

November 2025

Dear Friends,

As another challenging year draws to a close, I think of the countless families across the Holy Land forced to confront the harsh, daily realities of war, displacement, and economic struggle. Yet within the walls of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem's humanitarian institutions, I routinely witness stories that remind me of what is still possible when compassion finds fertile ground.

One such story is Ayham's, a young boy from Jordan whose journey embodies the transformative power of your generosity with the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ). At just eleven years old, a devastating accident robbed Ayham of his sight. Already navigating the world with hearing loss, he suddenly found himself isolated from everything familiar—unable to communicate his needs, express his thoughts, or connect with those who love him most.

Thanks to AFEDJ donors like you, the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf (HLID) in Salt, Jordan was ready to receive Ayham as a student. Step by step, his life began to change. Through the patient guidance of HLID staff and educators, he learned to communicate through touch, mastered the intricate patterns of Braille, and reclaimed his confidence. Today, Ayham mentors new deafblind students at HLID, using his skills and unique experience to guide them through challenges he once faced himself.

Ayham's journey shows how independence and connection can be restored, illustrating how God's grace can work through human hands. His story—and the stories of thousands of others served by our diocesan schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities—is only possible because AFEDJ, strengthened by the faithful partnership of friends like you, ensures that these vital institutions are prepared to walk alongside every family that knocks on our doors seeking help.





This is the heart of AFEDJ's *Be a Friend for Hope* campaign. When you give to AFEDJ, you become a true friend for hope in the Holy Land, keeping doors open, teachers and therapists at their calling, and ensuring that children like Ayham have the guidance and resources they need to grow and thrive.

As this year concludes, I extend a heartfelt invitation to continue walking with us in this ministry. Your support represents friendship that transcends distance and provides the solid foundation of hope that carries us forward into whatever challenges and opportunities await.

Thank you for choosing hope, choosing love, and choosing to walk alongside our most vulnerable neighbors. With deep gratitude for your partnership in this sacred work, I pray that the coming year brings you abundant blessings as you have so generously blessed others.

May God's peace be with you,



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The Most Reverend Hosam E. Naoum The Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem

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