



2011 Annual Report

UPA United Palestinian Appeal
Transforming lives, empowering communities

Letter from the Board

During 2011, UPA worked to expand opportunities and provide hope for Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip continued to suffocate that area's economy, causing poverty and suffering among the population. To encourage greater economic activity in Gaza and to give families there a sense of independence and hope for the future, UPA supported rooftop gardens and rabbit-breeding programs. We also funded the construction of a desalination plant that provides safe drinking water to thousands of Gaza residents.

In the West Bank, UPA continued its support for projects that help Palestinians build a better future for themselves and their families. These include sustainable agricultural training for women in an impoverished region of the Bethlehem district; special education at the Spafford Children's Hospital in Jerusalem; and vocational training scholarships in Ramallah. Our in-kind shipment of textbooks will provide Palestinian students at Al-Quds University with academic texts that are in short supply.

Our scholarship program continues to help students who might not otherwise be able to attend university, while our child sponsorship program provided basic care and education to the most vulnerable children.

We appreciate the ongoing commitment and generosity of our donors. Without your support, none of what we do would be possible. Your compassion has helped transform Palestinian lives and empower Palestinian communities.

With gratitude,

The Board of Trustees

Mission Statement

United Palestinian Appeal works to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians and to contribute to the long term socioeconomic and cultural development of Palestinian society.

UPA helps promote a self-sufficient Palestinian society through initiating programs and projects that advance a sustainable economy.

History

UPA was established in 1978 in the State of New York by a group of Palestinian-Americans who shared the vision of creating a charity that would assist needy Palestinians. Included below are some of UPA's accomplishments:

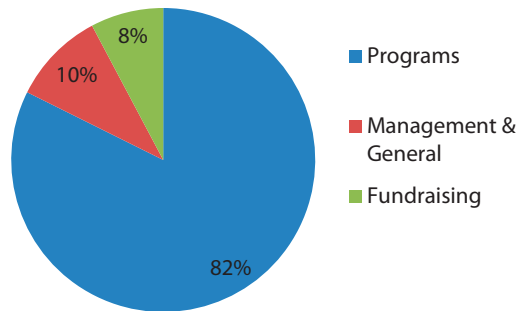
- 1985-1990** UPA funds the construction of a \$2.4 million nursing college on the Mount of Olives, the first modern 4-year nursing institution in Palestine.
- 1985-1987** UPA sends \$450,000 in emergency medicines and supplies to Palestinian refugees in southern Lebanon.
- 1986** UPA initiates child sponsorship and university scholarship programs.
- 1987** With the outbreak of the first intifada, UPA shifts its funding priorities to emergency medical relief for intifada-related injuries.
- 1989** UPA becomes the first Palestinian-American charity accepted by the United States Combined Federal Campaign.
- 1994** In the wake of the Oslo agreement, UPA focuses on programs aimed at the long-term socioeconomic recovery and development of Palestinian society in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- 2002-2004** In response to unemployment caused by the second intifada, UPA is awarded a \$2.7 million grant by USAID for an emergency employment generation project that it implements with the Welfare Association.
- 2006** UPA facilitates pharmaceutical shipments to the Gaza Strip and Lebanon worth \$9.2 million.
- 2009** UPA commits more than \$152,000 towards providing water, food, first-aid kits and plastic sheeting to those devastated by the war in the Gaza Strip.
- 2010** UPA distributes \$4.7 million in pharmaceuticals to UNRWA in the Gaza Strip.
- 2011** UPA donates textbooks worth \$479,037 to Al-Quds University.

2011 Financial Summary

Since 1980, UPA has worked with partner organizations in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and refugee camps in Lebanon to fulfill its mission. UPA works towards improving the life of one child, one college student and one family at a time. In 2011, UPA devoted \$1,144,302, or 82.3 percent of total expenditures, to program activities. The following sections highlight projects that UPA and its partners implemented in the following four sectors: Education and Scholarships; Child Sponsorship; Community Development; and Health and Welfare.

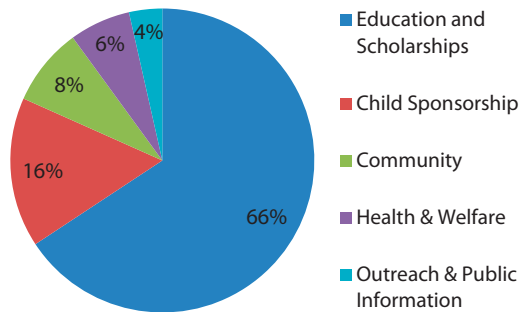
Total Expenses

UPA expenses totalled \$1,389,567 for 2011



Program Expenses

UPA expenses outlays totalled \$1,144,302 for 2011



Audited financial statements and IRS Form 990s for 2011 and previous years are available online at helpupa.org.

Education & Scholarships

- **Textbooks:** Distributed textbooks worth \$479,037 to Al-Quds University (Jerusalem).
- **University Scholarships:** Awarded 96 year-long scholarships to Palestinian students at the following 7 universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip via the UPA Scholarship Program:

Institution	Location	Students
Al-Azhar University	Gaza City	27
Al-Quds University	Jerusalem	38
Arab American University of Jenin	Jenin	4
Bethlehem University	Bethlehem	9
Birzeit University	Birzeit	1
Palestine Polytechnic University	Hebron	10
University of Palestine	Al-Zahra, Gaza Strip	7

- **Special Education:** Provided 243 children and youth one to three semesters of special education and speech therapy at Spafford Children's Hospital (Jerusalem).
- **Transportation:** Granted \$10,500 to the Hope Fund (Lexington, Virginia) to pay the transportation costs of Palestinian students attending American universities.
- **Vocational Scholarships:** Awarded 17 scholarships worth \$1,000 each for students to attend the Inash Al-Usra College (Ramallah).

UPA scholarship recipients at Bethlehem University.



Child Sponsorship

- **Al-Bait Assamed Association Society (Gaza City):** Uniforms, games, and school supplies for 15 students.
- **An-Nahda Women's Association (Ramallah):** Transportation and daily hot meals for 21 students from poor families in refugee camps and villages for a three-month period.
- **Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children (Gaza City):** Transportation, hearing aid batteries, and ear molds for 89 children.
- **El-Lid Charitable Society (Nablus):** Summer clothes, shoes and clothes for playing sports, school uniforms, and school supplies for 74 children, as well as 14.5 kg of olive oil for their families.
- **Helen Keller School (Jerusalem):** Braille books and clothes for 13 children.
- **Ramallah Local Church (Ramallah):** A new playground and equipment benefiting 18 sponsored children and local residents.
- **Rawdat El-Zuhur (Jerusalem):** Storytelling and computer workshops for 22 children. Music, drama, and dancing classes for 40 children.

The Helen Keller School provides education, vocational training and therapy to visually impaired young people with developmental disabilities.



Community Development

- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Trained 20 women from Nehalin and surrounding villages in organic farming, greenhouse gardening, for-profit farming, grape vineyard farming, tree care and fruit tree farming, medicinal use of plants and herbs, vegetable gardening, and animal husbandry via a grant to the Tent of Nations (Bethlehem).
- **Rooftop Gardens:** Provided 40 families living below the poverty line with the necessary materials to build a rooftop garden (fertilizer, water tanks, cement, rock, and soil), along with technical training on sustainable agriculture methods, via a grant to the Palestinian Center for Youth Work (Gaza City).
- **Rabbit Production Units:** Distributed rabbits, cages, and fodder to 45 women and provided training in raising rabbits via a grant to the Palestinian Wefaq Association (Jabailya, Gaza Strip).

Health & Welfare

- **Water Desalination:** Supported 2,350 families in the Shatti Refugee Camp and Sheikh Radwan District to receive safe drinking water every 7-15 days via a grant to the Benevolent Society for the Disabled (Gaza City).



Women in the Bethlehem district learn sustainable agriculture methods from a teacher with Tent of Nations.



"I chose to obtain a master's degree in information systems because I love management and everything related to computers. This degree will give me the knowledge and skills to pursue a career in the constantly changing field of modern technology. The textbooks that UPA donated to us will add to the resources that my classmates and I need to become better software engineers."

— Hussain Mustafa Hussain Afnah, al-Quds University, Class of 2012

Front Cover: Girls with the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children, the only institution in Gaza dedicated solely to meeting the needs of deaf children. Atfaluna provides education, training, health care, counseling, social assistance, and job placement services.

UPA

United Palestinian Appeal

1330 New Hampshire Ave NW • Suite 104
Washington, DC 20036

Website: helpupa.org • Email: contact@helpupa.org
Telephone: 202-659-5007 • Fax: 202-296-0224