



Project Hope June 2010 Newsletter

Project Hope: Humanitarian Opportunities for Peace and Education

Project Hope is a charitable, non-governmental organization whose objective is to provide support and humanitarian aid for children and youth in areas of war, conflict, deprivation and underdevelopment through the application of education, training, recreation and health-care activities. It is registered as a Charity in the United Kingdom as "Project Hope: Humanitarian Opportunities for Peace and Education."

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Project Hope

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Dear Project,

This spring has been a very exciting few months for Project Hope with many new events and programs at our local office in Nablus, as well as within our international network.

International volunteers have come from nine countries this spring to teach languages, technology, robotics, kick-boxing, physical therapy, photography, art, reflexology, Mandarin Chinese, guitar lessons, public speaking and more. Some highlights from these fantastic activities include the first ever girls' football tournament being organized in Nablus and a local radio series that broadcasted interviews with Project Hope volunteers.

Four art exhibitions took place in Nablus, Toronto, Amsterdam and Montreal, showing people from different countries the fantastic achievements by Project Hope's talented students

United Kingdom

Charitable Number:

SC040711

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Bank Info:

Clydesdale Bank
Account: 7046 8050
Sort Code: 82-61-00

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**UK tax-payers can donate to
support our work under Gift Aid.**

PROJECT HOPE'S WISH LIST

**Follow the links to buy a book
directly for our teaching library in
our office in Palestine!**

English Wish List

<http://amzn.com/w/3EJJ43V70YRGZ>

French Wish List

<http://amzn.com/w/7TNFYR8I727F>

Art Wish List

<http://amzn.com/w/3TTBE9BY4LHV4>

Zaytoun (UK)



Buy Zaytoun's Palestinian Olive Oil and Soap in
the UK!

FFIPP



summer's graphic novel project has now been printed and is being sold in Palestine and abroad.

There is no doubt this spring has been packed with more new and exciting developments than ever before. With the continuing diversity of programs and expanding international impact, we begin the summer session with great energy and enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

The Project Hope Team

PALFEST



PalFest was warmly received in Nablus and is sure to return next year

Project Hope was proud to help host [PalFest](#), the Palestine Literary Festival, in Nablus. PalFest brings together notable Palestinian authors, with other Arab and international writers, poets and musicians for a week of literary events throughout Palestine. The festival was started in 2002 by Mahmoud Darwish, and counts among its patrons and supporters Ahdaf Soueif, Emma Thompson and Seamus Heaney. Despite the festival's success, Nablus had never before been able to participate in the festival because the city has been under almost siege for the past 10 years.

Project Hope volunteers were very pleased to play host to PalFest and to help organize two successful events in the area. Project Hope organized the locations, and its volunteers assisted the special guests while providing them with tours throughout the Old City of Nablus.

The first event was "Pathfinding", a literary event discussing the politics and emotion of land, home, journeys and returning. The event included world-renowned authors Suad Amriy, Raja Shehadeh, Hala Shrouf, and William Sutcliffe and was hosted at the Hammam Ash-Shifa Turkish bath in the historic Old City of Nablus. Project Hope volunteers assisted in organizing the venue, setting-up the performance and accompanying the artists.

The second event was an evening of poetry, spoken word, hip-hop beats. and visual art called "Unchecked Beats". The night was MC'ed

or internship with Faculty for Israeli-Palestinian Peace.

Beit Zatoun (Toronto)



Beit Zatoun House is an art and culture center in Toronto which is now home to an international office for Project Hope in Canada

Zatoun (Canada/USA)



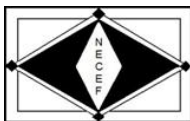
Buy Zatoun's Palestinian Olive Oil and Soap in Canada and the USA!

Wide Awake International



Wide Awake International is an American organization that can issue tax receipts for some Project Hope projects.

Near East Cultural and Educational Foundation of Canada (NECEF)



NECEF is a registered Canadian charity which has been working with Project Hope since our inception

CPFQ Palestinian Child Sponsorship Program



Make a Difference in a Palestinian Child's Life

Falastine Dwikat; Palestinian-American poet/hip-hop artist/stand-up-comic, and also friend of Project Hope Remi Kanazi; famous spoken word artist Suheir Hammad; as well as local poet Najwan Darwish; and hip-hop/visual artists Tashweesh. The event was held in the historic Qasr al-Qassem building, the architecture and planning annex of an-Najah, in Beit Wazen, a village just outside of Nablus. Project Hope assisted with organizing transportation to the venue.

GRAPHIC NOVEL NOW FOR SALE



Twelve graphic novel stories have been printed into a book and are being sold to support further projects of this kind

The official book launch for *West Bank Graphic Novel Stories* was held on Tuesday June 1, 2010 at Beit Zatoun. In addition to a display featuring excerpts from the novel, the editor of the novel, Rebecca Cox, spoke about her volunteer experience teaching and working with the students to compile the graphic novel. The course was provided by Project through the Fine Arts Department of An-Najah National University in Nablus under the direction of Toronto-based volunteer Rebecca Cox. The course took place over several weeks last summer - May to June 2009. The students were provided only with the technical know-how on how to create a graphic novel - the stories are their own.

West Bank Graphic Novel Stories is the collaborative effort of 12 students: 10 young women, 2 young men. Some fictional, some autobiographical, all based on the daily realities of life under occupation, the stories in this graphic novel give insight to the reader what it was like growing up during the Second Intifada which began in 2000.

The stories provide a wide range of experiences, urban, rural and refugee. In *On This Earth We Deserve Life*, author-artist Ahmed reveals his struggle to find the means to further his education - to pass high school and enter university - despite poverty and deadly street encounters with the Israeli military. In *Freedom to Play* author-artist Samia reveals how random violence flares up at any moment debilitating kids' access to education and play-time.

West Bank Graphic Novels are now on sale after an official launch at Project Hope's office. Proceeds from the novel will be used to hire the twelve authors to carry-out either a summer or after school course with

STAFF CHANGES:

Project Hope would like to welcome Sandy Marshall to the Nablus office. Sandy has been acting as a Program Advisor since February. He is working at improve internal record-keeping and the management of program activities. Sandy has been involved with PH since 2005 as a volunteer, teaching drama and English. Sandy lives in Nablus full-time and in addition to working with PH is also working on a PhD in Human Geography about the spaces of childhood ad youth in West Bank refugee camps.

An Online Travel Guide to Nablus

Project Hope launched a new and improved version of its electronic website

<http://www.nablusguide.com>

in both English and French as a way of introducing Nablus to English and French speakers. The site covers a variety of topics such as history, geography, personalities, traditions, arts, the soap industry, and Palestinian cuisine. Mr. Abdulhakim Sabbah, Director of Project Hope, along with Jean-Charles, Tamer and Tawfiq, have continued to develop the website so that those outside Palestine can have access to accurate and relevant information about the region. The site was created two years ago and has been updated substantially since then. Along with providing information to the greater public, there are hopes that the site will also encourage more people to come and discover Nablus for themselves.

Did you know?

The Dar Al-Funoon center in Askar Refugee Camp is home to the best break-dancer in the West Bank, as well as a hip hop dance teacher who participated in break-dance training in New York.

NEW AMAZON WISH LIST

Volunteers at Project Hope work hard planning lessons to make the language and art courses here as beneficial as possible for their students. However, due to various political and economic restrictions, Palestine suffers from a shortage of books and other materials, making for scarce educational resources for Project Hope students and teachers. To rectify this, Project Hope has compiled a Wish List of books and games- both English and French, and a list of art supplies. These items will undoubtedly make both the teaching and learning and much fuller experience.

On the side panel of this newsletter are the wish lists. If you feel that you would like to donate an item to Project Hope, click on any of the links, browse through the items and add the books or games you would like to donate to your 'shopping cart'. (If you would like to buy something from more than one list, you can change between them by clicking on the links to the left of the 'Amazon' Wish List page.) The address for Project Hope will automatically become one of your shipping options. Should there be any problems, do not hesitate to contact us.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support, and thank you in advance for your donations to support this initiative.

ROBOTICS COURSE



Graduates of the robotics class pose with their diplomas

This spring, Project Hope organized a special course on robotics, specifically for hearing impaired students, and focusing on the design and creation of robots using recycled electronics and other materials. Project Hope coordinated with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in organizing this class.

The course trained students on how to make robots using recycled plastics, paper and other material. Therefore, this course not only



Two young girls in one of Project Hope's Art Classes



Happy to be learning



Project Hope students working on a new mural in Nablus



Art work made using recycled materials



A class of young boys and their international volunteer created a

environmentalism in the students, teaching them that left over parts can be reused in constructive ways rather than simply being thrown away and harming the environment.

In addition, the course was significant in that it was organized as a joint effort between Project Hope and the PRCS, as well as a science teacher, sign language translator and social instructor from the school. Project Hope regularly cooperates with local schools and community organization in order to provide educational opportunities and recreational relief to disadvantaged Palestinian youth. Likewise, the PRCS in Nablus adopts extracurricular rehabilitation and training programs as well as academic educational curricula in its annual plan for the students in the rehabilitation centers. Part of these programs include empowerment programs for the hearing impaired and disabled, allowing challenged students to acquire the professional skills which enable self-sufficiency.

THROUGH THEIR EYES INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION



Through Your Eyes exhibition at Beit Zatoun in Toronto

This March, the first of a series of three exhibitions took place in Toronto. The exhibit 'Through Their Eyes' consisted of photographs and graphic novels from Palestinian students revealing various aspects of life in Palestine: from checkpoints and bullet holes, to landscape and architecture. Over two hundred friends and supporters attending the opening night in Toronto. Several weeks later, the exhibition moved to Montreal and then traveled across the ocean to Amsterdam for the last week of May, to smaller but appreciative audiences.

A unique event was arranged for the opening night of the exhibition in Amsterdam. A past Project Hope volunteer plays the carillon church bells in the oldest church (the Oude Kerk) in city center of Amsterdam. The [Carillon](#) is a uniquely Dutch "instrument." With a similar concept to a piano, two rows of long sticks are gripped by and a row by foot, which are attached to a series of at least 23 bells. One Palestinian and two Iraqi songs were played to mark the Project Hope gallery, to be heard over the city of Amsterdam. The music was played by the Carillon at the Oude Kerk as well as the Zuiderkerk. The duet between church bells created a beautiful stereo effect for the guest of the exhibit and the city of Amsterdam to enjoy.

HAKIM'S AWARD



A Project Hope volunteer teaches this student how to juggle



Students gather around their teacher in the robotics class

On Tuesday the 13th of April, Project Hope Director AbdulHakim Sabbah was presented with an Award of Special Appreciation by the Dar Al-Funoon (House of Arts) center in Askar Refugee camp. The award was in recognition of Mr. Sabbah's hard work and dedication in providing support and fostering a meaningful partnership between Project Hope and Dar al-Fanoon. The staff and volunteers of Project Hope were welcomed as guests of honor to a celebration of Palestinian music and dance at Dar Al-Funoon.

Project Hope has been a long-time friend and partner of Dar al-Fanoon, sending its volunteers to help teach music, dance and visual arts. The evening of appreciation began with a world-class dabka (Palestinian folkloric dance) performance by Dar al-Fanoon's dance troupe of local young men and women from Nablus and Asker refugee camp. The group performed Palestinian dabka to traditional songs about the land of Palestine. Following this performance, younger students in the music classes performed a number of Palestinian tunes (including the national anthem which got a standing ovation) playing the violin, piano, guitar and tableh (Arabic drum.) After a vocal performance by the young girls in the group, the boys from the dabka group returned to the stage. This time, instead of Palestinian folklore, the group busted out with an amazing hip-hop and break-dance jam

The show's finale was a guest performance by a traveling Swedish music group who gave an acapella performance of Swedish songs celebrating spring. The evening ended with Dar Al-Funoon honoring Project Hope with an award, as well as enjoying some Palestinian food. Project Hope wishes Dar Al-Funoon continued success and looks forward to continuing working together as both organizations continue to grow.

Safaa's Trip to Spain



Safaa is current working with Project Hope in Nablus as one of two French Language Coordinators

One of Project Hope's Palestinian volunteers (now a staff member), tells us about her trip to Spain where she represented Project Hope at a conference for intercultural dialogue:

"It was my first time to Spain, visiting the city of my dreams and participating in the very first Anna Lindh Forum (ALF) to represent Project Hope. The [Anna Lindh forum 2010](#) is unique civil society

society organizations were invited to discuss important issues through a series of workshops. The themes were related to "Youth and Education", "Cultural and Artistic collaboration", "Peace and Coexistence", "Migration and diversity" and "Religion and Values".

These workshops formed the first, "Agora," component of the conference - agora meaning "open place of assembly" in Greek, referring to classical Greek democratic ideals.

The second component was "Medina", where the participants shared and exchanged their ideas and experiences, and presented about their best organizational practices. Medina is Arabic for "town", and has connotations of an enlightened and civilized city.

It was in the Best Practices session where I talked about Project Hope's "Bridge to the World" program, presenting the concept of this project, its goals and the challenges. A lot of participants showed interest in the program (which aims to connect Palestinian children and youth with their peers around the world through internet communication technology), particularly as it is related to Palestinian children's issues. In fact, the sessions where Palestinian youth and children's issues were discussed were the most attended by the participants, and Project Hope received a lot of positive feedback and attention.

The forum was a great chance for me to talk about Project Hope's valuable work as well as to meet in person some of Project Hope's partners in France, as well as other youth representatives from other parts of the Euro-Mediterranean region through the intercultural fair, cultural exchanges and concerts.

I tend to think that as we live in a world full of political, social and religious conflicts. The ALF had tried to create a small world where peace and dialogue are the bridges that connect those 700 participants despite their differences, working together to bring a concrete bridges to the real world."



Thank you for your support

Sincerely,

The Project Hope Team

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