



ANERA News

Winter is Coming

in this issue...

Winter is Coming

By the Numbers

Long-Time Donors
Remember

Relief for Palestinian Women
Refugees from Syria

Annual Dinner 2013 Report

For most of us who read this newsletter, the arrival of winter means turning on the heat and digging out our sweaters. The cold and wet weather is at worst an inconvenience. But for many of the families living in the areas where ANERA works, the arrival of winter is greeted with dread.

In Lebanon, tens of thousands of Palestinian families fleeing Syria have sought shelter in already crowded refugee camps. One out of four is living in exposed temporary shelters — unused garages or chicken coops with leaky, corrugated roofs and no windows or doors. Dozens crowd into one-room dwellings. Heat, running water and lights are more often than not just an elusive dream. Most families have no source of income.

The situation isn't much better in Gaza, where Israel's blockade of imports and exports continues into its seventh year. And the turmoil in Egypt has closed the border and underground network

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

 Delivering Relief in Gaza and Lebanon

Number of quilts delivered in Lebanon's refugee camps to Palestinian families from Syria: **25,000**

Number of shipments of medicines and other vital health care supplies made in 2013 to hospitals and clinics in Gaza and Lebanon: **19**

Number of families in Gaza who got Ramadan food parcels: **200**

Number of vouchers for clothes and food distributed to families in Lebanon's camps: **10,482**

Number of pairs of new shoes distributed to children, women and men in Gaza and Lebanon: **60,000+**

Number of women in Lebanon's camps who received dignity kits (including scarves, underwear and a flashlight): **2,600**

Number of preschoolers in Gaza being tested and treated for intestinal parasites: **6,400**

Carrying on the Legacy



Last year was the first time Tim Kennedy came to ANERA's Annual Dinner with his grandfather, Bob Norberg. The theme was Faces of the Future, which really resonated for the 14-year-old. Tim didn't know much about ANERA then, but the evening was eye-opening and inspired him to ask his grandfather, a donor to ANERA for more than 30 years, if he could come along with him again in 2013.



"This year again I met a lot of grandfather's old friends and learned more about the amazing things that ANERA does. It feels like a real community making a difference. You don't just take the money. You really use it to deliver programs that change lives."

Tim was so inspired at this year's dinner that he became a monthly donor. He doesn't have a credit card so he had to arrange with his parents to give them cash out of his pay from a part-time job.

Giving to ANERA is a family tradition as his grandparents, parents and uncle, and now Tim are all donors. "My grandfather won't be around forever. He is a wonderful, generous person and I want to keep the legacy he started alive."

COVER PHOTO: Electricity cuts have been a regular part of life in Gaza since the blockade began in 2007. In winter, students are forced to study by candlelight. Photographer: Rania Elhilou | ANERA

Winter is Coming

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of tunnels between the two countries, cutting off Gaza's lifeline. The cost of food has risen by more than 25%. Fuel and cooking gas are hard to find, except for limited quantities from Israel, which most people can't afford. Stores are rapidly selling out of their stocks. Vaccinations are delayed as few supplies trickle in. Power outages last for up to 10 hours a day.

This is where the ANERA community can continue making a real difference. In Lebanon, we can give more quilts, hygiene kits, and vouchers for food and clothes to thousands of families living in cold, miserable conditions. In Gaza, as one of the few organizations able to bring in medicines and relief supplies, we can be there when no one else can.

Meet two people whose winters will be easier because of your support.



Fatiha in Lebanon

Last winter Fatiha fled Syria's violence with her daughter. They took refuge in El Buss refugee camp in southern Lebanon. From the time she arrived, Fatiha's paraplegia trapped her in a cold, depressing, concrete room. She just received a brand new wheelchair from ANERA, donated by LDS Charities. This winter she'll have the mobility she needs to get out, get further assistance, interact with others, and adjust to her new circumstances in Lebanon.



Hamad in Gaza

Hamad and his children live in a humble home made of plastic sheets. In their village of Wadi Salqa, 45% of the residents live below the poverty line. His children have to walk over a mile each way to school every day and they used to have to share their shoes. Recently ANERA gave each of the children a new pair of Crocs shoes. This has eased the burden of buying shoes under the tough circumstances. "Now we don't have to argue over who gets the shoes anymore," says nine-year-old Shahed (far right).

Relief for Palestinian Women Refugees from Syria



In Lebanon, 75% of Palestinian refugees from Syria are women and children. They have sought refuge in the impoverished Palestinian camps. Many have lost or left behind loved ones, belongings and dreams of a peaceful life. Now, they find themselves without work, proper housing, privacy or social support. ANERA's community of donors has made it possible to deliver to many of these women vouchers for food and clothing, quilts, hygiene and dignity kits, and vital medicines. These are a few snapshots from our work.



2013 Annual Dinner

Our annual dinner this year celebrated ANERA's 45 years of achievements and the impact our work has on so many lives.

On October 4, we honored Doris Halaby for her generosity and her 30 years of service on the board and advisory council. We also honored Dubai Cares for its support of our early childhood development program, which is setting the standards for educating future Palestinian leaders. And long-time supporter Yasmeen Shousher Moore received our special thanks on behalf of our growing circle of monthly donors.

We also highlighted our theme "Impact that Lasts" through the beautiful performance of Ali Amr, qanounist, and Tareq Rantisi, percussionist. They are former students of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, which we have supported for two decades. Their music enthralled the audience and even got many of us singing along to a favorite Fayrouz melody.

We are proud to announce that this year's event attracted a record number of sponsors - 51! - and an all-time high turnout. More than 460 supporters came from across the US to join the ANERA family for an evening of friendship. We raised \$317,000 for ANERA's health, education and community development programs in Lebanon, West Bank and Gaza. The funds will also help support our emergency relief efforts to ease the suffering in Gaza and among Palestinian refugees from Syria now sheltering in Lebanon.



Doris Halaby with former ANERA Board Chair Steve Skancke and current President Bill Corcoran



Tariq Al-Gurg, CEO of Dubai Cares, accepts ANERA's gift from Board Chair Skip Gnehm and Bill Corcoran



Qanounist Ali Amr and Percussionist Tareq Rantisi



Your help is needed.

Make your end-of-year,
tax-deductable
contribution today.



Complete the enclosed envelope or visit anera.org/EOY

Are you 70^{1/2} or older?

Do you need to satisfy an
IRA Required Minimum Distribution for 2013?

Yes to both? Call your IRA administrator today to make
an IRA Charitable Rollover contribution to ANERA.

Questions? Call Nancy Nye at 202-266-9720.

December 31, 2013 is the deadline!

Winter is Coming ■■■



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

Dear Friend of ANERA:

As the end of the year approaches, many of us are looking forward to a holiday season in comfortable homes with our friends and families. Sadly, though, there are thousands of families in Lebanon and Gaza who are not so lucky.

In this issue, you will learn about some of the hardships winter brings and how the ANERA community is easing the burden in Gaza and Lebanon's refugee camps. An ANERA fundraising campaign earlier in 2013 reached out to donors to help Palestinian refugees from Syria in Lebanon. In a photo montage we give you a glimpse of our response and how it affects women and children.

Finally, thank you to everyone who made our Annual Dinner on October 4 a huge success. We broke all kinds of records and raised over \$300,000 for programs that have a lasting impact in the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon.

I wish you all the best this holiday season.

Gratefully,

Bill Corcoran