



Joint Christian Committee for Social Service in Lebanon



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Annual Report 2016

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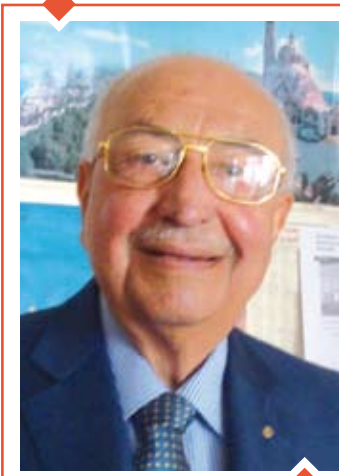
Dr. Tarek Na'was
Vice Chairman

Dr Arda Ekmekji
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Mrs. Leila Dagher
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Message from the Chairman



Everyone has a right to belong to a country. To be a citizen of a country. To enjoy the rights and privileges of that country. Everyone, it seems, except Palestinians.

They have effectively been homeless since 1948.

Many wars have been waged since. Many people have become refugees since – but eventually they go back to their countries. The Palestinians are still waiting....

Palestinians have gone hoarse crying out for their land. But their cries continue to fall on deaf ears. With the Syrian refugee crisis in full swing, a solution to a Palestinian homeland seems to be slipping further and

further away.

But our dear partners have not forgotten us. While world leaders may have turned away, our Christian brothers and sisters still rally around us.

I do not have enough words to thank you for your support. Without your contributions, we would not be able to continue with our vocational schools, education programs and caring for all underprivileged Palestinians.

May the Lord continue to lead you to us. May He find a way to finally open the world's eyes and look at the forgotten Palestinian refugees.

God Bless you. And once again, thank you.

Edward Asmar

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Edward Asmar', written in a cursive style.

Acknowledgements

The JCC board, staff and beneficiaries extend their gratitude to those who believe and support our work and make it possible. Some of our partners have been with us for many years faithfully encouraging our efforts through their support and visits. Others have recently joined as partners offering help and support we greatly need and appreciate. We remain committed to helping the Palestinian refugees as they are well into their 6th decade of living and suffering as refugees. The poor of the local community are included in our work.

The sad and unfortunate strife in Syria has added the Syrian refugees to the list of those we work hard to help. All this cannot be done without your help and support. We send our gratitude to our old partners and extend our appreciation to the new partners. May we all be able to work together upholding our values and beliefs to help and serve those who need us.

Our appreciation goes to partners, members of churches, organizations and media members who ask to visit the camps. It is their chance to witness the suffering and misery of life within the camps-home to thousands of people for the last 68 years. We are happy to show them our programs, share our successes, express our frustrations and listen to ideas and suggestions.

- Action of Churches Together (ACT)
- Embrace the Middle East
- Global Ministries – United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ
- Christian World Service – New Zealand
- Bread for the World
- Church of Scotland
- General Board of Global Ministries –The United Methodist Church – USA

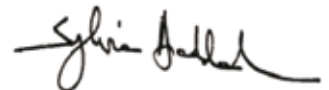
- United Churches of Canada
- Church of Sweden
- Protestant Church in Netherlands– Kerk in Actie and Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO)
- World Vision
- Welfare Organization
- Pontifical Mission
- German Evangelical Church of Beirut
- Le Comité Catholique Contre La Faim CCFD

We appreciate the Cooperation we have with local NGOs and extend our thanks and gratitude for their help.

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

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

Sylvia Haddad



Introduction

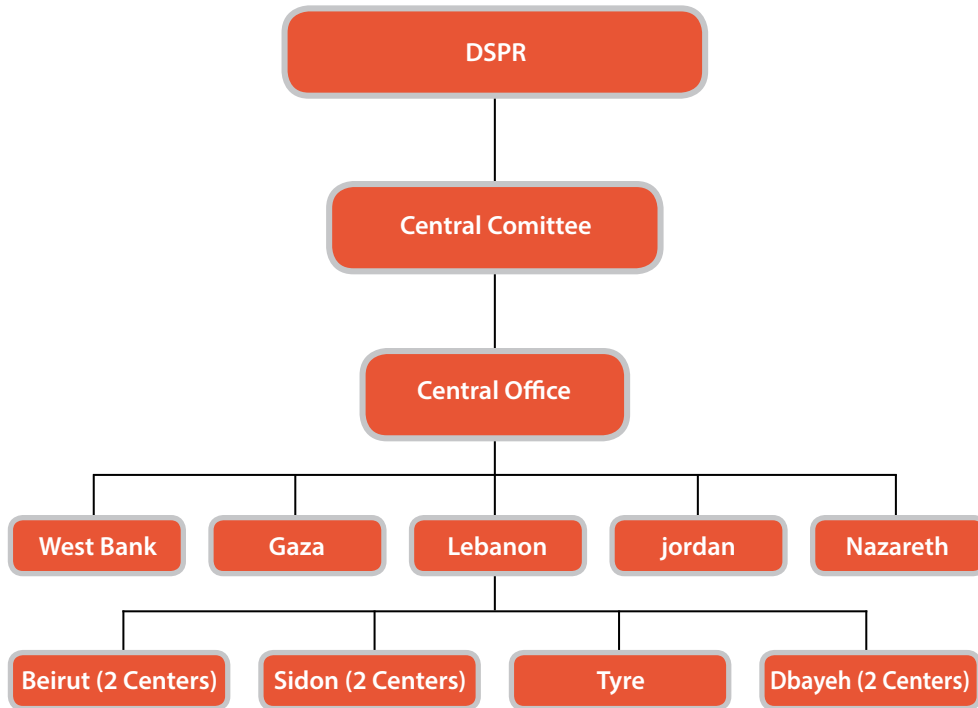
The Joint Christian Committee (JCC) was established in 1950 in the aftermath of the Palestinian people's forced exodus from their country in 1948. It was established as one of the five regions of the Department of Service for Palestinian refugees (DSPR) which in turn became part of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) in 1974. The initial goal of DSPR at the time was to aid the refugees in their areas of refuge to cope with the new hard life they faced. Each DSPR region undertook an area of service which they deemed best suited to the refugee needs in their region and was within the expertise and interest of the implementers. They were connected through a Central Office under the direction of a Central Committee made up of members from the various committees in addition to consultative members from the different churches. The relationship between the area committees, their Central Office and the Central Committee was and remains strong and unified in spite of the diversity of programs in the different regions. They all share common purposes and ideals of service based on promoting the spiritual, moral and material welfare of the refugees and displaced.

The JCC began with relief but as the refuge duration extended beyond the few expected months or even the few expected years, empowerment for facing the years ahead was the path they had to follow. Education and vocational training was chosen as the JCC mission which began with the establishment of schools and

vocational training centers. The Palestinians and the needy of the local communities were provided with a good education and excellent vocational trainings which allowed them the ability to work as they awaited their return to their homes. Yet the expected and coveted return to Palestine did not happen while new catastrophes hit other countries and help was diverted elsewhere. Gradually funds to JCC decreased forcing schools, centers and programs to close. A civil war in Lebanon resulted in the closing of even more centers and programs. Yet JCC held on.

Today the JCC operates through its four centers in four different areas of the country. It implements programs best suited to the refugee community still believing in the importance of education, vocational training and community development. The Syrian crises sent a new wave of refugees with a big number of them being of Palestinian origin experiencing once again the bitterness of losing their homes. Most of these refugees were housed in the 12 existing camps seeking assistance of the UNRWA. But these additional numbers added to the already congested and miserable situation in the camps and added a burden on the NGOs serving in these camps. The JCC offered the services it could beginning with relief and repeating what our founding fathers had done: offering young people education and teaching vocations and skills to the older ones. The young generation must not be lost.

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.

Strategic Plan of JCC is based on four goals serving as guidelines to achieve the JCC mission

Goal 1:

Empower marginalized Palestinian women and youth to improve their own economic conditions through access to basic education as a human right.

Goal 2:

Enable refugee women, youth and the needy of the community to develop their potential to advance their self realization and income generation capacities..

Goal 3:

Gain world support for the plight of the Palestinians, advocate for their rights and support their right of return.

Goal 4:

Enhance the DSPR organizational operation and financial sustainability.



JCC Implements its different programs through its six Centers in different areas of Lebanon within or accessible to the Palestinian refugee camps.

Sabra Center

Educational Programs



To the south of Beirut lies the Sabra-Shatilla refugee camp where the JCC has a Center since 1950. Once famous for its kindergarten and sewing programs, it now maintains its kindergarten while a variety of programs have replaced the sewing. The surroundings are heavily populated with very busy narrow streets full of vendors selling all kinds of merchandise, while the camp is overbuilt and overpopulated with small houses separated by narrow alleys. The camp houses Palestinian refugees of 1948 and the waves of refugees

that later followed with the Syrian refugees being the latest to join.

The Sabra Center occupies two spacious floors of a building with a small playground. A nursery and kindergarten occupy most of the first floor and a few rooms on the second floor. An electronics and computer program share the second floor with tutorial classes, literacy classes, a program for the elderly in addition to a space prepared for workshops, trainings and lectures.

Nursery and Kindergarten

Amongst brightly painted walls decorated with pictures, posters and instructional materials sit 140 children following a well studied nursery and kindergarten program that will get them into the elementary level once completed. Most of the children in this kindergarten are the children and grandchildren of those who were once themselves preschoolers in this center. One third of the children for the last four years have been Syrian refugees who had sought safety from the fighting in Syria.

Children learn in a creative environment of educational games, sports activities and songs using both Arabic and English. A variety of activities including music, art and story reading expands their knowledge and increases their vocabulary. Parents are often invited



to watch and take part in classroom activities. A play ground which is a great luxury in this congested area offers the children a place to play and carry out different celebrations such as mother's day and end

of the year graduation. This is when the children have the chance to perform in front of their parents and friends with songs and dances they have worked on throughout the year. pictures.

Activities at the Kindergarten

Following are some of the indoor and outdoor activities which are carried out during the year

- Learning to draw, color and paint
- Learning the alphabet, numbers and colors through cutting vegetables and fruits.
- Drawing some of the dairy products to learn about their benefits.
- Celebrating mothers' day with song and dance and cards done by the children given to mothers during an outdoor ceremony.
- Celebrating each child's birthday as well as Christmas, Adha, Teachers' day, Independence Day and others.
- Visiting the zoo to learn more about the animals they see in books and watch in films.
- Watching puppet shows with themes dealing with health and bodily care.
- Learning cleanliness and hygiene through stories and short plays.
- Swinging and sliding under supervision in public playgrounds.
- Learning of the challenges handicapped people face by visiting a school for handicapped
- Commemorating Nakba day by relaying stories about Palestine
- Instilling the love of reading through story reading sessions.
- Partake in "Unite Lebanon Youth's" children's program at their outdoor facility where the children run and play in nature, in addition to various handicrafts.
- Visits of the upper Kindergarten class to Elementary Schools in preparation for their move the coming year.



Summer Programs

Six weeks of fun and games are offered each summer to children from the center and from the community. Plastic small pools are filled with water for the children to play with and to cool off in the heat of the summer. Arts and crafts are offered in addition to educational games. Of special emphasis are the memories games which help children learn to listen, observe, and remember what they learned. Trips to fun places are also part of this program. pic- summer activity

Training of teachers is a program which continues to be offered every summer by "the Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts" (ARCPA). Trainers from different parts of the world are invited to offer a variety of trainings in music, drama and other art related subjects. Two of our teachers spend a whole week in a school in the mountains to attend this training. They come back with new ideas and methods to refresh and update their own teaching method and style.



Tutoring Program

A big number of students suffer from different learning abilities, behavioral and speech problems, lack of guidance at home in addition to their poverty and bad living conditions. Schools have become overcrowded and teachers can hardly cope with the increasing number of students. The thousands of Syrian/Palestinian refugee students whose families have taken refuge in the camps have added to the pressure schools are working under. Inability to cope with their studies has increased the dropout rate from schools, creating an alarming problem of young people with no future. Helping students cope with their studies and encouraging them to continue their education has become an essential and vital service of this center. The tutoring program started more than 15 years ago is going on strongly, helping students cope with their assignments and giving them confidence in themselves and in their learning abilities.

Every afternoon, 50-60 students aged 12 -16 of both genders from different schools and of different

scholastic levels gather around the tables to work on their class assignments. A leading teacher with helpers for the different subjects help the students understand the material and carry out the assignments. Contact with schools to check the progress of the students give the guidelines to be followed. Their improved grades and the increasing number of applicants to these classes are a clear indication of the success of this program. We often have volunteers from abroad helping especially with the English homework.



Activities

An activity the students of the tutoring program anticipate every year at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan is the annual invitation of the Rotary Club. The Rotary Club offers our students and others from the community an outing that gives them a chance

to leave the camp for a day. For the last 2 years it has been a trip to the northern village of Harissa where the children have the novel experience of riding cable cars to the top of the mountain. Eating good food in a restaurant and being entertained is a memorable

experience for these children. A magician provided entertainment for the last 2 years which proved to be a great success. rotary pic

The students enjoyed being taken on two other trips. The first was to the zoo to see the animals and learn more about the different species. The second was to the harbor to watch the ships and boats and learn about maritime transportation.



Literacy program

Illiteracy is a difficult burden to carry that only the illiterate will understand as they suffer in silence. Realizing the need to help these persons who have been left behind for no fault of their own instigated the JCC to begin a literacy teaching program. Encouraged by the new method of teaching adults, which the "Ecumenical Popular Education Program" (EPEP) offered literacy teachers, the program was launched a number of years ago. The success of the first four women who took up the challenge attracted many others who were desperate to read and write as well. This year eighteen women ranging in age from 20 -80 and 2 youth aged 12 and 16 spent their days anxiously working to achieve their goal. They are all very proud of their achievements and are happy to demonstrate their new skill of reading and writing. Simple mathematics is also part of the

course. Their new skill has opened a new world before them. From their inability to read, they can now read books, advertisements and follow written directions, write their shopping lists, and participate in their children's homework. It is like being given the chance to see after a long time of being blind.



Activities

Our students participated in the annual carnival to celebrate the efforts of those who are working on their literacy abilities. It is held in the city of Sidon, under the patronage of the minister of education, the EPEP organization and the Lebanese /Palestinian dialogue

committee. It is held to encourage the spread of literacy amongst all. Two of our students spoke one of which is the lady who walks more than an hour each way to get to her literacy class.

Nadia Yousef Ghader is 63 years old and is married with six children. Two of her children are nurses, and one has a PhD in business management. Nadia felt inferior when she sat with her educated children, and hated the disrespectful looks her husband often gave her when she couldn't read some essential information. Hearing about the JCC literacy program, she decided to join without telling her husband or her children. But when her son ridiculed her as she was trying to read some paper, she decided to share her secret with him and got his support. Eventually she learned the skills she had yearned to learn all her life gaining self confidence and the respect and value she felt were due to her from her family. Suddenly her husband and children showed their respect and encouraged her to pursue her studies. What more would a wife and mother want ?!

Library

A small library made up of a few shelved cupboards with around 200 books is the beginning of a library for this center. A librarian has the job of setting up a lending system for our students from the different programs to borrow, read and return the books. This new addition

to the center is in response to the requests made by the women and youth, who recently learned to read but children of the kindergarten also enjoy a story reading hour twice a week in the library.

A New Program begins: Children on the Move



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Sabra Center

Vocational Programs

Hairdressing

A very popular six month course where the women learn skin and scalp care, the newest techniques of cutting, coloring, straightening, curling, lifting and styling of hair. It also teaches the latest fashion of styling with natural hair or with artificial extensions. The course runs twice a year and has an average of 12-15 trainees in every session.



Beauty Skills

Learning the essentials of skin care is the introduction to this 4 month course. This is followed by the latest fashions and techniques in make-up applications. The course also includes the care of fingernails and toe nails with the latest trend in designs painted on the fingernails. A popular part of the course is learning to decorate the legs and hands with henna in different designs and colors.



Barber Skills

This is a skill which is attracting a lot of young men and boys. It is a four month course that teaches scalp care, hair coloring, conditioning, highlighting and the newest hair styles. They learn to shave and to trim moustaches and beards as well. As the basics of this skill are learned, the students practice their new skill on each other before being exposed to the public. Although many young men apply to this course, many are too young and should be in school although they are anxious to work. Efforts are exerted to get them back to school before taking a decision to accept or reject their application.



Practical Work

Practicing on fellow trainees is the first step in applying what is learned. It is very good but is not enough. The beauty professions is in need of a lot of practice which students should gain before getting into the market. Through an agreement with a nearby home for elderly women with little means and no families, our students of the hairdressing and beauty programs are allowed access to the residents. This is where they have the chance to practice their chosen vocation and improve their skills under the supervision of their teachers. This not only provides our students the practice they

need but also, and very importantly, provides the elderly women with their essential grooming needs in addition to the company and affection they crave for.

For the aspiring young barbers, an agreement with an orphanage for boys allows access to practice the skills learned on the boys within. This gives the trainees the confidence needed for working in this professions while giving the young orphans the grooming they need and often provides a friend as well.

To stay updated with the newest hairstyles, makeup

techniques and new products in the market, leading beauty establishments are visited. Films are shown and experts demonstrate the latest trends in this industry. Occasionally, hairdressers are invited to our center to demonstrate new techniques and styles.

All through the courses there is emphasis on the job market and on employability requirements. These

include mastering the skills of their choice in addition to proper behavior and attitudes in the work place. To practice these requirements, the community surrounding the center is invited to get their grooming needs at a very low charge. This provides our students with the experience they need in dealing with the public.

Sabra Center

Electronics and Computer Center



The Electronics and Computer Center occupies the second floor of the Sabra Center and shares the administrative office of the center.

The Electronics Program

In 1964, the Electronics program began in a field few people knew of the future possibilities it offered. It required, at the time, a certificate of completion of the intermediate school level, good grades and mathematical abilities. A five year program followed opening employment possibilities locally and in the Gulf countries. The program was later reduced to three years with a good basic education required. But as the standards of basic education serving the Palestinians started deteriorating, and restrictions were placed on the employment of refugees, the three years were reduced to two years with the second year being optional. At present, a simplified yet challenging curriculum taught in a shorter period of time is being implemented. The course is a mixture of both theoretical and practical classes. The market is closely monitored to keep abreast of all new electronic



equipment being used. Thus, putting up dishes on the roofs and fixing cellular phones have become part of the training in addition to the traditional repairing of electronic and house hold equipment.

The Computer Program

Assembling, maintaining and connecting the use of computers to the electronics field is an essential part of the whole course. Emphasis begins with the computer, its different parts and their use and moves on to connect it to its use in the electronics equipment. The addition of the computer course has added to the attraction of the electronics program and has proved its importance to the job market. Some students are able to continue in both programs while some ask to specialize in parts of the program which interests them and which they think will help them find a job within their capabilities. So although 20 began on this joint program, only 16 received certificates of completion.



The graduates of this year have all found jobs in stores dealing with electronics, computer and cellular equipment while a few were able to open very small businesses within the camp.

Activities

A sports teacher comes once a week for exercises and games in the playground and encourages them to play in the nearby football field where he often meets

them. A series of lectures and trainings carried out once a week handle different "life skills issues" and are offered by "Save the Children".

Mohammed Darraj is now 27 years old. He graduated from the JCC Electronics/Computers program in 2009. Right after he had joined the program, his father passed away. This caused him much grief and tremendous pressure as he had to take responsibility of the family being the eldest. Needing money for the family, he immediately put what he was learning into practice by working as an electrician in the evenings. After graduating he felt that his knowledge gave him enough skills to bid for the electrical installations of houses and even of buildings. He was able to offer jobs to many of his classmates along the way. What helped me says Mohammed is that "I insisted on being honest, truthful, and faithful focusing on improving my work". His honesty and truthfulness has proved fruitful as it has provided him with lots of work and the respect of people.

Sabra Center

Community Programs

Program for the Elderly

On Wednesday of every week throughout the year the elderly ladies of the community gather for their special program. They come to participate in activities that interest them, allows them to socialize, gives them information about their health improves their physical and mental well being and entertains them. But most importantly it gets them out of their homes.

The program consists of socializing together, reminiscing about old days, expressing of feelings and benefitting from lectures about fighting laziness, using time constructively and eating healthy food. The center provides an outlet from their drab life and allows them to stimulate their minds. They are taken on day trips, to places where they can enjoy nature away from the dismal life in their camp. They enjoy eating and



laughing together. The program attracts an average of 60 to 70 women each week. It is their day and their program and they love it.

Activities

Two annual picnics to a family type restaurant by a river where they are allowed to barbecue and prepare their own dishes to enjoy together. They also participate in any peaceful demonstration they are asked to show their opinion and take a stand,

Workshops & Lectures at the Center

A well equipped space is reserved for workshops, trainings and lectures. A projector, a screen, a flip chart, markers of all colors stand ready for the educational events open to our students, their parents and very often for the community. Cooperation with other organizations provides speakers and trainers for the many topics of discussion. Some of these organizations are: Save the Children, Doctors without Borders, Najdeh, Hariri Health Department, Tawasol, Musawat, ULYP

Some of the topics handled were: Violence at home and

its effect on children; Alerting children to understanding and reporting sexual harassment; Teaching cleanliness and hygiene to children; Importance of following rules and regulations; Learning to play with your children .Family planning; The rights of women and children; Understanding your children and handling their problems; Learning difficulties and speech problems of children and how to handle them.

The organization "Tawasol" conducted theater classes for the youth and gave embroidery classes for women.



Workshops & lectures attended by the staff

These include teacher trainings; building children's capacities against physical abuse; handling learning difficulties in children; importance of play for children; behavioral problems in class.

Programs of Sabra Center	No. of Beneficiaries	Duration
Nursery, Kindergarten	139	9 months
Tutorial	55	9 months
Literacy	19	9 months
Library	All programs	Ongoing
Children on the move	22	9 months
Elderly	60	9 months
Workshops & Lectures	250-300	On going
Summer activities	64	8 weeks
Electronics & Computer	18	9 months
Hair dressing	24	6 months
Beauty skills	20	6 months
Barbering	17	4 months

Sidon Center

In the city of Sidon to the south of Beirut, JCC has a center accessible to two refugee camps. Ein-El-Hilweh camp, a densely populated camp and a smaller camp- Mieh -Mieh. It is also accessible to the old part of the city where a good number of Palestinian refugee

families live in poverty. The center once re-known for teaching sewing and embroidery had changed in the late 1990s to secretarial training and hairdressing but has changed since four years to a center running an educational program for the Syrian refugees.

Education for the Syrian/Palestinian refugees

Thousands of Syrian refugees of Palestinian origin were experiencing the bitterness of being refugees once more. A big number of them took refuge in the Palestinian camps. The government, U.N. agencies, international NGOs and numerous local organizations rallied to help the Syrian refugees with food, clothes and shelter. The JCC helped as well but became more concerned with the young people who were unable to cope with the Lebanese educational system which is bilingual while Arabic is the sole language of instruction in Syria. As a result, many frustrated with their inability to understand, were dropping out of schools at the most formative and precious days of their lives. Most did not know what to do and were becoming prey to different fanatic groups or political movements.

Looking at these frustrated young people and finding many qualified Syrian teachers anxious to work amongst them, JCC decided to launch an educational program for students aged 14-18 following the Syrian System of education. pics of classes

The plan was to follow the Syrian system of education for the highest classes of the intermediate level and the highest classes leading to the high school diploma. To get accreditation for our efforts, the students have

to go to Damascus to sit for the Ministry of Education exams. With the limited capacity of our center, we had planned on 65 students participating. But were amazed at the number of applicants which reached to 580 students in the first year alone.

Encouraged by the appreciation and success encountered, the program continued and spread to our other centers. With some destroyed printing presses resuming their work in Syria, books became available. Travel to Syria was the big hurdle as some of the boys got scared of being recruited into the army or of being prevented from coming back. The majority though, were looking forward to seeing their country again.

And so began the big job of obtaining application forms for the exams from the Syrian Ministry of Education in Damascus to fill and return. This is followed by getting travel documents from the Lebanese security offices that will insure safe passage at the borders and insure re-entry into Lebanon. As important, is securing safe lodging for 3 weeks for each group of students. The successful scholastic results is the ultimate goal which keeps the program going.



Ahmad Hmeidi is a Syrian refugee who was one of the first students to enroll in the 9th grade in our educational program for Syrians. He was a very sick boy as he was in need of surgery for a heart valve. Surprisingly and in spite of his condition, he studied very hard and excelled in the two official exams he sat for in Damascus. This allowed him to join the agricultural program at Damascus University and he is currently residing in Damascus. The JCC contributes to his living expenses as his family are refugees in Lebanon and he lives on his own.

Hiba Hasan is a Syrian Palestinian refugee who was filled with despair and had lost all hope of pursuing her high school studies as she couldn't cope with the Lebanese system of education. Hearing about the JCC program, Hiba immediately joined. Her success changed her whole attitude and personality which influenced her two siblings Yara, and Samer who had similar coping problems. The success of their sister pushed them to enroll in the JCC educational program as well. They quickly caught on and studied hard getting ready for the official exams in Damascus. Their success and high grades got them into different universities in Lebanon studying media, political science, and business administration. Hiba, the eldest graduated this year.

Ein -El- Hilweh Center



In the heavily populated camp of Ein-el-Hilweh the JCC has a premise used for informal and recreational activities. As the need for additional space to accommodate the increasing number of Syrian students wanting to study the Syrian program, it was decided to use this premise in the camp. The premise, as a result, was divided into classrooms and the Sidon program was implemented with the students

preparing to travel to Damascus for the exams as well.

Many of the children in the camp, who had undergone traumatic experiences from the war before their arrival, were in need of special attention and help. A psychosocial program includes around 70 to 80 children aged 8-13 who attend this program and are benefiting from it.

Sidon & Ein -El- Hilweh Centers Programs

Tutoring classes

The tutoring program works to provide the many refugee students attending UNRWA and other local schools in the Sidon area camps with the help needed to cope with their lessons. Many find home work difficult especially that few have help at home. It is even more difficult for those who joined the UNRWA

schools which decided to follow the French system of education and use the French language of instruction. To prevent the alarming rate of students from dropping out of schools, help for students with homework is essential for their success

English classes

Classes in English for different levels are offered throughout the year. These include basic English language skills for those wanting to join the local schools where languages are needed. Advanced language skills in preparation for university entrance exams are also given. Special remedial classes of English and math are available.



Trainings for teachers

Educans, an organization from Holland concerned with education through teacher training, spent four days each time at two different intervals conducting the trainings themselves. Two days were spent filming in classrooms in Sidon and in Ein-el-Hilweh and two days were spent working with the teachers. Traditional teaching techniques were studied and improved and new techniques were introduced. Teachers of the Syrian program from Sidon, Ein-el-Hilwweh, Tyre and Wavel camp participated with enthusiasm. All benefitted and greatly enjoyed the experience.



Activities at Ein El Hilweh

A carnival was organized in Ein-el- Hilweh in midsummer where more than 2000 children participated along with their parents and a number of NGOs working in the camp. The purpose of the carnival was to provide the children with joy and happiness after the turmoil and conflict the camp had experienced during the year. It was a fun day and especially for children who were badly in need of some fun.

Several trips were organized to different places in Lebanon such as the historical areas in Sidon and in Tyre.



Educational Programs in other areas

Wavel Camp

Near the city of Baalbeck in the Beqaa valley is the Wavel Palestinian camp where a group of Syrian teachers are running classes for the Syrian students similar to our program. We shared with them our syllabus and supplied them with books. More importantly, their students who need to sit for the official exams in Damascus are taken and cared for

with our own students. But in the midst of this year, the program found itself in need of funding as their supporters were facing problems. They appealed to JCC who has taken up the challenge of supporting this important program while considering adding this center as one of its own.

Yarmouk Camp

The Yarmouk Palestinian camp in Damascus has been badly destroyed as it found itself heavily involved in the civil war. As the fighting increased most of its inhabitants fled after having gone through traumatic experiences. Yet there are those who remained trying to carry on with a normal life. The UNRWA school remained open offering classes up to the 9th grade. A group of teachers living in the camp have taken it

upon themselves to provide the schooling needed for the last three years of high school which will enable the students to sit for the official degree of the Baccalaureate. The JCC helps them with books and presents these students as part of its own group which gives them the official coverage needed to sit for the exams. One hundred students joined our group this year.

Na'meh School

A small informal school was initiated a few years ago to help the increasing number of children dropping out of the local schools for different reasons. As more

children asked to join, new classes of different levels were introduced. Classes run from grade one to grade eight for ages ranging between 6-14



Programs of Sidon & Ein El- Hilweh	No. of Beneficiaries	Duration
Academic classes for Syrian refugees	487	9 months
Official exams taken in Damascus	336	3 weeks each round
Tutoring	50	Ongoing
English	28	Ongoing
Psychosocial	80	Ongoing
Na'meh school	102	9 months
Teacher training	30	One week
Fun activities	The community	At intervals

Tyre Farm



In the south of Lebanon lies the Tyre farm in the area where many Palestinian refugees first arrived in 1948. The JCC farm is surrounded by agricultural land slowly changing into cement buildings. The farm established in 2000 for teaching purposes has been well prepared with a water well and an irrigation system installed. Four plastic houses have been set up and are planted with vegetables around the year. An old structure was turned into a green house where a variety of vegetables and house plants are grown from seeds before moving them into soil. The farm offers an introductory course to agriculture open to both genders and to all ages.

The course is a 4 month course and offers basic training in agriculture which includes theory and practical work in the field, in the plastic houses and in the greenhouse. Many find employment in the surrounding fields or in agriculture related establishments while some have rented small pieces of land to plant and generate

an income. Still others have found jobs in the Arab countries or abroad.

Working in Agriculture is allowed for Palestinian refugees and does not need a working permit. This should encourage people and especially the young to study agriculture which has a lot of related fields that can be pursued and taken up as vocations.

On the side of the farm where there are trees and wild flowers, beehives for bee keeping have been set up. Excellent honey is produced. This year, an intensive beekeeping course was offered to all who wanted to improve their skills as beekeepers in the area.

Organic fruits and vegetables grown on the farm are sent once a week to be sold in Beirut. The German Church has kindly allowed us to use their yard for this purpose.

Scholastic Educational Programs

The success of the Educational Program for the older Syrian Refugee students in Sidon, pushed the Syrian community in the southern camps to request a similar program for their children. Realizing this need, the JCC decided to introduce a scholastic program to the farm. The program of Sidon was replicated in Tyre, with the students travelling to Damascus for their official exams as well. pics of students in class

Two scholastic programs were also introduced. One



is for young students whether Syrian refugees or local Palestinian refugees who are unable to cope with school. They were offered literacy, arithmetic, languages and computer. The other is a literacy course for adults .pic of literacy adult

To provide livelihood incomes, three skill- training courses were carried out. They were beekeeping, soap making and flower decorating.



Programs on the Farm	No. of Beneficiaries	Duration
Agriculture classes	37	4 months
Bee keeping	15	4 weeks
Soap making	15	6 sessions
Handicrafts	18	6 months
Classes for Secondary Level	110	9 months
Literacy for children	25	9 months
Literacy for adults	12	9 months
English	15	6 months
Computer	19	6 months
Sale of organic products in Beirut	The community	Ongoing

Dbayeh Camp



To the north of Beirut on a hilly slope lies the Dbayeh camp. It is a small camp with around 500 families and 90 Syrian refugee families recently added to them.. One long street leads into the camp with a church standing in the middle. The houses are very small and are crowded together along four narrow streets. The

JCC runs its programs in a two floor premise. The upper floor houses the Library/ Community center while the lower floor is used for the special studies program. An adjoining premise to the lower floor was recently bought to expand the special academic classes offered to the Syrian refugee children.

The Library /Community Center

In 2008 a library equipped with books, educational games and computers was established in the midst of the camp. People began to learn the concept of a library which allows them to come, browse through books, research for subjects of interest and sit around and read . A membership system was introduced which allowed them to borrow books and return them. To attract the children , a story reading hour



was introduced where they gathered in groups three or four times a week to listen to stories read to them and encouraged to read themselves. Other programs of art, music, dance, drama. lectures and workshops were gradually introduced, attracting more people to participate. Gradually the library had become a Community Center as well. It is now the center and hub of all activities in the camp.

Tutoring program

Initiated in 2007, the tutoring program better known as the "Study Station" awaits the children every afternoon. Children with learning difficulties such as speech defects, hyperactivity, concentration difficulties, slow learning and other psychological problems gather to prepare their school homework. The program has benefitted a big number of students who otherwise

may have dropped out of school. Most parents are unable to help their children with their homework neither can they afford to pay for tutoring. Thus offering this tutoring program to the children has made a great difference in the lives of many families. Five tutors, a speech therapist, a psychologist and a social worker provide help and guidance to these students.

Rayan who is now 16 years old was unable to succeed in her classes. Her failure pushed her to leave school although her dream was to go to university one day. In desperation her parents sent her to the JCC "Study Station" with the hope that she will receive the help she needs. She soon got the guidance and encouragement she needed regaining her self confidence which allowed her to re-join her school. She is now doing well and has regained her dream of one day going to university.

Schooling for the Syrian Refugees

Many of the Syrian refugee children living in the camp and its surroundings have been unable to cope with the Lebanese schools although the government is encouraging it. The parents anticipating a near return to Syria, asked the JCC to run a schooling program following the Syrian Curriculum. This was done until the problem of official accreditation came up as who was going to give it. Meanwhile the government was encouraging that all children follow the Lebanese curriculum which the JCC had to honor. Attending the program are 120 students aged 6-12.



Moral Education



Instilling moral values in children and youth will result in honest and responsible adults. With television, internet, and the social media entering every home and influencing people's lives, it is imperative that values are instilled in children at a very young age to help them differentiate between the good and the bad. Religious guidance gives them the backbone they need to cultivate the values they need to be a good, honest, and upright part of society. Where is this guidance to be found better than the Bible with its teachings, stories, parables and lessons. Around 50 young people aged 5-18 attend these classes.

Helping Others

For the third consecutive year, eighteen of our young people volunteer to help care and entertain , a group of people of different ages suffering from mental problems. They all meet in a mountain resort for two weeks to provide them with some change in their lives.. This is an invaluable experience for our youth as they learn to care and give joy to others while enjoying themselves as well.

A fund was established a few years ago by the collection of a monthly contribution This fund is used to assist bereaved families at times of need .and has proved to be of great help.



Art and Music



Art and music are seen as the means for the expansion of peoples' mind and soul and are of special importance in the development of children's personalities. Art classes with a variety of handicrafts are carried out weekly for forty to fifty young people. Music and dancing classes are also given while the hope is to revive the choir one day.

Sports

Sports carried out as a team or as an individual is essential for the young and old. It is of great physical benefit and teaches the importance of practice in arriving at one's goal. It helps build self-esteem, confidence, and goal setting. An empty land filled with rubbish outside the camp was cleaned and prepared as a space for football and basketball. A foot ball team and a basket ball team with both girls and boys meet regularly twice a week with their trainers who are from the camp. They compete against each other and against teams from other camps.



A gymnasium

No one would believe that one day the camp will have its own gym facility. Repairing a few rooms of the abandoned school at the outskirts of the camp gave the space needed for such a facility. Exercise machines of all sizes were installed plus a television screen for entertainment while exercising. The whole community is very happy and the list of membership grows with the young and old.



A Thrift Shop

In the basement of the library are two rooms with their own entrance. They are used as a shop to sell second-hand clothing, toys and household items. The income

goes to help many who are in need of medical tests and medicines.

Summer Program

The theme of the summer program for 2016 was Health and Sports where 130 Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese children, aged four to thirteen gathered daily for two months. The program had different dimensions; psycho-social, where children were given the opportunity to focus on their creativity, attention span, children's rights, children's natural gifts, and gender equality. Sports was a huge part of the summer program where professional trainers of football offered extensive trainings for the children. Children who took part in competitions received medals and football costumes.



Summer Carnival

A three day carnival held at the end of summer was heavily attended by all residents of the camp, its surroundings, other camps and people from different parts of Lebanon. Plays, music competitions, magic and games were part of the program which ended with fireworks.



Lectures, Workshops and Trainings

During the year, workshops lectures, discussions, and trainings for women, men and young people were carried out. Initially only women attended but they soon realized that men have to attend if any benefit is to come out of what they are learning.. The men having rarely been included in programs, came reluctantly at first, but their attitude quickly changed as they felt the benefit of what they were learning. Some of the topics handled included: health issues-diabetes, asthma, family relations; reasons for family discord; relationships with their children; sex problems; reasons for divorce; preserving the family unit.

Subjects handled for the young people were of interest to their age such as self development, being assertive; handling feelings and emotions; team building; dangers of smoking, alcohol and drugs; being truthful and forgiving; first aid; the rights and responsibilities of refugees.

Training to research on the internet was given to the



oldest Syrian students. Art therapy was also given as an activity focusing on the psychological effects of colors in relation to stress management. Finally, an acting class was introduced teaching the basics of acting and training on breathing techniques.

Dbayeh Center Programs	No. of Beneficiaries	Duration
Library/community center	All the community	Ongoing
Study station	40	9 months
Story reading	45	Ongoing
Academic classes for Syrian refugees	67	9 months
Moral Education	45	Ongoing
Art and Music	35	Ongoing
Sports	30	Ongoing
Gymnasium	45	Ongoing
Summer program	110	2 months
Lectures, workshops, trainings	145 women, men & youth	10 months
Thrift shop	Camp & neighborhood	Ongoing

Advocacy

The whole world is now preoccupied with the millions of Syrian refugees who are seeking safety in all parts of the world. All programs are directed towards helping them. Yet the Palestinian refugees who have been refugees for the last 69 years must not be forgotten or swept into the background as all the attention goes to handling this new catastrophe. JCC continues to advocate for the rights of the Palestinians and raise awareness for the suffering they still endure by living in camps in increasingly bad conditions with no solution visible in the future. They still continue to tell their children the story of the country they lost and the dream they have of going back. They hold tightly onto the keys to houses that have long been demolished

within the hundreds of villages that no more exist. In Lebanon the Palestinians have very few civil rights and they suffer discrimination socially and politically. This injustice has caused them to suffer from poverty, misery, fear and hopelessness especially amongst the youth.

JCC works to raise awareness of this situation through our partners who come to visit and who share our concern and support our work. They help us advocate the Palestinian situation in their churches and through their organizations. We are also visited by independent church groups of various affiliations and from people of the media, researchers, students and others. These visits are greatly welcomed.

Visitors

From "Embrace the Middle East," came Lydia Nash, who visited Sabra- Shatilla and the Dbayeh camps. At a later date came two Embrace supporters - Rev. Stephen Griffith and Rev. Dave Herbert followed by a group of supporters who wanted to learn more about the work of JCC and life in the camps. Finally came Jamie Eyre, who visited Sabra - Shatilla camp and Sabra center.



Rev. Elmarie Parker led two groups of around 15 persons each time from the Presbyterian Churches of the USA (PCUSA). The two groups who came at different intervals visited the Sabra Center and walked in the Shatilla camp witnessing the hard life endured within. This was followed by a visit to the Dbayeh camp where they saw how the refugees live in this small camp.



Annual Report 2016

Rev. Glynis Williams accompanied by Rev. Ian Macdonald from the Presbyterian Church in Canada came to visit and were taken to visit the Dbayeh camp and see JCC work.



From Christian Aid came Zara Mesbah and Mairead Collins accompanied by the Christian Aid country representative Stephanie Gaspais. At a later date came Nick and Jeff. Their interest was directed at the Tyre Farm and its work which they visited.



Peter Makari from the United Church of Christ and Christian Church in the USA visited with a group of 21 people. They visited the JCC Sabra Center and walked through the Shatilla camp. They visited the museum of items brought from Palestine during the refugee exodus of 1948. The museum was begun through the efforts of one single person - a retired medical doctor.



Jens Halves came from Bread for the World with Ariane Gruszczynski, a consultant on organizational development. She gave an afternoon workshop for the JCC Center directors. Mr. Halves went to visit the JCC farm in the south as well.



Hendrien Matt, Dik Verboom and Tonnie Spinhoven from "Educans", a Dutch organization working in education, visited JCC and its programs. They later carried out a training program for its teachers of Sidon, Ein-El Hilwweh and Tyre. The training took place in Sidon.



Rev. Michael Blaire came to us from the United Church of Canada, He wanted to learn more about the Palestinian refugees and the work of JCC amongst them. He was taken to visit our Sabra Center and walk in the Shatilla camp.



The Church of Sweden represented by their Middle East team made up of Karin Axelsson Zaar, Katrina Ottosson, and Annika Davidsson held a consultation with its partners in Lebanon to which JCC was invited.



A group of German pastors who had joined the Near East School of Theology for a special program for foreign students asked to visit a Palestinian camp and were taken to the Sabra center and the Shatilla camp. Picture



Volunteers

Volunteers enrich the work of an organization while enriching their own lives. Many volunteers have offered their help and time over the years and it is certainly appreciated.

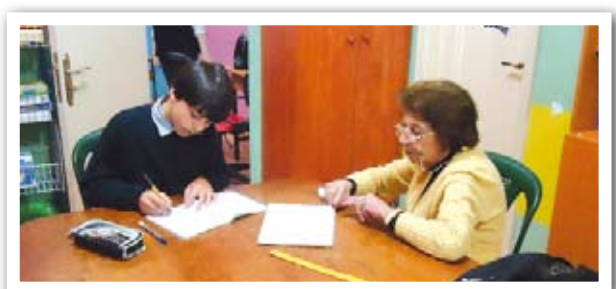
Alex Dziadosz is an American journalist who contacted us wanting to volunteer some of his time to helping in a Palestinian camp. It was an opportunity for the Electronics students to have a good teacher of English. He worked with them all through the 9 months of their studies. picture



Philine Lewek is from Halle Germany and was studying at the Near East School of Theology taking the special program given for theology students from abroad. She volunteered to teach the children of the JCC kindergarten music and led them in singing lovely songs at the end of the year ceremony. picture on stage

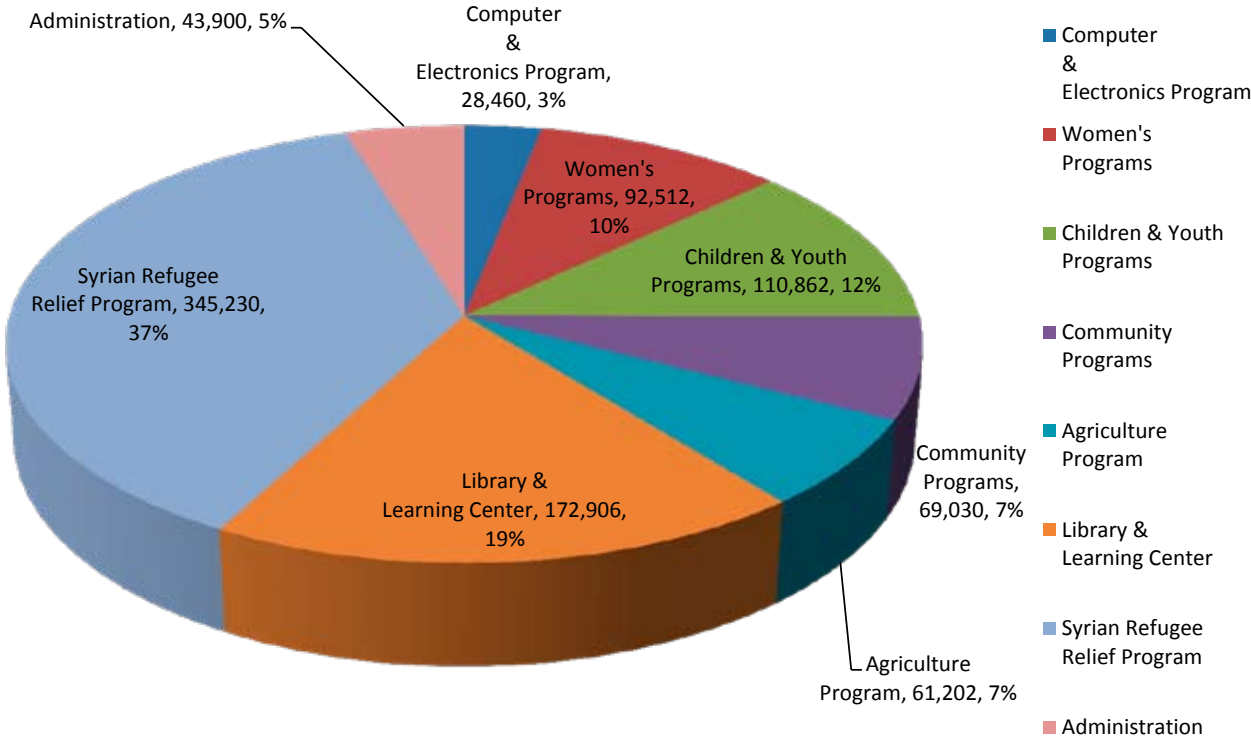


Mona Bahnan: who has been volunteering with JCC for many years, continues to volunteer in the English program and Tutorial program in Dbayeh camp when she can. Mona a retired qualified teacher of the English language believes that one must always pass on one's knowledge and help others.





Distribution of Funds in (USD)



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