



AFEDJ

American Friends of the
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Building Hope in the Holy Land



"When the leaders from the Ramallah prison approached us about offering a culinary arts program for non-violent offenders, we said, 'Let's start talking!' You can't imagine how successful this program was!"

Giovanni Anbar, Director of ETVTC

www.afedj.org • Fall 2019

Follow in the footsteps of Jesus by walking with a child

Each week Christians are charged to go out into the world to walk in love as Christ loved us. This fall American Friends invites you or your church to walk with a child at the Holy Land Institute (HLID) for the Deaf in Salt, Jordan, by covering the annual costs for one of 20 deaf or deaf-blind children in grades K through 6.

Founded in 1964, HLID was the first school for the deaf in Jordan and remains the leading institution for deaf education



Walk
WITH A CHILD AT
HOLY LAND
INSTITUTE FOR
THE DEAF



"I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans for hope and a future"
Jeremiah 29:11

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"When you change a child's life, prepare for your life to be changed"

in the Middle East. In addition to offering an incredible level of expert, loving care to more than 100 students, HLID is the only school for the deaf in Jordan that serves deaf-blind children and offers vocational training.

The Walk with a Child program offers you the opportunity to build a lasting bond with a student at HLID. AFEDJ and HLID will facilitate regular communication between you and the child and the school. Your companionship will give a deaf or deaf-blind child hope for a productive life. Because HLID receives no support from the Jordanian government and is off the path of most pilgrimage

tours, the children at HLID are in urgent need of your support.

The Rev. Wadie Far, HLID chaplain and director of the boarding program, recently talked about his hopes for the program. "It's part of our duty to walk in Jesus' footsteps. And to walk in Jesus' footsteps we need to walk with other people, especially with the needy, especially with people with disabilities, especially those who are marginalized by the society and by the community. If we don't hold their hands and walk with them, I don't think we can call ourselves true Christians. I don't think we can be the Living Stones of the Church unless we do this ministry."



How to Walk with a Child

If you or your congregation decides to walk with a deaf or deaf-blind child, your support will cover the cost of a child's full school year at HLID. This includes all academic and therapeutic services, hearing devices, instructional materials, room and board, vocational training, travel to and from the child's home, and extra-curricular activities and field trips. It covers insurance, laundry, utilities and fuel.

You'll receive a packet of information about the child you walk with which will include:

- the child's history at HLID
- photos, artwork, and a letter from the child describing his or her interests and life at school
- a mid-year update (video or print) from the child
- a mid-year update from his or her teacher
- an end-of-year photo and letter from the child
- an end-of-year letter from the child's teacher about successes and challenges ahead
- an end-of-year report about the school year from HLID Director Archdeacon Luay Haddad

You'll be part of a small, dedicated community of HLID supporters. AFEDJ will send two newsletters to you and your fellow supporters reporting on our frequent visits to the school. Congregations will receive suggestions about how your members, especially young people, can engage with students at HLID.

Please contact AFEDJ Executive Director John Lent at jlent@afedj.org or 203.655.3575 to learn details about the program.

See the Walk with a Child video at: www.afedj.org/give/hild

"It was like my eyes opened!"

An interview with the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf's assistant principal, Fadilah Al Hiary

In early September AFEDJ Communications Director Heidi Shott sat down with HLID alumna and assistant principal, Fadilah Al Hiary, who also serves as principal of the Kindergarten.

Watch the full interview at AFEDJ's YouTube channel www.tinyurl.com/AFEDJvideo



HS: Please tell me how you came to be a student at this school.

FAH: When I was ten I had a hearing test in Amman. They told my parents that I needed to be in a school and that since we lived in Salt there was a school close to our house, but the school leaders told my parents it would be hard to enroll me because I was already ten years old.

My father and grandfather kept talking to the school and initially the school kept saying no. Eventually they said, "Okay, we will try."

I was put in second grade, but I didn't know words. I didn't know anything. I didn't know how to communicate. I didn't understand what the teacher said. The teacher said I could not be in the second grade so they sent me back to Kindergarten. Then it was like my eyes opened - with God's grace - even though I was older, I was able to quickly catch up with the other students.

When I look now at my students who I taught when they were younger, I see they are working - some in telecomm, some in schools. They finished their bachelor's degrees and are working. That makes me happy. That's my ambition for the deaf students.

HS: What would happen to deaf students in Jordan if HLID were not here?

FAH: If HLID were not here, deaf students would not be able to achieve anything. It would be downhill from now on. We'd go back to what we had before - being in the streets and knowing nothing, being illiterate. I might have been illiterate if HLID had not been here for me.

Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza doubles its community outreach through a Harold C. Smith Foundation grant

In May AFEDJ secured a grant of \$468,572 from the Harold C. Smith Foundation to extend the clinic hours from one day a week to two days for one year. The grant also covers the cost of much-needed medical equipment. Since then Ahli Director Suhaila Tarazi reports that 387 children were treated at the under-weight clinic, 172 women were screened for breast cancer, and 355 children who have suffered trauma have received psycho-social support. Through August, Ahli's clinic

was open 26 days and served 1,318 patients. During the same period in 2018, the clinic was open 12 days and served 647 patients.

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"Nevertheless, our mission of healing continues to reach those deprived and in need for medical services."
.....

The grant increases the capacity of Ahli Hospital to treat many more adults with a range of chronic illnesses and offer general surgeries for adults and ENT surgeries for children as well as treat those who come to the clinic for common medical needs. Despite this increased ability to serve the community, the demand for free medical services far outstrip the capacity of the clinic to care for all the people who need treatment. The opening of the community clinic for a second day each week also creates employment opportunities for nurses, doctors, psychosocial support staff, cleaners and other staff who have been affected by program cuts related to the recent cuts in U.S. aid.

Tarazi also reported on the current conditions in Gaza. "The increased number injured due to the Great March of Return on each Friday has overburdened the health system. Moreover, in these days Gaza is suffering from long electricity outages with often only 10 to 12 hours of electricity a day. This puts an additional burden on hospitals including Ahli."

Despite the constant challenges of life in Gaza, Tarazi's sense of hope is never diminished. She added, "Nevertheless, our mission of healing continues to reach those deprived and in need for medical services."



More news from Ahli!

Thanks to gifts totaling \$145,000 from you, work on the outpatient building, which collapsed last December, is near completion and the building is expected to be opened in late October.



At left, Mr. Bassam Khoury, the ambulance driver, with Dr. Walid Kerry, St. Luke's General Director

You did it!

St. Luke's Hospital's new ambulance hits the streets of Nablus

The transformation from empty van to fully-operational ambulance takes time, but in early September the newly-purchased, converted, and equipped ambulance at St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus transported its first patient.

"We are very excited to have the ambulance now in service," said St. Luke's Director Dr. Walid Kerry on September 9. "The licensure came through just two days ago, and we started to transport patients immediately. Thanks to all for this wonderful work that allows St. Luke's to stay as a witness to love and care for all those who are needy."

Young women at Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre know the power of an inclusive school

Perched on the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre is perhaps best known as an internationally-accredited rehabilitation



Lara, who has been treated for Cerebral Palsy since infancy, is a 16 year-old senior at Princess Basma's inclusive school.

center for children with disabilities, but it also operates an inclusive Kindergarten through Grade 12 school. About 40 percent of its more than 450 students are diagnosed with a disability.

Students enrolled at Princess Basma's school face the challenge of learning to find their voice in a society that places a stigma on people with disabilities. The leaders and teachers at Princess Basma School work hard to create a safe culture to foster confidence and cultivate Christian values in their students regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, disability, or economic circumstances.

In Lara, confidence and optimism about her future burst through. Her parents first brought her to the centre for therapies when she was three months old, and she has been a student in the inclusive school since Kindergarten.

"[Our teachers] can anticipate what our needs are and know how to help us, depending on our disability. This school gives to students who don't have disabilities the opportunity to be

introduced to differences and to accept each other in a school environment. This is not always available at other schools," she explained.

.....
"With the self-confidence I have gained by being a student here, I know that when I go to university I will have the confidence to accomplish whatever I want to do."
.....

"In this school, there is no difference between boys and girls. We all have the same rights to speak up in class,"

Lara said. "In some communities, not all women have all their rights so maybe it is different from one culture to another. Because women are half of the society, we are obliged to have our rights equal to men." She added, "with the self-confidence I have gained by being a student here, I know that when I go to university I will have the confidence to accomplish whatever I want to do."

When asked what her dream job might be after she completes her studies, she said, "I would like to be president of something! I would like to be in a role that allows me to represent people with disabilities. I will not be silent for anyone's rights."

Partnering with churches: Diocesan Sustainable Development Grants support mothers and children from across Palestine



Participants in the Mother Empowerment Program recently talked about how deeply they value this residential experience as they learn to assist their children with disabilities.

Many thanks to our partner congregations in dioceses across the Episcopal Church that have submitted grant applications to support the Mother Empowerment Program at the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre. So far grants totaling more than \$16,000 have been awarded from the dioceses of Western North Carolina, Northern California, and Rochester. Applications have been submitted in the dioceses of New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Olympia, Newark and Ohio. Applications with three other dioceses with fall deadlines are in progress.

Does your diocese have a global grants program we should know about? Please be in touch with AFEDJ Communications Director Heidi Shott at hshott@afedj.org.

Beyond high school: ETVTC offers career training for adults

Since 2000, when Giovanni Anbar founded the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center in the West Bank city of Ramallah, the school's focus has been on developing a strong two-year training program in information technology and culinary arts and hospitality designed for high school juniors and seniors. In recent years, however, Anbar recognized a growing need for vocational training for adults.

Three years ago, Anbar started a one-year culinary arts diploma program for adults. Each Monday through Friday from October to May, up to 15 men and women gather to learn culinary arts theory and practice and to hone their career knowledge and skills. "Hospitality is a growing field in Ramallah. Adults need to make a living for their families so this is an attractive program because it guarantees employment after completion." Anbar added, "Recently, an electrical engineer who couldn't find a job inquired about the program because he needed an income. Some participants are housewives who want



Students in the year-long adult culinary arts class at work on their graduation meal

to start a home cooking business."

While ETVTC requires each participant to contribute something toward the program fee, the cost of \$2,000 per student is too high for many adults who would benefit from the program.

Your gift of \$1,500 to support one adult student would transform his or her family's future. Please contact AFEDJ Executive Director John Lent at 203.655.3575 or jlent@afedj.org to learn how you can help.

Schneller School awarded \$100,000 grant for strategic planning

When your mission is to provide a safe haven, quality education, and hope for a bright future to vulnerable

and impoverished refugee children, a strategic plan to sustain that work is critically important. In early October the

Theodor Schneller School in Marka, Jordan, received a boost to help build upon its strengths. The Harold C. Smith Foundation awarded Schneller School a \$100,000 planning grant to fund a comprehensive study in collaboration with the school's board, staff, and other funders.

Schneller School serves 270 children in grades K-10, including a boarding program for 90 students, on its extensive campus. The boarding students are orphans, children from broken homes, and refugee children. All of the day students reside in the Marka Palestinian refugee camp, adjacent to the school. Over the coming year this grant and subsequent development grants to support its implementation will allow Schneller School and its director, the Rev. Dr. Khalid Freij, to build a sustainable future for this school and the children it serves.



The potential use of land and facilities on Schneller School's 70-acre campus will be an important factor as the strategic plan is developed.



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Archbishop Suheil S. Dawani honored at AFEDJ reception at The General Theological Seminary



"Some nights I don't sleep because I'm thinking about what I will do the next day with this or that institution. It's very challenging, but for me the answer is easy. My greatest joy comes from visiting the students at our schools around the diocese. My wife Shafeeqa and I see the smiles on the children's faces. We can see the face of Jesus smiling at us. We know that Jesus is at

work in these children's lives, giving them hope for a new future. This is Christianity which makes mission and service a priority. This is what our Lord asks us to do."

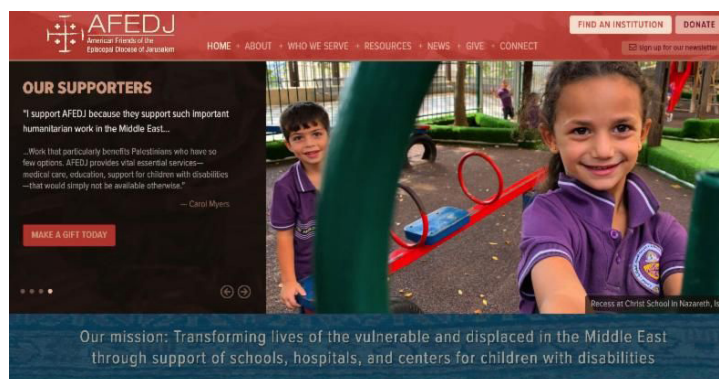
Powerful stories of your impact at AFEDJ's new website

In June AFEDJ launched a new website to share the challenges and hope of the people served by the humanitarian institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

AFEDJ's address – www.afedj.org – may be the same, but our new site is full of photos and stories of the people you serve and the ministries you support. The site offers many new resources for people like you who are passionate about building hope in the Holy Land.

Once you visit our new site, we hope you will return again and again to learn something new about how your generosity is transforming the lives of children and their families across the region.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.



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