

# PROJECT HOPE UPDATE

July 2007



[www.projecthope.ps](http://www.projecthope.ps)

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### I. English as a Second Language

Project Hope continues with its high demand English classes throughout Nablus. We are holding classes at partner centers in the refugee camps: Balata, Old Askar, New Askar and Al-Ain. In addition, we have classes in the Old City of Nablus and Nablus itself. Target groups range from children to adults, while English as a Second Language remains our flagship program. The Project Hope goal is to reintegrate students into society through participation in our language classes.

The size of Project Hope's English program has been growing due to increased demand and availability of English- speaking volunteers. We placed nearly 300 students in English classes in June.



British Volunteer teaching English in Nablus



French Consular officials visiting an English class in Nablus

## II. French as a Second Language and other Languages

The second language in our program, we began teaching French alongside English in the refugee camps: Balata, Old Askar, New Askar and Al-Ain. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of April we have received financial support from the French Consulate in Jerusalem for the existing French as a Second Language program, with a view of expanding this provision. This support will continue for a period of one year.

The size of Project Hope's French program has been growing due to increased demand and availability of French-speaking volunteers. In the months of April and May of this year 55 students were placed in French classes each month.



French class in Balata Refugee Camp



French class in Askar Refugee Camp

### ***Other Languages:***

Spanish and German classes were offered to Palestinian students by our volunteers, the students mostly being graduates with the intention of continuing their studies in Spain or Germany.

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of May Project Hope started teaching Arabic to the international volunteers for use in their daily lives in Nablus.

## III. Social Justice Workshops

Project Hope continues with its Social Justice workshops. They are a forum used to explore topics related to issues in Social Justice & Human Rights. The primary aim is to provide an open environment where Palestinian youth can discuss their different views in each workshop. We invite international volunteers and scholars to participate in the program, but on the condition that they can converse in Arabic.



Instructor Hassan leading a workshop in Balata Refugee Camp

#### **IV. Arts and Music**

Each month Project Hope runs a variety of creative artistic activities, such as painting, music and dance. They offer an opportunity for children to explore their imagination and expand their horizons while having fun. It is the best chance for kids to be kids.

##### *Car Project*

This project was organized by 7 university students from the Fine Arts Department of An-Najah University along with 3 international volunteers. The idea was to find a means to create a mobile exhibition. An old car was found and remodeled to become an "Exhibition on Wheels," which was finally exhibited in an amusement park.



##### *Wall paintings: A community Improvement Project*

Two Project Hope international team members worked on art projects together with 15 kids in February and March. In the first project 12 kids painted a wall of the Childhood Happiness Center in Balata Refugee Camp, for the second 3 kids painted the walls of the Al Ashbal center in Nablus. A fun activity for the young Palestinians, it was also a chance for them to beautify their surroundings with culturally significant images through art.

##### *Music*

Our recent music activities involved basic training with the flute, cello and guitar. Children and youth learned the basics of the instruments and also sang along to tunes at the Nablus Center in Old Askar Camp and Nablus the Culture in Nablus.



## V. Kids Party

Project Hope organizes or sponsors parties every year. In May, an event was held for 45 children at the Child Culture Center and 85 in New Askar Camp. Project Hope asked As-Sirk As-Saghir to perform at the event; As-Sirk As-Saghir is a Palestinian circus, and an independent youth-led initiative which was founded with the assistance of Project Hope.



## VI. BUY ZATOUN: SUPPORT PROJECT HOPE, SUPPORT PALESTINIAN FARMERS

“Zatoun is Palestine in a Bottle”

Zatoun is a registered non-profit with a mission to bridge Palestine and North America using culturally-significant products. It is sold primarily through the activist and grassroots network or via the Internet. Zatoun helps to support the Palestinian economy through the purchase of Palestinian products.

Zatoun is one of Project Hope's primary donors. Since 2004 it has donated over \$30,000 from sales of olive oil. A valuable way to support Project Hope is to support Zatoun by: 1) buying Zatoun products for yourself or to give as gifts; 2) speaking about Zatoun products to people you know; and 3) becoming a depot where Zatoun's products can be sold from in your city in Canada or the USA.

Zatoun is an important active partner of Project Hope. Most recently, to lend greater financial support, Zatoun is selling a gift collection of traditional olive oil soap from Nablus. Project Hope receives \$5 from the sale of every box. Please contact us to become a Zatoun supporter or [info@zatoun.com](mailto:info@zatoun.com).

*\* As of 20 June 2007 \$1 Canadian = 0.94 \$USD*



Art class in Al Ain Refugee Camp

Contact us now to find out how to help! Visit our website at [www.projecthope.ps](http://www.projecthope.ps) or email us at [projecthope@mail.com](mailto:projecthope@mail.com)