



AFEDJ

American Friends of the
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Building Hope in the Holy Land

www.afedj.org

Spring 2024



HEROIC, DISPLACED AHLI HOSPITAL STAFF ESTABLISH DESPERATELY-NEEDED OUTREACH CLINIC IN RAFAH



In early April 2024, a number of Ahli Hospital's dedicated doctors and staff who were displaced by IDF operations in Gaza City late last year demonstrated their resilience by establishing an outreach clinic in Rafah, a city heavily populated with refugees and located in the southernmost region of the Gaza Strip. Rafah, now sheltering 1.4 million Gazans, has become home to those forced to flee the relentless onslaught of bombardments and fighting in the central and northern sectors of the Strip. Amidst the chaos, Rafah now emerges as the largest city in the Holy Land, surpassing even the combined populace of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, the two bustling metropolises of Israel. The infrastructure and social services in Rafah, essentially a tent city lacking adequate access to clean water, waste management, and other key systems, are overwhelmed by the task of supporting even a fraction of its vast population.

Witnessing firsthand the acute need for medical services in Rafah, the compassionate team from Ahli Hospital, inspired by the unconquerable spirit of Ahli's healing mission, mobilized. Together, they opened an outreach clinic: a symbol of hope amidst adversity, to offer vital medical services to thousands of displaced Palestinians who have endured profound loss.

The Ahli Outreach Clinic in Rafah is an inspiring reminder that the care and compassion delivered by Ahli's remarkable medical staff is not confined to the walls of the hospital in Gaza City. We invite




The spirit of Ahli Arab Hospital extends beyond its Gaza City walls: The dedicated Ahli team pose for a photo outside the newly-established Ahli outreach clinic in Rafah.

you to join AFEDJ by making a gift that will empower this dedicated team to carry on their critical work, sharing Ahli's mission of hope and healing throughout Gaza. Please consider a donation designated for "where the need is greatest," enabling AFEDJ to swiftly respond to urgent needs and emerging opportunities, such as the clinic in Rafah.

Ahli's newest clinic extends beyond the realm of general medical services. It stands as a bastion of specialized care, offering treatments for OB-GYN, ENT, and Ophthalmological needs. Moreover, it houses a pharmacy stocked with essential medications from the World Health Organization

(WHO) and various charitable organizations, addressing the escalating need for healthcare in the face of spreading communicable diseases within Rafah's cramped living conditions. Ahli's unwavering commitment to healing shines through, making this clinic a beacon of hope and a lifeline for the community; work that is only made possible by the continued generosity of our donors.

Your generosity is an integral part of Ahli's ongoing story of resilience, compassion and healing for all in need. Join us and create a profound difference in the lives of Gaza's most vulnerable.

Secure donations can be made online at www.afedj.org/give or make a check payable to AFEDJ and mail to AFEDJ, 25 Old Kings Hwy N, Ste 13, Darien, CT 06820. AFEDJ ensures that 100% of designated funds go directly to the specified institution. 



HEART TO HEART FROM JERUSALEM TO GAZA IN TIMES OF WAR

Faithful to their vision, the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC) continues to serve displaced children with disabilities and their caregivers in Gaza.



Al-Zahraa, Occupational Therapist, extends JPBC services to a displaced child in Rafah.

Despite all challenges, including recent damage to the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre's (JPBC) new rehabilitation unit at Ahli Arab Hospital, the JPBC team remains unwavering in their commitment to serve children and families. They have found a way to actively support two displaced JPBC staff members currently sheltering in Gaza, who are both delivering essential emergency rehabilitation and psychosocial services to the vulnerable children seeking refuge among them.

Occupational Therapist Al-Zahraa is stationed at a shelter in Rafah, where 600 families reside in restricted quarters. Social Worker Musa operates from a shelter in Gaza City, where approximately 650 Palestinian Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have taken refuge since the war's onset.

Under the guidance of JPBC's Medical Director in Jerusalem, Dr. Waddah, the JPBC rehabilitation team uses a screening tool to assess children with disabilities residing in these two shelters. They have also established a regular means of communication between staff in Jerusalem and in Gaza to exchange information on patient records and coordinate optimal care. Their objective: assist their Gazan staff in prioritizing and delivering services most efficiently given the extraordinarily challenging circumstances and conditions.

Al-Zahraa has completed 35+ face-to-face interviews, and is now providing ongoing emergency support and guidance for assessment and treatment of children with various disabilities and recent war-related injuries. She has underscored the critical need for medicine,

wheelchairs, and prosthetic limbs.

Musa has initiated psychosocial support efforts at the Gaza City shelter, with a primary focus on caregivers and strategies to alleviate children's suffering amid the war. He states, "I am dedicated to this work, focusing on the deep humanitarian need, regardless of religion, gender, and differences, because in this war people have lost their homes and livelihoods."

Both Al-Zahraa and Musa express boundless gratitude for support received from their Jerusalem colleagues and acknowledge JPBC's pivotal role in restoring some semblance of hope amidst extremely challenging circumstances.

Please keep Al-Zahraa and Musa, who are working under impossible conditions, and all of the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre's patients and families in your prayers. Even before the war, JPBC did not receive adequate reimbursement from the Ministry of Health for residential services they provided for children and families in the West Bank, and the ongoing conflict has only further compounded this issue. Your continued support is critical.

Please consider coming alongside Jerusalem Princess Basma's remarkable staff as they continue to serve families throughout the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza by making a gift to AFEDJ today. ✝

INCREASING CHALLENGES IN THE WEST BANK CALL FOR URGENT SUPPORT

The ripple effects of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza extend into the West Bank, creating significant challenges marked by increased travel restrictions, disruptions in the flow of goods, and widespread unemployment. Institutions like St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus along with the Arab Evangelical Episcopal School (AEES) and the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center (ETVTC), both located in Ramallah, urgently require your support to provide critical resources for patients, healthcare providers, students, and educators facing the harsh realities of war and economic strain.

The impact of the ongoing crisis in Gaza has led to a significant drop in income, hindering these institutions' ability to cover operating support, pay staff salaries, and provide essential educational and medical services. Urgent donations are needed to ensure St. Luke's, AEES, and ETVTC can continue their vital work, including addressing equipment



needs, securing supplies, and sustaining the provision of compassionate care and education under extraordinary circumstances.

To ensure a just and sustainable future for all Palestinians, we must extend our care to them in the present. **Your immediate contribution designated for "where the need is greatest" can make a lasting impact, offering crucial support to those in dire need and providing a foundation for a more resilient and hopeful tomorrow.** ✝

THANK YOU.

As our "Renewing Hope" Spring Campaign draws to a close, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your continued support and trust in our mission. Your donations are the lifeline that makes this critical work possible. With your help, we are fostering transformation in the lives of countless individuals and families throughout the Diocese of Jerusalem.



Thank you for helping us to steward our resources by going paperless! Receive future AFEDJ communications digitally by signing up at: afedj.org/connect/stay-in-touch-with-the-work-of-american-friends.



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**Questions about AFEDJ or our work?
Please be in touch!**

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DON'T MISS OUT—SUBSCRIBE TO OUR DIGITAL E-NEWSLETTER!

Throughout the summer and beyond, AFEDJ will be sending out links to watch inspiring discussions with Archbishop Hosam Naoum along with other exciting, relevant content, and we want you to be a part of it! To keep up with the remarkable stories coming from the Diocese of Jerusalem subscribe to AFEDJ's monthly e-newsletter: afedj.org/connect/stay-in-touch-with-the-work-of-american-friends

WAYS TO SUPPORT AFEDJ

GIVE BY CREDIT CARD

Log onto www.afedj.org/give to make a secure, one-time donation or to become a monthly donor.

GIVE BY CHECK

Make a check **payable to AFEDJ** and mail to AFEDJ, 25 Old Kings Hwy N, Ste 13, Darien, CT 06820.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Do you have a donor advised fund? Consider AFEDJ as a beneficiary of your generosity.

MATCHING GIFTS

Many companies match their employees' charitable contributions. Consider matching funds to double your gift.

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

Commit to giving monthly and become a member of the Olive Tree Circle, our community of monthly donors.

LEGACY GIVING

When you support AFEDJ with a legacy gift you become a Jerusalem Saint ensuring the ministries of the Diocese of Jerusalem will continue to serve the next generation and beyond.

WHERE THE NEED IS GREATEST

Donations designated to "where the need is greatest" enable AFEDJ to meet urgent needs and swiftly respond to emerging opportunities.

DESIGNATED GIFTS

100% of designated donations go directly to the institution you specify.

LEARN MORE AT AFEDJ.ORG/GIVE.