

## SARA REFLECTS

*Sara Gentry, Vice President, left ANERA in early September to begin work with the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, a new organization that will defend and promote more positive public images of Arabs and Arab Americans.*

*In seven years with ANERA, Sara's clear and compassionate voice reached thousands of Americans through the ANERA newsletter, fundraising appeals and her personal appearances and correspondence. Her personal approach and skillful presentation information have been reliable trademarks of her work throughout the uncertainties of Middle East politics. In this issue of the newsletter we have interviewed Sara to*



*glean her insights and recollections about ANERA's development and events in the Middle East.*

### **What was ANERA like when you started in 1973?**

At that time, the Palestinian issue was still obscure. Although we worked on fundraising, the more important function then was to educate people about the Palestinians. The newsletter was published every two months, and dealt with Palestinians living in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria as well as the Occupied Territories.

### **Tell us about the '73 War. What happened at ANERA?**

The war just overwhelmed us. It took everyone by surprise. Because we were still relatively small, our lists of addresses and printing facilities were handled by other offices, so we couldn't snap our fingers and send letters out. Fortunately, we had our regular appeal in the mail when the war started, and we got a tremendous increase in donations from that appeal.

### **Did ANERA help with war relief?**

ANERA helped a number of organizations that had lost buildings or equipment—they were mostly groups that already had a history with ANERA. Relief donations were also sent to the Syrian and Egyptian branches of the Red Crescent. AMER (American Near East Rehabilitation, the Medical Division of ANERA) of course was involved in shipping pharmaceuticals.

ANERA did get a lot of calls from people offering help. I remember two young men who called from Kansas wanting to know if they could go over to help...

## Inside— WRAPPING UP 1980

### **How did the war change ANERA?**

The Palestinians were still pretty much unknown and people who supported them had always felt powerless. Before the war, people who supported Palestinians often found their careers in jeopardy as a result of their outspoken views.

We had more power after the war, and I think it came from the effects of the Arab oil embargo. People were suddenly willing to listen because they realized it was in their interest and they wanted to hear the other side of the story.

Also, after the war, President Nixon started the Middle East Special Requirements Fund (MESRF) for war relief for Syria, Egypt and the Occupied Territories.

ANERA first received these funds through the Agency for International Development in 1975. This necessitated setting up an office in Jerusalem, and meant that ANERA focused more specifically on the Occupied Territories because the federal money was ear-marked for that area. There has also been a gradual education on our part. As the Occupation dragged on, it became clear that the West Bank and Gaza would be the focal point for any future decisions about the Palestinians. Henry Selz set up the office in Jerusalem in 1976, and has had a super influence on the kinds of projects ANERA supports. His background in development leads him to seek out the co-operatives and encourage development-related projects.

### **How has your own job changed over the years?**

I started as the newsletter editor and the liaison with other Middle East groups and the ANERA chapters in the Shenandoah Valley, Seattle and Wausau, Wisconsin.

In 1975 we decided to use an appeal that focused more specifically on the Palestinians' plight rather than an appeal that could apply to any impoverished population. Before then we had hired an ad agency to design our appeals, but it became apparent that they didn't know enough about the Palestinians, so I took over that job.

### **What has ANERA's impact on Americans been?**

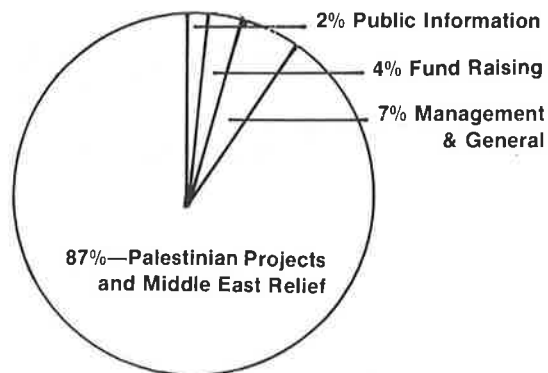
After the '73 war, ANERA tried harder than ever to inform people about the Palestinians, and I think that our newsletter had

## ANERA'S FINANCES

During the past fiscal year, individuals, organizations and corporations have generously contributed to the work of ANERA. These contributions represent a concern for humanity which transcends political and cultural barriers.

The pie on the right represents ANERA's expenditures (\$1,806,633) during fiscal year 1980. ANERA's FY80 Annual Audit can be obtained by contacting the ANERA office.

ANERA is proud to note that only 11% of ANERA's income was needed for fundraising and management. This is an excellent record among charitable organizations and is made possible by the generosity of ANERA donors and the efficiency of the ANERA staff.



## ANERA GRANTS, FISCAL YEAR 1980

In fiscal year 1980 ANERA gave a total of \$1,471,058 (\$1,282,895 in cash grants and \$188,162.71 in gifts-in-kind and shipping) to projects assisting Palestinians and civilian victims of conflict in Lebanon. This is 13% more than was given in fiscal year 1979. In addition, during fiscal year 1980, a number of planned and fully funded projects, totaling a little under \$1 million, were not executed because the Israeli Military Occupation Authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has not yet approved their implementation. During fiscal year 1981, we are hopeful that the Authority will approve their realization as well as new projects in this year's cycle.

### 1. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Institution	Purpose	Amount
Arab Women's Society Jerusalem, West Bank	mother/child care, food for the needy, vocational training for Palestinian women	\$ 3,000
Arab Women's Union Bethlehem, West Bank	mother/child care, food for the needy, vocational training for Palestinian women	\$ 4,000
Arab Women's Union Jerusalem, West Bank	mother/child care, home for the elderly, food for the needy, vocational training for Palestinian women	\$ 3,000
Arab Women's Union Nablus, West Bank	mother/child care, food for the needy, vocational training for Palestinian women	\$ 4,000
Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps Beirut, Lebanon	daycare and community center, & vocational training of refugee women	\$ 5,000
Deir Sharaf Olive Press Co-op Deir Sharaf, West Bank	quality control, bottling and canning of olive oil for more efficient marketing for the northern region of the West Bank	\$150,000
Ein Sinyeh Olive Press Co-op Ein Sinyeh, West Bank	quality control, bottling and canning of olive oil for more efficient marketing for the central region of the West Bank	\$150,000
Gaza Municipality Gaza, Gaza Strip	support for expansion of Gaza's sewer system to poor neighborhoods	\$100,000
Gaza Municipality Gaza, Gaza Strip	support of municipal project for retention of seasonal rain-water by reinjection into the ground for improved irrigation	\$250,000
Palestine Women's Union Gaza, Gaza Strip	libraries, daycare centers, literacy programs, training of refugee women, and other special projects	\$ 5,000
Red Crescent Society Gaza, Gaza Strip	library, training programs, health and dental care, community activities in refugee camps	\$ 5,000
Red Crescent Society Tulkarm, West Bank	library, vocational training of refugee women, mother/child care	\$ 4,000
Tarqumiya Olive Press Co-op Tarqumiya, West Bank	establishment of revolving loan fund to help farmers reclaim and provide short-term agricultural loans	\$100,000
Tarqumiya Olive Press Co-op Tarqumiya, West Bank	establishment of a seedling nursery for olive tree and other tree seedlings for farmers in the Southern half of the West Bank	\$150,000
Women's Charitable Society Hebron, West Bank	mother/child care, food for the needy, literacy courses, vocational training for Palestinian women	\$ 4,000
Y.M.C.A. Gaza, Gaza Strip	leadership, community and sports program for Palestinian youths in refugee camps in the Gaza Strip	\$ 5,000

Y.M.C.A. Jerusalem, West Bank	diversified programs for Palestinians in community activities, leadership & sports programs, and vocational training	\$ 3,000
Y.W.C.A. Jerusalem, West Bank	diversified programs including cultural activities, sports programs & vocational training for Palestinian women	\$ 3,000
<b>TOTAL, COMMUNITY &amp; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS</b>		<b>\$948,000</b>

## 2. EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
American University of Beirut Beirut, Lebanon	scholarships for needy students	\$ 4,000
Beirut University College Beirut, Lebanon	scholarships for needy Palestinians from South Lebanon	\$ 4,000
Bethlehem University Bethlehem, West Bank	scholarships for needy Palestinian students	\$ 4,000
Birzeit University Birzeit, West Bank	scholarships for needy Palestinian students and general support of the University	\$ 20,570
Dar El-Tifl Jerusalem, West Bank	elementary scholarships for orphans and destitute children	\$ 7,050
Gaza College Gaza, Gaza Strip	general support for secondary children	\$ 5,000
Hebron University Graduates Union Hebron, West Bank	establishment of a vocational training school for high school graduates	\$175,000
Industrial Islamic Orphanage Jerusalem, West Bank	food, clothing, shelter, general education and vocational training in carpentry, painting, furniture-making, tailoring and shoe making for Palestinian orphans	\$ 4,000
Jeel al-Amal Bethany, West Bank	education, food, clothing and shelter for orphaned and destitute Palestinian children	\$ 4,000
Marjoyoun National College Marjoyoun, Lebanon	support for secondary education in South Lebanon	\$ 2,890
Rawdat El-Zuhur Jerusalem, West Bank	elementary scholarships for orphans and destitute children	\$ 6,225
Salesian Technical School Bethlehem, West Bank	general support for vocational training	\$ 3,000
Sun Daycare Center Gaza, Gaza Strip	educational assistance for retarded children in the Gaza Strip	\$ 5,000
United Nations Relief & Works Agency (UNRWA) Occupied Territories & Karameh, Jordan	scholarships for refugees in teaching, carpentry, mechanics, welding and business education	\$ 5,160
<b>TOTAL, EDUCATIONAL GRANTS</b>		<b>\$249,895</b>

## 3. HEALTH SERVICES GRANTS

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Arab Nursing College of the Red Crescent Societies West Bank & Gaza Strip	establishment of a Nurses' Training College which will graduate nurses at the B. Sc. level	\$ 71,000
Four Homes of Mercy Bethany, West Bank	medical care for the retarded, crippled, & orphaned; pre- & post-natal care for mothers & babies	\$ 4,000
Lebanese Red Cross Beirut, Lebanon	aid for victims of the Lebanese conflict	\$ 5,000
Palestine Red Crescent Beirut, Lebanon	aid for victims of the Lebanese conflict, and establishment of a rehabilitation center	\$ 5,000
<b>TOTAL, HEALTH SERVICES</b>		<b>\$ 85,000</b>

#### 4. IN-KIND GRANTS

United Nations Relief & Works Agency (UNRWA) Jordan, Lebanon, Syria & the Occupied Territories	pharmaceuticals and medical supplies for Palestinian refugees	\$186,517.71
Birzeit University, Books Birzeit, West Bank	books for the University	\$ 417.00
Shipping Costs for the In-Kind Grants		\$1,228.00

#### SARA REFLECTS *(continued)*

more impact on Americans than we at first realized. ANERA was out there early and was well-enough organized to provide consistent information. Our work helped influence others to start new organizations, such as the Palestine Human Rights Campaign. As these new groups developed programs on the human rights and political issues, ANERA moved over increasingly to economic development issues.

#### Tell us about your new job...

I'll be working for the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee which is being organized by former Senator James Abourezk. The Committee will deal with issues like negative stereotyping of Arabs in the media, and with specific cases of harassment or job discrimination. A staff lawyer will take on the

legal cases and we'll keep our supporters informed through a regular bulletin. Our office is located at 1075 National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045

#### What have you learned from your work at ANERA?

How much people can influence things, that we are not helpless to bring about changes. The generosity of Americans is heartwarming. Once Americans learn about a situation, their sense of justice and fair play comes forward and they're really supportive.

You also see the courage of the Palestinians who persevere under military occupation. They could all have given up and left, but they stay and work to make life better.

But you know, it's just like walking on eggshells. It always has been.

Enclosed is a special gift for ANERA's work in the coming year:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15          \_\_\_\_\_ \$25          \_\_\_\_\_ \$50          \_\_\_\_\_ \$100          \_\_\_\_\_ \$500          \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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.

*This issue of the ANERA Newsletter was written by Dagny Svien and Lucy Brown, ANERA's Executive Assistants.*

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

WRAPPING UP 1980

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The Hon. Thomas M. Rees, Chairman  
Dr. Peter Gubser, President

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