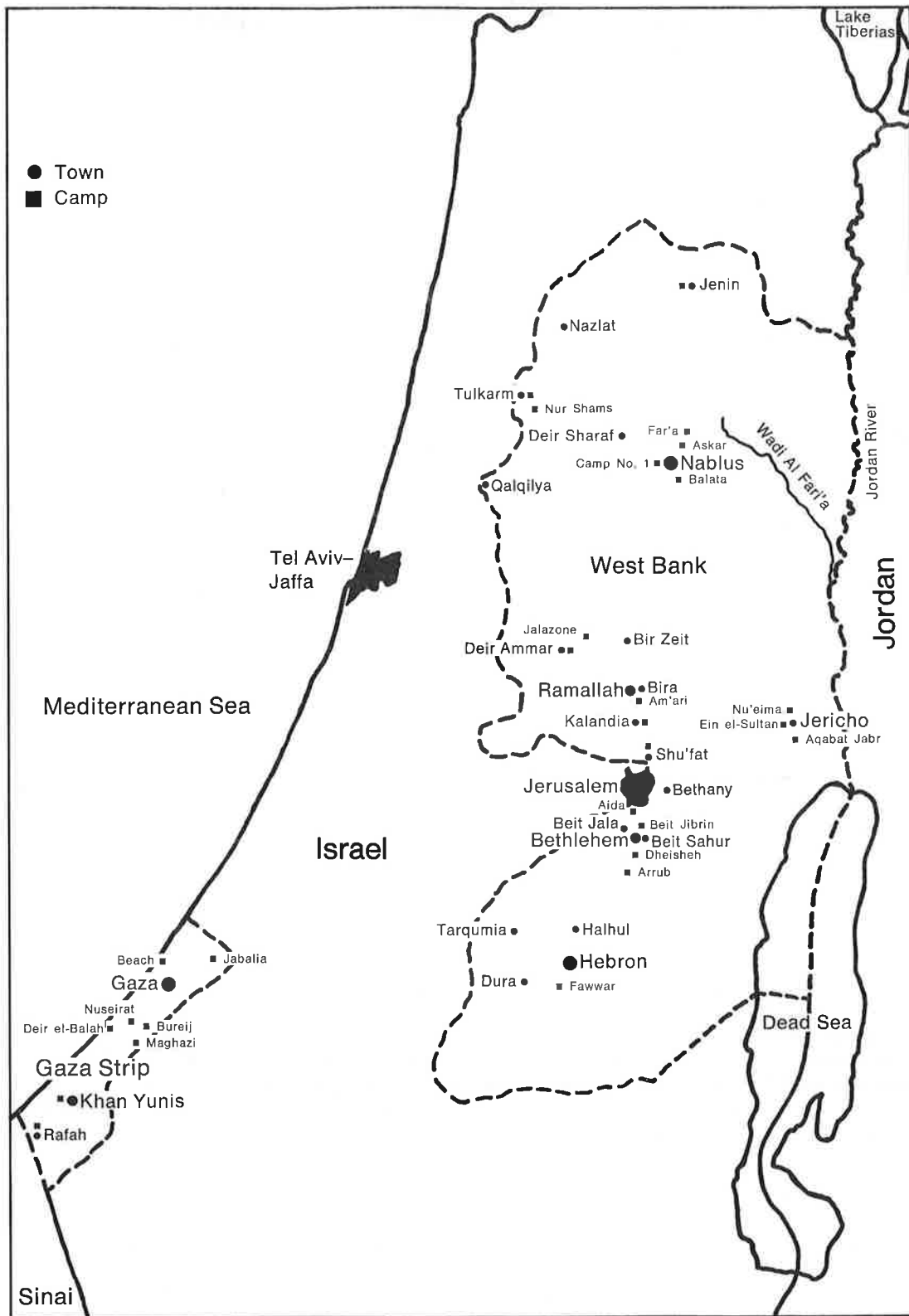
With the June War, many of these Americans started local emergency organizations in their communities all over the U.S. to provide American help for those displaced by the Israeli military occupation. Meetings of these grass-roots, emergency relief organizations and other national Middle East-related groups

were then held in Detroit, Michigan, and Washington, D.C., during the summer of 1967. Out of these meetings, it was decided a national, permanent organization would be created as an American expression of humanitarian concern for the Palestinians and Arab civilian victims of war in the Middle East; this organization would also speak plainly to Americans about the on-going tragedy of the Palestinians. American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) became that organization and was officially incorporated in February, 1968.

In its first year, ANERA received crucial financial support from several founding members: the Musa Alami Foundation, the United American Arab Appeal, American Friends of the Middle East (now called AMIDEAST), Arab Emergency Relief Committee, U.S. Omen, American Middle East Rehabilitation (which became ANERA's medical division in 1971), American Arab Relief Agency, and Pal-Aid International. The gifts of



Enjoying a lighter moment at ANERA's Tenth Annual Board Meeting, held in September, 1978, are (from left to right): Harold D. Snell, Treasurer; John H. Davis, Chairman Emeritus; Evan M. Wilson, Chairman; and Peter Gubser, President.



Over the past 10 years, ANERA's main areas of operation have been in Jordan, Lebanon, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip (part of the territories militarily occupied by Israel).

Recent years have found more and more of ANERA's efforts directed toward Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for three main reasons: (1) traditionally, military occupation has made it difficult for aid to reach the Palestinians in these areas; (2) the West Bank and Gaza Strip have the largest concentration of Palestinians in the Middle East; and (3) it is these two areas where some type of homeland or state for the Palestinians is expected to exist in the future.

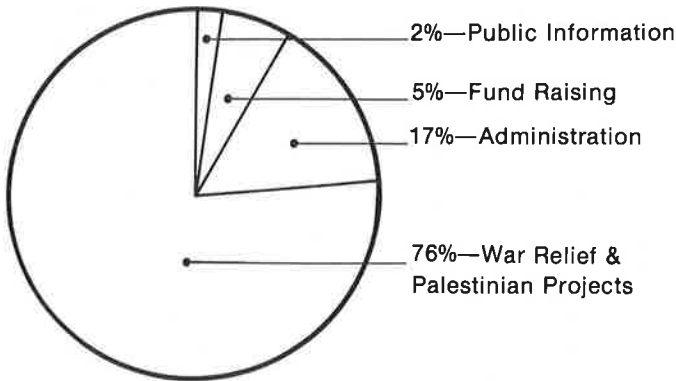
The map above shows the location of towns in the West Bank and Gaza Strip where ANERA has helped people or plans to help in the near future. In addition, some of the ANERA-assisted projects serve Palestinians in the refugee camps, set up by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), pictured in the map.

All the projects ANERA assists—hospitals, schools, orphanages, farmers' cooperatives, women's organizations, etc.—are established and maintained by Palestinians themselves who live in the respective communities.

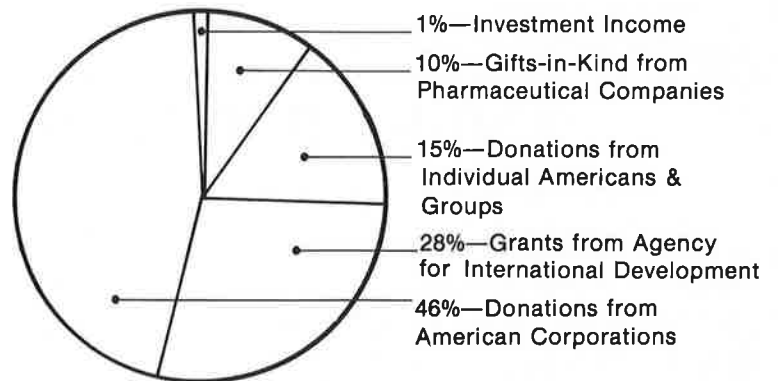
TEN YEAR FINANCIAL COMPARISON

Fiscal Years 1969-1978

Expenditures



Sources of Income



Over the past ten years, organizations, corporations, and individuals throughout the United States contributed generously to the work of ANERA. These contributions from Americans represent more than just dollars—they demonstrate a concern for humanity which transcends political and cultural barriers. This demonstration of American concern is especially important during these critical times in the Middle East.

The above circles represent ANERA's expenditures (\$7,241,776) and sources of income (\$7,345,352) over the past ten years. ANERA's annual audit for fiscal year 1978 can be obtained by contacting the ANERA office.

ANERA is proud to note that over the past ten years, only 22% of ANERA's income was needed for administrative and fund raising expenses. This is a good record among small charitable organizations and is made possible by the generosity of ANERA donors and the efficiency of the ANERA staff.

ANERA GRANTS, FISCAL YEAR 1978

In fiscal year 1978, ANERA gave a total of \$1,063,450 (\$898,880 in cash grants and \$164,570 in gifts in kind) to projects primarily assisting Palestinians and civilian victims of conflict in Lebanon. This is \$416,618 more than was given in fiscal year 1977. The following projects received ANERA assistance in FY78:

1. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Association for the Resurgence of Palestinian Camps Beirut, Lebanon	for a daycare and community center, the training of refugee women, & programs to relieve suffering during the war in Lebanon	\$ 4,000
Gaza City Government Gaza, Gaza Strip	expansion of Gaza's sewer system to poorer neighborhoods with the help of the people in those neighborhoods	\$ 50,000
Hebron City Government Hebron, West Bank	completion of the new municipal library serving Palestinians in the district of Hebron	\$ 50,000
Palestine Women's Union Gaza, Gaza Strip	for libraries, daycare centers, literacy programs, training of refugee women, & other special projects	\$ 4,000
Poultry Farmers' Cooperative Ramallah-Bireh, West Bank	partial aid for the establishment of a feed processing plant giving the farmers a steady supply of feed at a reasonable cost	\$ 35,000
Red Crescent Society Gaza, Gaza Strip	for libraries, training programs, health and dental care, & community activities in refugee camps	\$ 4,000
Women's Charitable Society Hebron, West Bank	construction of the Society's new center; its programs include mother/child care, food for the needy, literacy courses, sewing and knitting courses for Palestinian women	\$100,000
YMCA Gaza, Gaza Strip	for leadership, community & sports programs for Palestinian youths in Gaza and in refugee camps in the Gaza Strip	\$ 4,000

YMCA Jerusalem, West Bank	for diversified programs for Palestinians in community activities, leadership & sports programs & vocational training	\$ 4,000
YWCA Jerusalem, West Bank	for diversified programs including cultural activities, sports programs & vocational training for Palestinian women	\$ 4,000
TOTAL COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS		\$259,000

2. EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

Institution	Purpose	Amount
Al-Bir Society Jericho, West Bank	equipment to train young men in tractor maintenance & repair which is badly needed on the West Bank	\$ 50,000
American University of Beirut Beirut, Lebanon	scholarships for needy students	\$ 3,500
Arab Women's Union Bethlehem, West Bank	support for the only school of fine arts in the Occupied Territories	\$ 13,000
Arab Women's Union Jerusalem, West Bank	equipment & training for Palestinian women in sewing & knitting	\$ 37,000
Beirut University College Beirut, Lebanon	scholarships for needy Palestinians & students from South Lebanon	\$ 2,500
Bethlehem Societies Committee for Rehabilitation & Development Bethlehem, West Bank	establishment of a factory-workshop to train young men & women in the design & metal production of religious articles & contemporary jewelry	\$ 64,000
Birzeit University Birzeit, West Bank	scholarships for needy Palestinian students & general support of the University	\$ 10,780
Co-operative Society for Higher Education Dura, West Bank	support of scholarship loan fund for Palestinian students	\$ 2,500
Co-operative Society for Higher Education Halhul, West Bank	support of scholarship loan fund for Palestinian students	\$ 2,500
Gaza College Gaza, Gaza Strip	scholarships for needy Palestinian students for secondary education	\$ 4,000
Industrial Islamic Orphanage Jerusalem, West Bank	food, clothing, shelter, general education & vocational training in carpentry, painting, furniture making, tailoring & shoemaking for Palestinian orphans	\$ 2,000
Jeel al-Amal Bethany, West Bank	education, food, clothing & shelter for orphaned & destitute Palestinian children	\$ 3,000
Rawdat El-Zuhur Jerusalem, West Bank	elementary education & health care for destitute Palestinian children	\$ 2,500
Salesian Technical School Bethlehem, West Bank	equipment & training for Palestinian refugees as mechanics, electricians, tailors & carpenters	\$ 20,000
Sisters of Mercy Bethlehem, West Bank	equipment & training for Palestinian women in sewing, knitting & tailoring	\$ 5,200
Sun Daycare Center Gaza, Gaza Strip	towards purchase of a bus; the Center is the only school for retarded children in the Gaza Strip	\$ 2,000
United Nations Relief & Works Agency Occupied Territories & Karameh, Jordan	scholarships & books for Palestinian refugee children in elementary schools in Karameh, Jordan; vocational training scholarships for refugees in teaching, carpentry, mechanics, welding & business education in the Occupied Territories	\$ 22,400
TOTAL EDUCATIONAL GRANTS		\$246,880

3. HEALTH SERVICES GRANTS

Institution	Purpose	Amount
American University Hospital Beirut, Lebanon	powdered milk for infants & children in orphanages & for others displaced during the Israeli invasion of South Lebanon	\$ 56,700* \$ 7,061**
Arab Women's Union Nablus, West Bank	equipment for the Union's Ittehad Hospital in Nablus which serves Palestinians for nominal fees	\$100,000
Four Homes of Mercy Jerusalem, West Bank	equipment & training for Palestinian women & men in practical nursing	\$ 75,000
Lebanese Red Cross Beirut, Lebanon	aid for victims of the Israeli military invasion of South Lebanon	\$ 5,000
Palestine Red Crescent Society Beirut, Lebanon	aid for victims of the Israeli military invasion of South Lebanon	\$ 5,000
Red Crescent Society Jenin, West Bank	construction of a maternity hospital to serve the district of Jenin	\$100,000
Red Crescent Maternity Hospital Jerusalem, West Bank	equipment for the operating room and ancillary facilities; the Hospital serves Palestinian women at nominal fees	\$ 31,000
St. Luke's Evangelical Hospital Nablus, West Bank	equipment & training for Palestinian men & women in practical nursing	\$ 77,000
United Nations Relief and Works Agency Jordan, Lebanon, Syria & the Occupied Territories	pharmaceutical & medical supplies for Palestinian refugees	\$100,809*

TOTAL, HEALTH SERVICES GRANTS \$557,570

* These figures are the value of gifts given in kind

** This figure represents the cost of shipping the powdered milk

THANK YOU

To all those who have given to ANERA, here are a few words from some of the people you have helped:

ANERA has been so kind and generous to us all through. In the most difficult times and worst financial situations, ANERA has been very gracious and helped us face the situation with more hope and courage . . . This year's donation will help us pay part of the increasing rent (on the orphanage and school) and some current expenses like settling the bread bill which has accumulated from last year. . . The 124 boys (who live here) join me in sending you their heartfelt thanks and good wishes." (Mrs. Alice B. Sahhar, Jeel Al-Amal, Bethany, West Bank)

"Thanks to you, ANERA, and to many friends from all over the world, B.U.C. was able to survive the crisis and hence to start its academic year 1977-78 with student enrollment of 877 representing 41 different nationalities. . . The challenges that are facing B.U.C., however, are not over. . . , many of its students were adversely affected by the two years' tragic crisis. . . Thank you for all the help you have been extending to us. . . ." (Mohammad Z. Yakan, Beirut University College, Beirut, Lebanon)

"We appreciate the spirit behind (your) contribution, and wish to thank you and members of ANERA. . . We shall allocate this sum for the help of disabled persons. . . ." (Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi, Red Crescent Society for the Gaza Strip)

"I wish to inform you that the Nurses Training Center is in full swing, running its practical courses for the first time. The experience is proving quite successful as the students train in various hospitals in Jerusalem as well as in the Four Homes of Mercy. . . It will be of great help to the community in Jerusalem and on the West Bank as soon as the 13 students graduate on February 28, 1978. . . Thanks again. . . for the encouragement you gave us and for the financial help you provided. . . ." (Colette T. Habesch, Nurses Training Center, Four Homes of Mercy, Jerusalem, West Bank)

"This gift has been especially helpful at this time because of the refugees who fled from the South (of Lebanon during the Israeli invasion in March, 1978). . . The powdered milk. . . used by infants and children. . . at the Creche (Christian) Orphanage. . . the Moslem Orphanage. . . the Armenian Orphanage, . . . (by) the Lebanese Red Cross which has nurses working in the villages in southern Lebanon, and at the American University Hospital. . . Your generosity and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated, and on behalf of the many beneficiaries of your gift, I thank you. . . ." (Dr. Samuel P. Asper, American University Hospital, Beirut, Lebanon)



Members of the ANERA staff in Washington, D.C. are pictured above, left to right: Robert Fisher, Director/AMER Medical Division & Project Co-ordinator; Sara Gentry, Vice President; Joyce Stewart, Accountant; Peter Gubser, President; Stephanie Ericson, Secretary; and Rose Anne Foster, Secretary.



In addition to the three able staff persons, seven turtles inhabit the roof terrace surrounding ANERA's office in Jerusalem. Thought to bring good luck by local sages, the seven turtles were carefully screened before being added to the ANERA enclave. Henry Selz (above), Middle East Representative, holds one of the shy but lucky winners.

ANERA staff members (not pictured) in Jerusalem are Henry Selz, Middle East Representative, Ahmed Sweilem, Economic Development Advisor, and Emily Ohan, Secretary. Recently added to ANERA's staff, Dr. Sweilem received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Vienna, Austria in 1971. Dr. Sweilem will be conducting surveys in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to determine the economic feasibility of potential ANERA projects.

Enclosed is a special gift in honor of ANERA's Tenth Anniversary:

_____ \$15 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$1000 _____ Other

NAME _____

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CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Contributions to ANERA are tax-deductible and should be sent with this form to the ANERA office. Thank you for your help.

ANERA

900 Woodward Bldg.
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AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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- The Hon. Evan M. Wilson, Chairman
- Dr. Mansour Armaly, Vice Chairman
- Dr. M. Hadi Salem, Vice Chairman
- Dr. Peter Gubser, President
- Ms. Sara C. Gentry, Vice President
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