

PROJECT HOPE UPDATE

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I. English

English as a Second Language remains our largest course offering. Average monthly enrolment in 2005 exceeded 200 students for 2 466 total placements. The courses afford opportunities for intercultural exchange and constructive dialogue while addressing the importance of English as a skill to gain employment in Palestine.



II. Election Observer Missions

On 25th January '06 Project Hope contributed a 14 person observer team to the Palestinian legislative elections. On 15th December '05 we contributed a 10 person team to Nablus' municipal election. The former comprised 12 international volunteers, the latter 8. We are proud not only to have contributed to the Palestinian democratic process, but also of the budget for our legislative mission: 42 \$USD total to cover transportation costs. Our municipal election mission was carried out with no budget.



III. 2005 Summary

2005 was a successful year for our Program:

- Average 200+ English students per month for a total 2466 placements
- Four major art projects for 200+ participants
- Two-month drama course for 38 students
- Music workshops and performances for 1000+ children by Music 4 Music*
- Launching of an independent Palestinian Circus "As-Sirk As-Saghir" that comprises 15 - 20 youth volunteers per month performing in shows for 1000+ children*
- Cinema Against Checkpoints traveling cinema for 600 participants
- Penpal, French and Spanish activities
- 50+ international volunteers from 13 different countries participating in our program in long-term voluntarships or short-term special projects
- Average of 25+ Palestinian volunteers per month
- 14 training and cultural placements in Europe for our Palestinian volunteers, thanks to support from European partner organizations
- Projects with 30 different community organizations and 9 schools

IV. Select Activities, June '05 to January '06

A. "Walls Around Me" Student Art Exhibition

This exhibition was organized by Project Hope for 80 university students in conjunction with the Fine Arts Department of An Najah University. The subject refers to the Separation Wall that has had such a profound affect on daily Palestinian life. It could refer to any barrier or limitation that the participant has had to confront or accept in their everyday life. The wall could be one of their own choosing or one they created to protect their vulnerability. Ten prizes of differing value were awarded from £500 fundraised by a volunteer British instructor.



B. Eid al Adha (Hajj) Holiday Children's Activities

During the Islamic holidays in January 2006 we organized two large children's shows supported by the now independent Palestinian Circus "As-Sirk As-Saghir." On Wednesday 11th January we held a show for 100 children in the New Askar refugee camp and on Saturday 14th January for 150 children in the Al Ein refugee camp.

C. Cinema Against Checkpoints

Palestinians have an insatiable appetite for films, particularly American. There is no cinema in Nablus so our staff decided to create a traveling cinema for public showings at appropriate times during the holidays around Ramadan and the Hajj. In conjunction with our close partner the *DARNA Centre* we reached 600 people during Ramadan in Nablus and the nearby villages of Tel, Assira Shamalieh and Beit Dajan. During Hajj we had two showings in Nablus for 100 people. The films shown were in English with Arabic subtitles. They were: "Kingdom of Heaven," "War of the Worlds," "I, Robot," "Bab el Shams (Arabic)," "Batman Begins" and "the Motorcycle Diaries."

Project Hope's program is more than just skills development. It provides an intrinsic sense of structure and normalcy for children and youth whose confidence in the world around them has been shattered by continuous violent conflict. Our activities provide support for local institutions, civil society and cultural life. We are not simply building capacity through an infusion of knowledge and skills from our International Volunteers. We know well that there are already skilled local Palestinian professionals that know what difficulties their community faces and what might be done to address them. We support the work of these people in our organization as a purely transnational organization that is guided by community leadership.

2005 was a strong year for our program while in January 2006 we had activities for a record 600+ children and youth. Special thanks to our many dedicated volunteers and small staff.

If you would like more Information about Project Hope or to find out how you can Support Us, go to www.projecthope.ps or email projecthope@mail.com

