

AMERICAN FRIENDS

OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM

**ANNUAL REPORT
2025**



AFEDJ

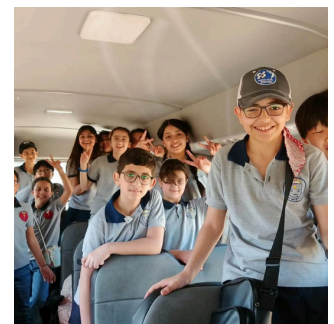
American Friends of the
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Building Hope in the Holy Land

AMERICAN FRIENDS,

in 2025, you helped build a remarkable community of care.

Donors across the United States came together to raise nearly \$6.4 million, allowing AFEDJ to provide more than \$5.3 million in direct support to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. You joined thousands of other American Friends, reaching hospitals, schools, and rehabilitation centers serving people across Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend,

I wish I were writing to tell you that life in the Holy Land has become easier. It hasn't.

Each time I return to Jerusalem, I am reminded that I do not travel alone. I carry with me the compassion of thousands of generous friends whose steadfast support gives strength to the people we serve—and reminds them they have not been forgotten. Over the past year, I have spoken with doctors who continue caring for patients in unimaginable conditions, teachers determined to give their students a sense of stability, and colleagues across the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem who remain present for their communities with extraordinary courage and compassion. Again and again, I have heard the same message: they know they are not standing alone because of friends like you. When the crisis intensified, you responded. As the months passed and the world's attention shifted elsewhere, you remained steadfast. You understood that while headlines fade, human needs do not. Families still need medical care. Children still deserve safe places to learn. Communities still depend on the Diocese's hospitals, schools, and rehabilitation centers as places of healing, dignity, and hope. **Because of you, those doors remained open.**

In 2025, together we provided more than \$5.3 million in direct support to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Your generosity helped patients receive life-saving care, enabled children with disabilities to continue reaching their fullest potential, and ensured that students could keep learning in environments where they were valued, cared for, and supported. **Your generosity became a lifeline.**

What inspires me most is the extraordinary people who continue this work on the ground in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon. Physicians, nurses, therapists, teachers, and staff continue showing up for their neighbors despite extraordinary hardship. Their resilience humbles me, and their dedication brings hope to life every day. You stand right there with them, making that same daily commitment. As I reflect on this past year, I remain convinced that compassion can meet despair and that hope endures even in the darkest moments. I have seen it in the determination of those we serve, in the faithfulness of the Diocese's staff, and in the remarkable generosity of friends like you. Thank you for believing in this mission and for walking alongside the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. **Thank you for standing with our neighbors when they needed you most—and for reminding them, through your generosity and presence, that they are not alone.**

As you read the pages that follow, I hope you will see the extraordinary strength, dignity, and possibility your partnership helps sustain. Every patient cared for, every child who learns, and every moment of healing is part of what you have made possible. Because of you, hope has become visible. Healing has continued. Lives have been changed.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Eileen Spencer

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

OUR VISION

A Holy Land where people of all faiths have opportunities to live full, flourishing lives that express the worth and dignity inherent in every human being.

OUR MISSION

Transforming lives of the vulnerable and displaced in the Middle East through support of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and its schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities.

WHO WE ARE

Thirty-eight years ago, Episcopal leaders saw the need for a safe, secure channel to offer support to the humanitarian institutions owned and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) was born.

Today, AFEDJ, a nonpolitical, nonsectarian, 501(c)(3) organization, is the leading fundraising organization for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Our primary focus is to mobilize financial resources for the Diocese and its humanitarian institutions—its schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities in Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon.

We believe peace and prosperity can be achieved when people have access to comprehensive healthcare and children have access to quality education irrespective of their religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay. 100% of funds designated to specific institutions go directly to those institutions. Funds raised for “where most needed” enable AFEDJ to direct resources to critical areas. This approach ensures that AFEDJ can swiftly address urgent needs and emerging opportunities, while empowering us to adapt to evolving circumstances, deepen our impact, and foster resilience within the communities we serve. By supporting the Diocese in its holistic mission to provide essential services and promote peace and reconciliation, we exemplify our mission, laying the foundation for lasting change and sustainable development in the Holy Land.



*If it wasn't for you,
our American Friends,
Ahli would not be able to
continue saving lives
in Gaza today.*

DR. SUHAILA TARAZI

General Director, Al Ahli Arab Hospital, Gaza

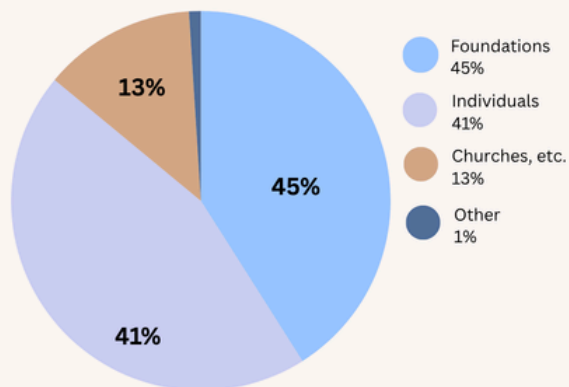
FINANCIALS

When you partner with AFEDJ, you place your trust in us to carry forward your generosity with care and integrity. We honor that trust through careful financial stewardship, transparency, and collaboration with the Diocese, and we take the responsibility of carrying your gift from intention to action seriously. AFEDJ holds itself to the highest standards of financial integrity and nonprofit accountability, so you can give with confidence and see how your generosity is put to work. Our [audited financial statements](#) and [IRS Form 990](#) are available on our website.

Whether you make a gift directed to the area of greatest need or designate your contribution to a specific institution, your support empowers diocesan leaders to deliver compassionate care to anyone in need, regardless of faith, background, or ability to pay.

Whichever path you choose, your giving connects you to the people and institutions doing extraordinary work every day.

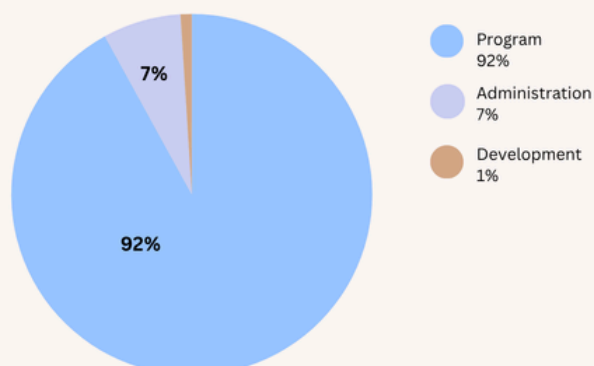
2025 SOURCE OF FUNDS (Based on \$6.38)



\$6.38M

In 2025, AFEDJ raised almost \$6.4 million, which includes over \$5.3M in direct support for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and its humanitarian institutions. This total includes funding for board-approved grants designated for urgent needs and emerging opportunities identified by the Archbishop and donor designated funding for diocesan institutions.

2025 USE OF FUNDS



92%

of all funds raised directly supported institutions and programs across five countries within the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. When a donor designates a gift for a specific institution, AFEDJ directs 100% of it to the Diocese to support the intended institution.

4 stars

AFEDJ received the highest rating for financial accountability and transparency from Charity Navigator.



WHERE THE NEED IS GREATEST

When you give to where the need is greatest, you join a network of passionate donors who believe in the power of local wisdom and collective action. Together, you provide a flexible pool of resources for AFEDJ's Board-approved grants to the Diocese, allowing the institutions in its care to respond to urgent and evolving needs.

Instead of deciding priorities from afar or on behalf of the Diocese, we lean on the expertise of people living and working on the front lines. Twice each year, institutional leaders across Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon assess the realities facing their communities and identify where additional resources can make the greatest difference. The Archbishop and his team bring those funding requests to AFEDJ, where our Board of Trustees reviews and approves the proposed grants. Once approved, AFEDJ awards the funds, and the Diocese reports on their use and impact.

Giving directed to where the need is greatest gives AFEDJ critical flexibility to respond as circumstances change. In an unstable economic environment, rising costs can stretch an already limited budget, creating unforeseen challenges. Demand for services can also shift unexpectedly, placing new pressure on staff. What an institution needs most today may be very different just a few months from now.

Often, these resources fund the very foundation on which humanitarian care depends: the staff, facilities, utilities, and day-to-day operations that keep an institution open and ready to serve. These may sound like ordinary needs, but they have very real consequences for the people who depend on these places. They mean a patient can walk into a hospital and receive the care they need. A student can enter a classroom with electricity, supplies, and the resources they need to learn. A mother can walk into a rehabilitation center and find the equipment, facilities, and guidance their child needs to continue therapy.

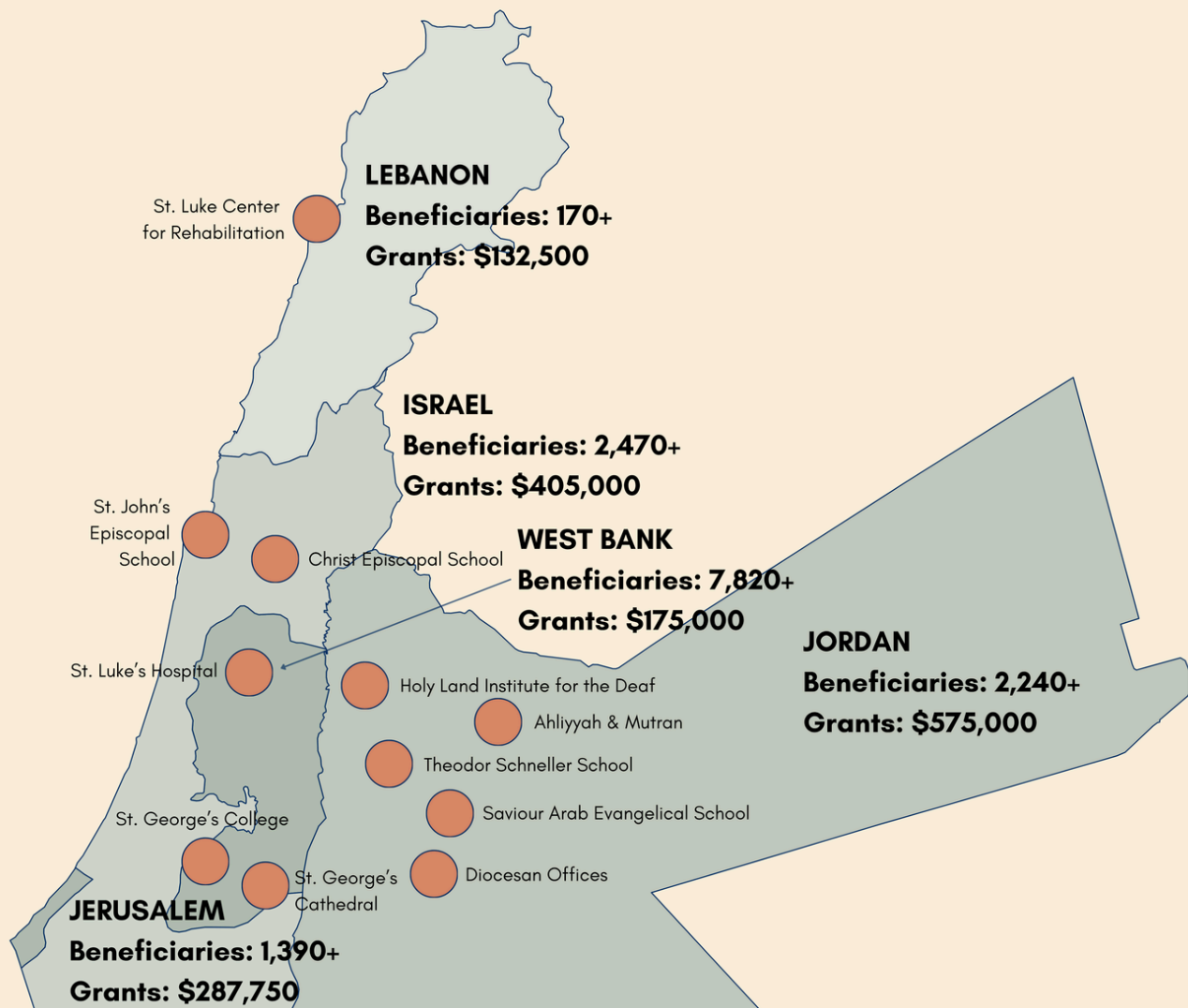
This model gives diocesan leaders more freedom to focus on what matters most, allowing them to devote their limited time and attention to the people and institutions in their care. You may not know what the next need will be, but you trust the people closest to the work to recognize it, respond to it, and put your support where it can make the greatest impact.

In 2025, AFEDJ awarded \$1.6 million in Board-approved grants funded by gifts directed to the area of greatest need, reaching 11 institutions and more than 14,000 direct beneficiaries.

Those numbers reveal the remarkable reach of what we accomplished together. Behind those numbers are real people, families, and communities whose lives were touched because you chose to give. Read on to meet a few of them and see what your generosity made possible.

Where the Need is Greatest : 2025 Impact

Sustained 11 Institutions • Served 14,090+ Direct Beneficiaries • Granted \$1.6 Million



THEODOR SCHNELLER SCHOOL, MARKA

\$575,000 in Board-approved grants funded by donor support directed to where the need is greatest reached institutions in Jordan, benefiting more than 2,240 direct beneficiaries. One of them was Mousa.

When Mousa arrived at Theodor Schneller School in fifth grade, he had stopped trying to read. As his struggles began to shape how he saw himself as a student, he stayed quiet in class and avoided participation to avoid embarrassment.

His teachers at Schneller refused to let those struggles define him. Working closely with support staff and Mousa's family, they developed an individualized plan incorporating focused therapy, one-on-one phonics, reading instruction, and sensory-motor exercises. Slowly, Musa began to find his footing. By the end of sixth grade, he was reading aloud clearly, writing coherent paragraphs, and raising his hand to participate in class.

The most important change was in Mousa himself. He no longer saw reading as something to fear or a reminder of what he struggled to do. Over time, he began to see himself as a student who could succeed. "I used to feel different and was always embarrassed to participate in class, especially when my teacher asked me to read," Mousa shared. "But now I feel confident and full of energy."

Behind that transformation were teachers, staff, and specialists who had the time, expertise, and resources to see what Mousa needed and keep showing up for him. When you give to where the need is greatest, you make that kind of care possible.

For a child like Mousa, learning to read can become something much bigger, changing how they see themselves and giving them a new sense of confidence and possibility.



Students at the Theodor Schneller School in Marka.

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL, NABLUS

\$175,000 in Board-approved grants funded by donor support directed to where the need is greatest reached institutions across the West Bank, benefitting more than 7,800 direct beneficiaries. One of them was Muna.

At 25 years old and expecting her first child, Muna never imagined she would give birth in a car outside St. Luke's Hospital. After waiting three hours at an army checkpoint, she arrived with no time left to make it through the hospital doors. The maternity team rushed outside and safely delivered her baby in the vehicle.

Then Muna began bleeding severely. Doctors admitted her to the hospital's intensive care unit while her newborn son received care in the neonatal unit. The St. Luke's team cared for them both until mother and baby were healthy enough to go home.

But there was another crisis brewing. With Muna's husband recently laid off from his job due to the regional economic crisis, the family faced responsibility for a hospital bill they simply couldn't pay. At St. Luke's, the only charitable hospital in Nablus, this situation is not uncommon: 40% of its patients are uninsured, and many struggle to afford the medical care they need.

Because AFEDJ donors chose to give where the need is greatest, Muna's family did not have to carry that impossible financial burden home with them. Instead, that generosity allowed them to focus on what mattered most: healing, caring for their newborn son, and the simple joy of having a healthy mother and baby.



A nurse administering care to a young boy at St. Luke's Hospital in Nablus.

This is the impact of giving where the need is greatest. You may help pay an electric bill, cover a rising cost, or keep a dedicated staff member on the job, but those practical expenses form the foundation for something much bigger: a hospital ready when Muna needs it, a school where Mousa can discover what he is capable of, and institutions prepared to meet the next need their communities bring to them.

DESIGNATED INDIVIDUAL & INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Giving to the area of greatest need offers critical flexibility to respond as needs change. At the same time, directing your support to a specific location offers a deeply meaningful way to stay connected to a particular place that has touched your heart—whether it's a hospital whose courage moves you, a school whose students inspire you, or a rehabilitation center whose work has earned your trust. Designated giving connects your generosity directly to a place you know, care about, and want to see thrive.

Designated support drives impact through two distinct channels, both focused on meeting the needs of specific institutions. Individual donors spark momentum through gifts directed to a hospital, school, or center they care about deeply. By demonstrating that our community stands firmly behind these institutions, your personal giving helps AFEDJ seek out and secure additional designated support through grants from philanthropic funders, which brings additional resources directly to the places where donors have already anchored their generosity.

When personal passion aligns with institutional funding in this way, designated gifts and grants work together to unlock potential far greater than any single contribution could achieve alone. Grantmakers step in to amplify what individual donors start, expanding local capacity, accelerating programs on the ground, and ensuring these humanitarian centers continue serving their communities without interruption.

Last year at Al Ahli Arab Hospital and the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre, that investment generated life-changing results.



Qasem, 5, at a therapy session at the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre.

AL AHLI ARAB HOSPITAL, GAZA

In 2025, individual American Friends and institutional funders came together and directed almost \$2.8 million to support Al Ahli Arab Hospital, sustaining care at a time when the people of Gaza needed it most.



Doctors at the front gate of Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza.

Just two days after Al Ahli Arab Hospital was forced to evacuate following the Palm Sunday attack in April 2025, staff reopened its doors.

The attack caused serious damage, destroying the hospital's genetics laboratory and significantly harming its emergency unit. Ahli's staff did not have the luxury of waiting for full repairs to continue fulfilling their mission of serving the people of Gaza. Acting quickly and creatively, they adapted available spaces, created temporary holding areas, and resumed caring for patients who had nowhere else to turn. Behind their extraordinary courage was a devoted circle of supporters. American Friends working alongside institutional funders stood beside the hospital's staff, providing the resources Ahli needed to continue caring for their community. Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA) was among those funders, committing \$1.6 million for emergency medical care, outpatient services, mental health care, and compensation for essential hospital staff.

The results were tangible. During the first 150 days of the IRUSA grant period, Ahli remained open for 148 of them. Across the first five months of the same grant period, their funding supported compensation for 75 essential staff members and delivered services to over 3,375 people.

When you designated your support for Ahli Hospital, you became part of that effort. Your commitment joined that of other American Friends, IRUSA, and other institutional funders who recognized that this hospital needed to remain open and ready to care for the people of Gaza. This collective support gave Ahli's staff something essential—the ability to keep showing up. Reflecting on what your commitment meant to Ahli, Dr. Suhaila Tarazi, the hospital's General Director, shared: "If it wasn't for you, our American Friends, Ahli would not be able to continue saving lives in Gaza today."

JERUSALEM PRINCESS BASMA CENTRE, JERUSALEM

In 2025, individual American Friends and institutional funders collectively directed \$645,928 to Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre, helping children with disabilities access specialized care and giving families the support they need to keep their children moving forward.

For one mother from Jenin, getting her child the care he needed meant traveling more than two hours and crossing three checkpoints—but missing Sobhi’s therapy at the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC) was not an option she was willing to accept.

“Despite the difficulties of war, I crossed three checkpoints to reach the Basma Centre,” she shared. “I insist on keeping my child’s therapy sessions. I feel safe here.” For families raising children with disabilities, access to specialized rehabilitation can shape a child’s ability to learn, develop, and participate more fully in everyday life. But for many families, reaching that care can be extraordinarily difficult. JPBC continues to bring its expertise closer to the people who need it, finding new ways to extend specialized care beyond the walls of its Jerusalem campus.

Last year, designated funding from American Friends and institutional funders allowed the JPBC team to expand rehabilitation services in Gaza and the West Bank. Among those resources was a \$500,000 grant from IRUSA for a two-year collaboration that is expanding rehabilitation services while strengthening local centers.

In Gaza, this collaboration launched work that quickly exceeded expectations. During its first six months, JPBC’s satellite unit provided individualized rehabilitation and psychosocial services to 176 children and 189 parents and caregivers, surpassing its annual target of 100 children. The Basma team also grew from six to eight staff members.



A child at his therapy session at JPBC's satellite unit in Gaza.

Numbers tell only part of the story.

Ismail, a physiotherapist in Gaza, remembers one child with an amputated leg who, after months of therapy, was once again playing and laughing with his friends. "When I see a child walk or even smile again after a therapy session, I feel like I am helping to restore a part of their humanity that was taken away," Ismail shared.

That same commitment to bringing care closer to families extended into the West Bank. At Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center, nestled in the hills between Ramallah and Birzeit, children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive education, therapy, vocational training, and opportunities to build greater independence. In 2025, JPBC began working with Star Mountain to establish a new autism unit for children ages 3 to 6, providing specialized training, equipment, and modifications to the center's space.

When you designated your giving to JPBC, you became a crucial part of these stories. You stood with the mother who crossed three checkpoints because her child's therapy mattered too much to miss. You stood with a child in Gaza who, after months of rehabilitation, laughed and played with his friends again. And you stood with children and adults at Star Mountain as specialized care came closer to home.

Alongside other American Friends and institutional funders, you helped JPBC reach far beyond the walls of its Jerusalem campus, so that distance and circumstance do not have the final word in a child's life. For families facing extraordinary obstacles, bringing that care within reach can mean a child has the chance to heal, grow, and discover what is possible.



*Violette Mubarak, General Director, JPBC,
Eileen Spencer, Executive Director, AFEDJ, and Ranya
Karam, Director, Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center.*



*JPBC therapists providing care
through telemedicine.*

TOGETHER, THIS WORK CONTINUES

Everything you've read in this report was made possible because you chose to stand with AFEDJ.

In 2025, your generosity helped hospitals remain open, children continue learning, and families access rehabilitation and specialized care. Together with hundreds of other American friends, you strengthened the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem's humanitarian institutions and helped ensure they could continue serving their communities through extraordinary challenges.

The need for that support has not ended. Every day, the Diocese's hospitals, schools, and rehabilitation centers continue responding to evolving needs while providing healthcare, education, and hope to the people they serve. As the work continues, so does the opportunity to be part of it.

Whether you choose to give monthly, make an annual gift, or include AFEDJ in your estate plans, there are many ways to deepen your connection to this community and sustain this work for years to come.

THE OLIVE TREE CIRCLE: SUSTAIN HOPE MONTH AFTER MONTH

By joining our community of monthly donors, you provide the reliable, ongoing foundation the Diocese depends on, allowing schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities to plan ahead with confidence. [Become a monthly partner.](#)

AFEDJ MEMBERSHIP: DEEPEN YOUR IMPACT

Join a dedicated group of leaders contributing \$500 or more each year. AFEDJ Members enjoy exclusive updates and insider perspectives on how your support changes lives every day. [Explore Membership benefits.](#)

LEGACY GIVING: SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE HOLY LAND

Guarantee that compassionate care and quality education endure for generations to come by including AFEDJ in your estate plans, will, or trust. [Create your legacy.](#)



LOOKING AHEAD

Thank you for standing with AFEDJ in 2025. Your generosity touched lives in countless ways. You helped keep hospitals open, supported children in learning, and ensured families could find care when they needed it most. Your gift was also an expression of trust—trust in AFEDJ to steward it faithfully and trust in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem to respond with compassion and deep knowledge of the communities it serves.

While the work continues, so does our commitment to honor that trust every day.

We are deeply grateful for your support and look forward to continuing this work together in the years ahead.



Going by myself, I will go fast.

*But if we go together,
we will go farther.*

ARCHBISHOP HOSAM NAOUM

Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

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Joanne T. Blakemore
1948-2025

*We honor the memory of our esteemed board members, Joanne T. Blakemore and Jane Deland, with deep affection and respect. Their collective dedication to our mission was matched only by the kindness they extended to our community.



Jane Deland
1947-2026

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AFEDJ is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (tax-ID number: 59-6155008).
Your gift is secure and tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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