

# AFEDJ

American Friends of the  
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem  
Building Hope in the Holy Land

[www.afedj.org](http://www.afedj.org)

Fall 2024

## One Year Later, Families Across the Holy Land Still Need Your Help



One year ago today, the lives of families across the Holy Land were shattered by the onset of the Israel-Hamas war. A year later, the devastation continues. Children across Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and beyond wake up each day facing profound challenges, while parents throughout the region work tirelessly to provide for their families. Yet, even in these difficult times, the strength of their hope endures.

In the midst of this relentless crisis and uncertainty, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem's schools, hospitals, and centers stand as resolute beacons of care and compassion. But with every passing day, their resources are stretched thin as the need for medical care, education, and humanitarian aid grows more urgent.

### **This is where you can make a difference.**

By partnering with AFEDJ, you can ensure these institutions continue to be lifelines for families facing unimaginable hardship. You have the power to bring relief to those who are suffering, to restore hope where it's flickering. ***Together, we can provide hope, healing, and opportunity to families whose lives have been upended by war.***

### **Now is the time for action.**

Please make a gift today. Stand with the people of the Holy Land, letting them know that, even in the darkest times, they are not forgotten. Your generosity can change lives.

Secure donations can be made online at [www.afedj.org/give](http://www.afedj.org/give) or make a check payable to AFEDJ and mail to **PO Box 411814, Boston, MA 02241-1814.**

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## Executive Director Eileen Spencer Visits Holy Land, Strengthens Ties with JPBC Teams in Jerusalem and Gaza

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The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) has proudly supported the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC) for many years, a relationship that continues to thrive in extraordinary ways. This enduring collaboration was recently brought to life by a deeply meaningful visit from Eileen Spencer, AFEDJ's Executive Director. During her visit, Eileen toured JPBC's facilities in East Jerusalem, connected virtually with the resilient satellite team at Al Ahli Arab Hospital (Ahli) in Gaza, and visited the Noor Center for Disabilities in Aida Refugee Camp, a key partner in JPBC's outreach efforts. Each visit highlighted the critical work being done to support Palestinian children with disabilities and their families despite increasingly complex circumstances.



*From center to left in the bottom row: AFEDJ Executive Director Eileen Spencer, JPBC Outreach Program Coordinator Lucy Ghrayeb, and JPBC Director Violetta Mubarak visit the Noor Center for Disabilities in the Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem, a JPBC outreach partner. Dr. Waddah Malhees, JPBC Medical Director, is positioned in the back row, center.*



*Photo: Eileen Spencer, Violetta Mubarak, and Dr. Waddah Malhees Zoom with the JPBC staff members in Gaza.*

For Eileen, one of the most powerful aspects of her visit was connecting virtually with JPBC staff members in Gaza. Even from afar, the team's joy and resilience were palpable. Staff members in both Gaza and East Jerusalem were overjoyed that AFEDJ made the effort to be present, affirming that they are not alone and remain a priority. Despite the challenges they face, the team was eager to share how they created a safe and welcoming space for children at Ahli using furniture and equipment salvaged from beneath the rubble following airstrikes on the building. Dr. Waddah Malhees, JPBC's Medical Director, shared the heart-wrenching story of a five-year-old girl who lost both parents and had to undergo amputation from the waist down.

Violetta Mubarak, General Director of JPBC, expressed heartfelt gratitude for AFEDJ's unwavering support, noting how crucial this collaboration has been, especially in these trying times. Violetta spoke on the growing demand for JPBC's services in Gaza: "With the increase in both physical and psychosocial needs among children in Gaza, our work has become even more crucial. We are determined to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to support these children achieving a better quality of life." The JPBC team is strategizing to meet this increased demand, while also addressing the needs of children in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Eileen spoke on the importance of sustained support, remarking, "It's truly inspiring to see JPBC's work continue despite significant challenges. It's crucial that this support persists so that Palestinian children with disabilities can access the care and hope they deserve." Her words reflect AFEDJ's mission: to empower and uplift the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem's humanitarian institutions through the generosity of donors.

This visit also underscored the bigger picture—how AFEDJ's support of the diocese as a whole, through mobilizing resources towards urgent priorities, benefits all its institutions. Highlighting the remarkable efforts of one institution strengthens the entire diocese, laying a stronger foundation for future growth.

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*Pictured from left: Violette Mubarak and Eileen Spencer.*

As we reflect on this visit and the long-standing partnership between AFEDJ and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, the need for unrestricted donor support is more evident than ever. Your contributions enable us to respond flexibly and effectively to the immense needs across the region, providing critical resources where they are most needed. Every gift to AFEDJ directly supports transformative work at institutions like JPBC, Ahli Hospital, and many others, ensuring that those in need can lead lives filled with dignity, opportunity, and hope.

**We invite you to join us in continuing this legacy of compassion and care. Partner with AFEDJ today and make a profound and lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals and families across the Holy Land, bringing hope and transforming futures.**

Secure donations can be made online at [www.afedj.org/give](http://www.afedj.org/give) or make a check payable to AFEDJ and mail to **PO Box 411814, Boston, MA 02241-1814.**

## **We Invite You to Make a Difference — Together We Are “United in Hope”**

Join us for our “United in Hope” year-end campaign, where your generosity fuels the unwavering spirit of families across the Holy Land. Throughout this campaign, we’ll share powerful stories of resilience and transformation from the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem’s schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities—stories that show the profound impact your support brings to vulnerable and displaced communities.

Together, we can bolster these lifelines, ensuring that hope, healing, and opportunity continue to reach those who need it most. Your gift has the power to change lives. Join us on this journey of compassion and transformation.

[www.afedj.org/give](http://www.afedj.org/give)



### **LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF YOUR GENEROSITY**

AFEDJ is proud to announce the release of our inaugural **Donor Impact Report**, highlighting the profound difference your impact has made from January 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, and our **2023 Annual Report**, highlighting the remarkable achievements made possible by your partnership and trust in our mission. Visit our website at [www.afedj.org](http://www.afedj.org) and see how your support has empowered lives and advanced vital humanitarian work across the Holy Land. **THANK YOU.**



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](http://afedj.org/connect/stay-in-touch-with-the-work-of-american-friends).



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**Building Hope in the Holy Land**

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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 fall and winter, 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 Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem subscribe to AFEDJ's monthly e-newsletter: [afedj.org/connect/stay-in-touch-with-the-work-of-american-friends](https://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](https://www.afedj.org/give) to make a secure, one-time donation or to become a monthly donor.

### GIVE BY CHECK—NEW ADDRESS

#### For USPS Mail

Make a check **payable to AFEDJ** and mail to AFEDJ, PO Box 411814, Boston, MA 02241-1814.

#### For FedEx and UPS

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](https://afedj.org/give).