

NEWS

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ANERA

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

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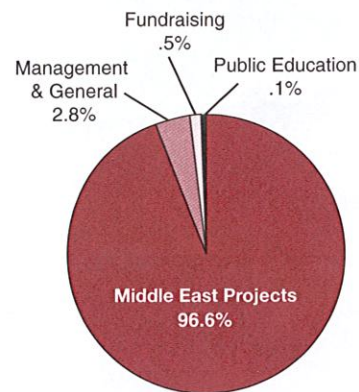
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ANERA's Fiscal Year 2007 In Review

ANERA enjoyed a remarkable year of bringing hope and opportunity to people in the Middle East. Its most significant accomplishment has been delivering over 96 cents of each donated dollar to program activities in the Middle East. This record amount ensures that even more of donor contributions provide assistance to those in need. Below are listed additional highlights from fiscal year 2007. These all have been recorded in our latest annual report which is now available online at www.nera.org.

- ANERA received its 5th consecutive rating of 4 stars by Charity Navigator, an overseer of fiscal responsibility among nonprofit charities. Only 3 percent of all rated nonprofits earned this distinctive ranking. In addition, ANERA met the standards for charity accountability as determined by the BBB Wise Giving Alliance. Finally, we received an "A" rating from the American Institute of Philanthropy.

**Percentage of Each Donated Dollar to
Program Activities in the Middle East**



- Contributions to our Medical In-Kind program more than doubled from \$20 million to \$43 million, ensuring our ability to deliver more humanitarian relief than ever before.
- ANERA received its first-ever award from the Canadian government's International Development Agency, thus increasing the number of national governments who support our programs. This \$1.3 million will provide psychosocial services to children traumatized by violence in the West Bank and Gaza.

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Scholarship Program Profile: Elias



Elias is a 15-year-old boy with cerebral palsy who attends Al-Kafaat Rehabilitation Foundation in Beirut, Lebanon. He has been one of ANERA's scholarship recipients for several years and has been a student at Al-Kafaat since he was 8.

Elias' mother and father were separated prior to his mother's death in a cluster bomb explosion last year, and Elias was supposed to be staying with his uncle during the holidays and weekends. However, when Elias returned from visits with his uncle, he would be unhappy and in a bad mood. The social worker at Al-Kafaat discovered that Elias' uncle and father both had drinking problems. Elias was not staying at his uncle's home, but at the employee's headquarters in the hospital where his father works as a driver. In addition, he was spending nights on the town with his father. One evening during the Christmas vacation, Elias' father left him alone in a rented room. That night, the room caught fire. Elias was miraculously rescued by one of the neighbors.

This was the wake-up call Elias' father needed to appreciate his son. Since then, the social workers and psychotherapist from Al-Kafaat have been encouraging Elias' father to provide a proper home and family life for him.

Elias has had several obstacles to overcome in his short life, however with the help of Al-Kafaat, his father now lives in a small home and has dramatically changed his attitude towards his son. Today, life is good for both father and son and Elias is a happy and well-behaved young boy.

Providing outreach and counseling to students' families is a small part of ANERA's Scholarship Program. Donations of \$175 a year or \$15 a month will help support a student for a year.

For more information about the Scholarship Program, contact Cindy Ajamian, Scholarship Program Coordinator, at (202) 842-2766, ext. 13 or cajamian@anera.org.

Highlighting Health: ANERA's Annual Dinner

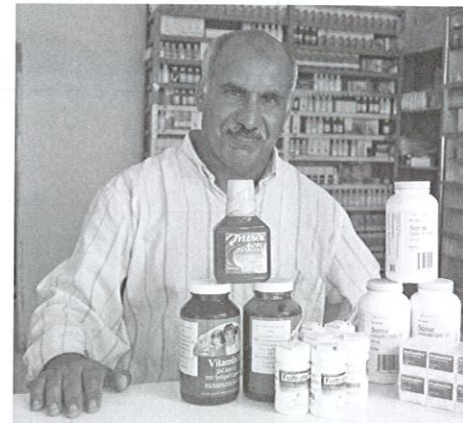
ANERA's health care and relief program has helped improve the lives of Palestinians, Lebanese and Jordanians since 1968. Approaching our 40th anniversary, ANERA renewed its commitment on September 28 when over 350 members of the Board of Directors, supporters, friends and staff gathered at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington, DC for our annual dinner with the theme of Hope begins with Health.

Our health projects in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon and Jordan serve families and communities living amid difficult economic and social conditions. Fiscal year 2007 provided ANERA with an opportunity to bring more medical aid to the region as we doubled the amount of in-kind contributions we received and distributed from \$20 million to \$43 million.

Building on this success, we are very pleased to announce that the annual dinner raised over \$175,000. Our largest single donation that evening was a generous gift of \$25,000 from the Foundation for Middle East Peace. For every \$1,000 contributed, ANERA delivers more than \$125,000 worth of donated medicines to people in need in the Middle East.

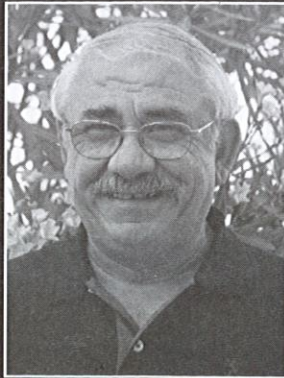
The annual dinner also provided an opportunity to recognize two honorees who have had a major impact on ANERA's mission. Peter Gubser, ANERA's president of 29 years, retired earlier this year. Under his leadership, ANERA grew from a \$500,000 organization to one of over \$30 million. We also honored ACCESS, the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, a Dearborn, Michigan-based human services organization committed to the development of the Arab-American community in all aspects of its economic and cultural life.

ANERA is proud to celebrate its legacy of bringing good health to people in the Middle East. We appreciate the exemplary individuals and organizations whose contributions have made that success possible and look forward to another year of revitalizing lives and communities.



Staff Nurse Mohammad Ahmed Abu Mughasib works in a NGO health clinic in Wadi As-Salqa where they received medicines through ANERA's In-Kind Program.

Interview with Salah Sakka Gaza Director, ANERA



1. How critical is the need for humanitarian assistance in Gaza right now?

A brief look at the current realities in Gaza shows that the Palestinian need for support is dire. Economic and social conditions are deteriorating. Thousands of families have no source of income and movement is restricted because of tighter border crossings.

The rate of unemployment is now escalating and over 50 percent of the people now live in poverty. There is no stable supply of food.

Our in-kind program has been challenged because of the closed border crossings. Primary health care facilities lack pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, and a lot of the equipment is no longer functional. The Israelis have allowed some patients in dire need to leave Gaza but this just reveals how unprepared and undersupplied the hospitals are.

Few goods or supplies are coming in, further damaging the Gaza economy. ANERA was able to bring in one shipment through the Sufa crossing with assistance from the liaison officer on the Israeli side. But that closing also means construction supplies can't come through and contractors have been forced to halt work.

Gaza has lost almost 50 percent of its electricity and experiences power outages throughout the day.

2. How will the situation change in the coming months?

Until the present environment changes, the situation in Gaza will not improve. The situation will, in fact, continue to deteriorate. Gaza does not receive what it needs due to the embargo. A political situation must be found to reopen the border crossings. Gaza needs to be able to import and export materials. Until then, I see no light at the end of the tunnel. I see little hope.

3. What role do you see ANERA taking in Gaza in future months?

Whenever the situation becomes difficult, ANERA always feels a great responsibility to bring more relief to the neediest of Gaza's people. I would suggest we raise funds for food and commodity relief—providing basic food supplies to the poorest of the poor who lack reasonable food supplies.

We also need to do what we can to create short-term jobs including labor-intensive work opportunities. We need to help Gazans generate income and escape unemployment.

4. What support from private donors, foundations and corporate partners would make our ability to help people more effective?

We would welcome financial and in-kind support of medical supplies from corporate or donor partners. We need to continue our work in Gaza. More private donations will be needed to successfully support our Milk for Preschoolers program. This year, we anticipate helping 20,000 preschoolers. Because of the economic challenges faced by Palestinian families, many children suffer from malnutrition and we need to continue this project to help them.

ANERA welcomes and appreciates any donations that let us help the Palestinians in Gaza who are most in need.

For the full text of our interview with Salah, please visit www.nera.org.

The Year in Review

continued from page 1

- ANERA's Beirut office, which opened in late 2005, proved itself by responding quickly and effectively during the 2006 conflict between Lebanon and Israel when it provided food and medical relief to thousands of internally displaced people. The office has since developed several local partnerships and is in a position to respond to events with immediate humanitarian support and assistance.
- Dr. Rand Salman, ANERA's health program director, was invited by the Elie Wiesel Foundation to address Nobel Laureates at a conference in Amman, Jordan on the state of Palestinian health. Dr. Salman directs the Hanan project, which benefits thousands of women and children by providing access to quality maternal and child health and nutrition services.
- ANERA received its first award from Global Impact under the Partnership for Lebanon Fund, an effort by the U.S. government and corporate leaders to rebuild following the 2006 war. ANERA will enhance the capacities of community-based organizations that use technology for educational and vocational training.
- Construction of the Najjad Zeenni IT Center of Excellence nears completion at Birzeit University near Ramallah. ANERA has designed and built three other IT Centers at major Palestinian universities.

Successful ANERA Preschooler Project Continues Despite Challenges in Gaza

Due to new restrictions on entry points into Gaza imposed in June, ANERA discovered greater challenges in working with Palestinians in need. Border closings mean supplies can't come in, which has a tremendous effect on the local economy. Contractors, for instance, can't work when construction materials aren't available. Families end up suffering the consequences, from the newly unemployed to the children who look to them for support.

Despite these constraints, ANERA remains committed to providing as much relief to Palestinians as possible. One success has been the Milk for Preschoolers project through which ANERA alleviates alarming rates of malnutrition by delivering daily rations of fortified milk and biscuits to preschoolers in 250 centers. Milk for Preschoolers was initiated by ANERA in February 2003 to serve several thousand children around the region. As part of its continued desire to serve impoverished Gazans, ANERA will provide up to 20,000 preschoolers with a much-needed source of nutrition during the upcoming school year.

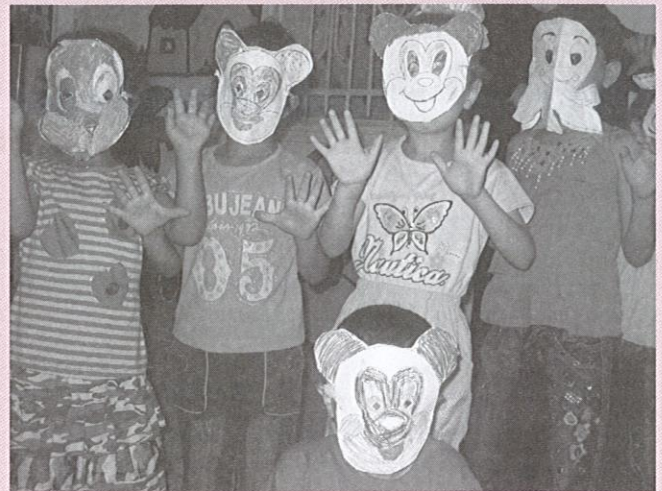
This year, the Milk for Preschoolers project has played a role in summer camps for 3,000 preschoolers. "Last year, the kids were sad at the end of the school year," says Sabreen, a teacher at the Noor El-Amal preschool. "This summer, the camps allow children to continue developing their minds and bodies."

In addition to providing a reliable source of nutrition, Milk for Preschoolers offers teachers training in nutritional education and the role of play as important in the growth and psychological wellbeing of children. At camp, teachers guide children through a balanced day of regular educational activities and interventions that remove some negative pressures from their lives. Students spend hours using their imagination by drawing houses, trees and birds. Later, students lie on the floor and close their eyes for a few moments while Sabreen plays calming music.

Mona, another teacher, focuses on the

educational component of the project.

"Sometimes I'll bring vegetables and fruits to school. The parents join us and we teach kids how to make a healthy meal." Milk for Preschoolers instructs mothers in proper nutritional practices as well as information on health and hygiene.



Preschoolers use their creativity and imagination to maintain their psychological wellbeing.

An already tough economic situation in Gaza recently became much worse. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau, 47 percent of the working population has lost its source of income and the average daily wages for employed Gazans is \$2. Over 80 percent of the total population now receives some type of food support. Children can feel the tension at home.

Summer camps provide children with a chance to be kids and have fun in a safe environment. "We need to help them release stress," says Mona. "They need to live young and a project like Milk for Preschoolers is like water on a sunny day in the desert."

Your donation of \$100 will support a preschooler for an entire school year; a greater amount will assist more children. ANERA is proud of the success record it has attained through Milk for Preschoolers. We rely on the contributions of generous donors and hope you will consider making a lasting difference in the life of a Palestinian child who truly needs it.

Remember Your Loved Ones While Helping Those in Need in the Middle East

ANERA offers the opportunity for donors like you to provide a gift to someone in the Middle East while honoring a family member or loved one. This represents a dual gift since, while you provide opportunity and hope, improved health care, education or a job to someone in need, your loved ones also know you have them in mind!

For every donation you send to ANERA as a gift to benefit someone in the Middle East, ANERA will mail a card with a drawing from a student in the Middle East to your honored recipient to inform them that a donation has been made on their behalf. We also will send you a receipt for your tax-deductible donation.

Your gift of....

- \$50 purchases school kits for seven children to provide them with helpful educational resources.
- \$100 provides fortified milk and biscuits to one preschooler in Gaza for an academic year—proven to reduce malnutrition and anemia in children.
- \$175 covers school fees, food, housing and medical needs for a poor or special-needs child at a participating scholarship school or orphanage.
- \$250 helps cover ground transportation of distributing essential medical supplies.

Multiply your gift!

Join ANERA's Monthly Giving Program and distribute your gifts throughout the year. You can honor your loved one each time your donation is received. For more information on the Monthly Giving Program, contact Ola Mahmoud at omahmoud@anera.org.

Humanitarian gifts suit every occasion and the upcoming holiday season provides a special reason to reflect and count our blessings. These are some of the times when you can show your caring and generosity year-round.

- Thanksgiving • Christmas • Hanukkah • Ramadan • Birthday
- Wedding • In Memory • In Tribute • Congratulations • Graduation
- Anniversary • New Baby • Valentine's Day • Mother's Day • Father's Day

Send us your email address!

ANERA's e-newsletter *ANERA Today* introduces you to the people directly impacted by your support. If you would like to receive *ANERA Today* and other updates, please sign up online at www.anera.org, or fill in your name and email address in the box below and mail it to us in the enclosed envelope.

Name: _____

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Please consider giving to ANERA during this fall's Combined Federal Campaign. Our new CFC number is 12076.

Increase the value of your gift to ANERA. Ask your employer if they will match your gift.

ANERA's Monthly Giving Program

Help people in need:

- ✓ gain access to education, employment and health care
- ✓ increase their opportunities for a better future

Help ANERA:

- ✓ reduce administrative costs

Help yourself:

- ✓ distribute your contribution throughout the year
- ✓ save the trouble of writing checks

Use the coupon below or visit our website at www.anera.org to start helping today!

Minimum monthly donation: \$10 or more

YES, I want to join ANERA's Monthly Giving Program

Here is my **monthly** gift of:

\$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other _____

I authorize the transfer of the amount above from my account each month. A record of each contribution will appear on my statement and serve as my receipt. I understand that I may stop my contribution at any time by contacting ANERA at (202) 842-2766.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Date (mo/day/year) (/ /)

I have enclosed a voided check for my first monthly contribution. (Please be sure to select a box above for the appropriate dollar amount.)

I want these donations to be charged to my credit card:

Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Card Number _____

Expiration Date (mo/year) (/)

Signature _____

ANERA

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

The ANERA Newsletter is published quarterly by American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), a non-profit agency established in 1968 and dedicated to creating opportunity and hope for people in the Middle East by improving health care and education and stimulating job creation.

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Editor: Liz Demarest, ldemarest@anera.org

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ANERA

1522 K Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005-1251
Tel: (202) 842-2766 • Fax: (202) 682-1637
anera@anera.org • www.anera.org

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