

Dear friends,

Through our regular Newsletters we aim to give you an insight into the wide range of services we offer across the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in relieving suffering, promoting health and psychological wellbeing, and supporting development projects in cooperation with our local partners. At this time, while in Gaza through mobile trauma clinics and humanitarian aid our staff are caring for those wounded in the on-going violence, we bring you news of different projects in Jerusalem and the West Bank. These varied activities, from wheelchairs and scholarships to rural development and education in the prevention of drug abuse, are some of the ways that Caritas Jerusalem fulfils its mission as a humanitarian and development organization that represents the socio-pastoral services of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land.

As always, we thank you our partners and friends for your support without which Caritas could not serve the poor as it does. Together, in our different circumstances and ways of life, we try to live the Gospel as Jesus encourages us “For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” In this spirit of Gospel hospitality, we pray for peace in the Holy Land with dignity and justice for all its people.

Sr. Bridget Tighe FMDM
General Director

Changing lives through mobility



A.M is a 10-year-old boy from Gaza who suffers from Leukemia and is being treated at Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem. “*I love drawing and I am very good at it but when I finish taking the chemo sessions, I feel exhausted, nauseated and cannot move for days. This wheelchair will allow me to move around the hospital and meet my other friends here.*” said A.M



From the 17th to the 19th of April 2018, a delegation from the American Wheelchair Mission visited the Holy Land and distributed 140 wheelchairs in cooperation and coordination with Caritas Jerusalem's Social Services Department to institutions, hospitals and homebound senior citizens in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. These wheelchairs were distributed among 16 health, elderly and community centers that look after the sick, serve the poor and the most vulnerable.



Caritas Jerusalem has been working with the American Wheelchair Mission since 2011. Together we have been able to reach out to hundreds of people who were in desperate need for a wheelchair in order enable them to have some kind of independence and not rely completely on primary caregivers.



During the interview with Sr. Bridget Tighe, the General Director mentioned the possibility of organizing similar donation for Gaza. *“When I came here three month ago, the first thing I heard was about this wonderful gift of wheelchairs that Caritas gets from the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem to give to people in real need. This is an amazing gift to the people because if you are housebound, cannot get out and you have a good wheelchair, it gives you independence and it makes it easier for your carers to look after you. Thank you for raising the money and helping our people in the Holy Land.”* stated Sr. Bridget

The visit ended by participating in a Holy Mass at the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem where the members of the Mission offered brand new wheelchairs to nine housebound individuals.



Caritas Jerusalem would like to take this opportunity to thank the American Wheelchair Mission and the Equestrian Order for this gift of mobility and their continuous support.

Education is the future



One of the core aims of Caritas Jerusalem is to invest in education in order to empower the future generation and enable them to be active members of the society.

On the 30th of May 2018, Caritas Jerusalem in cooperation with Fundación Palestina Belen 2000 distributed 570 scholarships to cover part of the tuition fees of our needy Christian students in 20 private schools and 3 special education schools in the Bethlehem governorate.



Fr. Iyad Twal, the General Director of the Latin Patriarchate schools in Palestine and Jordan started the ceremony with a short prayer to bless this great gathering, *“One of the most important pillars to work on is education and the empowerment of our schools which is directly connected with our significant presence in this Holy Land.”*

The event took place at the Latin Patriarchate School in Beit Jala in the presence of Mr. Francesco Bernales, the Ambassador of Chile in Palestine, Ms. Vivian Ghobar, the representative of Fundación Palestina Belén 2000, Mr. Harout Bedrossian, on behalf of the General Director of Caritas Jerusalem and the schools’ directors, social workers and representatives.



“Caritas Jerusalem is involved in many projects and programs, in health, development, youth and education. This is one of my favorite programs where we reach out to the families by giving them a helping hand in covering part of the tuition fees.” Said Mr. Bedrossian. He also thanked the audience for coming, the team for working on this project for years,

Fundación Palestina Belen 2000 for their generous contribution and financial aid and for the wonderful teachers for their love, patience and compassion regardless of the challenging situation we live in.



Mr. Francesco Bernales, the Ambassador of Chile in Palestine was very pleased to share his extraordinary experience in participating in this important ceremony for the fifth year *“I have three roles to play; as an ambassador, a citizen and a Christian from Chile, and currently I am witnessing a decline in the number of Christians in this land, therefore, it is important to express our support for them by covering partial schools’ tuition fees for their children. I do also value the contribution that is done by Fundación Palestina Belen 2000 in Chile and the work that is done by Caritas Jerusalem. Mabrook to all”*

The ceremony came to its conclusion by cultural performances presented by the schools’ students and the delivering of the scholarships to the schools’ directors and representatives.

Caritas Jerusalem Holds its sixth Conference on Drug Abuse and Graduates its 3rd cohort of Social Workers



Caritas Jerusalem’s Old City Counselling Center (OCCC) was established in 1999 with the objective of helping the increasingly vulnerable population of East Jerusalem and focusing especially on drug addiction.

On Wednesday, the 27th of June 2018, the sixth conference titled “Drug addiction treatment in Palestine: Facts and Prospects” took place at Bethlehem University.

The conference in Bethlehem brought together political leaders, police officers, academics, social workers and other civil society representatives.



Br. Peter Bray, Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University *“We should listen to the youth with care and compassion in order to gain their trust.”*



Sr. Bridget Tighe FMDM, General Director of Caritas Jerusalem *“I appreciate the work of the OCCC. We are looking forward to collaborate with other organizations and have a greater impact in the fight against drug addiction.”*

Mr. Khaldoun Oweis, coordinator of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) *“I’m proud to be a graduate of this university and proud to be trained at Caritas Jerusalem. Currently, we are working on developing a therapy Center in Palestine.”*



Mr. Adnan Al Hussein, The Palestinian Governor of Jerusalem *“In Jerusalem, we live under occupation which helps the spread of drugs. It is a political issue not just a social one.”*

Mr. Issam Jweihan, the Coordinator of the Al Maqdisi Organization *“Everyone wanted to try, no one thought he would become an addict!”*



Colonel Dhafer Salah *“We thank Caritas Jerusalem for the work that it’s doing with the Police Academy in Jericho. Currently, we are following up with 2,000 cases in drug addiction.”*



Among the key speakers were the advocate Daoud Al Waari, the social worker, Sana Karja, the social worker, Anas Aloun and Dr. Safa from the Ministry of Health.

Since 2008, the OCCC runs a specific training program in cooperation with Bethlehem University aiming at preparing psychologists, social workers and students to work in the field of prevention and intervention in drug abuse. The diploma is recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education.

This year we had thirteen graduates: six young men and seven young women who are ready to pursue their careers in the fight against addiction.



The day came to its conclusion by the distribution of the diplomas.

Strengthening Community Capacity



Caritas Jerusalem strives to develop the local economy and improve the living standards of the citizens through its projects in Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza.

On the 10th of July 2018, Caritas Jerusalem's Food Security and Livelihood Department held an orientation meeting to announce the

launching of a socio – economic project for three years in Jenin Governorate, north of West Bank and the surrounding villages of Al Zababdeh, Marj Ben Amer and Burqeen.



The meeting took place at the Arab American University in the presence of representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture and the Social Development, representatives from the municipalities of Al Zababdeh, Marj Ben Amer and Burqeen as well as organizations that operate in rural development projects. They all gathered to discuss possible cooperation to develop the community through partners' dialogue.



This project aims to strengthen the socio-economic situation of the needy families by implementing 30 income-generating agricultural projects, 8 rural tourism projects in addition, we will sponsor 4 cultural events and organize trainings in new methods in cultivating the agriculture lands.



This project is funded by Caritas Belgium, Secours Catholique and Caritas Spain.



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