

2012 Annual Report



United Palestinian Appeal, Inc.
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*UPA is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
Contributions are tax-deductible according to applicable laws.*

*"Here, where the hills slope
...we cultivate hope"
-Mahmoud Darwish*

UPA **United Palestinian Appeal**
Transforming lives, empowering communities

Letter from the Board

After 35 years of service, United Palestinian Appeal, Inc., remains committed to its mission of alleviating the suffering of Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza and refugee camps throughout the Middle East.

UPA was founded in 1978 by a group of Palestinian-American professionals and businessmen to provide a reliable means of supporting Palestinians in need.

It was out of a heartfelt commitment to them that UPA responded with emergency relief and development assistance.

This same commitment continues to guide our work today. Our support to Palestinian human and institutional capacity building has helped contribute to today's vibrant Palestinian civil society.

Thirty-five years on, UPA continues to work with organizations on the ground and rooted in the Palestinian community.

Through your support and compassion we continue to transform lives and empower communities.

With gratitude,

The Board of Trustees

Mission Statement

United Palestinian Appeal, Inc., is a non-profit organization that 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.

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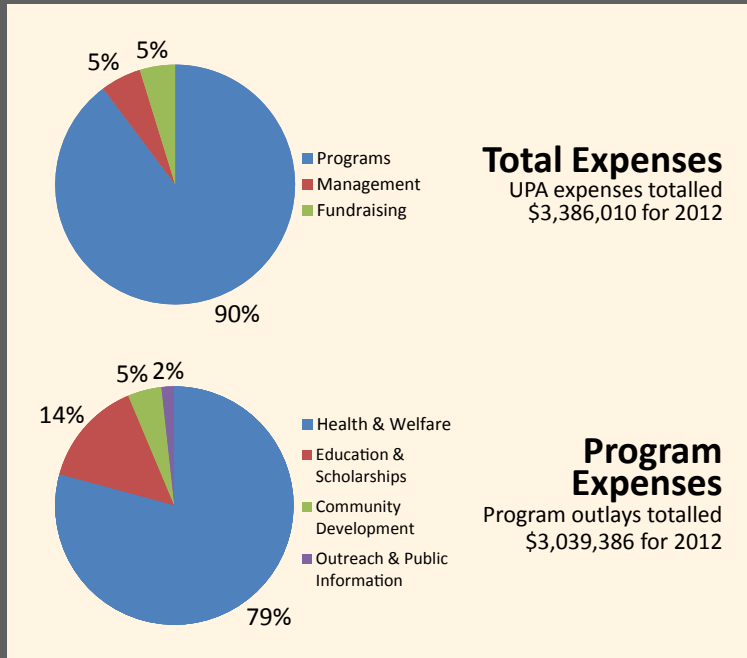
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2012 Financial Summary

UPA works with partner organizations in the West Bank, Gaza and refugee camps to improve the life of one child, one student and one family at a time. In 2012, UPA devoted \$3,039,386, or 90 percent of total expenditures, to program activities.



UPA: A Four-Star Charity

Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator, has given UPA its **highest rating** of four out of four stars, for financial health, accountability and transparency.



Audited financial statements and IRS Form 990s for 2012 and prior years are available online at helpupa.org.

In-Kind Gifts Program

- **Pharmaceutical Shipment (Lebanon):** Donated \$2.2 million worth of needed pharmaceuticals to refugees in Lebanon.

Emergency Relief Program

- **Hygiene Kits (Khan Younis, Gaza):** Distributed 200 hygiene kits to families in Khan Younis affected by the November 2012 assault on Gaza through the Al-Huda Development Association.
- **Winter Clothing (Jabailya, Gaza):** Distributed sweaters and jackets to 200 of the neediest families affected by the Gaza assault through the Palestinian Wafaq Association.



A UPA partner organization assesses the damage during the November 2012 assault.

University Scholarship Program

Since 1986, UPA's Scholarship Program has helped nearly 2,000 Palestinian students realize their dream of higher education at universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Recipients must demonstrate academic excellence, financial need and a desire to give back to their community and nation. During 2012, UPA awarded 50 year-long scholarships:

Institution	Location	Students
Al-Quds University	Jerusalem	21
Arab American University of Jenin	Jenin	4
Bethlehem University	Bethlehem	6
Palestine Polytechnic University	Hebron	6
University College of Applied Sciences	Gaza City	11
University of Palestine	Al-Zahra, Gaza	2



Students at Bethlehem University.

Education Grants

- **Vocational Training and Scholarships (Ramallah):** Awarded a grant to In'ash al-Ura for 17 female students to receive vocational training and 30 female students to attend university.



- **Book Shipment (Gaza):** Donated \$260,458 worth of books to children's libraries and schools in Gaza.



Children's Fund

- **Al-Huda Development Association (Khan Younis, Gaza):** Hot meals, physiotherapy and counseling for 100 needy children, ages 3 to 5.
- **Allfriends Services Society (Al-Amari Refugee Camp, Ramallah):** Educational materials, books and supplies for 100 kindergartners, ages 3 to 6.
- **Alrowwad Cultural and Theatre Center for Children (Aida Refugee Camp, Bethlehem):** Summer camp activities for 2,000 children, ages 3 to 6, with learning disabilities and behavioral problems.
- **An-Nahda Rehabilitation Center (Ramallah):** Fuel for the center's bus and heating system and a new copy machine, which benefited 78 children with disabilities.
- **Atfaluna (Gaza City):** Transportation, school uniforms, shoes, school bags and hot meals for 40 impoverished, malnourished deaf children.
- **Cultural Charitable and Social Society (Nablus):** Fuel for heating system and medicine at shelter for 30 infants and children and 30 elderly people.
- **El-Lid Charitable Society (Nablus):** School uniforms, book bags and supplies for 120 children from nearby refugee camps.
- **Home of Life (Ramallah):** Remodeled a playground that serves over 50 children.



"When I first told a story, I was shy and a bit scared. Answering questions made me more confident because I knew they cared," said Rafik, a student in drama and storytelling class at Rawdat El-Zuhur.

- **Hope Flowers School (Bethlehem):** Hot meals for 220 malnourished children.
- **Hope Secondary School (Beit Jala):** Desks, chairs, blackboards, chalk and laptop computers for classrooms used by 124 children.
- **National Society for the Visually Handicapped (Beit Jala):** Six computers and special software used to teach speech to 36 blind children.
- **Rawdat El-Zuhur (Jerusalem):** Drama and storytelling classes and computer workshops. Conflict resolution classes for 100 children.
- **St. John's Eye Hospital (Jerusalem):** Surgical tools needed for "squint" eye surgery, which helps prevent blindness and visual impairment, for children between the ages 1 to 18.
- **Various schools in the Bethlehem District:** School tuition, uniforms, books and supplies to 30 special needs and/or impoverished children.
- **Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center (Bethlehem):** Taught 30 children, ages 12 to 15, peer mediation techniques.
- **Young Women's Christian Association (Jalazoun Refugee Camp, Ramallah):** Kindergarten instruction and recreation for 80 children, ages 3 to 5.

Despite having Down's syndrome, Barah (pictured at right) receives an education, at An-Nahda Rehabilitation Center.



Micro-Finance Program

- **Soft Loans for Micro-Projects (Jabailya, Gaza):** Provided small loans to help unemployed, impoverished Palestinians start small businesses through the Palestinian Wefaq Association, including the following:



▲ *Mohammed Abu Warda's poultry farm on the roof of his home*



▲ *Amani Al Sakany's home classroom*



▲ *Ayman Adwan's plastic recycling business*

Community Development

- **Umm al-Khair Rebuilding Project (Hebron):** With a grant to the Hebron International Resource Network, helped rebuild a family home demolished by the Israeli military.
- **Al-Bayyara Playground Project (Ramallah):** Built four parks and established six playgrounds around the West Bank, in partnership with ANERA, the Bank of Palestine, and Basem and Muna Hishmeh.



▲ *Faisal Abu Warda's concrete block plant*



▲ *Abdul Hai Abu Mehadi's shop for small goods, cold drinks and sweets*



Accomplishments

UPA was established as a non-profit organization 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 Palestinians in need. Included below are some of UPA's past accomplishments.

- 1985-1990** UPA funds the construction of a \$2.4 million nursing college on the Mount of Olives, the first modern four-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.
- 2012** UPA donates \$2.2 million in pharmaceuticals to refugees in Lebanon and \$260,000 in books to Gaza.

For more information visit www.helpupa.org.

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This list includes all donors who gave at least \$500 during 2012.

\$100,000 or More

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