

FALL 2025



AFEDJ

American Friends of the
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Building Hope in the Holy Land



WHERE EVERY CHILD HAS A CHANCE

The Mission of the Theodor Schneller School

When Mousa first arrived at Theodor Schneller School in Marka, Jordan, as a quiet fifth grader, he carried more than just his backpack. He arrived burdened by learning difficulties that had made every classroom feel like a place of failure. Letters blurred together. The simple act of reading felt like climbing a mountain. Over time, the constant struggle wore away at his confidence, and he stopped trying altogether.

But at the Schneller School, every child has a chance.



Photo: Father Khaled and Archbishop Hosam Naoum with graduating students at the Schneller School

Recognizing Mousa's potential, staff created a personalized support plan tailored just for him. He received focused therapy sessions and one-on-one instruction in phonics and reading strategies, along with sensory-motor exercises to help him gain control and confidence in his writing. Teachers, boarding house staff, and his family worked as one—creating a network of care around Mousa that nurtured not just his academic growth, but his emotional well-being. This labor of love paid off, and gradually, Mousa began to thrive.

By the end of sixth grade, Mousa could read aloud with clarity and confidence. He started writing coherent paragraphs, sharing ideas and stories with pride. No longer afraid to speak up, Mousa blossomed into an active, engaged student who brought joy and creativity into every classroom he entered. In the school's self-expression corner, Mousa wrote: "I used to feel different and was always embarrassed to participate in class, especially when my teacher asked me to read. But now I feel confident and full of energy."

A Place of Second Chances

Mousa's story is not an exception at the Schneller School—it reflects the very heart of its mission. Since 1959, Schneller has served orphans and vulnerable children, providing holistic education and support to more than 400 students each year. Many come from refugee communities or families with limited means, seeking stability, opportunity, and hope.

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At Schneller, students benefit from a holistic education and support system that is rare. From kindergarten onward, they study Arabic, English, and German, becoming trilingual as they develop confidence and communication skills. They explore music, theater, art, and environmental stewardship through clubs and competitions. They care for the school's greenhouse, participate in clean-up projects, and compete on the school's athletic field—made possible through funding from AFEDJ donors like you. Inside the classroom, students benefit from renovated science labs and smartboards that enhance their learning experience.

Emotional and psychological care is a cornerstone of the school's support system. A full-time psychiatrist helps children navigate trauma, bullying, and neglect, ensuring that healing reaches every part of a student's life: mind, body, and spirit.

All students live and learn in a nurturing environment that offers academic instruction, vocational training, emotional care, and spiritual development. Those in the vocational program graduate with hands-on experience in fields like mechanics and baking, often securing jobs through partnerships with local businesses. Over 90% of vocational graduates go on to find meaningful employment. Meanwhile, academic students prepare for university working towards international exams and opportunities.

Stewards of Hope and Opportunity

Much of the school's transformational work is guided by a remarkable partnership: Father Khaled, the school's director, and his wife, Rana, who leads development, strategy, and student care. Together, they bring both vision and dedication to every aspect of the school's mission. With a strong background in finance and administration, Rana has been instrumental in securing funding, writing project proposals, and cultivating relationships with donors and partners across the region and beyond. Her work behind the scenes ensures that resources are in place to support everything from boarding renovations and academic enhancements, to vocational training and student well-being. Serving alongside her, Father Khaled provides leadership, offering guidance to staff, support to students, and strategic oversight as the school continues to grow in both size and impact. His focus on long-term planning and expansion, combined with a deep commitment to student welfare, has helped shape the school into a place where every child is seen, valued, and equipped to succeed.

Together, Father Khaled and Rana are the heart of the school. Their partnership is grounded in a shared sense of purpose, and their leadership reflects a deep belief in service, integrity, and the power of education to transform lives. Through their example, the Theodor Schneller School continues to be a place where hope is not only taught, it is lived, everyday.

*“Be the reason
a child rises
beyond their
past into a
future filled with
hope, purpose,
and human
dignity.”*

FATHER KHALED



Photo: Young students at the Schneller School

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Your support makes this possible.

For children like Mousa, who would otherwise fall through the cracks, a place like Schneller is life-changing. Your gift helps turn struggle into strength, giving every child the foundation for a better life.

When you give to the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ), you join hands with leaders like Rana and Father Khaled to invest in a generation longing for hope.

As Father Khaled shared, “Be the reason a child rises beyond their past into a future filled with hope, purpose, and human dignity.”

AFEDJ'S NEW MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Join our community!

If you're looking for a deeper, more impactful way to support the important work of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, we invite you to join our growing community of AFEDJ Members.

The AFEDJ Membership Program brings together donors who commit to giving \$500 or more annually to sustain vital institutions across the Diocese—from schools and vocational programs to hospitals and centers that serve children with disabilities. In a region marked by ongoing conflict and economic hardship, these institutions offer healing, education, dignity, and hope. Your commitment helps keep their doors open.



Photo: Students at the Schneller School performing a song

As an AFEDJ Member, you'll receive:

- Exclusive updates and stories from the Holy Land, building a closer connection to the people and communities your generosity supports
- Invitations to virtual gatherings and special in-person events
- Recognition tailored to your level of giving

But most importantly, you'll be standing with those who need it most, ensuring that children can go to school, patients can receive care, and families can find support, no matter the circumstances.

We would be honored to welcome you to this circle of committed supporters.

Learn more at: afedj.org/give/membership

Have questions? Contact Sarah Schofield-Mansur, Sr. Director of Individual Giving, at sarah@afedj.org

YOUR GENEROSITY SAVES LIVES

Right now, in the Holy Land, people are facing impossible choices. For parents, that means wondering how long they can keep their children in school. For patients, it's whether they can afford the care they urgently need. And for the humanitarian institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, it's a daily fight to keep their doors open to all who seek help. In a region often marked by division, each institution offers something rare: a refuge where anyone seeking healthcare, education, or the chance for a better life is welcomed with dignity, no matter their background or ability to pay.

With your partnership and support, that promise can endure for generations to come. When you give to AFEDJ directed to “where the need is greatest,” you become a part of an extraordinary community. Donate now at afedj.org or scan this QR code.



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

Eileen Spencer
Executive Director
espencer@afedj.org

Sarah Schofield-Mansur
Senior Director of Individual Giving
sarah@afedj.org

Betsy Wilson
Director of Operations & Donor Services
bwilson@afedj.org

Charis Bhagianathan
Director of Communications
cbhagianathan@afedj.org

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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

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

When you commit to giving monthly, you 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.