



“After graduating from ETVTC, I would like to attend Le Cordon Bleu and then take courses in sweets and open my own sweet factory”
– Dina, Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center in Ramallah, West Bank

Building Hope in the Holy Land

www.afedj.org • Spring 2019

Residential program at Princess Basma Center empowers mothers to become strong advocates for their children

While leading a pilgrimage from the Diocese of Pennsylvania in January, AFEDJ Trustee, the Rev. Matthew Dayton-Welch, sat down at Princess Basma Center for Children with Disabilities in East Jerusalem with a mother whose daughter has cerebral palsy to learn about her experience with the Mother's Empowerment Program. In 2017, 490 mothers and their children – diagnosed with a range of disabilities – participated in the two- to three-week residential program that teaches mothers how to provide individualized therapies for their child as well as psycho-social support as they learn to advocate for their child in a culture where disability bears a stigma. The residential component is critical to the success of the program because Palestinians face severe travel restrictions that would preclude daily travel for therapy and support.

MDW: How long have you been at Princess Basma? How did you hear about the Center?

Mother: Two weeks. I heard about the Center from other mothers. They told me that it's a good center and I could take my daughter to it. I came first with my daughter when she was only one year old.

MDW: What kind of resources have you received here?

Mother: My daughter received occupational therapy, physical therapy, hydrotherapy and speech therapy. For me, as a mother, I received psycho-social support, lectures from the nurses. And also they offer lectures about motor control and music therapy in the afternoons for mothers and siblings.



A mother from Salfit, West Bank, who has spent three weeks participating in the Mother's Empowerment Program with her daughter who has cerebral palsy

MDW: How different would your situation be if you didn't have the Princess Basma Center?

Mother: *[in English]* Very bad. *[in Arabic]* I didn't know anything about how to deal with my child. My community doesn't give me support or any help because they don't know what cerebral palsy is.

“I will not have any kind of assistance in my community like I receive at Princess Basma. I am learning about how to deal with my child and at the same time the other professionals in my community will learn from this home program [offered to me here].”

It was so difficult for me to do anything, so I came here in order to learn so that I can increase my awareness concerning

my daughter's case.

MDW: Where are you from?

Mother: Salfit. *[A city of about 9,000 Palestinians a two-hour – without checkpoints – drive from Princess Basma.]*

MDW: After three weeks you will return home to Salfit. Do you think you could find these resources anywhere else in the West Bank?

Mother: No. No. I will not have any kind of assistance in my community like I receive at Princess Basma. I am learning about how to deal with my child and at the same time the other professionals in my community will learn from this home program [offered to me here].

MDW: Then the resources you learn here aren't only going to help you but you're now able to help the whole community – your family and friends there.

Mother: Yes. Yes. All my friends and my family – my extended family, my friends, neighbors, and even the professionals in the community, they can learn from the home program. They can understand how to live with my child and [about our] goals and how to work toward them. Even the professionals there don't have much experience or knowledge of how to deal with these children.

MDW: So you have more work ahead of you now that you have to teach everyone in the neighborhood of Salfit?

Mother: Yes. Yes.

MDW: How can we help you going forward? Why is it important for our donors in America to support Princess Basma Center?

continued on page two

Princess Basma Center *continued...*

Mother: We want you to support Princess Basma in order to let the Center be able to continue to give services as a resource for parents in the community. We need for the therapists to be updated [on new therapies] all the time in order to be able to open new therapy rooms, buy new equipment so that it will benefit the children. And because Princess Basma is the only center where they offer every treatment.

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“Now I feel like I’m strong. I can face the community.”

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MDW: Do you feel more hopeful now going home?

Mother: Yes. Yes. Now I feel like I’m strong. I can face the community.

MDW: It’s a beautiful thing. Shukran. Thank you.

Mother: Shukran. Thank you.



The Rev. Matthew Dayton-Welch, AFEDJ trustee and rector of St Alban’s, Newtown Square, PA, with a student at Holy Land Institute for the Deaf

How You Can Help

The full cost for one mother and child for one two- to three-week residential stay to participate in the Women’s Empowerment Program is \$5,000. Costs covered:

- Accommodation for one mother and her child
- Rehabilitation services and therapy for the disabled child
- Development of individualized therapy plan for the child
- Training the mother to become an at-home therapist and psycho-social support for the mother
- Education, awareness-raising, and advocacy training for the mother
- Institutional overhead costs: utilities, maintenance

Please contact AFEDJ Executive Director John Lent at jlent@afedj.org or 203.655.3575 to learn more.

St. George’s School offers hope and a future to Palestinian young men

By the Rev. Cn. Nicholas Porter, AFEDJ trustee and Jerusalem Peacebuilders’ executive director

The campus of St. George’s School is an integral part of the St. George’s Cathedral Close in East Jerusalem, and the sound of students announces the arrival of each new day. It is a celebrated school with many illustrious alumni; it is a school that bares the scars of occupation and conflict; and it is a school with a vital mission to young men.

During an AFEDJ trustee visit last fall, the first classrooms we saw were filled with lower school boys and girls. The spaces were bright and the teachers eager. Seeing young children happily studying and playing filled our hearts with warmth and hope.

Our tour eventually took us across the street to the high school, which, until recently, was all-boys. Entering the high school, the contrast to the lower school could not have been greater. A lively conversation with a group of promising seniors was muted by the presence of hefty hall monitors and rowdy behavior in the classrooms.

Then against my will, I felt my heart strangely warming as I began to recognize a greater truth – the truth about the difficult and vital work of boys’ education in East Jerusalem.

With few positive models and countless negative pressures, it is no wonder that hall monitors are necessary at the boys’ high school. But among these at-risk young Palestinian men is exactly where hope, education, and productive life-skills are most needed. St. George’s School is patiently, courageously doing this difficult work.

I am proud and inspired that the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem chooses to stand alongside St. George’s School offering funding, prayers and emotional support. This partnership, and the support of AFEDJ donors, heals lives in the real world.



Seniors at St. George’s School in East Jerusalem share their hopes and plans for the future with AFEDJ trustees

AFEDJ donors take the lead in rebuilding Ahli Hospital's outpatient clinic

When the outpatient clinic at Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza collapsed into its foundation in early December 2018, it seemed like the culmination of an *annus horribilis* for the 120 year-old institution.



Ahli Arab Hospital Director Suhaila Tarazi greets patients waiting for the clinic

Suhaila Tarazi, director of Ahli, expressed gratitude that no one was injured in the collapse. Since then, patients continue to receive treatment from medical professionals, though at a slower pace in crowded hallways and temporary conditions.

The high demand for the clinic's free healthcare

services – clinicians see more than 500 patients each month – left no question that the clinic needed to be rebuilt.

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of AFEDJ donors, we were able to provide well over half of the funding – \$140,000 – to rebuild the clinic. Funds raised by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem from other Anglican and international partners have added an additional \$44,000 to meet the cost of rebuilding. With the necessary funding in place, rebuilding of Ahli's outpatient clinic will begin as soon as a detailed construction plan is in place.

Because of your gifts, hundreds of families in Gaza City and outlying towns will continue to receive the quality care provided by Ahli Hospital. Thank you to all.



This young girl joins dozens of families waiting her turn to be seen at the community clinic

The collapse of the community clinic in December 2018 has caused Ahli Hospital to reduce its clinic hours to one day each week. The support of AFEDJ donors will allow the clinic to be rebuilt and additional funds are being raised to expand the number of days the clinic is open.



Donors go the extra mile for St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus

In 2018, when constant breakdowns and disruptions of service of its 15-year old ambulance required St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus to divert calls to other emergency transportation providers, St. Luke's staff adapted. That status quo shifted when St. Luke's was notified by the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Health that new annual accreditation standards required each full-service hospital to operate a functional ambulance. Without an ambulance, St. Luke's would lose its license to provide all medical services and be forced to close its doors. The price tag of \$110,000 to purchase, convert, equip, and insure a new ambulance was out of reach for a hospital whose mission is to serve everyone who walks through its doors, irrespective of their religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay.

Enter the Rev. Sari Ateek, a Palestinian-born Episcopal priest, and Deacon Anne Derse, of St. John's Episcopal Parish, Norwood, in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Working in partnership with AFEDJ, the two teamed up to raise \$50,000 by appealing to other Washington, DC-area churches. By mid-January they had raised just over \$83,000. Efforts in the U.K. raised the balance.

"When I first learned of St. Luke's urgent need for an ambulance and that the hospital's accreditation depended on it, I thought to myself 'this is a no-brainer!'" said Ateek. "We are grateful to be able to work with AFEDJ to make a very tangible difference in the lives of people in Nablus and the surrounding West Bank communities."

Derse said that St. John's commitment to St. Luke's Hospital was strengthened after members of the church visited the region on a pilgrimage in 2014. When they learned about the need for the ambulance, the call to action was clear. She said the response from leaders in neighboring churches was immediate. "All we had to do was ask. People wanted to do good."



Mission accomplished! A new ambulance is currently being outfitted to serve the Nablus community.

Diocese of Jerusalem Institution Spotlight

Holy Land Institute for the Deaf: A safe haven in Salt and far beyond

A safe haven of peace for 150 children and young people ages four to 25, the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Salt, Jordan, offers a full range of therapeutic services for hearing-impaired, deaf, and deaf-blind students and a K-12 academic boarding program. Each summer the Salt campus hosts training for teachers of hearing-impaired and deaf students from across the Middle East.

HLID also offers a community clinic to local residents, mobile outreach services to Syrian refugees living in three camps across Jordan, the Jofeh Community Rehabilitation Center in the Jordan Valley, and a clinic in Iraq. So far in 2019, its outreach services at community clinics and refugee camps have reached 984 patients for diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment. Another 2,976 people have benefited from community awareness training about people with disabilities and support services to parents of children with hearing impairment.

"We are the safety net for these children," explained Archdeacon Luay

Haddad, director of HLID. "This is our ministry to the community. We cannot say 'No.'" In return for HLID's offer of a comprehensive education for hearing-impaired and deaf children, the Jordanian Ministry of Education covers the costs of each student's healthcare. "It's a win-win," Haddad said.

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"We are the safety net for these children," explained Archdeacon Luay Haddad, director of HLID. "This is our ministry to the community. We cannot say 'No.'"
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Yousef Rizik is the head of the Jofeh Center which, in addition to offering educational and vocational workshops in the Jordan Valley town of Jofeh, offers in-home therapy in 13 outlying villages to more than 100 patients who would otherwise not be served. Rizik observed, "We are the only Christians in this area

and the only people doing this work."

While a number of HLID's graduates move on to post-secondary education, all are required to participate in vocational education as well. Offerings include carpentry, weaving, sewing, auto mechanics, and mosaics. Recent additions to the vocational program include barbering as well as hospitality and culinary arts in preparation for the opening of a "Sign and Dine" cafe to open in the Old English Evangelical Hospital building in downtown Salt.

With the exceptionally high rate of hearing-impairment found in the Jordanian population – estimated at 6 to 10 percent – the need for this work among affected children is crucial and the effect it has on students is life-changing. The leaders and teachers at HLID and its outreach ministries depend on the support from AFEDJ donors to offer a door to a bright, productive future for those they serve.



After graduating from the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, Fida studied audiology technology. In 2015 he returned to join the staff of the school's audiology department where he crafts individualized hearing devices for students, patients of the community clinics, and those served by mobile clinics in three Syrian refugee camps. Fida's wife Wijdan, also deaf, works as a teacher in the deaf-blind unit. They have two young, hearing children and also take care of Fida's sister and Wijdan's brother, both of whom are deaf students boarding at the school. HLID is not only a place to work; it is also a family for members of its community.



Deaf-blind students learn to cook

Recess at HLID



Your impact in 2018

When challenges abound, AFEDJ supporters rise up to meet them



We live in complicated times in a complex world. The humanitarian institutions we serve in the Middle East – schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities – strive to offer exceptional services to some of the most vulnerable people in a volatile region of our planet.

Together you – as individuals, foundations, and churches – contributed more funds to support the humanitarian institutions of the Diocese of Jerusalem than ever before in AFEDJ's 30-year history.

In 2018, AFEDJ wired more than \$1.4 million in direct support to 14 diocesan institutions. Much of this support, which includes several transformative foundation grants, was designated to specific institutions. All told, your support improved the lives of more than 90,000 people in the region.

Ahli Arab Hospital, Gaza City

Your gifts support comprehensive medical care for Palestinian refugees living in harsh, impoverished conditions.

Your swift and generous response during the border crisis last spring saved the

lives of Ahli Hospital patients. Sadly, the challenges of those weeks were not the last. With the loss of 78% of its UNRWA funding due to U.S. cuts in aid, your response to our urgent action appeal made a huge difference in Ahli's ability to continue offering care to thousands of children and families in Gaza. Without your support, during this most challenging year, Ahli Hospital would have closed its doors.

Total dollars wired in 2018: \$363,304

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Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, Salt, Jordan

12 students in the deaf-blind program thrive because of your support.

A grant from the Harold C. Smith Foundation covered the full tuition and boarding costs for all 12 students in the deaf-blind program.

That kind of transformative gift allows individual and church donations to be used to support HLID's needs for additional scholarships, staff salaries, and facility improvements.

Total dollars wired in 2018: \$176,110

Saviour's School, Zarqa, Jordan

Your generosity gives blind and low-vision students a quality education unavailable anywhere else in northern Jordan.

While Saviour's School is primarily an academic K-12 institution, funding from the Harold C. Smith Foundation and additional donors support the program for blind and low-vision students as well. In 2018 grant funds were designated to sustain this program and to renovate primary classrooms.

Total dollars wired in 2018: \$189,716

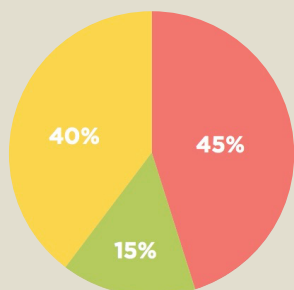
You also made significant donations to be used at the discretion of the Diocese of Jerusalem in support of its schools, hospitals and centers for children with disabilities. A partial list of those include:

In Ramallah, the Arab Episcopal School (\$101,000) and the Episcopal Technological and Vocational School (\$56,142)
 In Nablus, St. Luke's Hospital (\$12,831)
 In East Jerusalem, Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children (\$63,233)
 In Nazareth, Christ Episcopal School, (\$20,389)

Please visit our website www.afedj.org to read our full 2018 Annual Report.

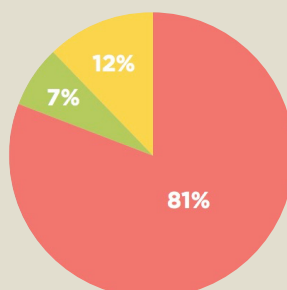


A big smile from a student at Holy Land Institute for the Deaf



2018 SOURCE OF FUNDS

● Individuals \$844,857
 ● Churches \$281,619
 ● Foundations \$750,984



2018 USE OF FUNDS

● Program Support \$1,518,612
 ● Administration \$137,080
 ● Development \$221,760



AFEDJ

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Address Correction Requested

"In our school there are equal rights between boys and girls. The school gives us opportunities to express our opinions as much as the boys. There is no difference at all. After high school I think I will study computer engineering, something high-tech and so I can meet new people from other countries in the world. It would be fantastic if I reach this goal."



— Shams, a student at Christ Episcopal School
in Nazareth, Israel

Planned Giving

The ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem create a legacy of transformed lives and brighter futures for children and families across the Middle East. Your legacy gift to AFEDJ – a bequest, a life-income gift, or a gift of real estate, stock, or life insurance, will help to sustain the vital work of these humanitarian institutions into the next generation.

For more information about making a planned gift, please contact AFEDJ Executive Director John Lent at jlent@afedj.org or 203.655.3575.



Some exuberant young leaders at St. George's School in East Jerusalem



Watch students from Diocese of Jerusalem schools talk about their hopes and dreams for the future on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/c/americanfriendsoftheepiscopaldioceseofjerusalem



Our 4-star rating from Charity Navigator means we're accountable, transparent, and financially healthy! We invite you to give generously at www.afedj.org

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