



# ANERA News

## in this issue...

Impact That Lasts

By the Numbers

Long-Time Donors  
Remember

Then and Now: Three  
Projects in the West Bank

Gaza Summer Camp  
Veterans

## Impact That Lasts

by ANERA President Bill Corcoran

**S**eventy years ago during WWII, victory gardens were a necessity for the average American family. But we have prospered now and often favor Whole Foods over weeding a plot to raise tomatoes or radishes.

Families in Palestine do not have that luxury. When I traveled to Gaza in May, I learned about a farmer who burned 10 tons of mint that he had planned to export to Europe. It would have been a sizable income for his family, but the shipments rotted in the sun when Gaza's borders were suddenly closed again — without explanation. This is the kind of unpredictability and lack of control that the average person in the West Bank and Gaza encounters daily.

The World Bank has repeatedly articulated findings in Palestine that are common sense to the business world: there can be no long-term successful economy without the ability of workers to move freely, import materials, and export finished products.

(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.

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**COVER PHOTO:** Huda, a participant in ANERA's farmers-teaching-farmers program in the West Bank, shared her story about reclaiming a once-neglected piece of land. Her family now has an abundance of fresh produce throughout the year. Photographer: Nada Dajani | ANERA

## by the Numbers

Impact That Lasts

Number of shops in the Beit Jala, West Bank light industrial complex ANERA completed building in 1985: **30**

Number of shops in the complex today: **57**

Year ANERA helped open Atfaluna Society for the Deaf in Gaza: **1994**

Number of new rooms ANERA added onto Atfaluna this year: **4**

Year ANERA helped to establish the Arab Nursing College, the first four-year nursing school in the West Bank: **1979**

Minimum number of Palestinian refugee nursing students ANERA plans to sponsor in Lebanon next year: **15**

Year ANERA started the Gaza Women's Loan Fund: **1995**

Number of women entrepreneurs who received loans for their small businesses this year: **109**

## Long-Time Donors Remember

**A**mong the thousands of people who make up ANERA's community of donors, there are a surprising number who have been giving almost from the year ANERA was founded 45 years ago. Talking with those ANERA supporters reminds us of project work so many years ago and how it continues to have an impact on Palestinian families today.

Dr. Vicken Kalbian, an advisor on ANERA's health project work for 40+ years, remembers helping to locate the first site of a nursing school ANERA launched with the Arab Red Crescent Society in 1979. The nursing school, now located in El Bireh in the West Bank, continues training nurses and medical technicians to this day.

Frances Stickles, who began traveling to the Middle East in the 1950s, remembers visiting preschools, community centers, libraries, and the IT Centers of Excellence that ANERA built during the last four decades in the West Bank and Gaza. Many thousands of children and youth have had their education enriched and their vocational choices increased because these institutions continue to thrive.

ANERA takes pride in our lasting project work and the community of donors whose commitment decade after decade sustains it.





*Workers building a new clinic for the West Bank town of Tubas.*



*Getting treatment for a karate injury in a Hebron, West Bank clinic.*



*A Gaza preschool teacher uses active reading techniques.*

# Impact That Lasts

(continued from page 1)

Given this context, you may ask yourself, what can we do to make an impact that lasts?

Together, we can work on a local level, with local staff, listening to the needs of communities and affecting changes that make a tangible difference in people's everyday lives.

Together, we can build and renovate infrastructure vital to Palestine's future, like schools, hospitals, roads, and water networks – providing thousands of good jobs along the way.

Together, we can help families in Gaza grow their own food and farmers in the West Bank share their knowledge so they can better cultivate and harvest the land's bounty.

Together, we can free up scarce resources at charitable clinics and hospitals by providing them with donated supplies and medicines for impoverished patients.

We can lay the educational and creative foundations for the next generation of Palestinian leaders and entrepreneurs through investment in early childhood development.

Some excitement has arisen in the West over a possible \$4.2 billion initiative to stimulate growth in the West Bank and Gaza. But the mood of the Palestinian business community is one of caution and anxiety because of the economy's fragility.

In the meantime, we will continue to provide some measure of predictability and control in Palestinians' lives, just as we have for 45 years.







First large, modern cold storage facility for agricultural produce. This project, long under construction, is based with the Halhul Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market. The market opened about two years ago. However, the cold storage unit, the only large

and modern one in the West Bank, is just now being completed. It will be able to receive produce for storage next season. Much to the benefit of the town of Halhul, the market portion of the facility already produces 40% of the municipality's revenues.

First - and only comprehensive - phylloxera control program.

Phylloxera is a disease of grape vines. When it strikes, the grape vines must be replaced with phylloxera-resistant American root stock. ANERA set up a program to help farmers replace their vines. We are now assisting the Hebron Marketing Cooperative to establish an up-to-date nursery, using modern grafting techniques to propagate the phylloxera-resistant root stocks. Grapes are a very important cash crop for the Bethlehem-Hebron region. Thus the success of this project will contribute significantly to the future income and welfare of the Palestinians in that region.

BEIT JALA MUNICIPALITY  
INDUSTRIAL ZONE  
BUILT BY JOINT FUNDS FROM  
THE PEOPLE OF THE U.S.A  
THROUGH ANERA AND THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF BEIT JALA

First municipal light industry complex. This is located in Beit Jala. It opened its doors three years ago. Aside from providing about 15% of the municipality's revenues, it has also stimulated the establishment of light industry in the area and generated new employment, including from the nearby Deheisheh Refugee Camp.



# NOW

23 years later



## HALHUL WHOLESALE MARKET

From the time it first opened, every stall has been rented and now trade has even spread out into the parking lot.



## BEIT JALA INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

Many extensions have been added to the complex over the years. It now houses 57 workshops and provides jobs for hundreds of people.

## GRAPE ROOTSTOCKS

17 years since it was built, the cooperative's nursery thrives – producing between 10,000 and 20,000 seedlings a year – and makes a good profit.



# Another Great Year of Summer Camps in Gaza



School is over. The weather is hot. Electricity outages and the continuing blockade still plague daily life in Gaza. So ANERA is helping children forget their worries at summer camp. More than 450 children and teenagers are joining in the fun at the YMCA in Gaza City.

“I was waiting for school to end to come to summer camp - the same as every year. I play basketball, football and do drama activities.” This year Donia is a volunteer, taking training on leadership so she can be a leader for the coming two years in the summer camps. “I enjoyed the training. They taught me a lot about group work and communicating well.”

■ ■ ■ ■ **Donia Ashour**  
participant for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year

“Summer camp creates a space to love others. I like all the activities at camp, but my favorites are painting and reading. When I grow up I want to write stories for kids, I like to do it for fun.”

■ ■ ■ ■ **Abed El-Azeez**  
participant since he was 4



“This is a great chance for me to go out and engage in some useful activities for my mind and personality.” Anood is now 15 years old. “I have found all my friends here. I am independent and feel at home in the camp. We are all brothers and sisters here. It is very hard to find a place in Gaza with this kind of freedom from a traditional stigma. Boys and girls do activities together in a spirit of teamwork.”

■ ■ ■ ■ **Anood El-Kafarna** (left)  
participant for the 7<sup>th</sup> year



# ANNUAL DINNER

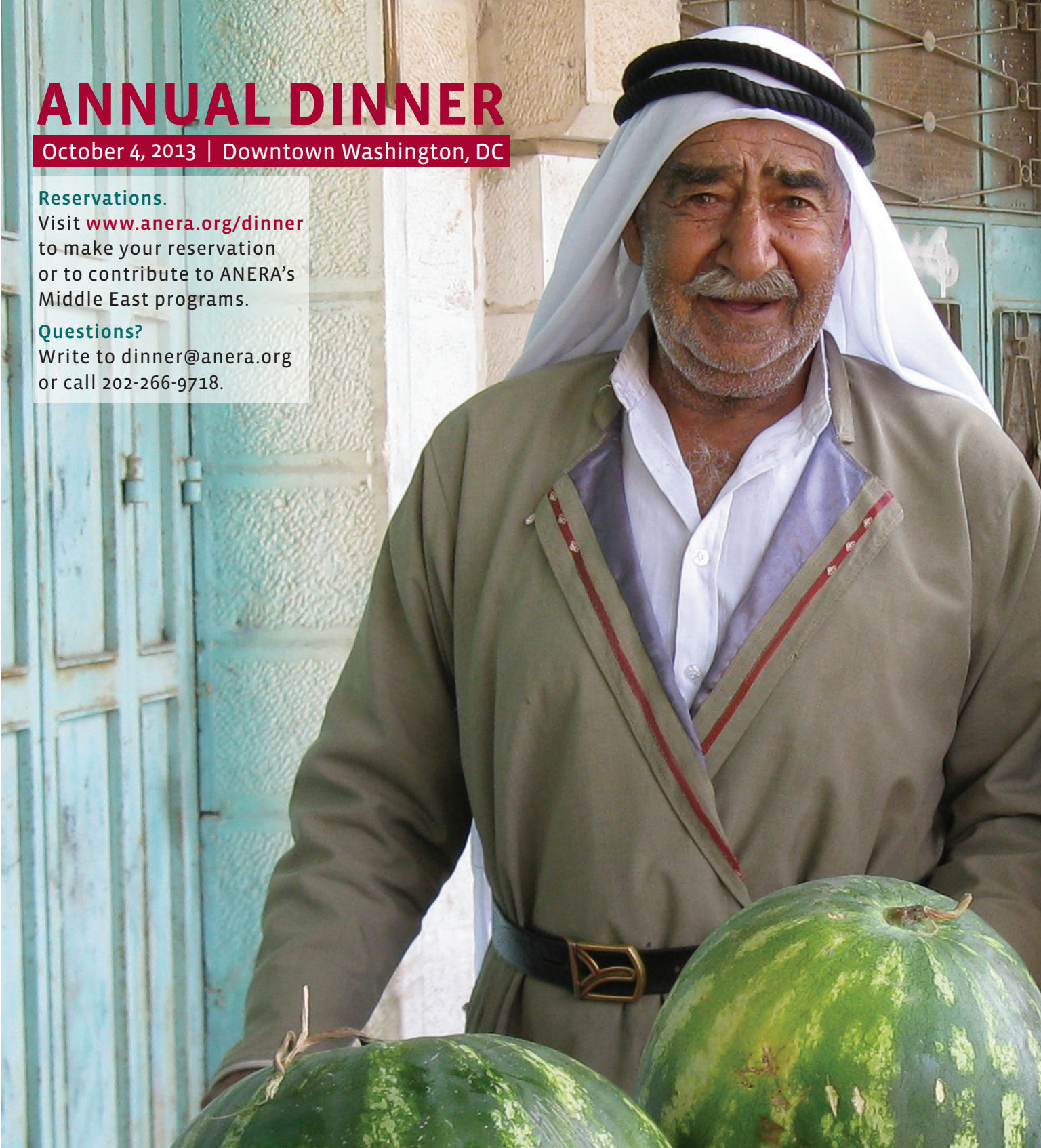
October 4, 2013 | Downtown Washington, DC

## Reservations.

Visit [www.anera.org/dinner](http://www.anera.org/dinner) to make your reservation or to contribute to ANERA's Middle East programs.

## Questions?

Write to [dinner@anera.org](mailto:dinner@anera.org) or call 202-266-9718.



## IMPACT THAT LASTS

Generating Opportunities  
in Palestinian Communities

This year, ANERA's Annual Dinner is raising funds for programs that have a long-term impact on people's lives.

From providing communities with much-needed infrastructure to training teachers and nurses, your donations create lasting opportunities across the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon.



## Impact That Lasts



*from the desk of*  
**Bill Corcoran, President**

Dear Friend of ANERA:

In a region where we have to expect the unexpected and where conflict threatens destruction of infrastructure, creating sustainable change may seem elusive.

But, because of you, there are positive, lasting changes we can point to throughout the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon. From building the first four-year nursing school in the West Bank to giving loans to thousands of successful Gaza women entrepreneurs, ANERA's community of donors has given people the tools they need to succeed in life.

I hope you enjoy learning, in these pages, about some of ANERA's projects that have made a lasting impact. And I hope you will plan to join us at our 2013 Annual Dinner on October 4, when we will be raising funds for our sustainable projects in the Middle East.

Gratefully, *Bill Corcoran*