

Spring 2020



Psycho-social therapy for traumatized children at Ahli Arab Hospital has made a world of difference for this young Gazan.

A 2019 report from the Norwegian Refugee Council revealed that 81 percent of children in Gaza struggle academically due to conflict-related stress.

Please give generously to help programs such as this re-open at Ahli as soon as the coronavirus crisis has passed.

Confronting coronavirus on three fronts

In the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza, the hardship brought by the coronavirus pandemic is compounded by the struggles Palestinians face every day.

The challenges of economic instability, travel restrictions, limited access to water and electricity, and a deteriorating healthcare system are daunting, but the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem is leading the way to prepare and respond to human need across the region in healthcare and in relief to impoverished families.

Thanks to your generosity, in late March and again in early April, AFEDJ made emergency grants to Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, St. Luke's Hospital in the northern West Bank city of Nablus, and Archbishop Suheil Dawani's COVID-Response Fund. You are taking the lead in helping the hospitals and the diocese manage this unprecedented crisis.

Ahli and St. Luke's are preparing for an imminent outbreak of COVID-19. St. Luke's director, Dr. Walid Kerry and his team carved out space for an isolation unit and began an assessment of needed equipment, supplies, and staff training. St. Luke's, the only charitable hospital serving a population of

more than 300,000, will be in even greater demand than usual.

Salwa Khoury, the public relations director at St. Luke's Hospital, said, "[When] we received your email about the incoming emergency fund of \$50,000. We read it with real happiness and gratitude because it gives us the hope for going forward in this critical time."

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At Ahli Hospital in Gaza City a patient is screened for fever at a triage tent.

Confronting coronavirus continued

In Gaza, where before the pandemic 51% were unemployed and 75% food insecure the threat of a widespread outbreak of COVID-19 piles misery on top of misery. Gaza's already strained healthcare system must prepare for a sudden onslaught of cases with virtually no increase in resources. Suhaila Tarazi, Director of Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, responded, "Social distancing and isolation of the infected is impossible for most Gazans. Families are large, often confined to a few rooms and live in close quarters with neighbors."

In early March, when the Palestinian Authority closed all educational institutions, mosques, and churches, Archbishop Suheil Dawani, bishop of the Diocese of Jerusalem, began to hear from impoverished families in need of support.

He wrote, "I greatly appreciate your unwavering support of our ministries here in the midst of this crisis. I can assure you that we will put these funds to immediate use as the needs are both

pressing and dire...both for our hospitals' work in stemming the pandemic and in our relief work among the larger population whose lives have been thrown into economic disarray. May God bless you and the work of our American friends."

We invite you to share the news of the

Christians in the Holy Land as they continue to care for their neighbors in these increasingly uncertain and unsettled times. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.

Visit www.afedj.org/give to make an online donation.

Giving offers "so much for so many"

"The Ahli Arab Hospital is the focus of our charitable giving - both the proceeds from the sale of Palestinian olive oil and direct donations - because we know of no other place that, with so few resources, does so much for so many.

"In the most dire of circumstances, Ahli Hospital exhibits extraordinary dedication to the health and well-being of all the people of Gaza, especially those who find care nowhere else."



The Rev. Bob and Maurine Tobin of Providence, RI are long-time donors to Ahli Arab Hospital. Watch the Tobins' "Eyewitness to Gaza" videos at bit.ly/AhliHospital

2019: Your generosity made a difference like never before

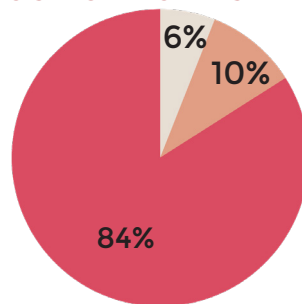
While 2020 has begun with uncertainty for people across the world, we have confidence in one fact about 2019.

Your generosity as AFEDJ donors made a difference in the lives of thousands of vulnerable people - more than 125,000 - who are cared for and educated at 15 humanitarian institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Another thing is clear: your contributions in 2019 led to AFEDJ's highest donation totals in our 31-year history!

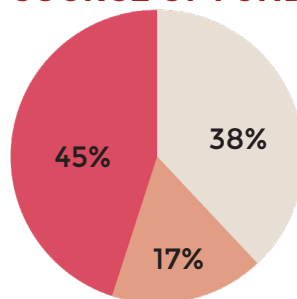
Please visit afedj.org/financials to review our full 2019 Annual Report and audited 2019 financial statements.

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



Our 4-star rating from Charity Navigator and our Gold Seal of Transparency from Guidestar mean we're accountable, transparent, and financially healthy!

We invite you to give generously at www.afedj.org

Sign up for the AFEDJ monthly e-newsletter at www.afedj.org

Mother's program welcomes its first dad

Razi and his wife Wissam had waited for a long time to become parents, so there was much joy when they discovered that they were expecting twins.

While their daughter Layan was born healthy, their son, Ahmad was soon diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Razi and

Wissam felt their dreams and aspirations for their young family had been shattered but after hearing about the Mother Empowerment Program at Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC), they found hope. Wissam and Ahmad were set to participate in the two-week residential program.

However, Wissam's application for a travel permit to East Jerusalem was denied. Suddenly the Mother Empowerment Program was about to become the Parent Empowerment



Travel restrictions for Ahmad's mom offer opportunity for deeper connections with his father

"I felt more empowered and more ambitious for my son."

Program, with Razi as one of the first fathers to accompany his child. The program trains parents in a wide range of therapeutic techniques to continue with their children at home. Parents are also offered counseling and workshops to help them become advocates for their children and manage the isolation and prejudice families often encounter because of the stigma of having a child with a disability.

"After each admission," Razi said, "I felt more empowered and more ambitious for my son." By taking the lead in Ahmad's rehabilitation, Razi is now a role model for fathers within his community and a spokesperson for all parents of children with disabilities.

He recently reflected, "I hope that parents who have children with disabilities become more aware of their children's rights. People should not be reluctant to integrate their disabled children into society."

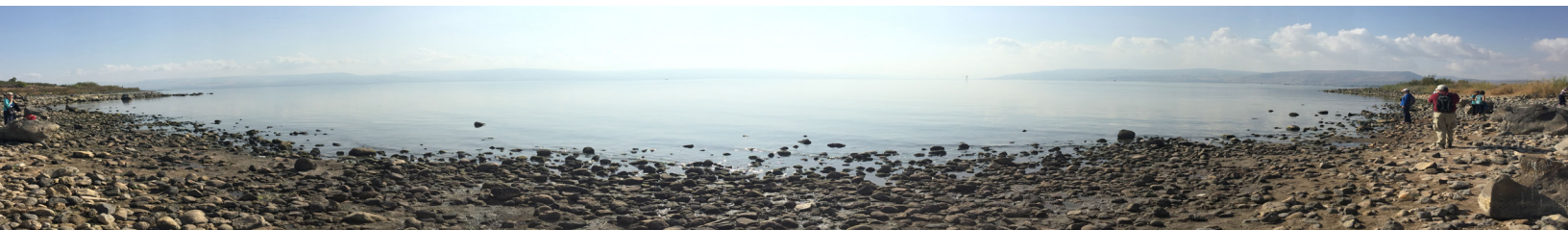
Beyond coronavirus

Top Left: These young Syrian refugees will return as soon as possible to complete their cosmetology certificate at Schneller School in Jordan.

Top Right: In Ramallah Iyad Rafidi, headmaster of the Arab Evangelical Episcopal School, holds plans for a school renovation and expansion plan funded by the Shaheen Foundation set to begin in June.

Bottom: AFEDJ's trip to shoot video for the Holy Land Study Program - a video-based education program for churches - has been rescheduled for October.

Schools are closed and projects are on hold, but preparation for new projects of hope continues



Out of Hope Comes Action

From Bishop Greg Rickel, AFEDJ Chair



In these days of coronavirus, we feel in exile. Adrift. That is not a comforting feeling. What we know is scary, what we don't know even scarier. And yet, we are not alone. This virus, nor nothing

else, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In March Mayor Durkin of Seattle said in an interview, "Hope is not an action." I thought that line sounded a bit strange, but the more I thought about it, the more it resonates with me, "Hope is not an action."

Hopelessness is where we sit on the curb, with our head in our hands, and we give up. We are immobilized, we don't move. Without action, no hope can be realized.

Our call to action right now is a hopeful call, both in our response to the pandemic and in our response to the continuing need of our brothers and sisters across the globe. To realize that hope, we have to act. Our role is simple: stay home, stay apart, say your prayers, and continue, as you can, to give to your church, to those agencies helping on the front lines, and to the ministries that continue, day in and day out, to offer Christian witness and care for the most vulnerable in the Holy Land.

I am hopeful. Very hopeful. I believe in the God of Love and through that Love I know all matter of things shall be well. I also firmly believe that hope alone is not an action, but that out of hope, comes action. Let's be what we profess to be, in all the times we are together, the people of the Spirit, people of hope, people of action, people of care for others, those we know, and those we don't.

Turn your hope into action

- *Walk with a child at Holy Land Institute for the Deaf*
- *Fund scholarships for Christian students at Saviour's School in Jordan*
- *Support therapy for traumatized children in Gaza*
- *Help Palestinian mothers learn to be therapists and advocates for their children with disabilities at Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre*
- *Provide opportunity for Syrian refugee children enrolled in vocational education at Schneller School in Jordan*
- *Give babies in the West Bank the best start by supporting obstetrical nursing care at St. Luke's Hospital*

Learn how you can make a difference in the Holy Land through these ministries at www.afedj.org/give/opportunities



“Without action, no hope can be realized.”

Walk
WITH A CHILD AT
HOLY LAND
INSTITUTE FOR
THE DEAF



You can become a companion to a student at Holy Land Institute for the Deaf

Your donation will provide a full-year of tuition, therapy, boarding, and support for one deaf or deaf-blind child.

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

HLID offers an incredible level of expert education and therapy and loving care to more than 100 students. It is the only school for the deaf in Jordan that serves deaf-blind children and offers vocational education.

www.afedj.org/hlid

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 for most pilgrimage tours, the children at HLID are in urgent need of your help.