

PROJECT HOPE UPDATE

September 2006



www.projecthope.ps

CONTENTS:

- I. English & French
 - II. Art (Mural)
 - III. Drama, Music & Dance
 - IV. Social Justice Workshops
 - V. Support Us & Our Supporters
-

This update includes the six minute video "Messengers of Hope." The video features the work of Project Hope with footage from July/August of 2006. We hope you can take just several minutes to watch this video. We are proud of the important work we are doing *from the community level up*. Simply look for *Moomtastic's "Messengers of Hope"* on YouTube.com:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfhPOuBygh0&mode=related&search>

Messengers of Hope can also be found by looking for the Moomtastic Videos on our website - www.projecthope.ps - or by going to Moomtastic videos - www.moomtastic.com -

I. ENGLISH & FRENCH

English is the common language of world community. It allows Palestinians to be members of the global economy and community. English is often the difference to get a job in an economy wrought by a spiraling unemployment crisis, escalating poverty and over-dependence on unreliable foreign assistance. It is the common problem that the poorer and more marginalized communities, such as refugee camps, have lower-than-normal levels of access to good language programs and fluent instructors. This contributes to a cycle of marginalization.

English remains Project Hope's flagship program for Palestinian children and youth. Classes are an opportunity to learn an important skill while having a break from a violent and oppressive environment. Classes are fun, practical and often taught by international volunteers from around the world. French likewise represents a link to the international community and increased job prospects with many French organizations working in Palestine. The size of Project Hope's French program has been growing due to increased demand and the availability of French-speaking volunteers. In August of this year 181 students were placed in English classes and 81 in French.



English Class



French Class

II. ART (MURAL)

Under the guidance of an American and two local Palestinian volunteers, 15 children painted a fifteen meter long mural in Balata Refugee Camp. It is the largest and one of the most troubled West Bank refugee camps. The activity was a chance for the children to have a little fun while creating something beautiful for their community to enjoy.



III. DRAMA, MUSIC & DANCE

Drama, music and dance offer an opportunity for children to explore their imaginations and expand their horizons in an enjoyable manner. Thanks to our volunteers, in August of this year we were able to offer special programs to 30 children in drama and to 37 children in music and dance.

Drama activities consisted of role-play, imagining different situations, experimentation with different ways to walk, and the imitation of movement and sounds like animals. Music involved basic experimentation with the flute and guitar. Children learnt some basics of the instruments. They also sang along to some tunes.



Music



Drama



Girl's Yoga

Dance incorporated aspects of yoga, authentic movement, improvisation/composition and butoh dance. Yoga is a form of exercise and relaxation. Authentic movement is a very simple and therapeutic form of movement. It makes use of trust exercises where one person moves blindfolded while depending on their partner for guidance. Improvisation/Composition uses movement according to various simple structures. Butoh dance is a form of improvisational dance based on movement from inner impulses that involve as little thought as possible.

IV. SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOPS

These Canadian-supported workshops are a forum for Palestinian youth to discuss contemporary topics such as: democracy, good governance, globalization, cultural diversity, indigenous rights, conflict resolution, humanitarian assistance, voluntarism, social justice and human rights. Each workshop is introduced and moderated by an instructor either of Palestinian or foreign background, conducted in Arabic and on occasion in English. The idea is not to “teach” but to discuss. This program will not officially get underway until October of 2006 but we have run several well-received preparatory workshops.



V. SUPPORT US & OUR SUPPORTERS

We are proud of our hard work and accomplishments in the face of adversity, serving Palestinian children and youth. We hope you agree. If you or anyone you know are interested in supporting or volunteering with Project Hope, please feel free to contact us. It is the efforts of ordinary everyday people that make Project Hope possible and there are a number of ways to get involved.

TALK ABOUT PROJECT HOPE: Help spread the word about Project Hope by sharing our update and information about us with anyone or any organization you think might be interested. It is possible to subscribe to our periodic updates by emailing us at projecthope@mail.com

VOLUNTEER WITH US: There are two ways to volunteer with Project Hope. One is to volunteer in our programs for Palestinian children and youth. The other is to ask about ways to get involved as a volunteer from abroad.

DONATE: Project Hope makes the most out of every donation, subscribing to an ethos of strict financial efficiency. In this way and through the support of thousands of volunteer hours we have been able to work on an elevated level not expected of an organization with a very limited budget. To make a donation you can look for the “Support Us” section of our website, contact us directly or make a donation through the Paypal icon in the “Support Us” section or by logging on to Paypal.com and donating to projecthope@mail.com. Every individual donation counts, whether \$100, \$50 or even \$20. Our work is made possible by the donations of ordinary people like you.

SUPPORT OUR FAIR TRADE, NON-PROFIT SUPPORTERS:

Zaytoun in the United Kingdom – www.zaytoun.org –

Zaytoun purchased from Project Hope thousands of bars of Palestinian olive oil soap produced by Nablus’ ancient soap industry. Profits from this sale support our humanitarian programs. Purchasing the soap from Zaytoun is a way of supporting Project Hope.

Zatoun in Canada – www.zatoun.com –

Zatoun Canada has been Project Hope’s primary supporter in 2006. Profits from every sale of Zatoun Palestinian olive oil goes towards Project Hope. Zatoun products are available across Canada and in the United States. Supporting Zatoun helps support Project Hope, while Zatoun is always on the look-out for new markets.

Join the campaign to help stop child poverty: <http://www.stopchildpoverty.org>