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Spring 2011

Project Hope Newsk

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Profile of Project Hope International Volunteer Asra Karim (Apr 2011)

Dear Friends

We're very excited to share with you all the new activities that 2011 has brought to Project Hope including a new office location in Nablus, new staff and, most exciting of all, new programs and activities.

In 2011, Project Hope launched three new programs for children and youth in the West Bank. They include the new Graphic Novel program, a revamped International Volunteer Program, and a new English language community education centre. As part of this new community education centre, we also have a new Net Café, which is free and open to the public and a safe space for women and youth, as well as a computer lab where we continue to teach children and youth computer and Internet technology classes.

To make room for all this growth, Project Hope has moved up to a bigger facility, but still in the same beautiful location, overlooking the Nablus valley and adjacent to the Old City. Project Hope now has a two-story building.



Asra Karim Teaching in Nablus,
Palestine- Project Hope

Profile of Project Hope Local Volunteer Salahuddin Assi from Nablus (Feb 2011)



Salahuddin Assi -People of Nablus,
Palestine- Project Hope

My Digi Story children's digital stories (Jan 2011)



MyDigiStory and Project
Hope in the West Bank

Opening of the Net Café (Dec 2010)



Net Café Opening

B2W News

storey community centre, with the ground floor consisting of English and art classrooms, and the second floor housing staff offices, a resource room for volunteers, a language library, community Net Café, and a computer lab, not to mention plenty of room for our monthly speaker series. Also, we have volunteers currently working on preparing the beautiful garden that we have as a place to sit, relax and drink fresh lemonade from our lemon tree on those hot summer afternoons in Palestine. We hope you can join us! In the meantime, we'll keep you posted on all the exciting new changes that continue to happen at Project Hope.

Sincerely,

The Project Hope Team



New Graphic Novel Program



Joe Sacco's novel *Palestine* not only provided a unique glimpse into the everyday lives of Palestinians under occupation, but also introduced the world to the powerful new medium of storytelling, a sort of graphical illustrated journalism. With *We Bank Stories: The Graphic Novel* Project Hope helped to create the first ever graphic novel by Palestinians, thereby putting the

powerful representational tools of this art form in the hands of Palestinian youth.

Building on the success of this first novel, Project Hope has initiated a new Graphic Novel program to train a group of youth in the techniques of graphic novel production. The program is off to a great start with 17 local youth participating as students. The great thing about this project is that these youth are not only learning graphic novel design, but also receiving education, enabling them to go back to their home communities and replicate the course with children there. By this summer, we hope to have at least a dozen graphic novel classes being taught by you for youth in villages, neighbourhoods and refugee camps in the Nablus area. We look forward to sharing the spectacular results of this project with you when the stories are published by the end of the year, with the best being selected for publication in new graphic novel and children's pieces posted online.



Kids at a school in Bluff, Utah watch a video documentary by a Project Hope volunteer about Salah, a local volunteer and computer instructor.



This project is made possible through sponsorship by [Kerk in Actie](#) (the Netherlands).

After three years, Project Hope's Bridge to the World (B2W) youth-blogging program is officially coming to an end. However, that won't mean the end of Project Hope's commitment to facilitating cross-cultural communication and international understanding. Indeed, as mentioned above, our free B2W Net Café aims to continue to keep kids connected with the world through the Internet, social networking and blogging.

Towards this goal, Project Hope ran a short 2-week photography and film course for Balata youth who participate in the B2W blog program. The students learned how to tell stories through digital photographs and video. Now, students are learning how to upload and share their stories with the world through their blogs. You can check out their work, and other young up-and-coming film-makers and photographers at filmnablus.blogspot.com.

We're proud to report that a group of young aspiring bloggers from a American Indian Reservation in Bluff, Utah, have connected with the blog and are making their own films in response!

You can check out their site at <http://cmwbluff.blogspot.com/>.

Special Thanks

New English Language Community Centre and Net Lab



Project Hope now offers progressive levels English language classes its new English commun centre. These classes a open to adults of all ag at an affordable subsidiz rate to cover mater expenses, with classes f children and you remaining free, as always. Classes consist of : hours of instruction over

period of 2 months. Project Hope continues to be leader in local community English education in Nabl by emphasizing real-world language use a conversation with native English speakers. Ov 1000 students participate in Project Hope class every month through its community outrea program that offers free English classes community centres serving underprivileged areas.

As part of a holistic approach to learning, Proje Hope is also teaching English and computers in new computer lab and Net Café. Currently, : beginning computer classes and 6 blogs classes a running with over 160 students participating in t program. Project Hope provides transportation f students to and from the refugee camps to be at to use the centre's computers and Internet.

Project Hope wants to provide a special thanks to its friends at the [Dundee-Nablus Twinning Association](#) (DNTA) for their support with a recent exchange, hosting local Palestinian volunteers Rami and Rafiq on a recent exchange to Scotland from October 2010 to January 2011. Unfortunately soon upon their arrival in Scotland, the supporting partner organization the Edinburgh University Settlement (EUS) went bankrupt and took the funding raised for the project into bankruptcy. The EUS was also planning to coordinate the project for 6 months. The DNTA literally saved and salvaged the trip for these Rami and Rafiq, [raising funds for and hosting them in Dundee](#) for a three month period.

Recent Events in Support of Project Hope in Canada and Australia

Australia (Feb 2011) - Former volunteer Michael Coleman's non-profit organization [Dark Corners](#) ran a [fundraising dinner](#) for material for Project Hope's activities. It was held at "The Commons," a restaurant and bar in Dalninghurst, Sydney. 52 people attended and raised \$1 830 (\$AUS).

Canada (Mar 2011) - Anaïs Barbeau-Lavalette's documentary [Se souvenir des cendres had a charity screening](#) in Montreal at Cinéma Beaubien where a good turnout led to \$305 (\$CAD) being raised for Project Hope.

Thanks for your support!

How to Find Us



Contact Information

Address:
Project Hope



An international volunteer and a student from Balata Refugee Camp in a B2V blog class at the Net Café.

The *Net Café* was made possible by The New Zealand Consulate in Ankara, Turkey, and by [Kerk in Actie](#) (Netherlands). The *Net Program* was made possible by the [International Development and Relief Foundation](#) (Canada). The *English Centre* was made possible by the [Canadian Auto Workers Union's](#) "Social Justice Fund" (Canada).

International Volunteer Program



A Dutch volunteer on a picnic with local children in a village near Nablus

Since 2003, Project Hope has grown to be the biggest volunteer organization in the West Bank, with over 40 local volunteers and an average of a dozen international volunteers running commun

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The Graphic Novel Program and the Net
Café were made possible by **Kerk in
Actie** (the Netherlands)



The **Net Program** was made possible by
the **International Development and
Relief Foundation** (Canada)



The **English Centre** was made possible by
the **Canadian Auto Workers
Union's "Social Justice Fund:"**

education programs for children, youth and adults the Nablus area year-round. In short, volunteers are the backbone of Project Hope's vital community work.

As Nablus continues to enjoy a period of relative calm, Project Hope is making great efforts to reach out to communities that continue to be choked by checkpoints, suffer settlement encroachment, endure a lack of social services due to restrictions imposed by the occupation. We are currently developing cooperative relationships with community organizations in Hebron, Tulkarem, Jenin, and rural areas near Nablus that need international volunteers to run programs for children and youth. We are currently recruiting skilled volunteers to come out for one-month volunteer stints working in these locations, as well as in Nablus' refugee camps. In addition, we're recruiting long-term volunteers, especially those who are skilled in English language education, computing, and digital media, to volunteer as instructors in Nablus.

We have restructured our volunteer programs so that groups of volunteers arrive during a designated week to undergo group training in preparation for their volunteer experience, as well as getting a group debriefing to prep them for their next phase of volunteering: going home and raising awareness.



Support Project Hope

Programs like this are also made possible by another donor, *you*. By supporting Project Hope you are supporting programs like this and others. If you would like to support Project Hope you can do so by donating online through [JustGiving](#) or sending a cheque to the address below.



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Sincerely,

the Project Hope Team
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