

ANERA *Newsletter*

American Near East Refugee Aid

Number 99 Fall 1992

The Season of Giving

BY PAULA STINSON

gift {noun, from Old English *giefan*; to give} *something given voluntarily—transferred from one person to another without compensation. A capacity or talent—a kind of genius.*

The spiritual teaching that it is more blessed to give than to receive is an ancient principle. While ANERA projects are not religious, per se, we do our share of giving and receiving.

As staff, we often experience the receiving part—whether opening the mail and depositing your checks or receiving thanks from a farmer who received a loan, a bedouin family whose sheep and goats are healthier because of regular veterinary services, or a student learning computer skills at a donated machine. We see the direct results of your gifts. But what do you receive? How can we thank you for your part—the giving part—in mere words and pictures, and allow those who receive to also know the joy of giving?

Since we do spend so much time asking, we hope that this issue of the ANERA newsletter is, in a very small way, a gift in return to you.

First, inside is a listing of all the projects and agencies which ANERA helped support with your funds in 1992, and a breakdown of how we spent the money. If you would like a complete copy of our 1992 audit please write or call and we will send you our annual report. It goes without saying that we thank you for the gift of entrusting us with your funds.

Second, I'd like to tell you the story about a little boy from Gaza named Radwan, and the watermelon. Your gifts helped buy a stroller for Radwan, and his mother would like to thank you.

Something Given Voluntarily

Um Radwan (Mother of Radwan) is a hard working, pragmatic woman, with broad, competent shoulders and a tired, but warm manner. She has ten children, but she refers to herself by the name of her youngest, Radwan, because his needs are so great. Her husband is seriously ill with kidney disease. When he can, he sells tomatoes in the *souk* (market). She worries a lot and her voice is strained, but her smile and warmth reflect her basic inner strength.

The family is desperately poor. They live in a small house made of corrugated tin and cinderblock in the Sheikh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza, next to the Shati UNRWA refugee camp. Um Radwan's parents fled Beersheba in 1948, but she and her family are no longer considered refugees, just poor. They do not have access to UNRWA health or education services and the city of Gaza offers very little help. When her husband is too ill to

work, Um Radwan struggles to find money for food and fuel. Her children have often gone hungry. Curfews, stress, military occupation, unemployment, poor health and the realities of poverty give her a hard life. But that's not her story.

Her family's home consists of two rooms opening into a courtyard. They are dark and crowded, with bedding rolled up against the walls and clothes stuffed into boxes. Yet the open patio is neatly swept and clean. The kitchen, consisting of a sink and small gas stove, is spotless and carefully secluded away in a corner by a worn curtain, which protects her dishes from the blowing sand. Meager living conditions aren't her story either.

Transferred from Person to Person

She introduces us to her son Radwan, a squirming five-year old charmer, with dark hair and deep black eyes, who giggles and ducks his head shyly in the pres-

Continued on page 2



Something Given Voluntarily

Con't. from page 1

ence of strangers. He was born during the winter of the first year of the *intifada*, when Gaza was in turmoil. Um Radwan was eight months pregnant when soldiers shot tear gas into her house. The canister hit her in the head and she lost consciousness for two days. She had an emergency cesarian, but it was hasty and badly managed, and Radwan was born with brain damage. He didn't speak or move around much during the first two years of his life. His eyes, like his attention and awareness, still wander.

Um Radwan is genuinely delighted to receive us when we come to visit. She is hospitable and immediately offers the two best plastic chairs in her home to us as a gesture of respect and welcome, sending one of the children out to boil water for tea. Radwan has been so active for the past few months, she tells us, and all because of his stroller.

During the tense months of the Gulf war, the Child Development Center in Gaza, a non-profit Palestinian organization, made a special effort to reach out to children under extreme stress, or to help children who were mentally or physically impaired. It wasn't much, but the Center managed to repaint the two-story office building, brought in toys and arranged for physical therapists to visit twice a week. All the parents had to do was bring their children in, sometimes no small accomplishment in Gaza.

Um Radwan was determined to bring her son to the Center. He might cry when the therapist pushed and pulled his cramped arms and legs, but he loved playing with other children in the little playpen full of plastic balls. She could hardly drag him away. More important she noticed, he was more aware of his world and his family after a day at the Center.

But Um Radwan lived a good two miles away, and Radwan was too large and heavy to carry. A taxi might be an option, but each trip cost at least \$1.00, which she didn't have. The Center offered her a stroller, paid for with emergency funds donated by ANERA.

Um Radwan has taken her son to the



Amira M., a young social worker with the Child Development Center, visits Um Radwan's home regularly to follow up and offer support.

Center every day that they have not been confined under curfew. Radwan is much more lively now. He babbles cheerfully, speaks a few words and is constantly getting into mischief as he pulls himself around the house. Um Radwan is deeply happy.



A kind of genius

One day, Um Radwan brought in a box tied with string, which she gave to Gerry Shawwa, Director of the Center. "This is for ANERA," she said simply. Inside the box was a large red, black and green knitted watermelon. "I made it at the women's sewing cooperative. I saved extra pieces of yarn from my sweaters. I want to give something back to ANERA in return for that wonderful stroller."

I told her that I would tell you about it. But my feelings about Um Radwan and the watermelon are perhaps better expressed in a passage I read the other day, about the relationship between giving and receiving.

"To know that guest and host were once the same word, as were also give and receive, opens a window in the mind; yet another window opens when we look at the root meanings of please and thanks, those taken-for-granted words of our daily exchanges. But why should it please someone to give me what I ask for? What is the pleasure of the host: and what does thank you mean? The English word, oddly enough, originally meant to think and to feel; the French word means mercy, and the Spanish, grace. Can all, if they understand these relationships, then share these wonderful gifts?"¹

"I told her I would tell you how much she appreciated the stroller."

Um Radwan's gift is kind of hard to describe in words (a knitted watermelon?), but here it is, sitting in our office in Washington. You are most welcome to stop by and see it. Thank you. ♦

Paula Stinson is Vice President of ANERA.

¹ *Parabola: The Journal of Myth and Tradition*, D.M. Dooling, ed. p.3, v. XV, no. 4, November 1990.

Reducing Poverty and Relieving Suffering in the Middle East

ANERA: American Near East Refugee Aid

PROJECT ACTIVITY 1992

In fiscal year 1992 (extending from June 1, 1991 through May 31, 1992), ANERA and its AMER Medical Division gave development assistance and relief aid totalling \$3,509,995 to local institutions providing economic and community development, education and health services, assistance for the poor and

indigent, and related technical assistance and training to Palestinians, Lebanese and other civilians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Israel and Jordan. Of the total, \$ 3,401,493 was in grants and services, and \$ 108,502 was in medical supplies and shipping.

PROJECT LIST 1992

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Women's Service Organizations

Mother/child health care, food for the needy, literacy programs, vocational training for women and job creation. Artas Benevolent Society (Artas, West Bank), Hamelat al-Teeb (Bethlehem, WB), Hizma Women's Cooperative (Hizma, WB), Jericho Women's Charitable Society (Jericho, WB), Surif Women's Cooperative (Surif, WB), Women's Cooperative for Sewing and Handicrafts (Gaza City, Gaza).

\$ 48,000

Municipal Projects

Construction of slaughterhouse, wholesale and retail fruit and vegetable markets, and light industrial complexes as well as creating the management capability to construct a sewage system. The projects are with the municipalities of Beit Jala, Bethlehem, Halhul, Ramallah and Tulkarem in the West Bank and Gaza City and Jabalia in Gaza.

\$872,700

Revolving Loan Funds

Revolving loan funds to assist Palestinian and Lebanese farmers, artisans and shopkeepers to generate employment. Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps (Lebanon), Beit Lahia Agricultural Cooperative (Beit Lahia, Gaza), Bethlehem Committee for Rehabilitation (Bethlehem, West Bank), Hebron Marketing Cooperative (Hebron, WB), Ramallah Agricultural Cooperative (Ramallah, WB).

\$250,000

Agricultural Produce Processing, Marketing and Services

Partial funding to assist cooperatives to improve their ability to process foodstuff and market produce as well as the establishment of mobile veterinary clinics. Project locations are in Beit Lahia and Gaza City in Gaza, and Jenin, Jericho, Nassariya, and Nablus in the West Bank.

\$138,048

Land Improvement, Irrigation and Mechanization for Agriculture

Partial funding to establish mechanized units and irrigation systems to cultivate or reclaim land. Projects in the West Bank are located in Al-Auja, Bardala-Jericho, Beit Illu, Dura, Kufr Neimeh, Majd al-Ba'a, Al-Najah, Salam, Salfit, Al-Sammou', Sanour, Taffuh, Tubas, and Zababdeh, and in Gaza they are in Beit Hanoun and Rafah.

\$551,000

Grassroots Community Organizations

Libraries, clinics, literacy programs, vocational and leadership training, assistance to handicapped and orphans, relief for the poor and employment generation. Abu-Dis Water Cooperative (Abu-Dis, West Bank), Al-Amal Society (Hebron, WB), Aqbat Jaber Camp Productive Group (Jericho, WB), Bethlehem Arab Society for the Handicapped (Bethlehem, WB), Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development (Jerusalem, WB), Child Development Center (Gaza City, Gaza), Gaza Union of Citrus Producers (Gaza City, Gaza), Islamic Benevolent Society (Beit Sahour, WB), Jenin Charitable Society (Jenin, WB), Land and Water Establishment Center (Jerusalem, WB), Palestine Counseling Center (Jerusalem, WB), Qarawat Beni Zeid Benevolent Society (Qarawat Beni Zeid, WB), Sheltered Workshops for the Blind (Jerusalem, WB), Tawfiq Fishing Cooperative (Gaza City, Gaza), Turbol Agricultural Cooperative (Lebanon), Union of Charitable Societies (Jerusalem, WB), YMCA - Amman (Amman, Jordan), YMCA - Beit Sahour (Beit Sahour, WB), YMCA-Gaza (Gaza City, Gaza).

\$227,300

Total Community and Economic Development

\$2,087,048

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Provision of training and consultants in agriculture, job creation, credit, health and education.

Total Technical Assistance

\$ 182,181

EDUCATION

Child Scholarships

Scholarships for orphaned, destitute and handicapped children. Dar El-Tifl (Jerusalem, West Bank), Al-Kafa'at Rehabilitation Institute (Beirut, Lebanon), Rawdat El-Zuhur (Jerusalem, WB), Society for the Care of Handicapped Children (Gaza City, Gaza).

\$108,764

Youth Programs, Schools and Universities

Equipment, expertise and scholarships for educational development. Arab Association for Development (Majdal Shams, Golan Heights), Bir Zeit University (Bir Zeit, West Bank), Child Care Society (Ramallah, WB), Hebron Union of University Graduates (Hebron, WB), Hebron Young Women's Society (Hebron, WB), Institut de Reeducation (Biacourt, Lebanon), Islamic Industrial Orphanage (Abu-Dis, WB), Israeli-Palestinian Center for Research and Information (Jerusalem, WB), Jeel al-Amal (Bethany, WB), Literacy Group Society (Gaza City, Gaza), Women's Studies Center (Jerusalem, WB).

\$158,500

Total Education

\$267,264

HEALTH SERVICES

Clinics and Health Training

Partial assistance for upgrading clinics' ability to deliver basic health services. Arab Health Center (Jerusalem, West Bank), Beit Sahour Health Insurance Cooperative (Beit Sahour, WB),

Blood Bank Society (Gaza City, Gaza), CINGO, Crippled Children Center (Jerusalem, WB), The Four Homes of Mercy (Bethany, WB), Galilee Society for Health Research and Services (Rama, Galilee), al-Islah Charitable Society (Ram, WB), Jabalia Rehabilitation Committee (Gaza), Lebanese Red Cross (Lebanon), National Society for Health (Ramallah, WB), Orthodox Clinic, (Jerusalem, WB), Palestine Women's Union (Gaza), Red Crescent Society (Gaza), Red Crescent Society (Jerusalem, WB), Silwan Benevolent Society (Silwan, WB).

\$250,000

Hospitals

Hospital services for Palestinians. Ahli Arabi Hospital (Gaza City, Gaza), Augusta Victoria Hospital (Jerusalem, West Bank), Patients' Friends Society (Hebron, WB).

\$615,000

Total Health Services

\$865,000

IN-KIND MATERIALS: PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

Medicine and health material for hospitals and clinics. Ahli Arabi Hospital (Gaza City, Gaza), American University Hospital (Beirut, Lebanon).

Shipping Costs \$9,000

Total In-Kind \$108,502

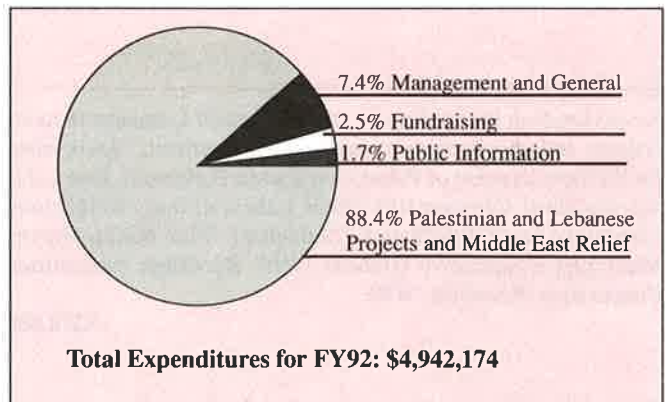
TOTAL \$3,509,995

FINANCIAL REVIEW 1992

The ANERA staff is grateful for the generous donations this year from individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations.

The "pie" at right represents ANERA's expenditures in fiscal year 1992, which total \$ 4,942,174. ANERA's FY 1992 annual audit may be obtained by contacting the ANERA office.

ANERA is proud that only 10% of its 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

1522 K Street, N.W. #202
Washington, D.C. 20005
202-347-2558

ANERA Participates in 1992 Combined Federal Campaign

With the United Way of America scandal raising serious questions and putting a pall on donations to non-profit organizations this year, ANERA is proud once again to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign.

When you designate ANERA, #0307 in the ISA (International Service Agencies) group of organizations, your donation is received directly by us throughout the year.

These funds are distributed to the more than 95 Palestinian and Lebanese organizations listed in this issue of the newsletter. Most grants are small, usually \$5,000 to \$10,000, and support true grassroots community development ranging from women's charitable societies to youth programs, to establishing revolving loan funds.

ANERA has participated in the CFC workplace campaign for ten years. Last

year, state and federal employees contributed over \$54,000 in needed funds. CFC contributions are a steady source of income, and an important part of our budget projections for our small grants program. We thank you again for designating ANERA, ISA #0307, as a way of directly helping families in the Middle East to help themselves.

Please write or call us if you have any questions about your donation. ♦

Giving Made Easy

A donor's incentive for contributing to ANERA is genuine — to help improve the lives of the poor in the Middle East - not to save on taxes. However, when you decide to make or renew your gift, you should plan for maximum tax advantages.

There are several ways to make donations to ANERA. In this issue we will discuss gifts of cash; in the future we will look at planned gifts and bequests.

An outright gift of cash involves an immediate transfer from you to ANERA. If you itemize this cash gift, it will be

fully deductible for income tax purposes as long as your total charitable gifts during the year do not exceed 50% of your adjusted gross income.

For more information on ways to give, call Nina Dodge, Director of Major Gifts at (202) 347-2558. ♦

Notes from Washington

ANERA now has a new information brochure which is suitable for distribution at conferences or gatherings (a flyer telling who we are along with a return,

postage-paid envelope – all in one package). We would welcome a chance to pass these along to people who might be interested. If you can help us dis-

tribute them at church, mosque or synagogue events, study centers, meetings or information tables, please contact Tom Webster, and we will send you a supply. ♦

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

___ \$1000 ___ \$500 ___ \$100 ___ \$50 ___ \$35 ___ \$25

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Scholarship

I would like to provide a 1-year scholarship (\$100 per child) for a child in

- The Gaza Strip Beirut, Lebanon
 East Jerusalem Whenever the need is greatest

Sponsors receive a photo of the child and a letter from the school during the year.

Give the gift of knowledge

___ Yes, I would like to give a \$100 scholarship as a holiday gift. I understand you will send a holiday card in my name to the address below. I would like this gift to help a child in: East Jerusalem Beirut The Gaza Strip

From: Name _____ **To:** Name _____

Address _____ Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____ City, State, ZIP _____

ANERA has received gifts...

In Honor of:

Laila Atallah and Keith Inman's wedding ■ Mrs. Elmer Ferguson, Happy Birthday, Mom ■ Mrs. Ernest Ferris ■ James Houghteling ■ Edna and Peirson Hunt's 39th Wedding Anniversary ■ Dr. Neddy Jouzy ■ Mr. William Keller ■ Helen Peck and Evelyn Harner ■ Norman Paul, a wonderful father ■ Dr. Charles A. Sanders ■ May Sanders ■ Idries Shah ■ Jesus Christ ■ ANERA ■ the heroic Palestinian people and friends ■ humanity ■ Middle East peace and justice ■ Palestinian aid ■ Congratulations to Mike and Tam and Andrea and Pat on the ultimate campaign

In Memory of:

Bill Anderson ■ Reena Boury ■ Former ANERA board member Peter R. Chase ■ the parents of Madeline Cross' husband ■ John Davis ■ Joseph DePinto ■ Michael DePinto ■ Mr. and Mrs. Simon Y. Estfan ■ Dr. Nabih Amin Faris ■ Gus Grissom ■ Bernard and Ethel Janquart ■ Dr. Vatché Kalbian ■ Heinz and Else Kappes ■ Malcolm Kerr ■ Richard H. Mallouk ■ Craig Mansour ■ Helen Sipple Noling ■ Joseph M. Phillips ■ Haitham H. Saba ■ Wojdowski Family ■ Father John Wojdowski ■ Fuad Zaru of Ramallah

In memory of **Byron L. Youtz** (1925-1992) Professor at American University of Beirut 1953-56, for his long-time interest in people of the Middle East, from his wife Bernice Youtz.

Robert R. Banville (1936-1988) of New Mexico, Wisconsin, and Washington, D.C. was profoundly interested in and devoted to peace, the environment, and world hunger. Over the years, he recorded some of his thoughts, shortly to appear under the title, *Virtue in Government*. A passage from the manuscript appears below. Mr. Banville remembered ANERA in his estate; the bequest will help ANERA in realizing its mission to reduce poverty and relieve suffering in the Middle East. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Mildred Banville.

"I might make this rule: if there are any shared values between two sides then war is not justified, for some values would survive even defeat, and life would still be worthwhile; only when no shared values are present can it be said that death is better than defeat.

There is no sign that man is any closer to the peace that passes understanding than he was 5000 years ago; if we have to wait to achieve perfect love in order to prevent ourselves from exterminating each other, we are surely doomed. Human nature never changes, but men's ideas of what is best do change. Just as the bitter racial and class problems have been alleviated by fallible men, not free of hatred and greed, so ordinary and imperfect men can, on the basis of self-interest, prevent nuclear annihilation and world starvation."

In memory of **Charlotte M. Lawrence** (1916-1992), LaVerne, California, who also included ANERA in her estate. Miss Lawrence worked for ARAMCO in Saudi Arabia in the 1940's and 1950's.

Special Thanks from ANERA to:

Said Elatab, Middle East Photos, for the pix ■ Tom Benjamin ■ Michael Cagney of PADF ■ Kamal for the advice ■ Ibrahim, Assem and Tony for the inspiring photo shoot ■ the ever patient (and talented) Andy and Jody ■ Dan for the moral support ■ Jon Cook for starting the Support Center ■ Ogden, our favorite volunteer ♦

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ANERA

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The Season of Giving

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