



AFEDJ

American Friends of the
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

www.afedj.org

Building Hope in the Holy Land

Spring 2022

One year after the war: Life in Gaza is more difficult than ever before

Thanks to your support Ahli Arab Hospital provides a lifeline to its neediest neighbors

One year after the war in Gaza, healthcare is on the verge of collapse. Every day Ahli Arab Hospital struggles with shortages of essential medicines, medical supplies, power outages, and a shortage of intensive care beds.

Suhaila Tarazi, Ahli's general director, offers heartrending examples of the difficulties her staff face as they work to serve their patients. "The number of critically ill patients has increased while the means to treat them are scarce. Hundreds of poor children who need ENT or orthopedic surgeries have been on a waiting list for more than a year. Many children below five years of age are suffering from malnutrition and their parents are waiting to enroll them in Ahli's underweight treatment program. Thousands of traumatized children and chronically ill elders are sadly forgotten."



When shelters closed, families whose homes were destroyed crowded in with extended family or created makeshift camps amid the rubble.

Conditions in Gaza are made worse by the constant threat of escalating violence and fear that another war will erupt between Israel and Hamas. Gaza is vulnerable to the disruption caused by the war in Ukraine, which has rapidly reduced the availability of food and other commodities in Gaza. Eighty percent of the population is dependent on aid for food.

Amidst all the fear and uncertainty faced by Gazans, Ahli Arab Hospital perseveres, offering compassionate care and expert medical services to more than 40,000 children and adults each year.

Suhaila expresses her gratitude for the support shown by American

friends, "We are grateful to all our partners in the Ahli mission of love and reconciliation. We are proud that we are able to make a difference in thousands of lives. Our ministry is built on healing, repairing broken hearts, and comforting mourning souls. Our goal would not be possible without your solidarity and continuous support. We ask that God helps us continue to spread hope, reconciliation, and peace in this land."

Please consider a gift to mark the one-year anniversary of the Gaza war and Ahli Hospital's faithful ministry to its neighbors. Although the world's eyes may no longer be focused on the plight of the Gaza people, let's make clear that their American friends won't forget them.

"We are grateful to all our partners in the Ahli mission of love and reconciliation."

— Suhaila Tarazi

Your generosity broke records in 2021

Last year AFEDJ transferred \$2,134,059 to more than a dozen institutions in the Diocese of Jerusalem.

That's the highest amount of funding ever sent to the diocese in our 33-year history. You are the heroes of this story. We make the wire transfers, but it's your caring and commitment to these ministries that is changing lives in the Holy Land.

You made it possible for Ahli Arab Hospital to expand its community clinic in the wake of the May war, for St. Luke's Rehabilitation Center in Beirut to offer food vouchers for struggling families of students and its wider community, for ETVTC in Ramallah to provide scholarships for vocational students, and for St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus to purchase a new, much-needed ultrasound machine. Your gifts - and many, many of you made multiple donations when called upon - enabled AFEDJ to send 32% more financial support to Jerusalem than in 2020 - itself a record-breaking year.

Your generosity and faithful support of our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Jerusalem truly build hope in the Holy Land. Thank you!

AFEDJ's 2021 Annual Report will be available soon at www.afedj.org. Watch for links in an upcoming email newsletter.



The family of Tony, this young student at St. Luke's Rehabilitation Center in Beirut, is among the more than 200 Lebanese families to benefit from monthly food vouchers in 2021. Your generosity made a difference in the lives of thousands of people across the Diocese of Jerusalem.

I was so grateful to visit Beirut with Archbishop Hosam Naoum and clergy from the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem to see in person their witness to Jesus Christ, commitment to peace and service to the community.

We visited St Luke's Rehabilitation Centre in Beirut - a witness to God's care for every single one of his children, and the innate value each of us have as those made in His image.

We cannot forget the people of Lebanon and the suffering they face as a result of the port explosion, the pandemic and economic and political problems. Let us pray for hope and



abundance for this beautiful nation, for the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and all those it serves.

– The Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

Grants support transformational projects in Jerusalem and Zarqa, Jordan

Donations from generous individuals and foundation funders allow schools and hospitals across the Diocese of Jerusalem to expand their offerings and extend the Christian values embodied by their institutions to those most in need.



In April a child from Hebron waits his turn to be evaluated by a mobile team from Jerusalem Princess Basma Center

When the Jerusalem Princess Basma Center's (JPBC) aging community outreach van died last year, things looked grim to the leaders at JPBC. But thanks to a generous donor, a new, fully-equipped van will soon hit the road to serve children with disabilities across the West Bank.

During outreach visits, children with disabilities are diagnosed and referred to the Center in Jerusalem for comprehensive and specialized rehabilitation programs which the local clinics are not equipped to provide.

In February, we shared the news with our partners in Jerusalem that a generous \$150,000 grant from Donald Campbell of Virginia would fund the purchase, modification, and equipping of a Volkswagen Transporter van.

Once back on the road with a new van and equipment, the outreach team will provide diagnoses for close to 100 children per month. These evaluations

conducted in local communities are the first step in providing therapy and rehabilitation to many Palestinian children with disabilities.

Ayman Tmaizy, the director of a partner clinic near Hebron, explained the importance of its relationship with JPBC in providing direct services to families and training local staff, "We complete each other. With so many challenges, we cannot stand alone."

In early 2021 JPBC received a grant from UNICEF Norway to purchase state-of-the-art audiology equipment and create the first advanced Audiology Unit in Palestine. However, they needed funding to recruit, train, and certify professional audiologists and build a referral network among the many community-based organizations, hospitals, and physician practices they work with across the West Bank.

The Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation awarded AFEDJ a grant on Princess

Basma Center's behalf that will allow JPBC to hire six audiologists and provide them with training to obtain certification in advanced audiology. The Auditory Unit initially will offer evaluation and auditory services to 80 students at JPBC's Inclusive School and 250 children referred from across the West Bank and Jerusalem.

JPBC isn't the only diocesan institution to benefit from foundation support. Saviour's School in Zarqa, a remarkable, vibrant learning community of 300 K-12 students led by Dua'a Bisharat, recently received a generous grant from the Sally and Dick Roberts Coyote Foundation. The grant provided dozens of new laptops, tablets, cameras, and software to enhance teaching and learning at Saviour's School.

Zarqa, Jordan's second largest city and industrial hub, has been hit hard by the pandemic and economic hardship has threatened the wellbeing of vulnerable families. At present, more than 50% of families in Zarqa live in poverty—more than twice the national average. In recent surveys, 69% of respondents in Zarqa reported they had lost all their income.

Donations from generous individuals and foundation funders allow Dua'a and other leaders of schools and hospitals across the Diocese of Jerusalem to expand their offerings and extend the Christian values embodied by their institutions to those most in need. Christian and Muslim parents in Zarqa and across the region seek to send their children to diocesan schools, hospitals, and rehabilitations centers because they treat all people with respect and promote the dignity and worth of every person.

Contact Executive Director John Lent at jlent@afedj.org or 914.841.5175 to let us know about a foundation that might be interested in learning more about our mission.



Building Hope in the Holy Land

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"It's because of the prayers and support we get from our friends like you that we keep going."

"It's not something I say for the sake of compliment. I really want you to know that you make a huge difference in our lives when you realize and we realize that we are partners and participants in God's mission for the world, especially in Jerusalem."

– Archbishop Hosam Naoum at the Episcopal Parish Network Conference in Atlanta, February 2022

Easter lasts 50 Days!

Your gift to the 2022 Eastertide Appeal will help restore critical surgical capacity at the only Christian hospital in the West Bank.

It's not too late to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable West Bank families by making a gift to the AFEDJ Eastertide Appeal to help purchase a new anesthesia machine for St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus.

In December 2021 the failure of a 20-year-old anesthesia machine in one of the hospital's two major surgery suites cut its capacity to perform operations in half.

Doctors at St. Luke's are now forced to delay crucial surgeries for people who do not have the means to obtain care elsewhere, placing their lives in peril.

People in the northern West Bank city of Nablus know that St. Luke's Hospital welcomes everyone. Suffering families seek out this Christian hospital, knowing they'll receive expert care and be treated with dignity, regardless of their ability to pay.

This Eastertide we ask for your help to reach our goal of \$42,000, the full cost of a new anesthesia machine. A gift of any amount will expand St. Luke's capacity to heal some of the world's most vulnerable families.

Your gift will make a difference in the lives of those who live where Jesus himself healed so many. Donate online at www.afedj.org or by check in the enclosed envelope. Please indicate "2021 Easter Appeal" in the memo. Thank you!

