



Dear friends,  
Fifty years serving with love

Caritas Jerusalem was established in 1967 after the six days war in order to meet the immediate needs of the Palestinian people in general and the Christian communities in particular. We work under the umbrella of Caritas Internationalis as an OM within the Mona region and the umbrella of the Assembly of the Catholic Bishops of the Holy Land.

Therefore our Caritas of Jerusalem in its history and location is incarnated in the Holy Land and would like to be a witness of Jesus Christ in His homeland... We expressed this mission in our Jubilee logo which represents the wall of the Old City of Jerusalem and the inside dome of the Church of the Anastasis within its center is the cross of Caritas surrounded with "Serving with Love" because we strongly believe from that empty tomb the light of the resurrection spread out all over the world which is the center of our faith.

We are proud to work with everyone without discrimination because our main goal is to serve with love to those who are in need and we try our best to reach the poorest of the poor in a country which is living in a continuous emergency and seeking security and stability.

This Jubilee is the time in which we would like to thank God for all the blessings we had and to renew our intention to continue our mission in the name of the Catholic Churches:

We thank all those who led this organization since the beginning and throughout these 50 years to grow and be the witness of the love of God and the compassion of the church.

We thank all our partners and sister Caritas organizations who sustained us tirelessly especially during difficult times; their contribution, solidarity and generosity helped us to continue our work.

We thank the faithful, who put their trust in us and were the reason of our existence, and we promise them to do our best to serve them better with all our heart and capacities.

This Jubilee is also an occasion to renew our commitment to serve and to be the instrument of the love of God to our people, because they are "the gift of God to us"

At the beginning of this Lent we would like to offer our work and commit our ongoing services in the name of the Church and to be, as we have always been "The Love of Christ to his People"

**Fr. Raed Abusahlia**  
General Director  
Caritas Jerusalem



## Helping Gaza children enjoy life



Stunting among Gazan children is increasing year after year and there is a concern about the long-term effects. According to The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in 2014, 7.4% of children under the age of five suffer from moderate and severe stunting; where the level of stunted growth among them reaches thirty percent. Stunting is caused mainly by malnutrition and it affects the physical activities of children where they cannot walk, run or play like other healthy children.

Caritas Jerusalem in cooperation with the Artificial Limbs and Polio Centre (ALPC)- which is the only center that provides artificial limbs in Gaza Strip was able to assist 24 children who suffer from stunting over the last two months. We were able to provide them with leg braces according to their identified needs.

These children come from families with very low income and depend on international support where they only receive the basic necessities of life. Many of them need medications, psychosocial support and assistive devices in order to avoid severe health problems.



This intervention is only one part of the project that we are operating in Gaza which is supported by Caritas International Belgium and Belgian Development Cooperation.

## *Small loans; Big dreams*



Small loans can help those who dream of a better life to become financially independent and self-sufficient. The micro-credit program is considered to be the backbone of Caritas Jerusalem. It grants four kinds of loans: education, house renovation, business development and for emergency needs.

The beneficiaries come from different places of the West Bank and Jerusalem to improve their social status by starting or developing small enterprises, creating job opportunities and encouraging the development of the community.



The people that we serve are determined to make their dreams come true and the loans that we offer give them the opportunity to achieve their goals.



Since the beginning of 2017, 11 cases were granted with small loans; five of them were allocated for house renovations, another five were given for income generating projects and one for higher education. *“Together, we work for a better future”*. Said Mr. Rami Hazzaz, Caritas Jerusalem’s Loans Officer



Caritas Jerusalem strives to enhance the economic performance of those who are capable of self-improvement.

## *The Future is in our Hands*



In February 2017, a one week youth camp entitled "The Future is in our Hands" was organized by Caritas Jerusalem's Old City Counselling Center. Eighty young men and women came from different parts of Palestine to Jericho to participate in an educative and entertaining program with sports, artistic and cultural activities.

The camp gave them a unique occasion to meet together and have guided discussions about drugs, alcohol and energy drinks that the teen are prone to fall into the trap of developing addictive habits.



The activities were geared to encourage them to express themselves and relieve the tension that they feel at home and they freely talked about their friends, families and the youth in general.

In addition, the camp provided them with role models and raised awareness on the negative effects of smoking and drinking. The coordinators were able to integrate a lot of fun and recreation with a variety of activities to raise their awareness to healthy eating and drinking.



The Old City Counselling Center (OCCC) was established in 1999 to offer integrated services to drug addicts, their families, the youth and residents of East Jerusalem especially in the Old City through counselling, support, prevention and guidance. The main goal of the center is to decrease drug use and abuse and its negative impact on the individual, the family and the society.



## Valentine's Day celebration

*Having you is a blessing*



Valentine's Day is where people show their love, appreciation and gratitude to each other usually in the form of cards, flowers, gifts or messages.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2017, Caritas Jerusalem's Elderly Day Care Center (EDCC) celebrated a special Valentine's Day with its senior citizens. Caritas Jerusalem celebrates this occasion with the elderly every year to demonstrate our love and care for them.



The EDCC staff decorated the place with red heart shaped balloons. The event started by praying the rosary with a nun from the Holy Rosary Missionary Sisters and telling the story of St. Valentine. "We hope that we will keep on taking care of our senior citizens with love " said Mrs. Grace Bro, The EDCC's social worker.

The event came to its conclusion by dancing, singing traditional songs together and giving red flowers while exchanging good wishes.

Caritas Jerusalem is thankful to all our local donors who made this event possible whether by donating the cakes or the flowers or the pastries.

### 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

Credit Account: Caritas Jerusalem

Branch No: 9110

At Arab Bank in Al-Ram

P.O.Box: 2445-Al-Ram