



in this issue

1-2

The Fruits of Our Work:
Looking Back on 50 Years

3

Anera by the Numbers:
With Your Support in 2018

3

Dedicated to Anera:
Awad Da'mes

4-5

Palestinian Community
Infrastructure Development
Program

6

Anera's 50th Anniversary Dinner

The Fruits of Our Work: Looking Back on 50 Years

EXCERPTED FROM ANERA PRESIDENT SEAN CARROLL'S REMARKS
AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2018



It has been my great privilege over the past year to get to know many of Anera's supporters, who built and sustain and shape our work. I extend a big 50th anniversary thank you to all of you who make Anera's work possible.

In 1968, the year Anera was established in response to the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, 300,000 Palestinians were newly displaced, many of them refugees for a second time.

Now, 50 years later - and this year particularly - progress feels elusive. Peace is stalemated and politics fail us. But, Anera does not, will not, fail you and the vulnerable communities we work with and serve. With your help, Anera over the years has connected 1.2 million Palestinians to safe water. We have worked with farmers to seed, irrigate and cultivate 1,000s of dunums of productive farmland; built and remodeled 100s of schools, community centers, clinics, and hospitals; and delivered \$543 million worth of medical and relief supplies.

continued on page 2

credits

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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Anera never rents or sells our list.

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Anera News Cover Photo:

John Richardson helping Palestinian refugees to cross the destroyed Allenby Bridge after the 1967 War. Soon after this photo was taken, John became Anera's first executive director.

UNRWA photo

The Fruits of Our Work *continued from page 1*



Um Nader, a 61-year-old farmer in Gaza who benefits from an Anera greenhouse

Nearly everywhere you look in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon, Anera's impact is seen, felt and known. And we are ready to return to Jordan and work in Syria.

What has been our impact? Have we made a difference? In the past few decades, just in Palestine, infant mortality is down 80%, life expectancy has increased 20 years, literacy is at almost 100%, and per capita income has more than doubled. Anera, of course, cannot claim all the credit. But you can bet that we helped move the needle.

Let me highlight a few examples of our work that you make possible: Last year we piloted a recycling project in response to Lebanon's garbage crisis. We are now replicating our success in three Bekaa Valley towns, expanding our program eight-fold. Our early childhood development work is thriving in Palestine, where we are building 11 new kindergartens. In the wake of mounting casualties from Gaza's Great Return March, the Anera community delivered \$750,000 in life-saving medicines and supplies. With USAID funding, over the past five years, we completed 34 Palestinian community infrastructure development projects. In the face of recent USAID cuts, we are taking our list of 50 new community projects that are shovel-ready or in design phase to other donors. Together, we will continue to build vital infrastructure in the Occupied Territories.

On a recent visit to Gaza, I met Um Nader, a 61-year-old widow responsible for 17 family members. One of hundreds of vulnerable farmers with whom we've worked to build small farm plots and backyard greenhouses, she is fighting cancer, cultivating her tomato hothouse and caring for her family with equal resolve. She expects to harvest three tons of tomatoes this year. She will feed her family and have money for her most critical priority: educating her grandchildren. I invite you to join me on my next visit, and see and taste the fruits of our work together.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT IN 2018

We were able to provide...



\$43 million worth of medicines,
supplies and humanitarian goods
to Palestine and Lebanon.



8,121 refugee youth
with language, math and life-skills
courses in Lebanon.



35,000 residents of Gaza
with new and repaired water
infrastructure in Beit Lahia.



4,100 preschoolers
with a new or renovated school
in Palestine.

DEDICATED TO ANERA: AWAD DA'MES

Last month, Anera installed ten badly needed dialysis machines at Shifa Hospital in Gaza. The devices are there thanks to Awad Da'Mes, a Palestinian-American resident of Harrisonburg, VA in the Shenandoah Valley, who made a generous donation so Anera could purchase and deliver the machines. They represent a personal commitment Awad has long held to honor his mother's memory.

Awad was born in a Jerusalem hospital in 1935 and grew up in Beit Hanina, a farming village a few kilometers outside Jerusalem. In 1957, he came to the U.S. for college. A decade later, in 1965, he returned to Palestine – crossing the Jordan River on foot – to get married to his fiancée, Najla. After the couple moved to the U.S. in 1968, they had three sons and a daughter.

Although Awad's work and family life have thrived in the U.S., he has never forgotten his homeland. He remembers his father's lands and its acres of figs and grapes with fondness.

After the 2014 war in Gaza, Awad began donating to Anera. He started searching for a way to honor his mother. In her later years, she had suffered from chronic kidney problems, and spent years undergoing dialysis treatments. The family buried her in Palestine with his father.



"In Islam, a donation that provides ongoing benefits is called sadaqa jariya, and its spiritual blessing is imparted to the person remembered," says Awad. "Given that my own mother relied upon dialysis in her final years, it felt appropriate to remember her by ensuring others in need will have access to high-quality kidney treatment for many years to come. I am gratified that the ten dialysis units fill a critical gap in health care capacity in Gaza. The donation is my way of fulfilling my commitment to my mother and honoring her in the hereafter."

Read Awad's story in his own words: anera.org/awad

PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM – **PCID**



Women like Hanin are now able to unleash their potential and creativity thanks to the brand new Women's Center in Dar Salah, West Bank. This center serves as a hub for 300 women.

35,000 residents of Beit Lahia, Gaza can now access water after suffering shortages due to small and deteriorated water lines. The PCID team intervened and upgraded the old network and constructed a new network in unserved parts of the city.




Anera's PCID program ends in the fall of 2019. Because of recent USAID funding cuts, Anera is as infrastructure development projects in Palestine. We have a list of 50 new projects that are sho

For 40+ years, Anera has been a trusted partner of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Just since 2013, under PCID (anera.org/pcid), our experienced and local staff of engineers have built 34 infrastructure projects across Palestine, from schools and rainwater drainage systems to community centers and clinics. We feature four projects here that employed scores of people, making a huge difference in their communities and among vulnerable populations.



The PRCS Rehabilitation Center in Khan Younis, Gaza, provides job training and rehabilitation for 330+ people with disabilities like Sami. Anera's renovation work created a welcoming, hygienic and handicap-accessible space for all.



Saint Nicolas Home for the Elderly in Beit Jala suffered from mold and deterioration. The PCID team renovated the main building and constructed an extension with new rooms for residents like Nadia.

Joining our community of donors and supporters, like **you**, to help fund on-going and new community development projects, whether they are ready or in design phase. To learn more, contact us at anera@anera.org or 202-266-9700.

Anera's 50th Anniversary Dinner

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS AND DEVELOPMENT IN PALESTINE & LEBANON



Anera hosted its most successful Annual Dinner on Friday, September 28 at the Ritz-Carlton in Washington, DC. Recent USAID funding cuts pose future challenges for Anera and the disadvantaged communities we serve. However, with well over 500 people in attendance, our community of supporters rose to the occasion. In such a crucial year, the dedication and commitment of supporters like **you** helped us surpass our fundraising goals.

President and CEO Sean Carroll walked guests through the organization's **50 years of work and accomplishments while laying out a vision for the future**. Carroll acknowledged the difficulties in present circumstances while reminding attendees why the organization is well-placed to continue working in collaboration with local communities. Staff from Lebanon, Jerusalem and the West Bank joined us (unfortunately, travel restrictions prevented our Gaza staff from attending).

The evening honored five of Anera's closest supporters and partners: **The Sams Family**, who in 1967, planted the seeds of Anera by mobilizing support for Palestinian refugees in their Bethesda home, in what has become a Sams family passion spanning generations; **John Richardson**, who saw the flow of refugees coming out of Palestine in 1967 and became Anera's first executive director, helping consolidate all of the outpourings of humanitarian aid for Palestinian refugees; **Frances Stickles** (1929-2018), one of the few individuals who was part of the Anera community throughout its entire 50 years of service, having served on the Anera board, on and off, for five decades, and creating an education committee to inform Anera's education programming; the **Women's Programs Association and Mariam Shaar**, which reach some of the most vulnerable Palestinians and Syrians in Lebanon with relief supplies, health awareness sessions and non-formal education classes; and **Murad Siam**, who has been an active member of Anera's board for 25 years, and made many generous donations himself while also garnering support from others.

The talented musician and spoken word artist **Omar Offendum** was the master of ceremonies, and **Ramy Adly** and his ensemble provided the perfect musical accompaniment to close out the evening.

"In a week that was otherwise so dispiriting, how lovely it was to enter another world: one full of people who help others get water, food, schools, health and happiness. Thank you for a most impressive and delightful evening!"

- Ellie and Erland Heginbotham, dinner guests



FOR MORE PHOTOS:
anera.org/ad50

When you donate, you help hope
find a way in the Middle East.

anera.org/givetoday

Make your tax-deductible
donation by December 31

94%

of funds are
spent directly on
projects &
programs



bbb.org/charity



Making a **donation from your IRA** helps fulfill Anera's mission.



Do you know that you can make an IRA contribution of up to \$100,000 to Anera and not include any part of that contribution as income for tax purposes?

Questions? Contact Maggie Forster Schmitz at 202-266-9720 or mfschmitz@anera.org.

We strongly suggest you check with your IRA administrator or tax adviser to learn the tax implications of any action you may choose to take.

What's your **Legacy?**

anera.org/legacy

A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. With the help of an advisor, you can include or modify language in your will or trust specifying a gift to be made to Anera as part of your estate plan. By joining the **Anera Legacy Society**, you show your deep commitment to the millions of individuals who benefit from Anera's programs.

Notify us of your planned gift! In addition to welcoming you as a member of Anera's Legacy Society, we would like to thank you for your generosity.

Questions? Contact Skylar Lawrence at slawrence@anera.org | (202) 266-9729



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The Fruits of Our Work: Looking Back on 50 Years

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These children are enjoying the fruits of their father's greenhouse, provided as part of Anera's Gaza Food Security Program.