



ANERA News

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The Three R's & ANERA



Too often, the people who need the most attention are those who have the least access to what society offers...

- ... a teen with cerebral palsy in Lebanon, whose parents want to help him but are struggling to provide for their family.
- ... a sixth-grader who's a whiz on the computer but lives in an impoverished refugee camp in the West Bank.
- ... a kindergartner in Gaza who witnessed terrible violence and destruction and is suffering from nightmares and stress-related health problems.
- ... a deaf and blind teenager in Jordan who has a great sense of humor but no means of expressing it.

These children are real and, through the support of donors to ANERA's Scholarship Program, they are empowered.

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ANERA

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

40 years of Commitment • ٤٠ عاماً من الإلتزام

ANERA News

The ANERA newsletter is published quarterly by American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), a non-profit agency established in 1968 and dedicated to providing development, health, education and employment programs to Palestinian communities and impoverished families throughout the Middle East.

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"By the Numbers" sources:

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, globalhealthfacts.org

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COVER PHOTO: Five-year-old Shahd is one of the children who benefits from the ANERA Scholarship program at Dar El Tifel School in Jerusalem.

by the Numbers EDUCATION

45% of the population in the Palestinian Territories is under 15 years of age.

20% of the population in the U.S. is under 15 years of age.

1979 is the year ANERA's Scholarship Program started.

5,000 is the approximate number of students who have benefitted from ANERA's Scholarship Program in 30 years.

\$8,650 is the total amount granted to the Scholarship Program in its first year.

\$2,493,920 is the total amount granted to the Scholarship Program since its inception.

80 is the number of preschool teachers in Gaza who received training in active learning techniques in academic year 2007-2008.

Hearing Aids Going to Gaza

Increasing numbers of children in Gaza are experiencing hearing loss. Last fall, through audiology screenings of 20,000 preschoolers in our Milk for Preschoolers Program, ANERA and our partner Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children found a total of 104 preschoolers who need hearing aids.

At that time, a new donor to ANERA and doctor of audiology came forward with a strong desire to lend her expertise to help Palestinians. Dr. Randa Mansour-Shousher brought Gaza's needs to the attention of hearing aid companies and obtained donated hearing aids along with the opportunity to buy more, including batteries and molds, at the "friendliest" prices possible.

ANERA then sent out e-mails and our donors came through generously, giving enough funds to buy the necessary hearing aids. They have been purchased and have begun their journey to Gaza where the skilled staff of Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children will fit the children who require them.

Dr. Mansour-Shousher has also generously donated some needed audiology equipment to be used at Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children. That shipment is en route to Gaza.

As always, we remain grateful to thoughtful and resourceful donors like Dr. Mansour-Shousher who apply their expertise and make the connections that change people's lives for the better.

The Three R's & ANERA (continued from page 1)

They each attend one of the amazing schools we support. They learn the skills to communicate with their families and others around them. They get attention from special, caring teachers who help them cope with life's challenges. And they are given access to tools that reveal their abilities.

In this 2008-2009 school year, ANERA's Scholarship Program commemorates its 30th year. Dedicated and generous donors have provided millions of dollars to schools in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan and Lebanon that cater to the neediest of children.

And what better testament to the health of the program than to announce the addition of another school, further broadening its reach? Starting this year, ANERA added to the Scholarship Program the Ephpheta Institute, a small Catholic school located in Bethlehem that works with deaf children to integrate them into West Bank society. One of their goals is to help students become adults who "think critically, communicate willingly, and cooperate fruitfully."

In a 1983 ANERA newsletter, we wrote that a nation's strength can be measured by the ability of "its people to pass down a shared history, culture, traditions, and a vision of progress to future generations."

Those words still resonate today. Since our beginning, ANERA has invested in education: building new schools and classrooms, promoting after-school programs, building major information technology centers, and supporting life-long education from early childhood to adult vocational training.

We are particularly proud of the role the ANERA community has had in the lives of countless students graduating from the schools in our Scholarship Program over three decades. Together, we help children tap into their potential through a quality education that they might not otherwise receive.

If you would like to be part of this important work, visit www.anera.org/scholarship.



Farewell Gerry

ANERA's faithful partner and treasured colleague, Gerry Shawa, is retiring from her position as Director of the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children.

Gerry is the kind of person who proves that an individual can make a huge difference in the world.

She founded Atfaluna, the only school for deaf children in Gaza, in 1993.

In 15 years she has helped thousands of deaf children and adults tap into their abilities and participate meaningfully in society.

We'll miss her spirit, generous heart and unwavering commitment to Gaza.

Highlights for Education



ANERA's I.T. centers provide world-class facilities & professional training

- ← 4th I.T. Center of Excellence
 - funded by a Palestinian business
 - located at Birzeit University



Rawdat El Zuhur in Jerusalem - One of ANERA's Scholarship Program schools.

- Helped 7,000 children - well with conflict
 - psychosocial support through
 - in West Bank & Gaza
 - at 80 community centers
 - funded by Canadian government

- ← Provided over \$104,120
 - individual donors
 - sponsoring 230 children
 - at 7 schools in West Bank, G
 now 8!



Bardala Girls' School

- Helped almost 1,000 Iraq children integrate into
 - worked with local partners,
 - funded by U.S. State Department
 - psychosocial support & extra

- ← Constructed 2 brand new
 - in remote regions of Jordan
 - funded by U.S. Agency for International Development

- Supported Al-Kafaat Foundation
 - expanding catering & hotel work
 - used their state-of-art facilities
 - gave scholarships to children

from ANERA's Work in 2008

excellence
businessman
Jerusalem, West Bank

find ways to deal

with after-school activities

Department

work in scholarships

in Gaza, Lebanon & Jordan

for Palestinian refugee

in Jordanian schools

in 3 poor communities

Department

to provide academic lessons

to build new schools, West Bank

in the Valley - Al-'Auja & Bardala

with Int'l Development (USAID)

to establish a foundation in Lebanon

to run management schools

to provide opportunities to train family inn owners

with disabilities



Training teachers to help their pupils to better deal with conflict



Remedial Arabic lessons in a Jordan school



Masters-in-the-making of Lebanese cuisine

A Special Evening



On October 10, 2008, over 400 people came together at our Annual Dinner. We commemorated 40 years of commitment to the Middle East and honored an impressive group of leaders who combined multiple and varied talents with a singular purpose. They not only gave of their time and their wisdom, but when called to do so, gave their financial resources.



The honorees were the original founders and Board members of ANERA, many of whom were present or represented at the dinner. We were thrilled to be able to pay them the special tribute they all deserve.

Every Drop Counts

The dinner also included an important fundraiser. We asked our guests to consider something many of us often take for granted: water.

For many Palestinian families, getting an adequate amount of water is a struggle everyday. Add to that four years of never-before-seen drought conditions, and the situation is getting worse.



ANERA's work brings water to families in dire need. In the last two years, we have ensured that nearly 20,000 Palestinian households now have access to drinking water. But there remains a lot more to be done and our incredible staff of engineers always say, "We could reach so many more families if we had more funds."

Our donors answered their call. The Annual Dinner raised over \$200,000 to erect water tanks on people's homes, excavate underground cisterns to harvest precious rainwater and dig irrigation pools for farms.



PHOTOS (from top to bottom):

Betty Sams, wife of Founder James Sams, making remarks at the dinner.

Founders Dr. M. Hadi Salem, Judge Joe Nahra and D. Joseph Asfour being recognized for their contributions to ANERA.

Comedian Aron Kader entertains the crowd.

Journalist Barbara Slavin interviews Rabah Odeh, a civil engineer who directs the Nablus area office, about ANERA's water projects in the West Bank and Gaza.

“ANERA didn't just build a building, but they helped us build up ourselves and make a better life...”

Meera Salayme
E-Learning Teacher and Former Student
at one of four I.T. Centers of Excellence built by ANERA



Make your end-of-year gift today. Use the enclosed envelope or visit www.anera.org/donate.

You can help make a better life by giving to ANERA

Monthly Giving

Your monthly support reduces administrative costs and helps us to plan for future projects with a solid financial footing.

Sign up at www.anera.org/monthly using credit card or bank withdrawal.

Leave a Bequest

In these lean economic times, you can still make a difference by planning a gift.

Email donation@anera.org and we will send you suggested language to use in your will.



from the desk of
Bill Corcoran, President



Dear Friend of ANERA:

It's hard to believe that ANERA's 40th will be behind us soon. 2008 has been very special in many ways. Not the least of which is the recent awarding of a grant from USAID. It commits \$50 million to bringing major water services to towns and villages in the West Bank. The grant is a great endorsement of ANERA, a testament to our professionalism and experience.

Also, be sure to look inside at the pictures from our Annual Dinner. We honored our founders and others so crucial to ANERA's creation. To see 440 people united from all over the world poignantly reminded me that we are a very special community that is making a difference.

We need to keep building our community though. Spreading the word is essential to overcoming the obstacles ahead. So, I hope you can pass on this newsletter once you've read it.

Gratefully,

Bill Corcoran

ANERA

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