

AMERICAN FRIENDS
OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM

DONOR IMPACT REPORT

JULY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025



AFEDJ

American Friends of the
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

Every day brings new challenges for families throughout the Holy Land. Even so, your generosity continues to make room for care, stability, and dignity. In a moment when the news often feels heavy, your support brings a steadier perspective and affirms your trust in the people doing the work on the ground, even in difficult times. All of us at AFEDJ see that trust reflected in your giving, and the communities served by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem's hospitals, schools, and rehabilitation centers feel it in real and tangible ways.

This report shares some of what your partnership has made possible over the past six months. Behind the numbers are people whose lives are steadied because you chose to act with compassion. A mother who can take her child to a clinic without worrying about the cost of treatment. A student gaining skills that open doors to new opportunities. A staff member whose work continues because essential resources are in place. These everyday circumstances add up, shaping lives and building a brighter future.

This edition focuses on one institution whose work reflects the heart of this mission: the Arab Episcopal School (AES), an academic school in Irbid, Jordan educating both sighted and visually-impaired students side-by-side. AES demonstrates what it means to create an environment where every child can learn and feel valued. With your help, the school has become a regional model for inclusive education and a place where children are encouraged to grow in their strengths and follow their curiosity.

We share these reports twice a year so you can see the impact of your generosity—how your giving moves through the Diocese and strengthens institutions when local resources fall short.

Thank you for standing with AFEDJ and with the Diocese of Jerusalem in a time of deep uncertainty. Your involvement in this work travels farther than you may realize, strengthening vital services, giving families access to care they can count on, and helping communities stay resilient day by day.

With gratitude,



Eileen Spencer

**Executive Director
American Friends of the
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem**



WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS NOW

AFEDJ donors reach families across the Holy Land at a time when stability is fragile. While the ceasefire in Gaza has brought a measure of relief, communities throughout the region continue to face economic strain and the lingering uncertainty of conflict. Thanks to donors like you, the hospitals, schools, and rehabilitation centers of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem remain open, staffed, and ready to provide care, education, and essential services to those who need it most.

From East Jerusalem, to Gaza, to Ramallah, to Amman, and beyond, the Diocese's humanitarian institutions continue to serve as trusted anchors for their communities. Staff show up each day despite shifting circumstances, offering medical care, specialized education, and a steady presence for families facing hardship. Your investment in AFEDJ allows us to stand alongside them, ensuring they have the resources required to move forward with focus and dignity—an act of solidarity that's only achievable with your help.

This report reflects what your giving carried forward from July through December 2025. While we shine the light on one institution, Arab Episcopal School, countless others share similar stories of perseverance and service. Behind each statistic and every story are families gaining stability, students finding their footing, and communities moving forward with the help of the work made possible because of the financial resources you have provided. We hope this overview brings you closer to the lives you touch and to the difference you continue to make every day.

YOUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

From July through December 2025, AFEDJ's individual and family foundation donors raised a total of \$1.77M to sustain the Diocese of Jerusalem's humanitarian institutions. This summary highlights top areas of impact, as well as the many other institutions strengthened through your gifts.

These funds were allocated as follows:

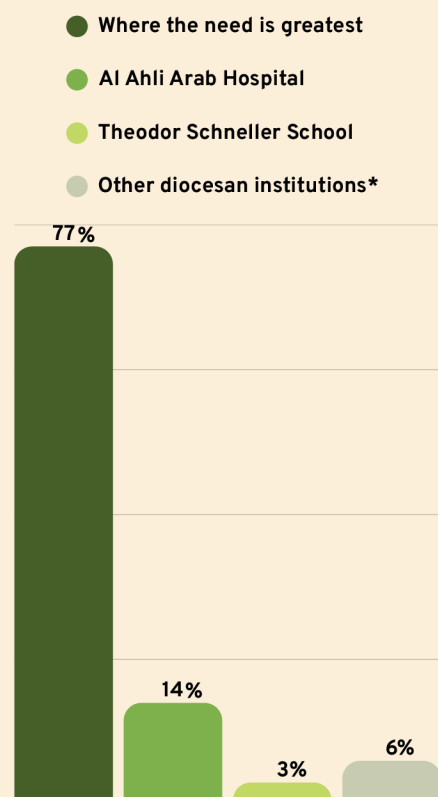
77% Directed to "where the need is greatest"

14% Al Ahli Arab Hospital

3% Theodor Schneller School

6% Other diocesan institutions*

*Other institutions include Ahliyyah & Mutran School (Amman, Jordan), Arab Evangelical Episcopal School (Ramallah, West Bank), Arab Episcopal School (Irbid, Jordan), Christ Episcopal School (Nazareth, Israel), Episcopal Technological & Vocational Training Center (Ramallah, West Bank), Holy Land Institute for the Deaf (Salt, Jordan), Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (Jerusalem), Jofeh Community Rehabilitation Center (Jordan Valley, Jordan), Saviour's Episcopal School (Zarqa, Jordan), St. Luke's Center for Rehabilitation (Beirut, Lebanon), and St. Luke's Hospital (Nablus, West Bank).





ARAB EPISCOPAL SCHOOL (AES)

The Arab Episcopal School (AES) opened in 2003 to fill a painful gap in the Jordanian educational landscape. At the time, blind and visually impaired children in the region had no local options for schooling and often had to travel an hour each way to Amman. Today, more than 275 sighted and visually impaired students learn together in classrooms designed to honor their strengths and nurture their confidence. Families describe AES as a place where their children are fully seen and included, and the school's approach creates an environment where children grow in dignity and develop a sense of possibility that stays with them long after they graduate.

The Arab Episcopal School has grown steadily over its 23 years of service. Today, it is a thriving community where students with varying degrees of visual impairments learn alongside their sighted peers, supported by a dedicated staff and an inclusive approach that strengthens confidence, independence, and opportunity. The numbers below offer a glimpse of the scale and reach of AES's work, made possible in part through AFEDJ donors.

280

students enrolled in K-12
(156 boys and 124 girls)

51

staff members, including
8 blind staff members,
5 of whom are AES graduates

36

visually impaired students
(28 blind students, 8 low-
vision students)

15

nationalities in the student
and staff body, reflecting
the school's broad, inclusive
community





FARAH'S STORY

Farah's connection to the Arab Episcopal School began when she entered kindergarten as a young girl with low vision. She grew up in a large family in Irbid, where her father worked long days collecting reusable crates and boxes to care for his eight children. At AES, Farah found classrooms that saw her potential and teachers who helped her build confidence. She continued through grade 10, the highest grade the school offered at the time, then transferred to public school before eventually enrolling in college with the hope of building a more stable future.

When her father passed away, that hope was interrupted. Unable to continue paying tuition, Farah was forced to leave college and return home. With few opportunities available for adults with low vision, Farah turned back to the place that had once helped her feel grounded. She reached out to the school's Headmistress, Mrs. Sabah Zurikat, and asked for a chance to contribute to the school that shaped her. Today, Farah has returned to AES as a member of the staff, sharing her experience and helping guide the next generation of students who follow the path she once walked.

AFEDJ donors allow AES to respond with care when former students and community members like Farah seek stability and purpose. With adequate resources, the school can offer training and employment for adults with low vision who understand the challenges young students face. This creates a full circle, as children receive guidance from someone who knows their world firsthand, and adults like Farah gain a livelihood and a chance to build a future with dignity.

THANK YOU

Every page of this report reflects the choices you have made to stand alongside the communities of the Holy Land. Behind every statistic and every story are families and individuals whose lives are steadied because you chose to act with kindness and care. You ensure that hospitals remain open, children with disabilities receive the care and education they need, and students at schools like AES can grow with confidence and opportunity.

The impact captured in this report exists because of your trust and your dedication to sustaining these vital institutions. You are AFEDJ's partner in creating a future where every child, every family, and every community can access the care, learning, and assistance they deserve. Thank you for carrying this work forward and for continuing to walk with us in service, hope, and shared purpose.

