



ANERA News

in this issue...

ANERA in Lebanon

ANERA by the Numbers

Is your birthday coming up?

The Creative Health
Campaign

Nahr El Bared

Profile in resilience

ANERA in Lebanon

by John Viste, ANERA's Lebanon Director



When you first arrive in Lebanon, it appears to have a thriving economy. Displays of wealth are everywhere in Beirut – towering buildings, sports cars and well-dressed people. It is easy, amid these displays, to wonder if there really is a need for ANERA to be in this seemingly prosperous place.

The answer for me came during my travels around the country. I saw crushing poverty, a lack of basic services and a despair that one rarely finds in countries of such wealth. This is the situation not only in the 12 Palestinian refugee camps and 42 gatherings (unofficial camps), but also in poor Lebanese areas from south to north.

These communities are why ANERA is in Lebanon. We have a vital role to play in helping to improve the quality of their lives and to relieve some of the acute misery resulting from years of war and poverty.

In Lebanon, ANERA works with people long forgotten by others. We are also a catalyst for developing innovative activities.

(continued on page 3)

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.

Material in this newsletter may be reproduced without prior permission, provided credit is given and a copy of the publication in which the item is used is sent to ANERA. Subscriptions are free of charge. Any inquiries should be sent to the address below.

ANERA's Officers
Curtis W. Brand*, Chair
Edward Gnehm*, Vice Chair
William D. Corcoran**, President
Philip E. Davies, Vice President
Michael de Graffenried*, Treasurer and Secretary

* Board Members
** Ex Officio Board Member

Editor: Liz Demarest

Contributing Writers:
Michael Austin, Bill Corcoran,
Liz Demarest, Laurie Kassman,
Nancy Nye, John Viste

Contributing Photographers:
Martine Btaich, Rudy Bou Chebel,
Liz Demarest, May Haddad, Laurie
Kassman, David Snyder

"By the Numbers": United Nations
Relief and Works Agency, Forced
Migration Online

ANERA does exchange our mailing list with similar humanitarian organizations. We never rent or sell our list. If you wish not to have your name exchanged or to stop receiving mail from ANERA please let us know in writing or by phone at 202-842-2766.

ISSN 1966-3584

ANERA
1111 14th Street NW, #400
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: 202-842-2766
anera@anera.org • www.anera.org

COVER PHOTO: A child stands in her doorway on the narrow streets of Burj Al Shamali Palestinian Camp, Tyre, South Lebanon.
© Rudy Bou Chebel | ANERA

by the Numbers Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon

Number of refugees officially registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA): **422,000**

Percentage of refugee families living in abject poverty: **12%**

Number of unofficial camps (or *gatherings*): **42**

Approximate number of trades and professions refugees are effectively barred from performing: **72**

ANERA in Lebanon

Number of *gatherings* where ANERA has worked: **27**

Amount ANERA has invested in Palestinian education in Lebanon since 2006: **\$475,000+**

Number of youth and children attending ANERA's Creative Health Campaign events since 2006: **10,000+**

Number of families since 2006 who, with ANERA's help, now have better water and electricity facilities: **700+**

Is your birthday coming up?

Do you have a special occasion coming up? Do you say to friends and family, "please, no gifts," but still receive well-meant, unneeded gifts?

Why not do what many thoughtful ANERA donors have done?

When Ada Kalbian and Dr. Salah Al-Askari celebrated their 80th birthdays last fall, they asked members of their families to send contributions to ANERA. When Ellie Camlin turned 21, she did the same.

It's easy to do. When you send out the invitations to your birthday party, wedding or any other celebration, ask the special people in your life to open the ANERA website home page, go to "Donate Now" and click on "In Honor Of."

The amount of the gift remains anonymous, but the effect will be immediate in the life of a family in the Middle East. And imagine what joy it will bring to you!



80-year-old
Ada Kalbian



21-year-old
Ellie Camlin



The Creative Health Campaign in Lebanon

Since ANERA started the Creative Health Campaign (CHC), we have encouraged the adoption of good health practices and empowered dozens of local organizations to work together.

CHC is about simple, smart and cost-effective practices that people can adopt to protect their health, save on expenses and foster self-reliance.

With the help of 90 partner organizations, ANERA delivers these messages to mothers, children, community activists and social workers through support groups, community festivals, street parades and the distribution of educational materials to thousands of people.

To learn more about the Creative Health Campaign visit
www.anera.org/chc



anti-smoking messages



healthy eating



breast-feeding benefits



learning through games

ANERA in Lebanon (continued from page 1)

Innovation and creativity are cornerstones of our three-year-old Creative Health Campaign. The message is aimed at improving health through affordable, 'doable' actions. We deliver that message through joyful festivals, parades, materials and theatrical events. And, we are gratified to see the impact: people are starting to adopt healthy practices.

A key to our success is organizing communities to help their own citizens. One way is through our in-kind program, which has delivered \$11 million worth of medical supplies to clinics and hospitals throughout Lebanon this year alone. These donations allow organizations to use more of their scarce resources on staff and equipment and thus provide better quality health services to tens of thousands of men, women and children in marginalized Palestinian and Lebanese communities.

My long experience in development work has made me keenly aware of the role of education. In Lebanon

where the jobless rate is soaring, ANERA is expanding its vocational training projects. We are rebuilding a vocational training center in Nahr El Bared refugee camp and supporting market-oriented training programs aimed at immediate job placement.

That training carries into farms too. One of our newest projects provides farmers with fruit trees for planting and offers training and technical assistance. Once the trees mature, the fruit they bear will increase incomes by 25%.

ANERA does not carry out all these wonderful projects alone. We work with local social services, health and educational organizations to give them the financial, technical and collaborative support they need to sustain their community development. Their success is our reward.



Nahr El Bared

In 2007, the Palestinian refugee camp was virtually destroyed...

Fighting between external extremists and the Lebanese army left in its wake an almost empty refugee camp, where 60% of the buildings and 80% of the homes were severely damaged or completely destroyed.

Almost all of the families living there were displaced for the second time in their lives, for many it was the third or even fourth time.



Today, working with local partners, ANERA is helping families return to the camp and rebuild their lives.



The Beit Atfal Assamoud Center is again offering services ranging from education to health care after ANERA restored their building.



Camp clinics regularly receive vital donations of medicines and other health care supplies from ANERA.



ANERA turned a garbage-strewn lot into a safe playground and soccer field.



Two hundred sixty-five homes have improved water services thanks to ANERA.



ANERA is rebuilding vocational training facilities to improve job prospects.



Eighty young people from 11 different local non-profits came together for a peace building workshop, organized by ANERA.



The Creative Health Campaign brings messages of good health through fun parades, artwork, theater performances and games.



Dr. Tawfiq Asaad in front of the Al Shifa'a Clinic.



Families throughout the camp are living in unheated metal trailers, which are stacked on top of each other (pictured).

Profile in resilience

Dr. Tawfiq Asaad sits in a creaky swivel chair amid well-worn mismatched furniture. Dust and heat are pervasive in the metal six room trailer that is now the Al-Shifa'a Clinic at Nahr El Bared refugee camp in northern Lebanon.

As patients stream in through the open door Dr.. Asaad remembers with pride the original Al-Shifa'a Medical Center that stood only a few miles away. "Shifa'a really began for us in 1979 with a couple of doctors and nurses in a three-story building with an emergency service, a clinic and a lab in the basement."

On May 20, 2007, everything changed. A bloody battle erupted in the camp between outside extremists and the Lebanese army.

"We didn't expect the fighting to last," Dr. Asaad shakes his head. "I went into the clinic at 3 am to open the emergency ward and treat the wounded." He and his small team didn't sleep for the next 72 hours.

The fighting went on for well over three months, but the doctor didn't give up on the camp or the clinic, despite the destruction of both.

"We were the last to leave the camp and the first to return."

In August 2008, the UN set up the small "prefab" trailer which still houses the clinic today. With help from international organizations like ANERA, Dr. Asaad was able to restock medicines and equipment.

The Al-Shifa'a team, made up of two doctors and three nurses, hasn't stopped working since. The six-room clinic is open around the clock. The doctors hardly sleep, trading off 12-hour shifts and treating everyone who comes to them for help.

Living conditions in the 'temporary' camp are unhealthy, Dr.. Asaad says. The unheated metal trailers, like the one he works from, are really just shipping containers with windows. Families throughout the camp are living in them. They are cold in the winter and boiling hot in the summer. "We get cases of bronchitis, tonsillitis and sinus congestion in the winter. We get diarrhea and skin diseases in the summer."

In the first months after the fighting, the team treated some 1,500 patients a month. As other clinics have opened, Al-Shifa'a's burden has eased somewhat. The clinic now treats about 30 patients a day. "We're like a beehive. We work day and night to help our community."

Looking around at the bare skeleton of a clinic, Dr. Asaad says he counts on friends like ANERA to survive and eventually realize his dream. He looks weary but his eyes reflect resilience and determination: "Come back in five years," he suggests, "*Inshallah*, you will find me at the real Shifa'a medical center ...even bigger and better than the old one."

Are you a monthly donor?

A small gift every month makes a BIG difference.

To use your checking account:

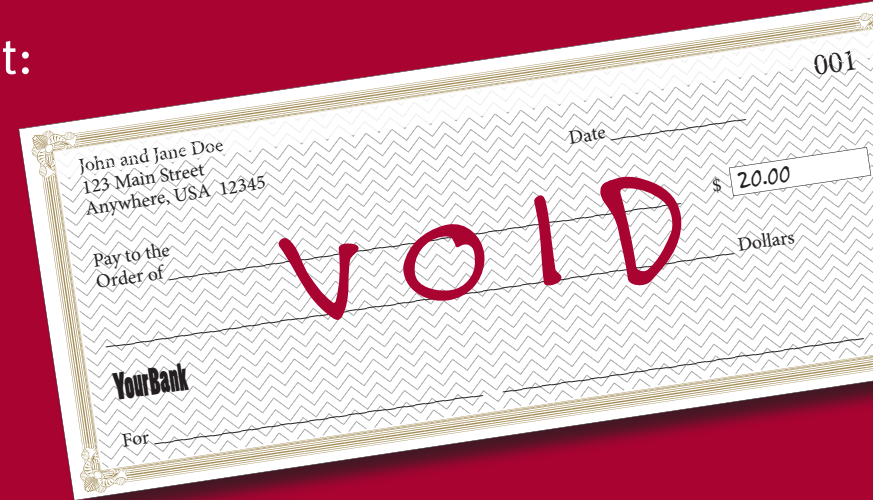
1. Write an amount on a check.
2. Write VOID on the check.
3. Fill out the enclosed envelope and mail it in with your voided check.

–OR–

To use a credit card: fill out the enclosed envelope

–OR–

To sign up online: visit www.anera.org/monthly



It's so easy.

We're moving,

Our new address, as of March 29, 2010, is:

ANERA
1111 14th Street NW, #400
Washington, DC 20005

however

our telephone number, general email contact and website address remain the same:

(202) 842-2766
anera@anera.org
www.anera.org

Save the date!

ANERA's 2010 Annual Dinner & Fundraiser

when: Friday evening, October 1

where: Capital Hilton
1001 16th Street NW
Washington, DC

Reservations for the event can be made on ANERA's website after July 1.



from the desk of
Bill Corcoran, President

Dear Friend of ANERA:

This newsletter focuses on Lebanon: the unique challenges we face in our work there and the novel programs we implement to address them.

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon face a discriminatory labor market, limited or non-existent access to education and health services, and complicated formalities to prove they have the right to be in the country at all. They face staggering rates of joblessness, internal tension and disgraceful housing conditions. Poor Lebanese communities live alongside Palestinian refugees and share many of the same challenges to survival.

Several pages of this newsletter feature the Nahr El Bared camp in northern Lebanon. Our response to the situation there serves as an example of the kind of work we are doing every day with hundreds of community groups in almost every refugee camp and *gathering* (unofficial camp) of Lebanon.

As always, we are grateful for your ongoing support,

Bill Corcoran

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ANERA in Lebanon

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 114
Langhorne, PA

ANERA
Improving Lives in the Middle East
Since 1968