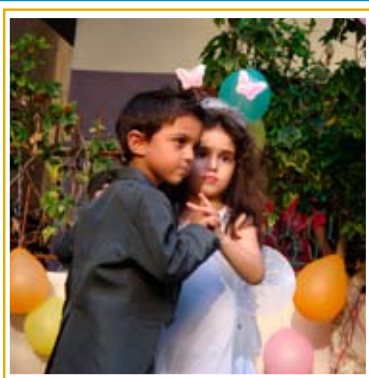




Joint Christian Committee for Social Service in Lebanon



Annual Report 2013



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Message from the Chairman



Much has been written about the Palestinian calamity, about the great harm done to people who had once lived on their own lands in a country of special geographical and historical significance, a country that is holy to the three greatest religions. These people were uprooted by

deceit, treachery and force and replaced by people who had been scattered in different parts of the world. A new nation was created on the Palestinian soil under the pretence that it was a land without people for a people without a land. In spite of the numerous wars and civil uprisings that have taken place against this aggression more than six decades, the balance of world politics and opinion have always shifted, unfortunately, in the wrong direction.

The Churches and Church related organizations took the initiative to advocate for helping to overcome the injustice that had befallen Palestine. They had to keep the issue alive and to be exemplary in helping its uprooted people. They felt it was their role and duty to alleviate some of the oppression and injustice that had befallen them and to work on attaining justice.

Churches can never bring change by force and aggression - it is not within their faith or belief. Their role is to contribute to justice by peaceful means, to raise awareness to the plight of people who have been wronged and to work for change. Since the catastrophe that befell the Palestinian people, the Churches have been offering programs to build new Palestinian generations, raise their self value and instill in them self confidence. They have prepared programs to build the Palestinian youth and enable them to stand on their own feet equipped with education, mobilized by a profession or skill enabling them to work hard and face the challenges of life.

We cannot reverse time and bring Palestine back. We cannot evict the settlers and take back the land. But what we can do is keep the refugee issue alive in the minds of the world. We can keep the world from forgetting that once there was a Palestinian and that there is a people without a land. We can help preserve the dignity of young Palestinians by providing them with vocational training to ease their entry into the working world. We are deeply committed to the refugees and will continue to strive to give them the best that we can. We don't know what the future holds for them but we know, that as long as they are here, JCC will be standing by their side.

Edward Asmar
Chairman

Acknowledgements

The JCC is grateful to our faithful partners, supporters and friends who have for many years supported, guided and encouraged JCC work with the Palestinian refugees and the needy of the local community. It is important for us as the Lebanese region of DSPR to strive towards fulfilling the mission for which DSPR was founded 65 year ago. Some of our original programs were closed, others have been updated, new programs have been introduced while new ideas and projects are continually being sought.

Visits of our partners, members of their churches and related organizations are always welcome. It is our chance to take them to walk in the maze of the narrow, damp and dark alleys of the camps so they can witness the suffering and misery of life within. It is our chance to show them our programs, share with them our successful efforts, express our frustrations and listen to their ideas and perspectives as we together try to offer what we can.

Our heartfelt gratitude and sincere thanks are extended to all who have supported our work for many years and continue to do so as one of the DSPR regions

- United Churches of the Netherlands – Kerk in Actie
- Global Ministries – United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ
- Embrace the Middle East
- General Board of Global Ministries –The United Methodist Church – USA
- Christian World Service – New Zealand,
- Church World Service – USA
- Church of Scotland
- United Churches of Canada
- KAIROS – Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
- Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Church of Sweden
- Bread for the World
- (ICCO)Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation
- CCFD Le Comite Catholic Contre La Faim
- National Council of Churches of Australia
- We also extend our appreciation to those who support some of our special projects

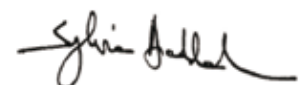
- ACT Alliance for supporting our program for the Syrian refugees
- The World Vision who continue to support our joint project for slow learners.
- The Church of Scotland- Sir Duncan Carmichael Fund for their support of our Music Program.
- The Church of Scotland- St Colms Fund for their support of our Moral Guidance Program
- Global Ministries USA – “ One Hour of Sharing” for supporting the Education program of the Syrian refugees
- German Evangelical Church of Beirut for supporting the Education program for Syrian refugees

We appreciate the cooperation we have with some of our local NGOs who help us improve our existing programs and often open the door to new programs. We extend our thanks to

- EPEP- The Ecumenical Popular Education Program
- Al Jana- The Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts
- Najdeh Association
- Beit Atfal Assumoud
- Palestinian Women’s Union
- PARD-Popular Aid for Relief and Development
- Harriri Foundation – Health Department
- The Right to Play.
- PACES- Palestinian Association for Children’s Encouragement of Sports.
- START- Encouragement of Education Through Art
- ASSABIL- Friends of Public Libraries Association
- Unite Lebanon Youth Project

Warm wishes are sent to all and we hope that we will continue to work together for a better future

Sylvia Haddad
JCC Director



Introduction

The year 1948 saw the forced displacement and exodus of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their ancestral land, homes and villages to which they have never been allowed to return. Some live displaced in their own country, some have immigrated while the majority continue to live in camps or under difficult circumstances in the different countries of the Middle East.

The refugees were badly in need of help. The local churches initially responded in an informal and spontaneous manner in an effort to offer whatever services they could. But as the needs far exceeded their capacities, appeals for outside assistance were launched. There was definitely a need for a more formal organized structure. A conference held in Beirut in 1951 resulted in the establishment of the "Near East Christian Council Committee for Refugee Work" (NECCCRW) where the first constitution was drafted and adopted. Many meetings were to follow in the different cities of the Middle East as more Palestinian refugees and displaced were in dire need of assistance.

In time a confederation of committees were established in the different regions of refuge, Lebanon, Gaza, the West Bank, Nazareth and Jordan that in turn led to the establishment of the "Department of Service for Palestine Refugees" (DSPR)

Each committee developed its own identity, determined its own composition, its own rules and procedures, functioned separately under various circumstances and faced different challenges. A "Central Committee" made up of representatives from the different regional committees, in addition to consultative members

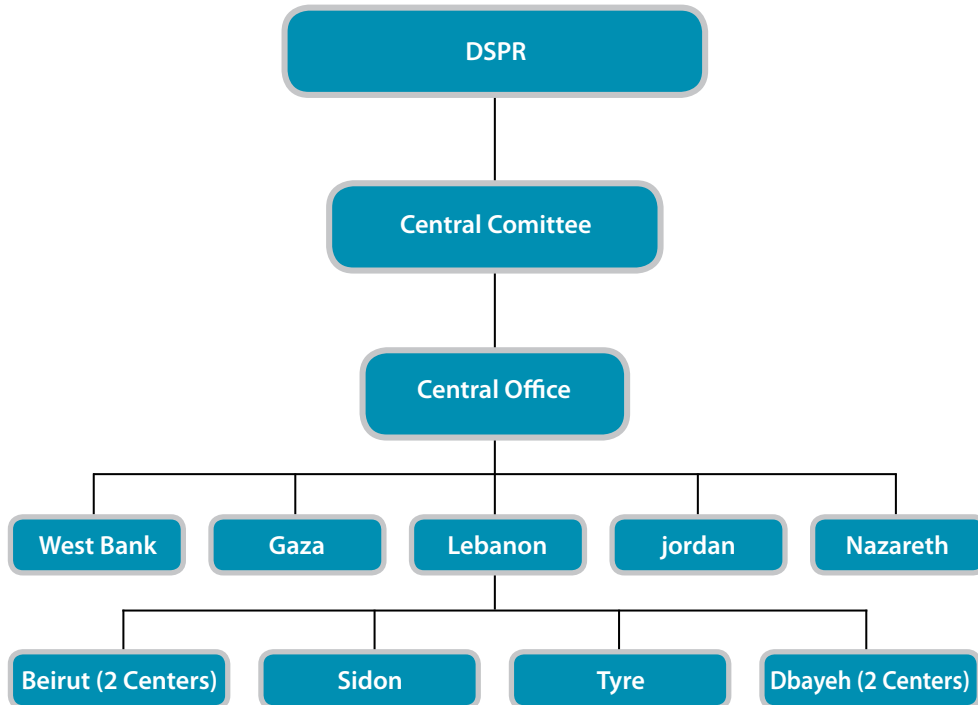
from different churches insured the unity of these committees as one organization. A Central Office was established to coordinate and guide the work of the regions.

This was the beginning of DSPR and although the constitution was revised at later dates, the relationship between the area committees, their Central Office and the Central Committee remains strong and unified in spite of the diversity of programs in the different regions. They all have common purposes and ideas of service based on promoting the spiritual, moral and material welfare of the refugees and displaced. In recent years, log frames were prepared, strategy plans were written based on the general goals decided by all and based on extensive and intense meetings amongst the regions. These goals unify the DSPR and work as guide lines for all the regions.

The "Joint Christian Committee for Social Service in Lebanon" (JCC) is the DSPR region of Lebanon. It began its work under the name of the "Union of Evangelical Churches for the Relief of Palestinian Refugees". In 1961 the name was changed to the "Joint Christian Committee for Social Service in Lebanon" under a Ministry of Interior decree number 264/AD with its work extending all over Lebanon. Schools, vocational centers, loan programs, scholarships and relief efforts were all part of the program. Today, work continues under this name, but on a smaller scale with the different programs and activities carried out in 5 centers in different parts of Lebanon.

The DSPR is an integral part of the "Middle East Council of Churches".

Department of Service to the Palestinian Refugees Organizational Chart



Mission

Empowering Palestinians, regardless of age or gender, with knowledge and skills that lead to self-reliance and equipping him /her to be a provider for the family and community while at the same time preserving the Palestinian identity, heritage and culture.

Vision

- Youth equipped with academic and vocational education.
- Youth participating in their community.
- Men and women carrying out sustainable community development programs.
- A community leading a dignified life while preserving the Palestinian identity, heritage and culture, and upholding the all important "Right of Return".
- Palestinian and Lebanese communities working on restoring harmonious relations between them.
- The Palestinian struggle as central to Christian church movements in the Middle East and Worldwide

JCC Centers

Sabra Center:

The Sabra Center is in the southern part of Beirut and serves the heavily populated area of Sabra- Shatilla camp and its surroundings .It occupies the first two floors of a building with a small playground. A nursery, a kindergarten and a beauty program occupy the first floor.

Offered on the second floor are the programs of electronics, computers, tutoring, literacy, lectures, workshops, children and youth activities and the program for the elderly.

Sidon Center

To the south of Beirut, JCC has a spacious center in the city of Sidon which is accessible to the highest populated refugee camp in Lebanon. It is also accessible to a smaller camp and to the refugees residing in the old section of the city. Programs in hairdressing, beauty skills, barbering, secretarial training and student tutoring are offered.

Workshops according to needs arising are conducted and often in cooperation with other organizations. The center also welcomes researchers who benefit from its facilities as they collect data and analyze it for their studies about the Palestinian community. The Syrian curriculum is currently offered to Syrian refugees in their last four years of schooling.

Tyre Farm

Accessible to three camps in the south of Lebanon stands the JCC farm. Agriculture was the profession of most of the first generation refugees who worked the agricultural lands of the south at their arrival. Convinced that this skill should be passed along, the JCC runs short courses in agriculture open to both genders and to all ages.

School children, scouts, photography students and other groups are welcomed to explore what the land and nature can offer. Related courses in flower arranging, soap making and bee keeping are periodically offered.



The farm also hosts many groups and families who are stifled in the overcrowded camps and come for a recreational break.

Dbayeh Center

In the Dbayeh camp to the north of Beirut, the JCC has a center which serves as a library, community and a tutoring center. Most of the children and the youth of the camp gather in this center during their free time to read, borrow books and participate in playing games, reading stories, singing, dancing and acting. Lectures and workshops are carried out and are mostly well attended.

Working to overcome learning problems in children is a major program offered in addition to literacy and English classes for adults. A sports program, musical training and moral guidance have been added. A group of young men and women have been well trained through a series of workshops and have become leaders in their camp. They work as a team to defend and advocate for their camp in all situations.

The strategic plan of JCC is based on four goals serving as guide lines to achieve the JCC mission.

Goal one: To improve living conditions of Palestinian refugees as a basic human right. We believe that education, in all its aspects, is the best way to improve living conditions. This goes a long way in improving personal, family and community life.



Highlight of the year:

Syrian refugee students defy danger to go to Syria for their official exams.

«Children are the largest and most vulnerable group affected by the Syrian crisis, yet their needs are often unmet. A generation of children is at risk of being lost – lost to displacement, lost to poverty, lost to the worst forms of child labor and other forms of exploitation. Without educated and safe children, it will take much longer and be much harder for Syria to recover.»
World Vision”

The number of Syrian refugees continued to pour into Lebanon throughout the year. The shock of losing their homes, belongings and frequently members of their families is a traumatic experience that affect young and old, male and female. Some were able to find housing while others had to use tents as their homes. Food, clothing, bedding, hygiene essentials, medicines are only few of the items needed for survival. Most of these supplies were provided thanks to many humanitarian organizations.

The JCC was able to contribute what it could, but schooling of the refugee children continued to be a





worry and a challenge.

Many joined the schools that the United Nations-UNRWA- has been running for the last 65 years for Palestinian refugees while others joined some local schools. But they all faced the barrier of language. The school curriculum in Syria used the Arabic language for its instruction in all subjects and at all levels while in Lebanon, English and French languages are the main media of instruction. This was an obstacle for Syrian students and most of them were unable to cope - especially those in the higher classes. The JCC took up the challenge in Sidon where a big number of Syrian refugees had taken up residence in its camps and suburbs. Most of the refugees were of Palestinian origin and were once more experiencing the loss of home and country. All were depressed as they knew they were losing important school years.

Having no proper schooling premise but only a flat in an apartment building did not deter our JCC Sidon Center Director from starting classes for a selected

group of students. He opened classes for higher grades - 9th and 12th grades - who need to study for official standardized tests. But the exams had to be taken in Syria.

Fifty-two students immediately joined. Twenty five made up the 12th grade and 27 went into the 9th grade. Eight specialized and experienced teachers from the Syrian refugee community were recruited. Workshops were conducted with teachers from the UNRWA and other local schools to prepare all for the expected increase in the number of Syrian refugee children. Books used in the Syrian curriculum were secured and instruction began.



Exam applications needed to sit for the exam were sent to Damascus and were accepted. But when the time came to go, some students were scared, others had nowhere to stay and still others were afraid to be recruited into the army. The Palestinian Embassy in Beirut was approached and helped find safe places for the students to stay at.

Eighteen of the 9th grade and 20 of the 12th grade went to Damascus and passed the exams.

The good news immediately spread in the refugee community and the demand for schooling was overwhelming.

Limited by space, 240 students began their classes in October for the scholastic year of 2013 -2014 with classes offered for the 9th to 12th grades.

The Sabra Nursery and Kindergarten

The JCC Kindergarten is a landmark in the Sabra-Shatilla area as it has served the camp and its surroundings for more than 64 years. The preschool aged children, who studied here long ago, are now the parents and grandparents of the children currently attending the school.

Classes for toddlers and three year olds, were recently added. We now have five brightly painted rooms, well equipped with educational materials, wall hangings and colorful small tables and chairs. This year it was home to 125 toddlers and children aged 2-6.

Included in this number are 45 children from the new Syrian/Palestinian refugee community.

The greatest asset to this program is the playground which was recently acquired. After many years of persuading the owner of the kindergarten building to allow a depleted structure in the back to be pulled down and turned into a playground, the owner accepted. The space was cleared, prepared and equipped as a



playground. It offered a safe space for play and fun, as well as a place where a platform could be mounted when needed for the numerous performances given on every occasion

A playground is a luxury for Palestinian camps as the narrow dark alleys are the only alternative for children to play in.

Arabic and English are the languages of instruction where the children also learn through educational games, sports activities and songs.

The final celebration of the year ends with the children



performing songs and dances they have learned throughout the year.

Activities of the Kindergarten

A variety of activities are carried out throughout the year making the children happy and nurturing the development of their personality

- Special occasions such as the children's birthdays, mothers' day, teachers' day, Christmas, Adha, Independence day, end of year performance are all celebrated
- All kinds of food are prepared to teach colors and nutrition.
- A meal is shared once a week to emphasize the importance of a family eating together.
- Attending films and puppet shows are frequent.
- Lessons on different animals and a visit to the zoo.



- Music program with songs and dances were led by two young German volunteers.
- Weekly visits for two months to an outdoor facility at the outskirts of Beirut to have fun and games and see animals at a close range.
- Visiting schools to get the upper kindergarten students ready to move to elementary schools.

Teachers attend training workshops whenever possible. This summer, three teachers from the Sabra center participated in an intensive two weeks of training carried out by the organization "Al-Jana" on educational management, leadership and related subjects in music and art.



Tutoring for academic achievement



Leaving school at the intermediate level or even during the elementary stage has become a worrisome trend which seems to be on the rise amongst the Palestinian refugee community. Overcrowded classrooms, learning problems, loss of motivation and lack of guidance at home are only some of the reasons why students feel frustrated and inadequate and decide to drop their schooling. To fight this trend many NGOs have started tutoring programs. The JCC as well offers this program in both its centers of Sabra and Dbayeh .

Sabra center: Students from different schools aged 12-16 gather around the tables every afternoon. All have homework and they need help. The students are encouraged to study on their own with a teacher and three of his helpers who go around explaining to each student what they did not understand. Thirty three students benefited.

Dbayeh center: The program in this camp has the inspiring name of a "study station". Our premise can be compared to a station where the children of the camp aged 6-16 come after their long days at school to study and prepare for still another day of schooling. The children attend nine different schools at varying distances from their homes. Some study the main subjects in English, others in French. Some children are slow learners, others have speech defects and still others have social issues. Handling all these different needs is not an easy task but has successfully been tackled for the last four years. Five teachers, a speech therapist, and a psychologist helped by a coordinator run the study station smoothly. Thirty one students are currently enrolled.



The Library

It was a stroke of luck that allowed us to acquire the space for the library in such a small and overcrowded camp where no expansion is allowed. The idea of gathering to read books and to borrow them was a novel idea to most people and especially to the children. Educational games for the youth and story reading hour for the children soon made the library a vibrant place of continuous activity. Added to that are the numerous activities and workshops that JCC runs and which use the library as their meeting place. The number of subscribers to the library has surpassed 90. The library has greatly affected the lives of the children of the camp.



Anthony Al- Alam had no friends his age and mostly stayed home watching television. At school he was unmotivated and his grades were low. He had heard about the library and its activities from a neighbor but was too shy to join. Finally he went but at first he shied away from participating in any activities. Slowly he started to warm up and was soon interacting with the rest of the group. His library teachers saw a positive change in his attitude as he became friendly with his peers. His participation in library activities increased and he is now one of the most enthusiastic of children. Interestingly his school performance has consistently improved and he is now maintaining steady good grades. He is now happy sociable and outgoing.

Literacy program

It is always difficult for people to admit that they are illiterate yet it is gratifying to find some have the courage to admit it and ask to learn. Teaching literacy is a very successful program in Sabra center where 15 women of different ages gather daily to learn to read and write. A new method for teaching literacy has proved successful and enjoyable. Our teachers continue to attend training workshops to improve their performance.



Kawthar Birjawi is an illiterate young woman in her 20s married to a man who is illiterate as well. This year she decided to join the JCC literacy program and was learning very quickly. Her enthusiasm was contagious and it rubbed on her husband who also decided to acquire the same skills as his wife. Unable to attend our classes during the day, he hired a private teacher

to instruct him in the evening. But he could not keep up with the progress of his wife and so he asked her to teach him every night what she had learned during the day and earn the pay of the instructor. The couple are both progressing well and the wife is very happy with the extra pocket money she is earning.

Computer program



Computers have become part of every home and every business and learning its basics and many usages opens a wide range of fields and opportunities.

Sidon center ran an introductory course of computers for 20 teachers, 16 of whom were from the Syrian refugee community. Six students from the Arab University studied and succeeded in the UNESCO approved ICDL computer course and earned diplomas from UNESCO. Twelve students took the Cisco technical

course in computers.

Sabra center An introduction to computers was offered to 14 women of different ages. Our hope is to attract women who would like to take more specialized computer courses.

Dbayeh center is well equipped with computers and all the students in the tutorial course (study station) are taught to use the computers for their studies.

English program

An essential language for all aspects of life and one of our most popular programs. It is part of the tutorial courses of Sabra and Dbayeh. But in Sidon center, it is offered as a separate course and has attracted a good number of students from the Syrian refugee community. Twenty young people benefitted from this course.

Educational programs	Centers	No. of beneficiaries	Duration
Academic classes-Syrian	Sidon	292	9 months
Nursery & Kindergarten	Sabra	125	9 months
Tutorial	Sabra and Sidon	64	9 months
Library	Dbayeh	90	Ongoing
Literacy	Sabra	15	6 months
Computers	Sidon, Sabra, Dbayeh	52	Varies
English	Dbayeh, Sidon	20	6months

Goal two: Enable refugee women and youth and the needy of the community to develop their potential to advance their self realization, community involvement and income generation capacities.
 We believe that people should learn to help themselves as an essential step towards supporting themselves and their families.



Hair dressing Barbering and Beauty programs

Personal grooming for women and also for men has gained popularity during the last few years. It is providing an expanding world of beauty services in a growing industry with diverse specialties where career options are plentiful. Two centers provide trainings in this field.

Sabra Center:

Hairdressing

Upon entering the ground floor of the center, one immediately smells the aroma of shampoo and hears the hum of hairdryers. A curtain guards the door to give privacy to the women but not the confinement a closed door would give. The course runs for six months and includes all the techniques used in hair cutting, coloring, curling, straightening, styling and keeping the scalp healthy and strong. Twenty six women completed the course



Sabrine earned her hair dressing diploma this spring and was very happy to get a job in a nearby salon owned and run by one of our graduates. She is finally working and helping her father support the family. Sabrine is

19 years old, the eldest of 6 girls and 2 boys. The father runs a small shop in the camp but his income is not sufficient for the family. Sabrine's additional income has brought great relief for the family.

Beauty and Cosmetology

This course concentrates on the essentials of body and skin care, facial treatments and the application of the latest in makeup. Lash and brow tinting and extension are also part of the course. Drawing designs on the hands and the legs with "henna" is a popular trend and allows the students to show their creativity. The course also includes manicure and pedicure care with the latest fashion of adding designs to the nails. It is a four month course given twice a year. Twenty two girls benefitted from this course.



Sidon Center:

Hairdressing

Hairdressing and beauty skills are combined in a nine month course followed by an apprenticeship in a number of nearby salons. The apprenticeship in the actual professional setting allows the girls to choose the field they really prefer. Emphasis is then put in their classes on the field they have chosen so as to provide all the basic skills needed. Eleven women benefitted from this program.



Barber skills

Both the Sabra and Sidon Centers offer a four month course in the barbering profession. It is attracting young men from the age of 14 onward. We try to persuade the school age boys to stay in school promising that we will help them through our tutorial courses but we are met with strong resistance. All express their



conviction of being ready to join the workforce and want to become barbers. Eight young men in each center completed the course.

Practical work

Once our students gain some practice in what they are learning, an agreement with a boys' orphanage allows our students the opportunity of practicing their haircutting skills on the orphans. Our young men get the needed practice and the orphans get the company and attention they crave for.

Muhammad Shamieh was born deaf and mute. His parents were unable to send him to a special school. By coincidence, our barbering teacher met him and convinced him to join his class. Muhammad caught on very quickly gaining the love and respect of his fellow students and all those whom he practiced on. With his new found self confidence, his amiable character and his new skill, he was able to start a small barber shop of his own which is doing very well.

Secretarial Studies

Sidon center has been offering secretarial studies for the last 20 years. A nine month course includes learning the rules, procedures and technologies needed to run an office smoothly. They study computer basics, key boarding, database and spread sheets, internet use, composing business correspondence, accounting tasks and other administrative office procedures. They also study organizational behavior and interaction with customers. Twelve young women benefitted from this course.



Electronics and Computers

The year began with 18 young men anxious to learn what this course has to offer. Two were unable to cope which left us with 16 who worked hard for the next nine months. They begin with an introduction to electronics and the nature of electricity studying diagrams of different electrical equipment-how it is assembled and how it works. Fiber optics and its components, magnetism and electromagnetism are also studied. As they move to the manual-hands on part all become enthusiastic for they much prefer to handle equipment, take them apart and re-assemble. Working on conductors, insulators, batteries, metal soldering, and installation of electrical wirings, putting up dishes on roofs and fixing phones occupies them for the rest of the year.



Adding the computer course to the electronics course has proved to be of great value to the students and an added attraction for the study of electronics. The course deals with assembling and maintaining computers in addition to its invaluable use with electronic equipment.

Activities of Electronics students

Sports

Sports, with emphasis on football, were added to the program. During the week the playground in the back of the building is used for exercise and games while on Saturday all meet on a public football field to play and compete with others.

Script writing and Filming

Using the imagination, writing a script and then filming their story with a cellular phone occupied our students every Wednesday afternoon. The program



ended with professional cameras being rented and a 20-minute documentary produced, written, acted and filmed by the students.

Agriculture

The JCC Farm, located in south Lebanon, is accessible to three camps and offers a bi-yearly course on the basics of agriculture. Although the farming land is slowly decreasing as overbuilding is increasing, a good number of farms and orchards continue to need workers and helping hands. The course given is an introductory course to the various fields of agriculture. Students then branch into the field of their choice. They can also use the knowledge they gained from this course to secure a job or start their own farm as two of our students did last year.



Noting the suffering of the Syrian refugees and wanting to help them, we included those interested in our classes. Our goal was not only to teach them the basics of agriculture but to help them cope with their

depression. The result was success in both objectives. Although most had other professions, 48 refugees of both genders and varying ages completed the courses.



Vocational training	Centers	No. of Beneficiaries	Duration
Hairdressing	Sabra, Sidon	37	6 months; 9months
Beauty skills	Sabra, Sidon	33	4 months; 9months
Barber	Sabra Sidon	16	4 months
Secretarial Studies	Sidon	12	9 months
Electronics andcomputers	Sabra	16	9 months
Agriculture	Tyre	48	4 months



Sports

On the outskirts of Dbayeh camp, the playground of what was once a school was cleared last year and prepared to be used for football and basketball practice. Three football teams had been formed, two made up of boys and one of girls. This year the program continued with the same enthusiasm. The playground is fully booked on Saturdays and holidays as three teams, made up of 40 to 45 young athletes, take turns playing on the field. A sports teacher from the camp serves as a coach. The teams are often invited to compete at football clubs.



Music



The music program at Dbayeh camp began two years ago with the teaching of singing and playing some simple instruments. A choir was formed which today performs at many occasions. This year a professional music teacher directed the group of 16 young people. Their singing of popular folk songs during the carnival in the camp entertained and highly impressed the audience.

Moral Education

With the loosening of moral values in society in general and especially amongst the youth, it was seen as imperative that religion classes be initiated and moral values emphasized. And so classes were initiated in the Dbayeh camp with 45 young people attending regularly.



Program for the Elderly



With the idea of providing older women with some kind of activity to get them out of their homes and keep their minds alive, a program was devised in the Sabra Center for the 25 women who accepted our invitation. The program, started three years ago, has grown to include between 56 and 60 women who meet once a week. The program includes lectures on subjects of their choice especially on health, a lot of reminiscing, and a number of outdoor trips.

Tying of Scarves

Covering the hair has become the mode for many in our society. Yet there are certain occasions where women seek a special look. A four-week course in Sabra Center teaches the different ways in which

a scarf could be tied attractively. The skill learned can generate an income as this art is applied during special occasions. Twelve girls completed the program at two different intervals.

Summer programs:

Carnival- Dbayeh camp

Dbayeh camp becomes alive for three full days every summer. It is the annual carnival where a great effort and a lot of planning go into the preparation for its success. This year a lot of games, competitions and presentations from our very own JCC young people filled the days with fun and joy. The women of the camp produced delicious food and kept everybody satisfied. But the highlight of the carnival was the renowned choir "The Fayha" who offered their performance for one evening while a famous Jordanian folk singer Makadi



Nahhas sang on another night. The carnival ended with the famous Lebanese singer Abdo Yaghi and his daughter Brigitte in addition to the singing of our own JCC choir. The whole camp, its surroundings and many from the other camps attend.



Recreational Activities - Sabra center

The now traditional six-week recreational program for the children of Sabra -Shatilla and surroundings is carried out in summer in the Sabra Center. The program was carried out for 24 children and included different art activities, educational games, sports and trips to play in nature.

Workshops

Workshops -Sidon

As the Syrian educational program began it was decided to run a workshop with the Syrian teachers and invite teachers from the UNRWA and other schools. The trainers were experienced Syrian teachers who led the group of 30 over two intensive weekends. The topics covered ways of interacting with students and especially the Syrian refugee students who faced problems; connecting with them; knowing when to discipline and when to reward.





The second three day workshop centered on problems the Syrian teachers were facing as they try to cope with the Lebanese system of education and especially at UNRWA.

A third workshop handled the psychosocial problems of our 12th grade students. It ran for three days and was led by physicians from the "Doctors without Borders."

Workshops - Sabra

Sabra Center with its diverse programs for all ages and both genders has the outreach community capacity to be able to empower its beneficiaries and their families through workshops and lectures. In collaboration with

a number of NGOs, the topics included some of the following:

- Behavior problems in children resulting from difficulties in learning.
- Emotional factors affecting children.
- Protecting children from abuse and sexual harassment.
- Playing is the right of every child. Training and supervision followed.
- Dangers of drugs
- Advantages and disadvantages of early marriages

Workshops - Dbayeh

The community center of Dbayeh is in the midst of the camp and is easily accessible to all residents of the camp making it ideal to run various programs. Lecture and workshop topics included:

- Different stages of development in children
- Adolescence and its effect on youth
- The father's role at home
- Health care for the older person
- Methods of studying and the importance of concentration

A three day workshop for teachers to understand the behavior of adolescents and the problems teachers face in dealing with them.



Palestinian Culture



The JCC was invited to partake in a Palestinian exhibition of traditional embroidery and crafts with other NGOs working to preserve this heritage. The exhibition ran for five days.

General Programs	Centers	No. of beneficiaries	Duration
Sports	Dbayeh	45	Ongoing
Music	Dbayeh	16	Ongoing
Moral Guidance	Dbayeh	45	Ongoing
Elderly Program	Sabra	60	9 months
Tying of scarves	Sabra	12	1 month
Carnival	Dbayeh	All the camp	3 days
Recreation	Sabra	24	6 weeks
Workshops	Dbayeh, Sidon, Sabra	Various numbers	Varying durations

Goal three: Gain world support for the plight of the Palestinians, advocate for their rights and support their right of return



The JCC continues to tell the story. It is the story of a lost country, of its uprooted and displaced people, of its refugees and of those living in camps for the last 65 years. It is the story of the misery of the old, the despair of the young and the yearning of all to return to a country that some can remember and others have been raised with its love in their hearts.

Creating awareness is an integral part of JCC work. We greatly welcome people who represent churches or church related organizations. We are happy to assist researchers, people of the media, students and greatly appreciate the help and support of volunteers. All are our windows to the world. It is important that they see and experience for themselves the injustice the refugees are enduring. Our partners' visits are important to us as they represent their organizations and we depend on them to go back and advocate the Palestinian cause and support our work.

Visitors

Clair Leeson, partnership manager of "Embrace the Middle East", visited us along with three of "Embrace" trustees namely Dr. Brian McGucken, Rev Daniel Burton and Ms. Miriam Tadros. They visited the Sabra center and the Dbayeh camp, saw our work and talked to the people.

Jeremy Moody, Claire Leeson and Jamie Eyre from "Embrace the Middle East" carried out a one day conference to introduce its new strategy to its partners in Lebanon.



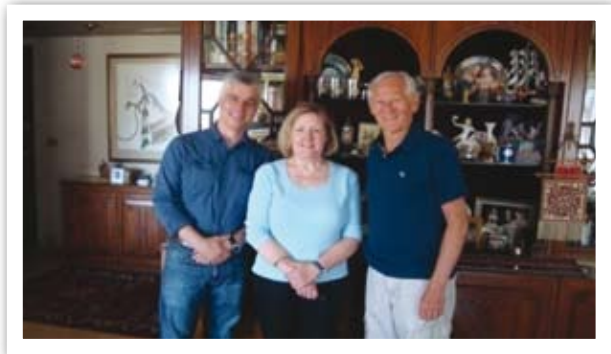
Mel Leman whom JCC had helped produce a film on Palestinian life in the camps a number of years ago came for a visit to discuss different possibilities. He is working in the US with “Common Humanity”, who are trying to use art and handicrafts as a way to build understanding between Americans and the Middle East.



Cecilia Blewer also from the organization “Common Humanity” had come to Lebanon to study Arabic. She visited JCC a number of times with the idea of encouraging artists by buying their paintings to exhibit and sell in New York. She ended up buying Palestinian embroidery and necklaces beaded in the Dbayeh camp to encourage and benefit the producers.



Rev. Glynis Williams and Rev. Richard Fee from the United Church of Canada came for a conference with the MECC and so did John Lewis a fellow Canadian from Kairos .To the same conference came Peter Makari from Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ. He usually comes leading a group from the United Churches to visit the camps and show them our centers. With the limited time available to them, we were very happy to update them on JCC work and the challenges facing us.



Josef Pfattner, senior program officer of ACT Alliance and Dick Loendersloot from ICCO of the Netherlands were on a fact finding visit to see the work carried out with the Syrian refugee. They visited the JCC Sabra Kindergarten where Syrian children were studying and Sidon where the Syrian school curriculum was being implemented for the higher classes. The JCC was happy to show them its work.



Isabell Uhe project communicator from the “Bread for the World” along with Joseph who did a lot of photography visited the Sabra-Shatilla camp and the Dbayeh camp and they spent a lot of time talking to people and visiting their homes.



Jens Halve, from "Bread for the World" and Francis Tams their financial consultant in Jerusalem spent time seeing the programs in the Sabra.

center and walked around in the Shatilla camp.



Maggie Tookey and John Home Robertson from "Edinburgh Direct" visited our center at Sabra and the Shatilla camp. They were on a mission of delivering clothing and securing books to help the Syrian refugees, but also wanted to learn more about the Palestinian refugees and life in the camps.

Sue McLellan and Richard Jones regional managers at the "Embrace the Middle East" were anxious to see the work JCC does in Sabra and Dbayeh. Both have the job of relating what they see in their churches back home.



To participate in a church conference came Amgad Beblawi with a group from the Presbyterian Churches of the USA. They included a visit to the camps in their busy schedule.

Volunteers

"You give but little when you give of your possessions, it is when you give of yourself that you truly give"
Gibran Khalil Gibran

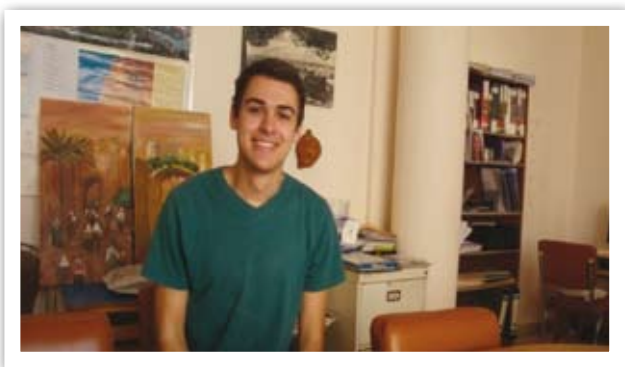
Volunteers have enriched the JCC programs by giving of themselves and in return we hope their lives have been touched. Katie Tanner, a volunteer in 2011 wrote

"My thesis has been published with a thank you to you for allowing me to work with your organization and providing me with such great resources as part of my research"

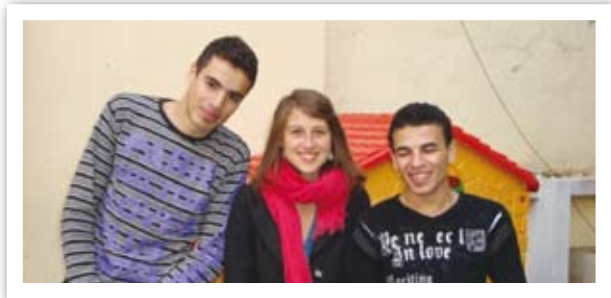
When Mrs. Mona Bahnan retired from her teaching career, she decided to use her time in voluntary work.



She began at the JCC school and upon its forced closure she offered her services at the Dbayeh camp where she tutors the children of the study station in their English homework.



Jeff Haake , a pre-med student from the United States wanted to experience life in a Palestinian camp before entering medical school . His chance meeting with three Belgian nuns, who have served in the Dbayah camp since many years, brought him to the camp. Jeff helped the nuns in the morning but dedicated his afternoons to the JCC. He helped in the tutorial program greatly benefiting the children and helped with the library activities as well.



Anna on the other hand decided to work with the young men of the Electronics Program (aged 16-21) which was quite a challenge as they were a noisy group at a difficult age. Anna recruited the help of a Lebanese young man, Fuad Halwani, a filming instructor and director whom she had met in Beirut. The two embarked on teaching the young men script writing and filming initially using their mobile phones. Paul Damouni one of the JCC team joined them as a motivating and controlling figure of our young and rather energetic students . A lot of work followed but in six months their efforts resulted in a film. The script had been written by our students who acted out the scenes. A professional camera was rented for the job. The film was called “Barzakh”(an empty space between 2cultures or spaces) and was shown in the auditorium of the NEST with a big audience attending. It might be shown in one of the documentary festivals.

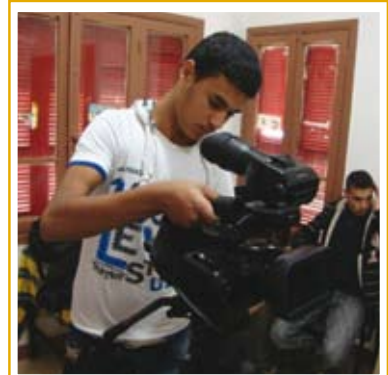


Three young German students of theology Anna Steinke, Livia Stiller and Lisa Mohns attending a special program at the Near East School of Theology asked to visit the Sabra Center. The visit gained for the JCC three wonderful volunteers. Livia and Lisa worked with the Kindergarten children teaching them music and songs providing the kindergarten with a musical program they lacked and badly needed . By the end of the year and during the final ceremony they led the children in a wonderful performance much to the enjoyment of their parents and the rest of the audience.



The impact of this experience has been tremendous on the boys who discovered some hidden talents and gained self esteem.

Goal four: Enhance the DSPR organizational operation and financial sustainability
 All the regions of the DSPR are continuously working to insure their sustainability as regions and as an efficient and unified organization that has served the Palestinian refugees for the last 65 years. A recent consolidated strategic plan is in place, a financial reporting system is already unified and functional, a central office plays the important role of leadership and coordination while a Central Committee representing the four Church families is the guiding force of the DSPR.



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