



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

American Friends of the  
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem



**AFEDJ**

American Friends of the  
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Building Hope in the Holy Land



*Transforming lives of the vulnerable and displaced in the Middle East through support of schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities*



## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

More than 30 years ago, at the time of the first Intifada, Episcopal leaders in the U.S. and Jerusalem saw the need for a safe, secure channel to offer support to the humanitarian institutions owned and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. American Friends (AFEDJ) was born.

A nonpolitical, nonsectarian 501(c)(3) organization, AFEDJ is dedicated to raising financial support for more than a dozen schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities in the Middle East.

These institutions serve everyone, irrespective of their religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay. They build hope for all in the Holy Land. The Christian values of equity, justice, and respect for the dignity of all are at the heart of our efforts.

*Cover: Schneller School students at recess*



*"We welcome students from impoverished families who would otherwise be sent by their parents to work as child laborers. At Schneller, they receive a good education in a family setting and hope for their future."*

— The Rev. Dr. Khalid Freij, Director of Theodor Schneller School, Marka, Jordan

### 4 STARS

The highest rating for financial accountability and transparency from Charity Navigator and the Gold Seal of Transparency from GuideStar

### 125,181

The number of lives improved by the institutions supported by AFEDJ in 2019

### \$2,017,976

Dollars contributed by individual donors, churches, and foundations to support 17 institutions in 2019.

### 31 YEARS

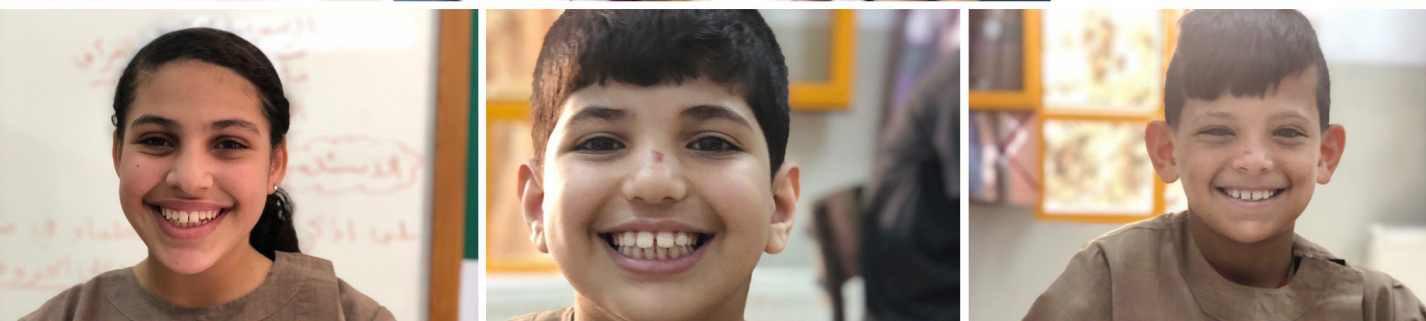
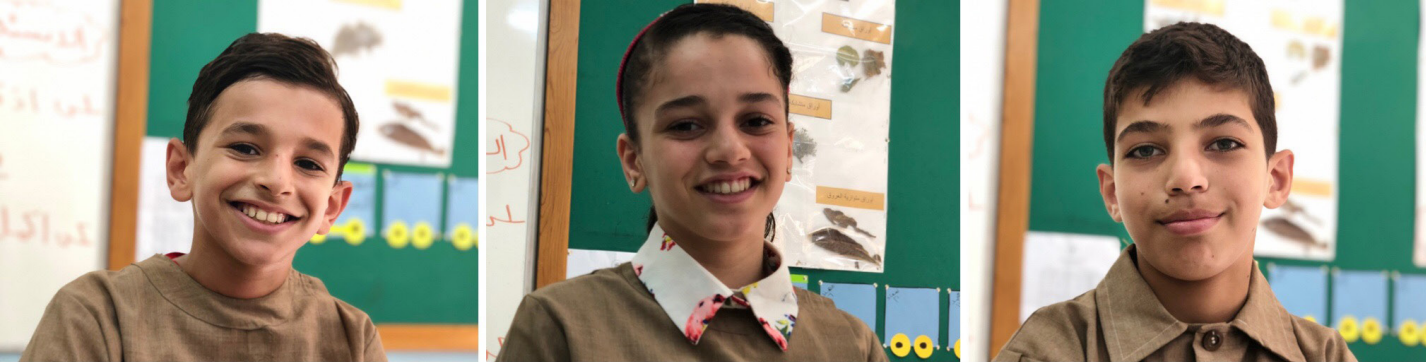
A safe, secure channel to support Christian humanitarian institutions in the Middle East

### WHERE WE SERVE

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem currently operates humanitarian institutions in the West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon. These institutions are powerful examples of Christian witness in this conflict-torn region.



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM



*In October 2019, American Friends launched "Walk with a Child at Holy Land Institute for the Deaf," a campaign to provide a full-year of tuition, therapy, and support for a deaf or deaf-blind child.*

Learn more at [www.afedj.org/hlid](http://www.afedj.org/hlid)

**The institutions you support are building a future of hope, equality, and opportunity through these program areas:**

- Opportunity for Children with Disabilities
- Access to Comprehensive Quality Healthcare
- Youth Empowerment and Employability
- Educational Equity for Girls and Young Women
- Next Generation of Leadership

**In 2019 AFEDJ donors supported these institutions:**

- Ahli Arab Hospital, Gaza
- Arab Episcopal School, Irbid, Jordan
- Arab Evangelical Episcopal School, Ramallah, West Bank
- Birzeit Home for the Elderly, West Bank
- Christ Episcopal School, Nazareth, Israel
- Diocesan Summer Camps, West Bank and Israel
- Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center, Ramallah, West Bank
- Holy Land Institute for the Deaf Salt, Jordan
- Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre
- Jofeh Community Rehabilitation Center, Jordan Valley, Jordan
- Penman Clinic, Zababdeh, West Bank
- St. George's College, East Jerusalem
- St. George's School, East Jerusalem
- St. Luke's Hospital, Nablus, West Bank
- Saviour's Episcopal School Zarga, Jordan
- Theodor Schneller School Marka, Jordan



*"Before coming to the Princess Basma Centre I used to feel hopeless about my child's case. Here I am learning from other mothers and seeing other kids progress with therapy. This gives me hope for the future."*  
— Ibtihaj, a mother from Ramallah



## OPPORTUNITY FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Children with disabilities and their families face extraordinary hurdles in the region. In the West Bank and Gaza, restrictions on movement constrain access to therapy and rehabilitation services.

The stigma against people with disabilities in the Middle East requires parents to be effective advocates for their children. In many places there are simply no publicly-funded services available.

Without the services offered by Diocese of Jerusalem institutions, many children with disabilities would remain at home with no hope for a productive future.

### **JERUSALEM PRINCESS BASMA CENTRE MOTHER EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM** *Mount of Olives*

The Mother Empowerment Program serves Palestinian mothers and their newly-diagnosed children with disabilities in a three-week residential program. Mothers participate in their children's therapy and are trained to continue working with their children when they return home.

Mothers are taught how to be effective advocates for children with disabilities in their local communities. This life-changing program - made available to 417 families in 2019 - is the only one of its kind in the West Bank and Gaza. Individual donors and eight Episcopal dioceses, through their Sustainable Development Goals grant programs, helped to make this possible.

*For Ayham, a deaf-blind student at Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, learning braille will transform his life.*



*Participants in the Mother Empowerment Program offer support to one another.*

*One mother said, "This program is a candle in the dark for us."*





*"The healthcare situation in Gaza is deteriorating. We are so grateful to our American friends who share with us the responsibility of saving the lives of thousands of the poorest Gazans."*

— Suhaila Tarazi, Ahli Arab Hospital Director



## ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE QUALITY HEALTHCARE

Travel restrictions are a daily reality for Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. For thousands of families across the region, the charitable hospitals and free community clinics of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem are the only healthcare options in proximity to their homes.

Serving some of the most vulnerable people in the world, these institutions welcome all patients without regard to their religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay. Everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

Dr. Walid Kerry, director of St. Luke's Hospital in the northern West Bank city of Nablus, puts it this way: "We are 600 Christians out of 350,000 inhabitants. We are proud to be doing the healing work of Jesus among our neighbors."

### AHLI ARAB HOSPITAL COMMUNITY CLINIC Gaza City

Ahli Arab Hospital's director, Suhaila Tarazi, calls Ahli's community clinic "the heartbeat of the hospital." Because of U.S. cuts in aid beginning in 2018, the clinic was open only one day a week and sometimes less frequently.

That changed in June 2019 when a \$468,000 grant from the Harold C. Smith Foundation allowed the clinic to open for a second day each week for the next year. In addition to funding the clinic, the grant enabled Ahli to purchase much-needed equipment for surgery and burn therapy increase its capacity to serve malnourished and low-weight children. Additional services included therapy for children traumatized by the appalling living conditions in Gaza and doubling the number of women screened for breast cancer.

The Harold C. Smith Foundation grant together with hundreds of gifts from individual supporters and churches has the power to transform the lives of thousands of people in Gaza.



*The compassionate care provided by the nursing staff at St. Luke's Hospital draws patients from across the region.*



*A group psycho-social therapy session for traumatized children held at Ahli Arab Hospital*



*"Our one-year culinary arts diploma for adults meets the need of men and women to support their families. Hospitality is a growing field and our students get good jobs immediately upon completion. Sometimes before!"* — Giovanni Anbar, Director of the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center, Ramallah, West Bank



## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY

According to the World Bank, only 41% of residents of the West Bank between the ages of 15 and 29 were active in the labor market in 2017. In Jordan, among young Syrian refugees and children whose families have lived in Palestinian refugee camps for generations, the chance for employment as a path to economic stability is similarly small.

A signature offering of the schools of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem is vocational training for high-risk students. Whether it is the co-ed wood-working workshop at the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf or the culinary program serving refugee youth at Schneller School in Jordan, the schools of the diocese recognize that real-world job skills are at the heart of providing the chance for meaningful employment and economic gains for vulnerable families.

### **HOLY LAND INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF SIGN AND DINE CAFE** *Salt, Jordan*

At the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf vocational education plays a critical role in preparing deaf and hearing-impaired students to take their place in the world and become financially-independent members of the community.

In 2019 the Sign and Dine Cafe opened in the former English hospital owned by the Diocese of Jerusalem. The cafe allows students to practice the hospitality skills they have learned over four months of training in the building's newly refurbished commercial kitchen. When the program's first six participants graduated in September, the next class of nine students was ready to begin the following week.

"Deaf people are capable of doing many things if only given the opportunity," says Archdeacon Luay Haddad, director of HLID. "The Sign and Dine cafe does just that."

*A student in the adult culinary arts program at ETVTC prepares his final project.*



*These young women were among the first of six graduates from HLID's culinary arts program.*





*"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."*

— Lara, a senior at Princess Basma Centre Inclusive School

## EDUCATIONAL EQUITY FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

In a region where political turmoil and economic distress are part of the daily landscape, families often choose to educate their sons but pull their daughters from school. Without an education, women are encouraged to marry early and, if they do enter the workforce, their employment options are limited.

With the help of AFEDJ donors, Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem schools offer opportunities for all female students to reach their highest potential and become leaders in their communities.

### JERUSALEM PRINCESS BASMA CENTRE INCLUSIVE SCHOOL

#### *Mount of Olives*

The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre, an internationally-accredited rehabilitation center for children with disabilities and a field placement center for graduate students across therapeutic disciplines, is also home to an inclusive Kindergarten through Grade 12 school. About 40 percent of its more than 450 students are diagnosed with a disability.

Young women enrolled at Princess Basma's school face the additional challenge of learning to find their voice in a society that places a huge stigma on people with disabilities. Teachers and staff at Princess Basma Inclusive School create a safe culture to foster confidence and accomplishment for girls irrespective of religion, ethnicity, disability, or economic circumstances.

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



*A hospitality student at Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center in Ramallah proudly displays her entry in the school's annual cooking competition.*

*Aseel, a fifth-grader, and Lara, a senior, have attended the Inclusive School since Kindergarten.*

*Because they have received therapy and support for cerebral palsy in the school setting, their confidence and accomplishment match any of their peers.*





*"In ninth grade, I was introduced to a program called MEET, Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow. The vision is to get young Israelis and Palestinians connected and to form a strong bond in order to solve the conflict in the future through technology."*

— Mahmoud, a 2019 graduate of Christ Episcopal School, Nazareth, Israel



## NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP

Students in the region's schools face many barriers to success: limited access to post-secondary education and employment opportunities, travel restrictions, political turmoil, and impoverished family circumstances.

Parents seek out schools run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in Jordan, Israel, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, because they offer a rigorous academic program and they teach and model Christian values of peace, reconciliation and respect for all. These schools' 6,500 students graduate with the skills and the positive, hopeful outlook to become leaders in their communities.

Wessam Talhami, head of Christ School's upper school says, "our goal is to empower teachers to help students become strong advocates for peace, equality and opportunity."

### **CHRIST EPISCOPAL SCHOOL MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM** *Nazareth, Israel*

As a Christian school in Israel serving the Muslim and Christian Arab minorities, teachers at Christ Episcopal School work hard to help students find their voice in a challenging world. In 2019 support from AFEDJ donors allowed the school to launch its media lab where upper school students receive a communications certificate and practical media experience.

Learning opportunities for the 1,200 K-12 students were further enhanced in 2019 thanks to a \$75,000 grant from the Louise H. and David S. Ingalls Foundation, awarded to Christ School to expand educational technology to all grades. The grant comes after three lead teachers successfully piloted a blended learning program with the use of interactive smart boards and software. Students will benefit from a coordinated curriculum that integrates smart board technology in every classroom.



*A teacher mentors media students with new equipment made possible by funds from AFEDJ supporters.*



*English teacher Ola Mazzowi, with upper school students, served as the co-lead on the classroom technology pilot program.*





*"My greatest joy comes from visiting the students at our schools around the diocese. We know that our Lord Jesus Christ 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."*

— Archbishop Suheil S. Dawani



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East Jerusalem

## CONNECTIONS ACROSS THE MILES

Five years ago, after a visit to the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre, AFEDJ Trustee Barbara Boehm shared her experience with fellow members of St. James Episcopal Church in Montclair, New Jersey.



*Barbara Boehm delivers letters from Montclair students to children at JPBC*

"Everyone was just overwhelmed by the amazing work they do at this center on behalf of children with disabilities," she said. Other members of St. James visited JPBC while on pilgrimage and the church made Princess Basma a regular part of its annual outreach giving.

Then, two years ago, members started to consider what they could do for disabled students in their own community. After renovating the church basement, the parish launched the Sky's the Limit Thrift Store in partnership with a local high school program to help young people with disabilities gain employment.

By opening their hearts to children across thousands of miles and finding ways to meet needs in their own community, the people of St. James share their gifts in powerful, transformative ways.

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*"In Nablus City we have five hospitals. St. Luke's is the only charitable hospital and the only church hospital in the West Bank. We are happy to give medical care and offer surgery for everyone who asks, especially the needy and poor patients."*

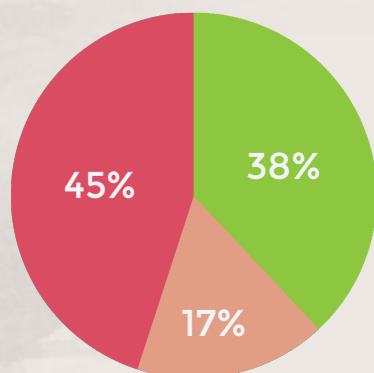
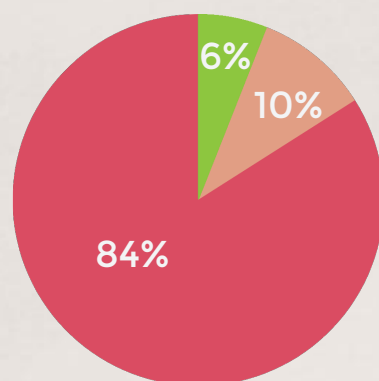
*— Dr. Walid Kerry, Executive Director of St. Luke's Hospital, Nablus, West Bank*



## FINANCIALS

### 2019 USE OF FUNDS

- Program Support  
\$1,684,397
- Administration  
\$124,133
- Development  
\$209,456



### 2019 SOURCE OF FUNDS

- Individuals  
\$760,180
- Churches  
\$352,845
- Foundations  
\$904,961



In 2018, when the staff at St. Luke's Hospital in the northern West Bank city of Nablus was informed that new annual accreditation standards required each full-service hospital to operate a functional ambulance, the \$110,000 price tag to replace its failing 15 year-old ambulance was beyond reach.

The Rev. Sari Ateek and the Rev. Anne Derse of St. John's Episcopal Parish, Norwood,

in Chevy Chase, Maryland took this on as a challenge. Working in partnership with AFEDJ, by early 2019 they raised more than \$85,000 by appealing to other Washington, DC-area churches and individuals.

Additional funds raised in the UK made the purchase and conversion of a new ambulance possible and allowed St. Luke's Hospital to continue to offer care and treatment to all who enter its doors.

*Ambulance Driver Mr. Bassam Khoury and Dr. Walid Kerry with St. Luke's new ambulance on its first day of service.*

### Donors make a difference by providing support for:

- educational scholarships
- renovation projects
- program support
- innovative projects
- equipment purchases
- professional development
- meeting emergency needs

AFEDJ offers one of the only safe, secure, and direct channels to support the humanitarian institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. We value financial accountability and transparency.

Please find our audited financials and most recent IRS 990 at [www.afedj.org/about/financials](http://www.afedj.org/about/financials).





*"We give girls the courage and experience to face the challenges ahead. They are a can-do generation, and we offer them the education that will allow their leadership skills and character to strengthen and blossom."*

— Dua'a Bisharat, Director of Saviour's Episcopal School in Zarqa, Jordan

