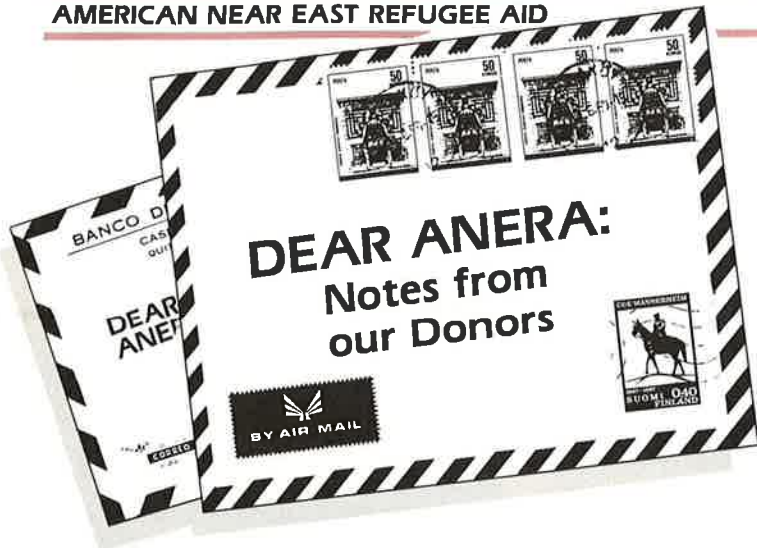


# ANERA

## NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

NUMBER 85 SPRING 1989



*"I lived in West Beirut in 1983 next door to a bombed apartment house. The darling Palestinian kids used to come to my place to get fresh (not salt) drinking water. I learned a lot from the courage of the Palestinian women. I hope the scholarship goes to a girl, please"*

Jenner, California

One of the more intriguing aspects of working with ANERA is the mail. We write to large numbers of people, over 650,000 last year alone, seeking funds or talking about the Middle East, and many of you write back. People often have strong feelings about this part of the world; the people with whom we work and nature of our programs frequently elicit intense comments and opinions. This public communication and support is a high priority for us. It plays an important role in ANERA's effectiveness as an organization.

Our direct mail program is somewhat unusual for an organization of our size. Many development agencies rely on USAID (Agency for International Development) for the bulk of their funding. While ANERA also administers large AID-funded projects, we take greater pride in our 20,000 private donors. These donations enable us to fund small projects (\$5,000-10,000) with over 50 community groups in the West Bank and Gaza and relief organizations in Lebanon. We can respond quickly in areas of greatest need, and support programs that involve less paperwork and administration than do our government grants. Private donations fund revolving loan programs and income-generating projects with women's organizations, credit cooperatives, clinics and welfare associations.

*"It (Al-Kafaat) is a school my family and I highly respect. I have a deep faith that with people like Mr. and Mrs. Shwayri, and whoever works with him and with people like you at ANERA, peace and normal life will be restored to Lebanon."*

Atlanta, Georgia

After weeks of opening letters a wide spectrum of public opinion begins to emerge. From . . . "I feel so sorry for those little children I saw on TV," . . . "The Palestinians deserve a homeland too," and "I don't agree with my government's policies" . . . to . . . "Where did you get my name? Don't ever write me again!" . . . "The PLO wants to push Israel into the sea," and "Ask the rich Arabs who won't take them in."

Our donors are a special group of people who give to those less fortunate in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Lebanon, without needing gifts, tote bags or expensive monthly progress reports in return.

We also have a number of donors outside the U.S.; many are Canadian citizens, others come from as far away as Switzerland, Sri Lanka and New Zealand. Our donors represent varied ethnic and religious backgrounds. Although many are Arab-American, have Arab friends, or have lived or worked in the Middle East, most have no identifiable special interest other than concern over the Palestinian *intifada* or events in Lebanon. Approximately 6% of our donors are Jewish.

*"We hope that in a small way this will be of help. Would it be of interest to you that one of us is Jewish?"*

Richmond, California

In order to get a better picture of those who support Palestinian and Lebanese development programs, we thought we would open the mail bag for this issue of the newsletter. What follows is a selection of supportive comments received at ANERA this year, profiles of some special donors, and a delightful recounting by volunteer Ogden Williams of his visit to ANERA-assisted schools in East Jerusalem. So, letter openers ready . . .



Crisis in Lebanon

For the past three months savage shelling in Beirut has devastated a civilian population already battered by fifteen years of war. Neighborhoods across the city are under constant attack; Al-Kafaat, an ANERA-supported school for the handicapped, was hit; food and medical supplies are scarce.

In response, ANERA has shipped \$400,000 worth of medicine to clinics and hospitals, and is raising funds to help Lebanese relief organizations. If you wish to help with an emergency donation, please use the coupon on the back.

# DEAR ANERA

*"When planning began for Rawdat El Zuhur in East Jerusalem, I was present at those early meetings with my dear friend, Elizabeth Nasir who I have supported ever since in that work. I visited on my every journey into Jerusalem and sent visitors there to observe that work and to contribute. I always paid for the children's candy at Christmas time—that was Lizzie's wish. She is now gone to her reward, I shall miss my friend, and also her other relatives who lived in Jerusalem and Bir Zeit . . . 54 years is a long time to have and make dear, close friends and now worry about their safety and their projects."*

—Cleveland, Ohio (86 years old)

*"As a retired elementary teacher and principal I can appreciate the task you have under the present circumstances."*

—Independence, Missouri

*"While I certainly wish to help children anywhere, it would give me particular pleasure to give back just a little hope to that beautiful country of Lebanon."*

—Shelburne, Vermont

*"ANERA  
I am a Jew  
I myself was victimized by the Nazi police  
I am ashamed of what Jews are doing now  
I am terribly sorry . . .  
Please accept my help; I wish I could do better  
Please try not to hate . . ."*

—New Hyde Park, New York

*"Dad died on April 6th. He was very proud of being able to help a young child with their education in the West Bank. He told me about this on several occasions. When time comes to renew his commitment, please send the letter to me. I would be happy to continue to support it in his memory."*

—Paradise Valley, Arizona

*"My wife and I would very much like to give a doll to Miss Suhad Assad—I understand that it is not convenient for you to arrange for communication between us, instead, therefore, we have included an additional \$15. We hope you can purchase and give her a doll."*

—Janesville, Wisconsin

[Note: Because of high transportation costs and import taxes, ANERA does not ship non-medical items. This donation was used in East Jerusalem for the benefit of all the students.]



**Alfred and Betsy Ingersoll  
Pacific Palisades, California**

Mr. Ingersoll is Special Assistant to the President of Northrop University and taught Engineering at UCLA for 12 years. Mrs. Ingersoll is active in church and community programs.

They are enthusiastic scholarship donors, and currently are working to set up student exchanges between their local Rotary Interact club and a Palestinian high school.

"It is important to state that we do not have any relatives or close friends on either side of the conflict. We saw a newspaper ad about ANERA and it seemed worthy of some support, especially to help with schooling for an Arab child. After making inquiry of the State Department about the credibility of ANERA and its appeal materials—and getting a warmly positive response—we saw ANERA as the best way to "balance the books" and show some support for the Arabs."

*"I do wish I could do more to help, but monks take a vow of poverty. Some of the parishioners chipped in and gave me a Christmas gift. Hence, I have a little something to help out. Thank you and all those associated in your humane, loving work—so many of us think of ourselves first, last and always."*

—Eastern Orthodox Church,  
Hollywood, CA



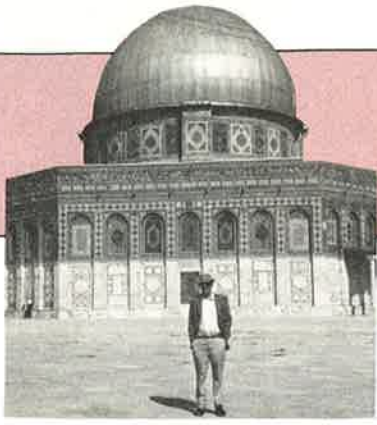
*Written and designed by Paula Stinson, ANERA's Vice President. Cover and back photos courtesy of UNRWA.*



**Anthony and Murial Mansour  
Davison, Michigan**

The Mansours are longtime ANERA supporters and recently returned from a trip to the West Bank. A native of Nazareth, Palestine, Mr. Mansour came to the United States in 1927. He is an attorney and former circuit court judge. Mrs. Mansour is from Lawrence, Massachusetts, of British descent. She is an office manager.

"We are supportive of the type of projects ANERA does, especially the self-help concept. ANERA doesn't just give money to alleviate emergency needs, but supports long-term projects to help the Palestinians enhance their own self-sufficiency and dignity. This is the only way to go in the world."



## A SPLENDID LITTLE SCHOOL

### An ANERA Donor Visits the Kids

As an ANERA scholarship donor and volunteer, I was delighted to discover some unexpected free time during a recent trip to Europe and Israel. This meant I could take a day and visit the two ANERA scholarship schools in East Jerusalem: Rawdat El Zuhur, a primary school for children in nursery through sixth grade, and Dar El Tifl, a primary and secondary school.

Having telephoned ahead to arrange my visit, I drove up from Tel Aviv early on the morning of April 17th and arrived at Rawdat El Zuhur about 8:00 am (school hours are 7:30-11:30, daily except Sunday and Tuesday). I found the children playing in the schoolyard. Most of the girls wore little uniforms, while the boys were neatly dressed but not in uniform. I took some pictures, which caused great excitement.



Upon introduction to the director, I was offered strong Turkish coffee while we talked. I explained that I was a donor and volunteer with the ANERA/Washington office and would greatly appreciate the chance to visit the children. She graciously agreed and took me to each of the eight classrooms where the children were invited to sing a song or two.

The students were studying either Arabic, Math, or English. They displayed their copybooks, each one vying to

show me how neat his or her book was and how beautifully the Arabic script was written. In Math, they were doing long division, and the primer showed they would be going on to geometry. In English, I was treated to a rousing rendition of "Old McDonald Had a Farm."

At this point I might add that after years with AID missions in Asia and Africa, I had seen clearly successful projects, clearly unsuccessful ones, and a great number somewhere in between. Rawdat El Zuhur came through as successful to the point of being a triumph. It is a project that unmistakably works and is making a crucial contribution to the lives, education and future well-being of some of the most attractive, healthy, happy and cooperative children I have seen. The directors and staff are clearly dedicated and devoted people, giving the children not only educational skills but also emotional support, discipline and nurturing. I was greatly impressed by all concerned at this splendid and heartwarming little school.

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*"The children assembled in the courtyard to show me traditional Palestinian folk dances taught at the school."*

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In leaving, a young man who had himself attended the school and returned to work on its staff escorted me to nearby Dar El Tifl. This was clearly a much larger institution, caring for some 1500 students of whom perhaps 500 were boarders from all over the occupied territories, primarily orphans and destitute children. The school was officially closed that day, but the headmistress was nevertheless on hand and happy to show me around. I was particularly lucky to also meet Miss Hind Hussein, who founded the school in 1948, a Palestinian aristocrat whose family owned the premises and land which now house the school.



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*"The impression they made was immediately winning, one of joy, excitement and good health."*

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We proceeded to the dorms for orphans and destitute children where we were immediately surrounded by youngsters clutching our hands. In the dorm for seven-year-olds, containing some twenty beds, we met the "mother" assigned to watch over these children. She was an orphan herself who had grown up at the school and now stayed on to work.

Climbing the stairs to the nursery, I met there a little girl who had just arrived. Her mother had been killed when a tear gas grenade was thrown into the tiny front room of their home. The child was near death from malnutrition, but she had been given a good chance of survival.

Dar El Tifl is a splendid, mature institution supported by donors from around the world including ANERA. It performs a noble mission in rearing and educating these children through their secondary schooling. The quality and dedication of the staff seem outstanding. ANERA support is once again well placed, and all concerned with this project should be justly proud. ■

*Text and photos by Mr. Ogden Williams, a retired USAID official who lives in Arlington, Virginia.*



**ANERA has received special gifts . . .**

**IN HONOR OF:**

Matt Abdo ■ Alpha Delta Kappa ■ American University in Beirut ■ Marie Sawabini Barakat ■ Children of Palestine ■ Jesus Christ ■ Freedom and Justice ■ James Harb ■ Albert and Karen Haun ■ Betty Lou Held ■ Alexandra Homsy ■ the Intifada ■ Thomas Jefferson ■ Louise Lynch ■ Palestinian-Israeli Peace ■ the Palestinian people ■ the Ramallah Handicraft Cooperative ■

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Alex Abdo ■ Musa Bey Alami ■ Julius Arthur Brown ■ Mary Caram ■ John Davis ■ Judy Man DiStefano ■ Robert E. Dutcher ■ Victoria and Simon Estfan ■ Stella Hanania ■ Fagli Jaffer ■ Heinz and Else Kappes ■ George Karam ■ James M. Karoub ■ Mead A. Kelsey ■ Malcolm Kerr ■ Elizabeth Nassir ■ Felicia M. Ojarovsky ■ Michael and Rosa Petrella ■ Louis Stengel and deceased members of the Stengel family ■ George Tamari ■ Jean Michiko Matsumura Warren ■ Evan Wilson ■ Lawrence Witlekind ■ Gene Yatlee ■ Fuad Zara ■

Enclosed is a gift for ANERA's projects in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Lebanon

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

- I would like to provide a 1-year scholarship for a child in Beirut. (\$100 per child)
  - I would like to provide a 1-year scholarship for a child in East Jerusalem. (\$85 per child)
- \* Sponsors receive a photo of the child and a letter from the school during the year.

**URGENT** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please use my gift for Lebanon relief

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!*



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**DEAR ANERA:**  
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our Donors

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