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THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT

Twenty students are gathered under a tent in an informal Syrian refugee camp in the Bekaa region of Lebanon. Most of the youths left school at a young age as a result of the Syrian civil war and couldn't continue their education in Lebanon due to financial and bureaucratic hurdles.

Anera, in partnership with the Amel Association, is providing non-formal instruction to students, aged 15 to 25, living in the Hosh Hareem refugee camp. The non-formal educational program, which began in May, provides Arabic, math and life skills courses. The classes will continue through the end of the year. While these young people are learning, they are also having fun and finding an escape from the difficulties of their daily lives.

Through the refugee education courses, some students are directed to an accelerated learning program or to formal education in Lebanese schools. Other students develop these competencies to keep up with their peers and to enter the job market.

"I come four days a week, and I always try to be a good student. Back in Syria, I was the best in my class, but war came and we had to move here to live in these small tents. Sometimes I forget what fun is. I stay in my tent for days doing nothing but staring into space. When the program started, I registered my name right away."

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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 News Cover Photo:

Shady, a 16-year-old Syrian refugee in Hosh Hareem Camp in the Bekaa region of Lebanon.
Anas Shehab, photographer

I never miss a class. This tent is like my happy place now. I really hope that we can continue in this program because without it, most of us would learn nothing and do nothing.”

— Shady, a 16-year-old Syrian refugee in Hosh Hareem Camp (cover photo)



“I love coming here because it feels more like home to me than the tent we are staying in. Not only do I study here, but I meet new friends, learn new skills, and gain experiences that will help me in life.

When I am sad, happy, mad — in any mood really, I come here and forget all the bad stuff I am living through right now. My family and I are refugees, and all the people who are living here in the camp are refugees, so we have no choice but to wait until the war is over and then go back to our houses. While waiting, I’d rather fill my time doing something useful, instead of sitting inside my tent doing nothing.”

— Ismael, a 17-year-old Syrian refugee at Hosh Hareem Camp



“I was a teacher back in Syria. When I came to Lebanon during the war I had only one goal in my mind — and that was to help the kids that left school back in Syria and have had no chance to continue their education here. I believe that as a teacher, my duty is to help raise a better generation. The most important thing now, for me, is that these kids at Hosh Hareem camp get the best of me, and that they learn skills that they can use in the near future.

I really want to thank Anera and Amel, and I hope the program continues because these kids really need hope.”

— Salam Al Samra, an Arabic and life skills teacher at Hosh Hareem Camp

BY THE NUMBERS

Because of your support for education...



18,299 refugees in Lebanon
have marketable job skills where it is hard to find good work. (2017–2019)



3,312 Palestinian families in Gaza
have the knowledge to prevent water-borne diseases. (2018–2019)



10% of Palestine’s preschools
are, bright, stimulating learning environments for young children. (Since 2010)



5 community centers in Palestine
now provide space for youth and women to learn and innovate. (2013–2019)

WHY WE SUPPORT ANERA | A CONNECTION TO OUR PALESTINIAN HOMELAND

By Kathleen Stengel

The paternal side of my family comes from Palestine. My great grandparents, who were from Nazareth, sent two of their sons to live in the United States in the early 1900s in order to avoid conscription into the Turkish army — as Palestine was then part of the Ottoman Empire. One of those sons was my grandfather, Charles (Namy) Hackim, and he ended up living in the Detroit area of Michigan.

My daughter Claire, Jim and I went on a trip to Palestine, our first ever, in July 2019. We were amazed to see how great the needs are there. But we were also really impressed with the strength and resilience of the Palestinian people. They are tough. They are survivors.

With Anera, we visited a preschool currently under construction in the Nablus area. We also went to the amazing Dar Salah Women’s Center that Anera built near Bethlehem. The women there are hosting workshops and creating beautiful crafts for sale.

The highlight of the trip was the day when the preschool we funded was inaugurated. It’s in the small town of Ni’lin. It was a wonderful event and reception. The children are so excited about their new school! Everyone we met associated with Anera was remarkable.

We also visited Nablus, Jerusalem and Ramallah — and, of course, we went to the towns where my family comes from, Nazareth and Acre. Of all the places we visited, those were the saddest to me, as they are so clearly suffering and run-down. You’d expect that Nazareth would be a hot spot for tourism, but the souk felt sleepy and abandoned.

At the end of the day, Palestinians just want to live with dignity and humanity. They just want to be able to live their lives like everyone else and be free to be who they are. | Read Kathleen’s full story on our blog: anera.org/homeland



(L-R) Kathleen Stengel, her daughter Claire and husband Jim inside the preschool they funded in Ni’lin, Palestine.

Anera Supporters Built Six New Beautiful Preschools in the West Bank!

Funding for the Bazariya, Nassariya, and Deir Al Hatab preschools came from the Ghiath and Nadia Sukhtian Foundation. The Stengel family (featured on page 3) funded the Ni'lin school, the Malas family funded the Madama school and the Tarazi family (honored at the October Annual Dinner, see page 6) funded the school in Qibya.



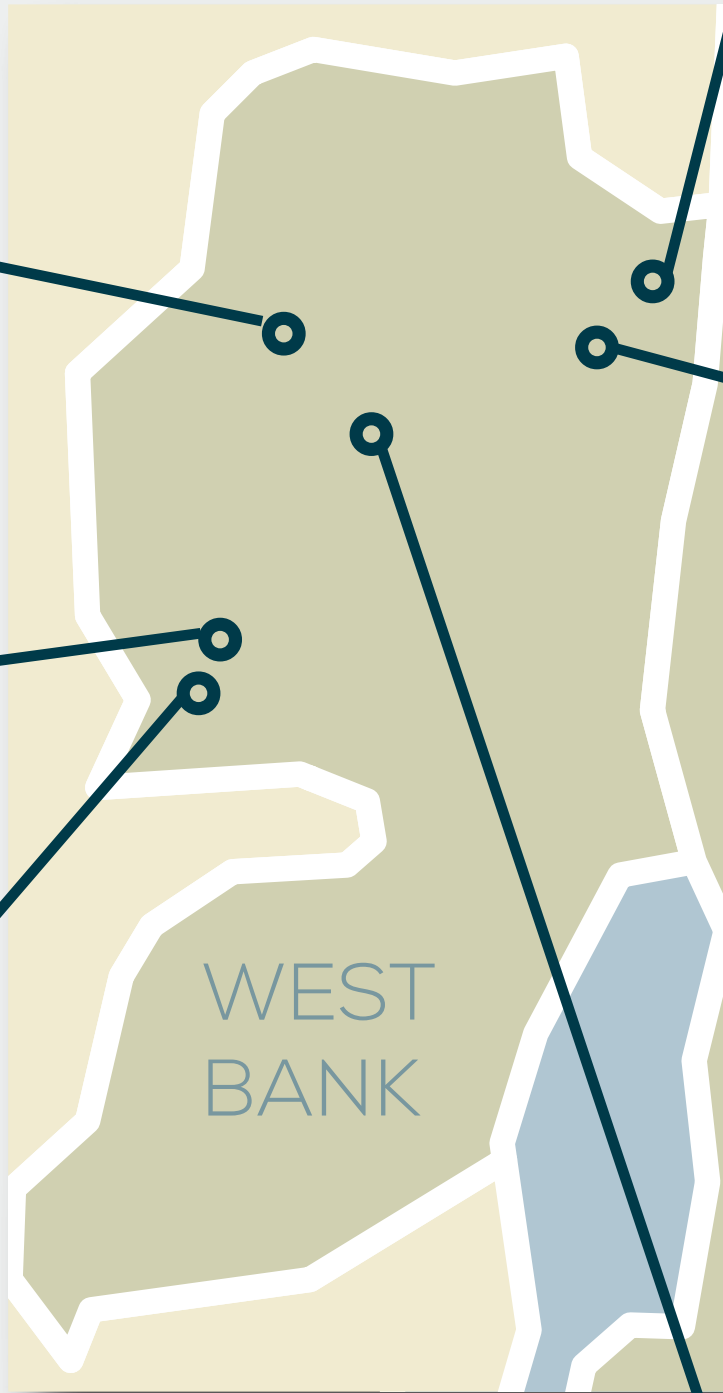
Bazariya



Qibya



Ni'lin



Nassariya



Deir Al Hatab



Madama





Learn, Create, Grow

Anera's Annual Dinner

What a success! Anera hosted its Annual Dinner on Friday, October 11 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. This year's dinner, titled *Learn, Create, Grow*, centered around the theme of Anera's education programs in the Middle East — opening doors to learning opportunities and building livelihoods for refugees and vulnerable communities. Staff from Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan were able to join us for this year's event. With well over 350 members of the Anera community in attendance, the dedication and commitment of **supporters like you** helped us surpass our fundraising goals.

President and CEO Sean Carroll led dinner guests through Anera's work over the past year, with particular emphasis on individual success stories from programs in early childhood development, vocational education and information technology. **He reminded the audience of their steadfast support and how people like you have helped fill some of the gaps in funding left by last year's USAID cuts in Palestine.** Even with the cuts, Anera was able to build and open six new preschools in Palestine thanks to generous donors.

The evening honored two of Anera's closest supporters and donors: **Edward "Skip" Gnehm**, a former ambassador to both Jordan and Kuwait and dedicated Anera board member, donor and supporter — for all he has done for diplomacy, Anera and the greater good in the Middle East; and **The Tarazi family**, for their generous and continued support throughout the years and for their significant contributions to Palestine's youngest — building two new preschools in the communities of Al Majd and Qibya.

Human rights attorney and assistant professor at Rutgers University **Noura Erakat** was the master of ceremonies, **Chakib Hilali** provided music for the evening's reception with calligrapher **Sam Mousavi** providing personalized Arabic calligraphy for dinner guests.

To view and download photos from the dinner, visit: anera.org/learncreategrow



A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make to ensure Anera's financial sustainability for generations to come.



What's your legacy?

anera.org/legacy



In Memory
Kamal Boullata
1942 – 2019

Anera remembers this renowned Palestinian artist for his contributions to the world of art, Palestinian culture and to Anera's early history. Born in Jerusalem in 1942, Boullata came to be known for his visual art compositions based on agular Kufi script and geometric designs. In 1968, Boullata designed Anera's first logo which was used regularly on stationery, signage and promotional materials until 1978.



Making a donation from your IRA is an easy way to help refugees live with dignity, purpose and hope.

Questions?
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Three young women are enjoying Anera's youth and parents' orientation to our vocational education program in Lebanon.