

* As attachment and inline text

26 May 2004

Project Hope Progress Report

Currently Project Hope has a number of different activities under way, including Art, English classes and even an Italian class. We are also exploring expansion into Gaza and Tulkarem. In both locations we have a new group of Palestinians and a coordinator that will experiment with a few projects, while we attempt to allocate resources for growth.

This report is devoted to a grassroots music project: ordinary people helping ordinary people. A series of music workshops were held in the West Bank by a group of music students from Amsterdam. It was a collaborative effort of their ideas and Project Hope's facilitation. The project was called "**Music for Music.**"

The words from two of the "Music for Music" volunteers are used to describe the project:

Music for Music

A. Project Summary (Robert Smith)

For 10 days in early May, an international group of 6 musicians from Amsterdam held a series of music workshops across the West Bank. Most of the workshops were hosted by Project Hope, involved children between the ages of 3 - 16 and anywhere between 30 and 200 kids per workshop.

Workshops involved performances of a wide variety of music - from 12th Century Portugese folk music to modern Jazz and art-music. Another major element was participation of the children, sometimes singing their own songs - a real boost for confidence singing in front of your peers and strangers - or taking part in spontaneous improvisations, making great music together with the musicians. The children also learned traditional songs from Europe and Africa. The workshops (which lasted about 2 hours each) usually ended with a pounding drum beat, blaring saxophone and trombone, and lots of crazy dancing - it was really hard to spot a child without a smile on his face.

Six workshops took place in Nablus - in centres in Balata and Askar refugee camps, and in the city. After Nablus, the musicians moved onto the village of Jayyous for more workshops, and, after a visit to Tulkarm, onto Hebron. The workshops in Hebron were hosted by an organisation patroned by the infamous Dutch Lady, Gretta Duisenberg.

Other highlights were an impromptu 5-hour gig at Hwara checkpoint outside Nablus while the musicians waited to enter - possibly the first time loud singing and dancing have occurred at a checkpoint. There were big grins across the faces of Palestinians and soldiers alike, at least for a while.

The musicians felt very welcomed by all they met, and thought it was so successful that ideas for another trip in 2005 are already being thrown around.

B. Photos (Thomas Myrmel)

1) Here's a photo of the four guys and Samah on our way to Jayyous after leaving Nablus. It doesn't show the whole group, but we were four for the large part of the trip:

www.musicformusic-palestine.fotopic.net/p4642237.html

2) Here's Bob teaching a call and response to a lot of interested boys in Jayyous:

www.musicformusic-palestine.fotopic.net/p4642254.html

3) Here is Tiago singing a love song and trying to give a flower to a very shy little girl in Askar refugee camp at the women's center:

www.musicformusic-palestine.fotopic.net/p4642181.html

Music for Music: www.musicformusic-palestine.fotopic.net

Project Hope: www.palhope.net