

Dear friends,

Promoting the education of our next generation is one of our core values in Caritas Jerusalem because the children of today will be our next leaders; broadening the horizons of our volunteers and giving them the opportunity to participate in activities outside of Palestine with lots of encounters with their peers is another thing that we strongly encourage.

Moreover, empowering the local rural communities to become self-reliant, especially in health matters is crucial for their quality of life and working with persons with disabilities is another area which needs a lot of awareness, interventions and support.

We are truly pleased to be able to have this integrated approach in order to reach out to the needy and marginalised communities, families and individuals and we are grateful for our partners in supporting our varied projects and programs on the ground.

Best regards,

George Handal
Acting General Director
Caritas Jerusalem



Youth World Peace Camp with Caritas Jordan



From the 16th to 24th of August 2017, five volunteers from Caritas Jerusalem's youth department participated in the youth world peace camp in Jordan in cooperation with Caritas Jordan under the theme "Now is the time" with the aim of empowering youth in peacemaking.

They also participated in a two-day event at the American University of Madaba which was considered to be the last phase of the Youth Camp. The aim was to share their personal experiences and plan initiatives to contribute to a more peaceful world with other 30 Arab and Foreign countries.

The camp has taught the youth the values of true peace by listening and respecting each other, which also helped them to understand the importance of sharing. Most of the activities involved art, music, singing and dancing where participants expressed themselves.

The Cardoch Zedan Scholarship



Participants also spent time with Syrian and Iraqi refugee families helping them in different tasks, playing with the children and trying to show them that they are not forgotten. They have also attended several workshops that were held by local institutions to raise awareness on the value of peace and love.

Mr. Tony Abdo, the coordinator of the youth department insisted on the importance of peacemaking in the Middle East, especially in Palestine by stating, *“Justice must be achieved and all the rights of the Palestinian people must be given before talking about peace and with justice we reach peace”*

Participating in youth camps has a long term effect on the youth as they represent the future and by guiding and encouraging them to work for peace they will be more educated and aware of the community’s needs.

“I had the pleasure to participate in this wonderful camp as I had the chance to exchange experiences with different youth from different cultures.” Said one of the volunteers who participated in the camp.

The Cardoch Zedan Scholarship is named after Jose Cardoch whose family is originally from Palestine. He was born in Chile but visited Bethlehem every year and loved the city and its people. After his passing away in 2014, his family established a student specific scholarship to honor his memory.



On the 13th of September 2017, three students from two local schools, the Latin Patriarchate School in Biet Sahour and College Des Freres in Bethlehem were awarded with full scholarships through the Foundation of Beleen 2000 in cooperation with Caritas Jerusalem.

Caritas Jerusalem and Beleen 2000 together selected these three students based on their academic performances, social status and ethics. *“This year, we have started this program with only three students and we hope to have more students in the near future. We are looking forward to seeing Iskandar, Rama and Elianor complete their education and become productive members of the society.”* Said Ms. Vivian Ghobar, the representative of Beleen 2000.



Mr. Francisco Bernales, the ambassador of Chile in Palestine, the consul of Chile Mr. Manuel Lara, Father Elias Taban, Mr. Anton Jaraiseh, the Director of the Latin Patriarchate school in Beit Sahour, Mr. George Naber the director of College Des Frères in Bethlehem, Mr. George Handal, the acting director of Caritas Jerusalem and Mrs. Mervat Naber, the Head of Social services dep. at CJ and the three students with their families attended the ceremony which took place in the Latin Patriarchate school in Biet Sahour.

invaluable time they invest in educating their children". Mr. Handal, the Acting Director of Caritas Jerusalem commented.



The event came to its conclusion by granting the scholarship certificates to the three students.

Local Health Committees *Funded by Caritas Spain*



"I would like to thank Beleen 2000 for their efforts and trust in Caritas Jerusalem for more than 10 years; I consider education is one of the most important aspects that Caritas Jerusalem works on to empower the Palestinian youth. I would also like to thank the directors and the families of the students for their efforts and the



On the 26th of September, 2017 the local health committee members in the West Bank area organized an open medical day in About (a Palestinian village, 30 km north of Jerusalem).

The open medical day included checkups, awareness raising workshops and follow ups by several medical specialists to support the community.

The specialists included: a general physician, a dermatologist, an ENT physician, an Orthopedic, and a dentist.



The physicians checked 60 beneficiaries, provided the treatment and medications needed to the patients and delivered lectures on several medical issues which are widespread in the community.

Moreover, the dentist administered free of charge teeth cleaning and oral hygiene to help prevent the build-up of plaque to avoid future complications.



The day ended with the specialists recommendations on regular checkups, healthy lifestyle and how to deal with chronic illnesses particularly diabetes and hypertension which are the most prevalent diseases among the older citizens of the villages.

The Local Health Committees project is a 3 year project funded by Caritas Spain. The project is implemented in five areas in the West Bank and four in the Gaza Strip. It aims to empower the local communities in the areas of intervention and promote various sectors of the Palestinian society by helping them to become leaders and instruments of change in their societies.

Women together

According to Palestinian Culture Bureau of Statistics, mobility is the most prevalent disability and affects 48.4% of disabled individuals in Palestine; 49.5% in the West Bank compared with 47.2% in the Gaza Strip. Therefore, Caritas Jerusalem strives to work with organizations that care for People with disabilities and give them all the support that they need.



Educating people about disabilities is another important aspect CJ feels the need to be addressed. Through workshops and trainings, CJ is able to reach the majority of the society and raise their awareness about disability. We are conducting awareness sessions in different areas in Palestine in cooperation with several local organizations in Bethlehem Governorate. These sessions mainly target primary caregivers, particularly mothers of disabled children in order to empower them in every way possible in their daily lives with their special children.



Ephpheta Paul VI is giving workshops for mothers in Halhul, a village near Hebron to increase their basic knowledge and give them tips on how to live with their deaf children. While, *Jemima* has reached mothers in Em Salamoneh and Wadi Al Nes, villages around Bethlehem to give physiotherapy sessions to the children and psychosocial sessions to their mothers in order to answer the physical and mental needs of their children. These mothers come from deprived

rural areas where such awareness raising activities do not exist.



Al Shurooq, is not only giving awareness sessions but also involving mothers in the rehabilitation and educational plan for their blind children. One of the most affective activity is bringing mothers into a sensory room with blindfolds to experience different obstacles that their children might face, “*This is the first time I feel what my son feels when he walks in the street while I drag him along in a hurry and not paying attention to the obstacles*” said one of the mothers while crying.



Working in the field of disability is not an easy mission; it needs patience, experience and good knowledge. Our work continues with hiring educated people with disabilities in decent places. In cooperation with YMCA Beit Sahour we succeeded in hiring 12 persons in several places such as municipalities and centers for a period of five months, *“Giving me the chance to work and feel productive is the medicine I am looking for”*. Said one of the persons with disability who was recently employed.



Caritas Jerusalem is truly thankful for our partner Caritas Poland who helped us get this fund from the Polish Development Cooperation Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.



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