

UPA Connect

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MAJOR NEW PROJECTS Details inside

UPA Connect

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2014: International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

UPA Open House

Saturday, December 5th
3 - 6 PM

UPA Washington Office
1330 New Hampshire Ave NW
Suite 104
Washington, DC 20036

Meet staff and learn more about
UPA programs. Refreshments
provided. RSVP by sending an email to
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Letter from the Executive Director

During the recent Israeli assault and invasion of Gaza, three Palestinian surgeons from the West Bank traveled to Gaza to treat the wounded. As oral and maxillofacial surgeons, their expertise in treating injuries to the bones and tissue of the face was desperately needed. At a time when the Palestinian medical system was stretched beyond capacity, these surgeons volunteered to help those who otherwise would not receive treatment.

Those same three surgeons are an integral part of a new, major UPA initiative called the **Embracing Life Project**. The five-year project seeks to address another critical Palestinian need: care for children with cleft lips and palates, and other craniofacial anomalies.

As a first goal, the project will construct a Craniofacial Surgery Center that will include two operating theaters at a hospital in Ramallah.

International delegations organized by Dr. John van Aalst (see his letter inside) will come twice a year to treat patients, train Palestinian doctors and medical personnel and facilitate research on the causes of clefting among Palestinian children.

The ultimate objective of the project is for Palestinians to provide self-sufficient, comprehensive care for these patients. We are excited to be a part of this project and hope you will join us in making it a reality.

Sincerely,

Saleem F. Zaru
Executive Director



The UPA Connect newsletter is published quarterly by United Palestinian Appeal, Inc. (UPA). UPA was founded in 1978 as a non-profit humanitarian organization to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians, particularly those in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and refugee camps throughout the Middle East, and to contribute to the long-term socioeconomic and cultural development of Palestinian society.

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Children's Fund Quarterly Report: July – September 2015



Cultural and Social Nashet Association (Lebanon)

A positive development of young girls' status is encouraged by creating a safe place for 50 children and adolescent girls in Ein El-Hilweh camp through artistic, cultural and outdoor activities: handcraft, poetry, folkloric dancing and summer activities and life skills sessions. According to UNRWA, 63% of Palestine refugees are jobless; 70% of Palestine refugees in Lebanon are poor and cannot meet their minimal food and non-food livelihood requirements, and 6.6% are extremely poor. Poverty was higher among refugees living inside the camps than those in gatherings.

Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (Jerusalem)

The sea festival helps revive the musical and cultural life of the Gaza Strip, enhances the cultural infrastructure in Gaza and supports local ensembles and bands from all genres, by providing them with the opportunity to perform in the festival. The project builds on the ongoing efforts of the Gaza Music School, the ESNM branch in Gaza, in relation to nurturing the creative capacities and diversity that can sustain public life in Gaza. Since its establishment in 2008, the GMS became a conducive environment to the promotion of children's rights, as well as artistic freedom of expression as integral parts of basic human rights and freedoms.



Young Women's Christian Association - Jericho

Enhancement of children's livelihoods at YWCA KG in Aqbet Jaber refugee camp, through providing a secure and safe haven for learning. The YWCA was one of the first organizations that offered services to the Palestinian refugees after the Nakba in 1948 and started its center at Aqbet Jaber refugee camp, even before UNRWA was established; thus setting up through the years a good and reputable multi-functional community-based center that gained respect and developed a community sense of ownership. The YWCA has always been responsive to local needs, to the quality of services it provides to the local community members.

Vendor Carts in Gaza

With your support, UPA initiated an emergency youth employment project this summer in Gaza City. The Vendor Carts for Marginalized Families Project turns despair into hope by helping long-term unemployed young men who are heads-of-household start their own businesses.

After completing a two-week training program on how to run a small business, participants received a vendor cart and an interest-free loan for their proposed business.

A significant portion of Gaza's economy is based on the work of self-employed peddlers, who sell their products from mobile carts. In light of the scarcity of permanent employment in a stifled economy, this is a temporary option for generating quick, modest income for impoverished families.

Talking to the beneficiaries highlighted for me the critical need to expand this project to help others, including women, ASAP.



Healing Through Feeling

A child's path to a bright future begins with a healthy body and healthy mind. Through our Children's Fund, UPA has long been committed to supporting the physical well-being of children in Gaza.

We are now proud to announce the launch of our Healing Through Feeling program, which focuses on supporting the emotional well-being of children in Gaza traumatized by war and subsequent living conditions.

Healing Through Feeling is a school-based program where Palestinian mental health practitioners will provide kindergarteners and their caregivers with the education needed to understand and address their symptoms of trauma.

The program was developed by a team of professionals in child development and trauma in collaboration with colleagues in Gaza. We believe that awareness-building is a crucial step to healing and will begin the process for these children to grow, succeed and thrive.

Join us in helping more of Gaza's kids get on the path towards their own bright future!



How your donations are used:



In 2014, 97% of UPA's operating expenses were used for programs that directly benefit Palestinian communities in need.

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