

NEWS

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ANERA

AMERICAN NEAR EAST REFUGEE AID

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Mothers, Milk and Medicine

From something so basic as providing milk to children and as technical as sending medical supplies to clinics, ANERA is finding ways of responding to an expanding humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

The strict measures imposed on the Gaza Strip over the past six months have only accelerated the growing health and environmental catastrophes. The Palestinian Bureau of Statistics reports that 85% of Gaza families live beneath the poverty line and cannot afford sustenance for children. Even with the challenges aid workers face, ANERA and its partners continue to provide meaningful services to an increasingly desperate population.



In Beit Hanoon, Gaza, Fidaa brings in her baby, Amal, for a consultation provided by the Hanan Program.

RAMIA EL-HILOU

To combat malnutrition, ANERA continues providing fortified milk and biscuits, which it delivers to children in Gaza on a daily basis. “Delivering these products is not as easy as before,” admits Mona Abu Ramadan, manager of ANERA’s Milk for Preschoolers project. “Our shipments often are stopped at the borders, though we are hopeful we will soon secure milk products to last until mid-February.”

Gaza also is experiencing a severe shortage in children’s medicine and vaccinations. Reportedly, ten children died on the border recently because they couldn’t get through crossings to a hospital or clinic where they might have received proper treatment. Countering these devastating (and avoidable) occurrences, ANERA’s Hanan project — the result of a two-year partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development — continues to provide new mothers opportunities to improve health care in Gaza.

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Reflections on a Visit to the Middle East

by ANERA headquarters staff members, Nancy Nye and Mary Kate Chaath, who visited some of ANERA's project sites from October 20 to November 4, 2007.

Visiting ANERA's projects and program beneficiaries last November in the West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan, we were proud to see the impact that ANERA is having on people's lives, but also solemnly reminded of the need that remains.

For over two weeks as we traveled throughout the region, we visited village after village where ANERA had completed a water and sanitation system, developed a park or playground, added classrooms or a much-needed toilet block to a school, delivered medicines and supplies to a clinic, paved roads, offered after-school activities for students, donated computers for a youth center, or provided for emergency needs.

Everyday, we were privileged to meet our partners, all of whom share ANERA's vision to provide opportunities for a better future and commitment to

honest, effective and transparent operations. These extraordinary people are teachers, farmers, civil engineers, pharmacists, women activists, musicians, information technology specialists, doctors, psychologists, architects, entrepreneurs and many others too numerous to count. They live and work in tiny villages and large cities. They are young and old, women and men.

Donors to ANERA frequently ask if the people of the Middle East know the projects are supported and financed by contributions from the United States — from individuals, corporations and government. Without question, the answer is 'Yes!' On any given day, we saw dozens of signs proudly displayed by our local partners with the message, "This project was carried out by ANERA and its local partner with funds from generous donors from the United States."

We also saw first-hand the quality of ANERA staff and their commitment to the work they do. One example, among many, is Hani Khleif, the pharmacist handling ANERA's Medical In-Kind Program in the West Bank, who left a for-profit pharmaceutical company to join us. He has a wealth of experience and his commitment to providing aid to the people of the West Bank is unwavering. When we visited with him, he proudly announced that every item stored in the ANERA warehouse gets put to use and he has yet to have any medicines on the shelf past their expiration date.

A visit to ANERA's project work in the Middle East brings to life the full circle of partnership. Partners and donors in the United States and throughout the world give generously to projects carried out by capable and dependable individuals, businesses and community organizations in the Middle East. The lasting result of any project is measured by the relief brought to the lives of many. Our visit was an opportunity to consider all of this work close-up and reflect on a heartening reality: ANERA's work is possible only through a broad, expanding and interwoven community of people committed to easing suffering.



Olfat Mahmoud, Director of Women's Humanitarian Organization; Hope Cobb, ANERA Advisory Council Member; Mary Kate Chaath and Nancy Nye pictured in Burj al Barajni refugee camp in Beirut.

Mothers, Milk and Medicine

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In Gaza and the West Bank, since 2005, Hanan has focused on providing quality health and nutritional services while promoting positive household and community health behaviors to mothers and children.

Speaking about the project's success, ANERA's Hanan field coordinator, Abed Naser Soboh says, "The clinics have developed a registrar to document women with anemia and supervise them throughout their pregnancies to ensure the health of the mothers and unborn children. This has become increasingly challenging due to the restrictions passed in the summer, which limit our access to equipment. With cooperation from nurses who received the health training in the past, though, we have been able to successfully monitor the anemia cases."

Through its In-Kind Program, ANERA provides critical medicines, medical equipment and supplies such as antibiotics, hygiene kits and disposables to clinics throughout Gaza. Gaza's national hospital, Al-Shifaa, has benefited from contributions of gloves, blankets, white sheets, sanitizers and other equipment. ANERA's warehouse manager in Gaza, Mostafa Ghosain, says: "In many Gaza clinics, fifty percent of the medicines available come from ANERA. Sometimes, they are not even available in private pharmacies."

Milk for Preschoolers, the Hanan Project and the In-Kind Program do not tell ANERA's whole story in improving health care in Gaza, but their diversity conveys the scope of the crisis and ANERA's commitment to addressing it. Despite the hardships that challenge Gaza and its residents, ANERA continues working to restore people's health and dignity.

Scholarship Program Profile: Khalid

A bright and smiley six-year-old, Khalid, is one of seven children born into a family struggling under the harsh conditions of Gaza.

Najwa, Khalid's mother, was devastated when she first learned that Khalid was severely deaf, and even more so when the child was diagnosed with serious cardiac problems.

With support from ANERA's Scholarship Program donors, Khalid and his mother were enrolled in the Atfaluna Early Intervention Program, where he

and his mother learned to communicate in sign language and where Najwa found the support she needed to face the special challenges of raising a deaf child.

By the time Khalid was enrolled in the Atfaluna kindergarten, he could read lips well, had acquired some oral language skills, and was a

fluent signer. Khalid loves school, acting as a mentor and tutor to the new children who are having a hard time adjusting. He loves to draw and is very creative.

As part of Atfaluna Society's holistic approach to services for the deaf, they are reaching out to the entire family. With the economic situation being so desperate in Khalid's family, the Society encouraged his mother, Najwa, to join the Atfaluna Culinary Arts Program and last year she graduated with honors.

Social workers assisted Najwa in formulating a simple business plan for home production of sweet rolls and cakes. Very early every morning, Najwa can be found in her kitchen baking delicious fresh rolls which she neatly stacks in a cart which her husband wheels off to the busy intersection two blocks from their house, just in time for the morning rush hour. Najwa says that with the help of Atfaluna, she now believes in miracles.

Donations of \$15 a month or \$175 a year will help support students like Khalid for a year.

For more information about the Scholarship Program, email anera@anera.org or call (202) 842-2766.



Inauguration of a New Training Complex in Lebanon

On November 14, 2007, scores of well-wishers joined students and faculty from Al-Kafaat Foundation near Beirut to celebrate the inauguration of a new training complex at the Foundation's Catering and Hotel Management School – the centerpiece of a two-year project with ANERA to stimulate employment in tourism.

The training complex, built with funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), serves as an on-the-job training site as well as a meeting and eating place for Al-Kafaat's diverse student body.

Raif Choueiri, Executive Director of the Foundation, sees benefit even beyond the practical improvements the facility provides. "One of the nicest things about the project," he says, "is the new opportunity it creates for students to come together socially. The complex is the new center of the campus, drawing students in not only for lunch but before and after class.

Interaction of our students from different faiths and political perspectives is incredibly important these days in Lebanon."

The main cafeteria of the new complex is staffed by students studying professional catering and a second floor restaurant offers young chefs an opportunity to show their culinary skills to guests. Additional stores serving traditional Lebanese fast food and fresh juice and selling school supplies are operated by students studying how to run their own businesses.

Over 1,250 Al-Kafaat students will benefit each year from the new facilities, as well as expanded and rehabilitated classrooms. A new IT Center giving students the opportunity to learn graphic design on state-of-the-art computers and the establishment of a placement services office to help graduates find gainful employment are also parts of this showcase project.

ANERA's Country Director in Lebanon, Rob Mosrie, noted the Tourism Development Project helps "Al-Kafaat Foundation continue its 50 years of dedication to giving young people opportunities to better their lives through making the most of their own abilities and investing in long-term economic prosperity of communities in Lebanon."

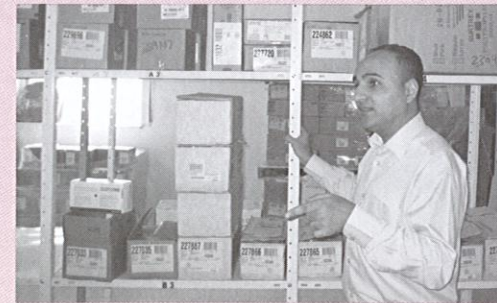


Cutting the ribbon to the Training Complex. From left to right: Rob Mosrie, ANERA Lebanon Country Director; Raif Choueiri, Al-Kafaat Executive Director; Ramzi Choueiri, Director of the Catering and Hospitality School; Raouf Youssef, USAID Lebanon Mission Director

An In-Kind Shipment

ANERA's In-Kind Program addresses the critical need for health care supplies in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon and Jordan by distributing them to hundreds of charitable hospitals and medical clinics. The supplies are worth millions of dollars on the U.S. wholesale market and are generously donated by various charities as well as pharmaceutical and medical companies.

Below is a portion of one shipment's packing list. It illustrates powerfully the needs that exist and are filled each time ANERA delivers a shipment.



Hani Khleif, ANERA's pharmacist responsible for the West Bank medical In-Kind Program, in one of our warehouses.

PACKING LIST

Ship to:

Name:	ANERA
Address:	Nashashibi Street
City:	Jerusalem

Decongestant used to treat congestion associated with allergies, hay fever, sinus irritation and colds.

Relief of fever or pain due to teething, immunizations, earache, colds or flu.

For suction of fluids and air from the stomach without causing damage to the inner surface of the stomach.

An antibiotic mainly for upper respiratory tract infections.

A fluid-resistant, flat, earloop face mask for general patient care.

A medicine used to treat ulcers; a heartburn and stomach disorder known as gastroesophageal reflux disorder; and conditions associated with excess acid secretion.

An antibiotic used to treat certain infections caused by bacteria such as pneumonia and bone, ear, skin, and urinary tract infections.

Unit	Product Name	Quantity	U.S. wholesale market value
30mil	12 hour nasal spray (oxymetazoline HCL 0.05%)	1,200	\$8,616
35	Nexcare Comfort Ultra Fabric Bandages, 3/4" x 3"	4,200	\$10,878
80mg	Concentrated Tylenol Infant Drops w/Dropper (Acetaminophen)	24	\$165
10	Tegaderm Foam Dressing, Non-Adhesive 3 1/2" x 3 1/3"	240	\$11,203
1	Nasogastric Sump Tube (48" long) w/Radiopaque Stripe Marks	50	\$126
10	Ioban 2 Antimicrobial Incise Drape, Sterile, 60cm x 45cm	280	\$23,576
24	Pads, Stayfree Maxi	226	\$708
10 pair	Latex Industrial Gloves, size 9	253	\$7,308
75ml	Cefprozil 250mg/5ml, Cefzil for Oral Suspension	2,160	\$124,070
50	Earloop Face Mask, Fluid Resistant Disposable	480	\$6,552
10 x 1gm vial	Ertapenem Sodium 1gm Powder for Solution, Invanz	100	\$59,083
30	Nizatidine 300mg	1,320	\$188,720
1	Catheter Pre-connected to a Closed Urinary Drainage System	300	\$2,064
6	Sterile Surgical Tape 2" x 10 yards	220	\$2,046
1	Knee Brace, Rubber Latex, Medium	94	\$461
100	Cephalexin 250mg	144	\$9,986
1	Dorso Lumbar Support, Female, Steel Stays, Size 34	1	\$70
packing list page 1 Subtotal:			\$455,622

This dressing adhesive manages fluids from heavily draining wounds by combining high absorbency and breathability – meaning better comfort for patients and fewer dressing changes for medical staff.

A drape cover for a patient undergoing surgery to maintain a sterile environment while allowing the medical staff access to the wound.

A powder made into a solution which is delivered intravenously. It is used to treat or prevent infections that are proven or strongly suspected to be caused by bacteria.

A rigid support brace for mild back injuries, herniated disc problems, weakened spine due to tuberculosis and post-operative rehabilitation

NOTE: This is an excerpt from a real packing list, it is not an exact replica.

Steadfast for 40 Years

2008 marks ANERA's 40th year of steadfast commitment to providing humanitarian aid to the Middle East. This occasion is an opportunity to reflect on the past work of ANERA and consider the work ahead. We're undertaking a number of projects and you can help.

- **ANERA will have a new website!** Sign up now at www.anera.org and receive monthly updates and alerts about our work. More importantly, be online with us when we launch a new and improved website in March. We're rolling out the new site in commemoration of our forty years. Please help us bring more attention for our work and be prepared to tell your friends and family all about the new site in March.
- **Save the date! ANERA's Annual Dinner is Friday, October 10th.** Join us in Washington, DC in October to commemorate our 40th year. Regional events around the country are being planned – watch this space or visit our website in the coming months for details.
- **\$40 for the 40th. Join ANERA's monthly giving program** with a generous contribution of \$40 monthly to commemorate 40 years of steadfast commitment to humanitarian aid. Go to www.anera.org and sign up today or use the attached envelope to join via mail.

2008 will be a very busy year. Please join us in every way that you can, so the people of the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon and Jordan may lead lives with the structure and dignity that everyone deserves.

Arthur Lachlan Reed, 90, Dies in Palm Beach

Sadly we announce that ANERA's long-time supporter and friend, Arthur Lachlan Reed, died on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2007, at his home in Palm Beach. He was 90. He was the widower of Martha Sweatt Reed, who died in 2005. The Reeds are survived by their six children.

Mr. Reed was born March 22, 1917, in Smyrna, Turkey. After moving to the United States, he graduated from Andover preparatory school and Yale University where he was named Yale's Mellon Fellow to Clare College in Cambridge, England. He then served in World War II as a Navy commander and worked for two years with the U.S. ambassador to England, Anthony Biddle.

He had an impressive and varied career – working as special assistant in the Eisenhower Executive Branch; managing Honeywell's Special Sensors Division; teaching English at Andover; and serving as headmaster of Northrop Collegiate School in Minneapolis. He also went on to found three computer science technology firms as well as three schools.

In addition to his many other philanthropic commitments, Mr. Reed was a long-time, faithful member of the ANERA Board. Peter Gubser, former president, described him as a consistently positive contributor to the spirit of ANERA. He was a great person and we join his family in mourning his passing.

(Much of this obituary was excerpted from PalmBeachDailyNews.com)

IN HONOR OF

Paul Thomas
Rose Dudlum
Robert & Shari Norberg
Nancy & David Finnie
Mike Ameen
Samar Al Ansari
Misodeh Dudum
Hanna Salem Jaber
Hope Cobb
Nancy Nye
Kathryn Habib & Jonathan Michie
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Marina Wadopian
Aghvani Habash
Dr. & Mrs. S. A. Morton
Patriarch Michael Sabbah
William Bliss
Dawn Gruen
Henry Geason
Elizabeth Lagerstedt
Deborah Hyams
Lachlan Reed
Gene & Patricia Gressley and Virginia O'Dell
Patricia F. McNair
Mr. & Mrs. David Newsom
Mrs. Madge Pendleton
Palestinian Refugees
Frances Jenkins

ANERA's Monthly Giving Program

Your ongoing support is critical to ANERA's continued growth.

In order to expand our programs in education, employment and health care, we depend on a steady and dependable source of funding.

Can we count on you?

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

Please consider commemorating ANERA's 40th year with a generous monthly contribution of \$40. Go to www.nera.org and sign up today or use the enclosed form to join via mail.

Minimum monthly donation: \$10 or more

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

- I want to commemorate ANERA's 40th year with \$40 a month.
 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 1522 K St. NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20005-1251, (202) 842-2766, or my bank.

Name _____

Address _____

Signature _____

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

- I have enclosed a voided check for my first monthly contribution. (Please be sure to designate an amount above.)
 I want these donations to be charged to my credit card (Visa, MC, Discover or AMEX).

Account Number _____

Expiration Date (mo/year) (/)

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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