



American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem



AFEDJ

American Friends of the
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Building Hope in the Holy Land

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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

In 1988, at the time of the first Palestinian Intifada, Episcopal leaders in the U.S. and Jerusalem saw the need to offer sustained 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: A social worker at Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza leads a group session in the Children's Trauma Clinic.

103,062

The number of lives improved by the institutions supported by AFEDJ donors in 2021

\$2,365,538

Dollars supporting the Diocese of Jerusalem in 2021 - the highest amount in our 33 year history.

18 Institutions

American friends with generous hearts have supported the Christian witness of the Diocese of Jerusalem humanitarian ministries 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



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Building Hope in the Holy Land

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“I am so grateful for such generous support for St. Luke’s Center families because the staff and the children are in great need. People are still receiving their old wages which weren’t enough to keep them afloat when the currency was normal. Imagine now with the currency devalued by 90%. God help us all.”

— Archdeacon Imad Zoorob, Director of St. Luke’s Rehabilitation Center in Beirut



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.

Through much of 2021, the pandemic brought continued challenges for schools and rehab centers and the children and families they serve in diocesan institutions in East Jerusalem, Jordan, and Lebanon.

Without the services offered by Diocese of Jerusalem institutions, many children with disabilities would remain at home with no hope for a productive future. In response to the pandemic, each center and school has developed creative ways to continue to serve all children in their care.



JERUSALEM PRINCESS BASMA CENTER USAID GRANT

East Jerusalem

A \$550,000 federal grant will add an elevator and renovate a rooftop playground, giving all children access to science classrooms, the school library, and the new play area.

In September 2021 American Friends received the good news of its first ever federal grant award. USAID’s American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) will provide \$550,000 to fund the installation of a 15-passenger elevator that will connect all three floors of the Center’s Inclusive School and renovation of the rooftop playground to make it safe, modern, and accessible to children with disabilities.

Currently children and young people with disabilities, who represent 30% of JPBC’s 428 K-12 Inclusive School students, do not have access to the upper level playground, science classrooms, or the library. With the completion of this project, students at the school and children served by the Rehabilitation Center will be fully included in all academic, extracurricular, and recreational activities. In addition to the ASHA award, AFEDJ donors are providing nearly \$200,000 to fully fund the project.



“With your help we replace despair with hope, mourning with comfort, humiliation with dignity, and injury with healing.”

— 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 their only healthcare options.

The Diocese of Jerusalem operates two full-service hospitals - Ahli Arab Hospital, founded in 1882, in Gaza City, and St. Luke's Hospital, founded in 1900, in the northern West Bank city of Nablus - as well as community clinics in the West Bank.

These institutions welcome all patients without regard to their religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay. Everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

AHLI ARAB HOSPITAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO WAR

Gaza City

In May 2021 11 days of destruction and killing in Gaza and Israel resulted in more than 230 deaths of Gazans, including 65 children, and 2,000 injured. In Israel, 12 died and hundreds were injured in rocket attacks. Throughout the bombardment and the long aftermath, Ahli Arab Hospital – the only Christian hospital in the densely populated home to two million Palestinians – treated people with broken bones, shrapnel and glass injuries, severe trauma, and burns, as well as providing routine medical care.

Ahli Hospital's long-time director, Suhaila Tarazi, said, “There is no family that has not been affected by this war either physically, emotionally, or economically. Families have been shattered by its devastating impact, especially children.”

American friends responded to the call to help with extraordinary generosity. By the close of 2021, AFEDJ transferred your gifts totaling \$663,461 to Ahli Hospital to support its mission of healing and compassion.



“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 supportive family setting and hope for their future.”

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



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY

Youth unemployment rates in Palestine have hovered at 40 percent for many years. With the onset of the pandemic and the further destabilizing of the economy, it rose even higher in the first half of 2021. In Jordan, young Syrian refugees and children whose families have lived in Palestinian refugee camps for generations have few opportunities for stable employment as a path to economic and social success.

The secondary schools of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem that serve the most vulnerable students have made vocational training for high-risk students a priority. Whether it is the metalworking workshop at the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf or the hybrid car repair course at Schneller School in Jordan, the schools of the diocese recognize that real-world job skills provide the chance for meaningful employment and economic gains for marginalized young people.



Theodor Schneller School **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION OFFERS A BRIGHT FUTURE**

Marka, Jordan

Theodor Schneller School in Marka, Jordan, a day and boarding school for 280 mostly refugee children between five and 20, has a long history of offering vocational training to vulnerable young people.

With support from American Friends and a grant to engage in strategic planning, Schneller School has expanded its vocational offerings to include cosmetology, hybrid and electric auto mechanics, barbering, landscaping, and welding in addition to traditional programs such as carpentry and culinary arts. Schneller also offers students an academic track leading to university studies.

The Rev. Dr. Khalid Freij, director of Schneller School, said, “Every other week teachers are contacted by business leaders who want to know about our students. Ninety percent of our graduates leave Schneller with good jobs.”

For refugee children in Jordan, the promise of a dependable livelihood allows them to achieve a better future.



“Most women participating in the Sisterhood Academy can’t pay and wouldn’t be able to participate unless offered a full scholarship. Their households are already under financial stress.”

— Giovanni Anbar, director of the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center in Ramallah

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.

Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem schools offer opportunities for all female students to reach their highest potential and become leaders in their communities.

EPISCOPAL TECHNOLOGICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER SISTERHOOD ACADEMY

Ramallah, West Bank

Giovanni Anbar, director of the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center (ETVTC) in Ramallah, noticed that a number of students in the culinary arts certificate program for adults were women. He wondered if a program particularly designed for women might be the Center’s next offering.

The new course, called the Sisterhood Academy, was designed to meet the needs of women who may have never worked outside the home. They gain skills to empower them to work in the hospitality industry or to open their own home cooking, baking, and catering businesses. In 2021 ETVTC welcomed its the first cohort of 22 women from three West Bank villages. In addition to culinary arts skills, women learn basic accounting, digital marketing, packaging, and technical English.

Halaa, (at right), one of the first graduates, finished a college degree but was unable to find work. After completing the Sisterhood Academy, she was hired by the hotel where she interned. Halaa told Anbar, "I am very thankful for the financial support that enabled me to enroll at ETVTC."



“My message to the students who have distinguished themselves is not to be satisfied. This is just the beginning. Fly, soar, and grow in what you love.”

— Archdeacon Samuel Barhoum, Director of Christ School in Nazareth



NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP

Students throughout the region 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.



CHRIST SCHOOL PHYSICS STUDENTS SET RECORDS

Nazareth, Israel

When five physics students at Christ Episcopal School in Nazareth are the first students in the region and the first in the Arab community to achieve the milestone of ten units in physics, it's something for the school community to cheer.

When two of those students are the first students in Israel's history to achieve 15 units in physics with their original research, it's a full-blown celebration.

Amid the challenges of the 2020-2021 school year, four senior girls and one senior boy took the opportunity to do original research under the tutelage of Christ School's physics teacher Dr. Osama Al-Muallem. Donia, one of the two top-achieving students said, "It showed me who I am." She continued, "The teachers sent me words of support and encouragement. This gave me the push forward and one sweet word was enough to help me continue and not give up."

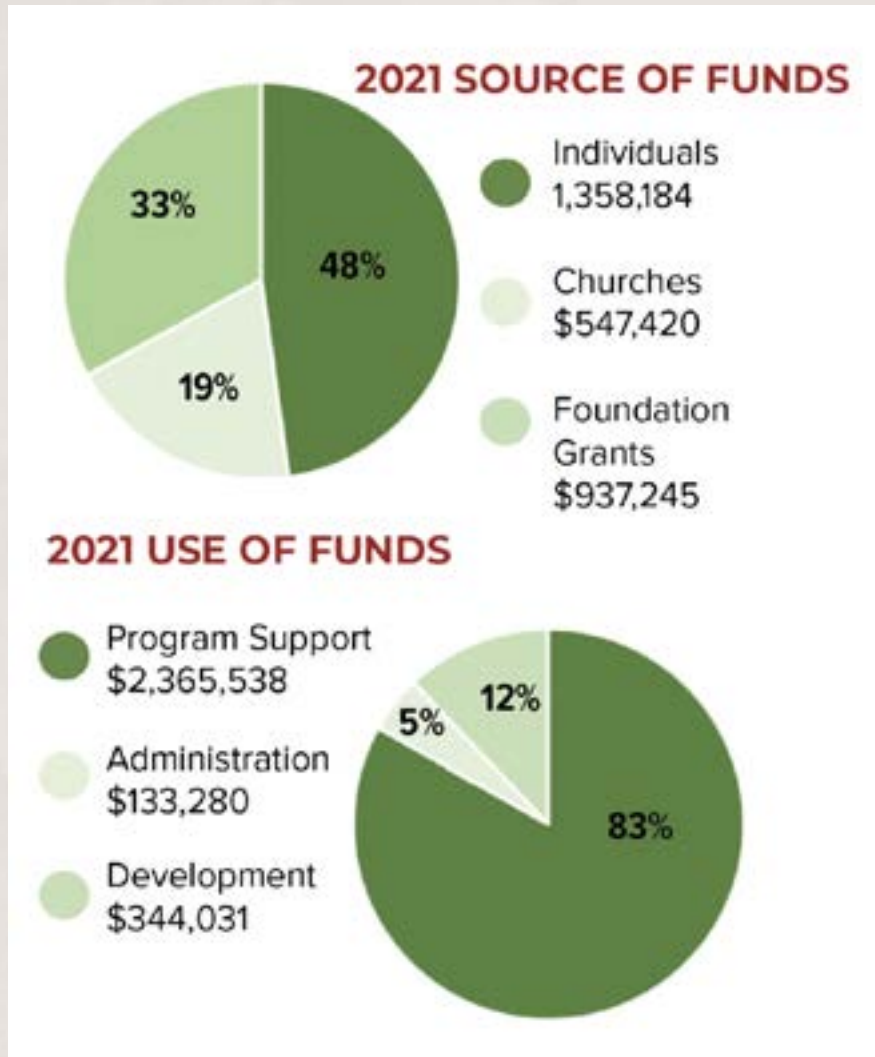
Christ School students enrolled in the school's media and film curriculum produced a professional video to document the achievement. Both efforts demonstrate the impressive achievements of school's students.



“It’s because of the prayers and support we get from our friends 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.”

— The Most Rev. Hosam Naoum, Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem

FINANCIALS



Please find our 2021 audited financials and 2021 IRS 990 at www.afedj.org/about/financials.

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