



Caritas Jerusalem supports school students in Bethlehem Area

Dear friends,

Caritas Jerusalem strongly believes that education is the most powerful tool where economically and socially marginalised people can uplift themselves to become self-reliant and eventually learn to be productive members of society.

This month we were able to cover part of the tuition fees of 620 students in 22 schools in the Bethlehem Governorate in partnership with Fundacion Belen 2000; trained 80 women so that they become self-sufficient in partnership with Caritas Spain; held a conference in Bethlehem University on drug abuse and graduated 22 social workers who specialized in dealing with addicts and their families in partnership with Secours Catholique and Ile De France and launched a new project with Caritas Poland to empower the disabled.

We were able to achieve these and much more due to the support that we get from our local and international partners and friends. Therefore we feel very grateful to them for partnering with us in our success.

Fr. Raed Abusahlia
General Director
Caritas Jerusalem



Waving their tiny hands and jumping to the rhythm of Dabkeh music, a group of primary-school children greeted the audience who gathered in the theatre-hall of College Des Frères school in Bethlehem on 25th of May 2016 to celebrate the distribution of 620 scholarships by Caritas Jerusalem with the support of Fundacion Palestina Belen 2000.



The celebration was also attended by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, his beatitude Mgr. Fouad Twal, as well as the Ambassador of Chile in Palestine, Mr. Fransisco Javier Bernales. “Other Palestinian communities in Latin America should participate in supporting education not only in Bethlehem but also in other areas in Palestine” Said Mgr Twal

Fr. Raed Abusahlia, The General Director of Caritas Jerusalem, gave a brief introduction explaining the importance of the program. “These scholarships help students from low income families” he said “This year we included four schools for handicapped children.”



A group of primary-school children presented a Dabkeh performance during the ceremony which ended with the delivering of the scholarships to the schools’ directors.



This is the ninth consecutive year that Caritas Jerusalem conducts the scholarship program in the Bethlehem governorate.



Embracing the Disabled

“Know me for my abilities, not my disability.”
Robert M. Hensel



There is still a huge stigma within the Palestinian society on the disabled. Instead of embracing their indomitable spirits, society often rejects them and families try to hide the disabled person out of shame.

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)- in 2011 data shows that around 113 thousand individuals suffer from at least one disability and constitute 2.7% of the population in Palestine.



Caritas Jerusalem in partnership with Caritas Poland and co-funded by the Polish Development Cooperation Program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland has started to implement a project that would answer the basic needs of these marginalized strata of the Palestinian community.

On the 12th of May 2016 Caritas Jerusalem held a meeting at the Caritas Betharram Center in Bethlehem with ten institutions that care for the disabled from the Bethlehem Governorate. These centers deal with people who suffer from various physical and mental impairments.

The project contains three main components: upgrading the medical and educational equipments of the centers, capacity building of the staff and media campaigns.

Upgrading the existing equipments is very essential; the centers should be well equipped in order to give the best quality of service possible; the key staff should receive targeted training to meet their key responsibilities so that they can provide their services in a more effective and efficient way; raising awareness in the media and conferences about the disabled motivates the general public and government officials to improve the existing services offered to this special segment of the society.



“We are truly grateful for the opportunity to help the weakest of our community,” said Mrs. Naber, the head of the social services department. “Not only we will change a lot of lives to the better, but more importantly, we will change the negative attitudes towards the disabled.”

**Caritas Jerusalem’s fourth
Conference on Drug Abuse at
Bethlehem University
Old City Counselling Center (OCCC)**



On Thursday, the 2nd of June 2016, the fourth conference titled “Professional interventions in the addiction phenomena in Palestine” took place at Bethlehem University. Political leaders, police officers, academics, social workers and other civil society representatives participated in the conference.

Among the key speakers were Eng. Adnan al-Husseini, the governor of Jerusalem, Br. Peter Bray, the Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University, Fr. Raed Abusahlia, general director of Caritas Jerusalem, Dr. Michael Sansour, executive vice president of Bethlehem University, Dr. Mohammad Rezek, Health manager in the Palestinian ministry of health, Lt. Colonel, Abdulla Ilawi, Mr. Raed Amereh, Director of Relief and Social Services Department in Bethlehem, Mr. Tamer Zakkak, director of the (OCCC) and Mr. Alae Kharoub, the technical manager of (OCCC)

This year, the OCCC published a booklet about drug addiction in Palestine. The booklet contains information about specialized institutions that are engaged in drug addiction.

The conference came into its conclusion by discussing drug abuse matters, answering questions from social workers and professionals in the field.



Fr. Raed Abusahlia explained the work of Caritas Jerusalem in general and about the work of OCCC in particular. In his speech he stated “Caritas Jerusalem serves the poor and the drug addicts are the poorest of the poor among our community”.

Twenty two students graduated with the Professional Specialized Diploma in Drug Prevention and Technical Intervention for Drug Using and Addiction.



Caritas Jerusalem would like to thank Secours Catholique for funding the conference and Ile De France for funding the graduation and the publishing of the booklet.

The future belongs to those who believe



In 2016, Caritas Jerusalem launched a women's empowerment project in East Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Jericho which enabled us to train 80 women with sewing and designing skills, embroidery, beauty therapy and office management skills.

Caritas Jerusalem aims to improve the socio-economic status and involvement of women in Palestinian society, through strengthening their decision-making capabilities and economic productivity both inside and outside their homes.

Eight women who excelled in their trainings were granted startup project tools such as computers, sewing machines and hair salon supplies



H.A is a young woman from Jericho. She lives with her grandmother and her disabled sister. Both of them need her constant attention and care; but

somehow she managed to graduate from the Office Management course with distinction and was granted a computer and a printer.

“I don't believe it!” she exclaimed with tears in her eyes “You are really giving me this brand new computer. Now I can work from home and take care of my sister and grandma. I cannot thank you enough!”

Caritas Jerusalem would like to take this opportunity to thank Caritas Spain for funding this project.

How can you help?

Support our activities

Your support is essential to provide long-term assistance to our beneficiaries.

Please see below our bank details to make a donation:

Bank Name: Arab Bank

Swift Code: ARABPS 22110

Account number: 457793/0/510 USD

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Branch No: 9110

At Arab Bank in Al-Ram

P.O.Box: 2445-Al-Ram