



Project Hope Newsletter

July 2008

Dear Project,

New support by the [Canadian Auto Workers Union's "Social Justice Fund"](#) with continuing support from both [Zatoun](#) and Project Hope's individual donors has meant we were able to launch in June our new "Bridge to the World" program. Its goal is to teach vital new skills, provide mental relief and create a bridge to the outside world for young Palestinians. It is based around a core program of English and French, International Volunteers, Blogs and E-pal (email) exchanges. Increased capacity allowed us to work with 800+ Palestinian youth in June 2008 in both limited and regular programs or activities.

Project Hope has continued to host dozens of international volunteers over the past several months. At the same time our Team includes dozens of Palestinian youth, many of them university students, who volunteer with Project Hope to assist in the instruction of activities. With Project Hope they gain invaluable administrative, linguistic (English and French) and international experience that helps them to develop their skills for a greater advantage in their future careers. Some of them even get to participate in training or cultural opportunities abroad with Project Hope.

In the below newsletter you will find descriptions of our recent activities. We also ask that you consider donating and/or recruiting people to donate to Project Hope to allow us to make our work possible. We work in one of the most difficult places to work, where it is most needed. Just a small donation of \$20 every 3 months or \$80 per year makes a major impact.

More information on donating can be found at the end of this email or by clicking on donate link to donate by credit card or Paypal.

Yours Truly,

The Project Hope Team
Humanitarian Opportunities for Peace and Education
www.projecthope.ps

IN THIS ISSUE[ENGLISH \(ESL\)](#)[FRENCH \(FSL\)](#)[SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOPS](#)[MEDICAL](#)[PHOTOGRAPHY](#)[BLOGS and EPALS](#)[ANIMATION FILM](#)[MURAL](#)[DRAMA](#)[NABLUS GUIDE](#)[VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES](#)[ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)**Support Us**

Our work depends on the generous support of our donors. Please consider donating to support our work.



We also encourage you to buy Palestinian Fair Trade products through [Zatoun](#) in Canada and [Zaytoun](#) in the United Kingdom.

English as a Second Language

Project Hope's English classes for Nablus' youth are ongoing. Our English program is expected to grow due to demand and extra support provided through its new Bridge to the World program. During the summer 2008, International volunteers are helping to instruct youth in community centers in the Refugee Camps and Nablus' Old City. Project Hope's English classes include a variety of accents, grammar, writing and conversation, along with games and arts.



In June we managed to have 450 placements in English classes both within and outside the Bridge to the World program. This includes some classes for adults

and professionals.

French as a Second Language



French has earned its place as the preferred foreign language after English in Palestine. French classes are provided by Project Hope drawing upon French-speaking International and Palestinian volunteers. Although much smaller than the English program, 107 students were learning French through May and June and the program may grow further still with extra support coming from the Bridge to the World program, despite the completion in June of the French program funded by the French Consulate of Jerusalem.



As an example of its ongoing partnership with local community centers in Nablus, these French classes were held at the Local Committee for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled (Balata Refugee Camp), the Yazour Charitable Society (Balata), the Happy Childhood Club (Balata), Dar al Fonon (Old Askar Refugee Camp), Women's Center (Old Askar), As-Safir (New Askar Refugee Camp) and another Women's Center (Al Ain Refugee Camp).

Social Justice Workshops



Project Hope's Social Justice Workshops are ongoing. They are a forum where Palestinian children are given the chance to discuss and think about issues of social justice and human rights. A fundamental goal is to provide them with an open environment where they feel free and comfortable to share openly their different perspectives. These workshops are focused on the refugee camps. Our Palestinian colleagues hope the workshops are providing formative experiences for the future leaders of Palestine. The program is funded by the Canadian NGO Rights and Democracy.

First Aid and Healthy Living Initiatives

In June 2008, Project Hope volunteers gave basic first aid classes to 230 women in four villages near Nablus and the Al Far'a Refugee Camp. The women learned vital first aid techniques, from dealing with everyday injuries through to life-saving skills including treating unconscious casualties and someone having a heart attack. This activity is being continued through the summer, expanding the number of classes and developing the curriculum. Our goal is to find financial support and a regular stream of medical volunteers to make this a permanent program.



Photography



Photography allows young Palestinians to learn a new skill and explore the world around them in new ways. Project Hope will carry out photography classes throughout the year as part of Bridge to the World. This follows the completion of photography classes in the Dar al Fonon (Old Askar Refugee Camp) and Bessan (Balata Refugee Camp) centers that culminated with a photo exhibition by the children in Balata Refugee Camp in June 2008. This was attended by local camp dignitaries and from the local French Cultural Center, and Project Hope's International Volunteers.

Blogs and E-Pals



Project Hope has initiated a new program within Bridge to the World which teaches Palestinian children how to create and maintain their own Blogs while also allowing them to communicate through E-pal exchanges with children around the world. The first classes began in June 2008. Children will also learn how to use computers and the Internet.

If you are a teacher or know a teacher who would like their pupils to participate in an E-pal exchange, feel free to contact us for further details at projecthope@projecthope.ps.

Animation Film



A French volunteer made an animated movie for children in our French program in the Balata Refugee Camp. The children created the story and helped in filming. Students from the French Department at An Najah National University helped with the translation of the text.

The film portrays two marine kingdoms that were separated by a Wall. This Wall becomes a reason for chaos and instability.

Mural

An International Volunteer spearheaded the painting of a mural at the Dar al Fonon center in the Old Askar Refugee Camp. It was a depiction of Palestinian heritage.

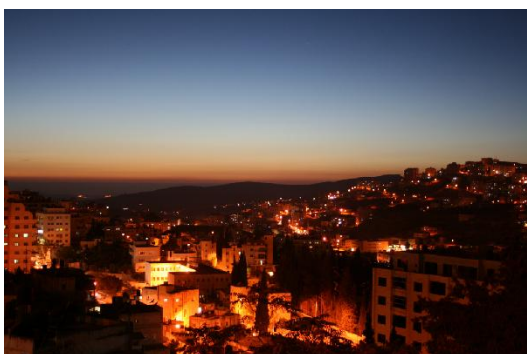


Drama



During 4 weeks a drama class was convened in the Balata and New Askar Refugee Camps as well as the village of Tel. The goal of the course was to provide a safe and affirming environment where the children could explore their imaginations, movement and performance. Its aim was to strengthen confidence, curiosity, creative risk-taking, constructive command of self-power and body awareness.

Nablus Guide



As a special side-project, our Team devoted volunteer hours to set-up a unique and special website designed to introduce you to the city of Nablus. The website is presented in both French and English.

Visit the guide at www.nablusguide.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Throughout the year Project Hope welcomes International Volunteers from around the world as instructors and assistants. These volunteers have to pay their own way, but the experience is very rich and a way to help directly while daily life is cheap in Palestine by Western standards. Our volunteers come from a diverse set of backgrounds. Most are university educated but some are not. Some are students or recent graduates, others are working professionals or even retired. Ages of volunteers range from the early-20s to the 70s. Numerous nationalities participate from different countries around the world.

We welcome all applications. Further information can be found on our website: www.projecthope.ps

Below is a list of further opportunities to volunteer with Project Hope carried out in cooperation with organizations in Europe and the United States.

UNITED KINGDOM - There are opportunities for some British youth to receive European Voluntary Service financial support through our partners Community Link (of the University of Edinburgh Settlement) and Firefly International.

THE NETHERLANDS - Dutch youth volunteers are still being sought to participate in a program, running until March 2009, which helps to offset the final costs of their volunteering with Project Hope in Palestine. It is carried out in partnership with the [Nederlands Palestina Komitee](http://www.nederlands-palestina-komitee.nl) and funded by [Oxfam](http://www.oxfam.nl)

[Novib.](#)

NORWAY - The [Palestinakomiteen i Norge](#) recruits and sends Norwegians who wish to volunteer with Project Hope.

UNITED STATES/EUROPE - Each summer the [Faculty For Israeli and Palestinian Peace \(FFIPP\)](#) recruits students from across North America and Europe to place with organizations in Palestine in the summer. Project Hope is FFIPP's partner in Nablus.

Announcements



Unfortunately in June one of our Team, our French Coordinator Warood Faris, had to leave Project Hope to get married and move abroad. Warood has been with us since starting out as a volunteer and it will be difficult to replace her on our staff. We all wish her the best in her future endeavors.



A special thanks to Tania Natscheff for providing many of the photographs used in this edition of our newsletter. [Click Here](#) for more photos from Tania.

DONATIONS IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES

It is possible for American and Canadians to receive a tax receipt for donations for Project Hope's humanitarian assistance in Palestine.

In Canada you simply need to make the cheque out to NECEF, with Project Hope in the memo line.

In the United States you simply make the cheque out to WAI, with Project Hope in the memo line.

Then simply send the cheques to our Canadian mailing address. Unfortunately tax receipts cannot be provided for online donations to Project Hope.

Project Hope is registered non-profit organization in the Province of Ontario, Canada (Ontario corporation number 1607819).

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