



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018



## Annual Report 2018

### Board Members

#### **Oriental Orthodox Family:**

Mr. Edward Asmar  
Dr. Jean Salmanian  
Father Orshalimi Rouweis

#### **Evangelical Family:**

Dr. Arda Ekmekji  
Mrs. Leila Saleeby Dagher  
Mr. Nabil Habibi

#### **Orthodox Family:**

Dr. Tarek Na'was  
Dr. Leila Khoury  
Ms. Afaf Deeb Kandis

#### **Catholic Family:**

Father Romanos Bu Assi  
Maitre May Boulous

#### **Executive Committee**

Mr. Edward Asmar  
*Chairman*

Dr. Tarek Na'was  
*Vice Chairman*

Dr Arda Ekmekji  
*Secretary*

Mrs. Leila Dagher  
*Treasurer*



## Message from the Chairman



It has now been 71 years. 71 years of waiting. 71 years of praying. 71 years of suffering.

Palestinians are still waiting to go home. They only want what is rightfully theirs: villages, towns and homes that were brutally snatched in 1948 when Israel came into existence.

1948. The year of the Nakba. The year when thousands of Palestinians – in a brutal show of ethnic cleansing by Jewish militants– were driven away from their very own homes.

Many locked their homes and tucked their keys safely away. It would be a matter of a few days, maybe weeks, they thought. Surely, the world would not allow a whole people to stay homeless for long.

But now 71 years later, they are still waiting and still faithful in their belief that justice will prevail at the end.

Churches around the world gathered around the destitute Palestinians. Offering aid, support and mostly offering what Palestinians need the most: acknowledgement of their existence and of their right to return to their villages.

At JCC, our main task is to equip them with the education they will need as current refugees and as citizens once their rights to go home have been granted.

Thanks to the generosity of our loyal donors, we are able to give many deserving and needy Palestinians a chance to get a much needed education and vocational training.

God bless you. Thank you for believing and supporting our mission.

**Edward Asmar**  
*Chairman*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Edward Asmar'.

## Acknowledgements

The board, staff and beneficiaries of JCC extend their gratitude to partners, friends and to all those who believe in, encourage and support JCC work and make it possible. We remain committed to helping the Palestinian refugees as they enter their 71st year of living and suffering as refugees. The ruthless war in Syria has added big numbers of refugees to the country which greatly added to our responsibilities. All this cannot be done without help and support of partners and friends.

Some of our partners have been with us for many years faithfully encouraging our efforts through their support and visits. Others have recently joined us offering the help and support we greatly need and appreciate. Our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our old partners and new partners and supporters. May we all be able to work together upholding our values and beliefs to help and serve those who need us.

We also thank 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 71 years. We are happy to show them our programs, share our successes, express our frustrations and listen to their ideas and suggestions.

- Bread for the World-Germany
- Embrace the Middle East -Britain
- Christian Aid
- Pontifical Mission
- Action of Churches Together ACT
- Edukans Foundation-Holland
- Global Ministries – United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ-USA

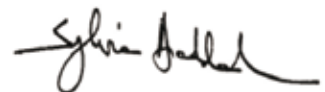
- Christian World Service – New Zealand
- Church of Scotland
- Presbyterian Church of Canada
- United Churches of Canada
- General Board of Global Ministries –The United Methodist Church – USA
- Church of Sweden
- Inter Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO)- Holland
- German speaking Evangelical Church of Beirut
- Le Comité Catholique Contre La Faim CCF

We appreciate the cooperation we have with local NGOs and extend to them our thanks and gratitude.

- The Ecumenical Popular Education Program (EPEP)
- The Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts (Al Jana)
- Najdeh Association
- Beit Atfal Assumoud
- Tawasol
- Friends of Public Libraries Association( ASSABIL)
- Save the children
- Mousawat
- Right to Play.
- Palestinian Association for Children's Encouragement of Sports.( PACES)
- Encouragement of Education through Art ( START)
- Unite Lebanon Youth Project( ULYP)
- Doctors without borders
- Naba'a

**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 for Social Service (JCC) is one of the five areas of the Department of Service for Palestine Refugees (DSPR) a regional organization serving in Palestine as well as in the neighboring countries where refugees reside. It was established in 1950 to help the people who were forced out of their country in 1948 deal with the loss of their ancestral homes and livelihoods. The initial emergency help had to change into something more organized as time moved on and the expected return home did not happen. A coordination effort between Churches resulted in their working together under the name of "The Near East Christian Council Committee for Refugee Work". Area committees were created in the different areas where the refugees lived. A general constitution was prepared in 1952 suitable for the work at that period but which was revised at a later date laying the foundation to what is now known as the Department of Service for Palestine Refugee (DSPR). Today and after 70 years of being refugees, work continues in the five areas of Jordan, Gaza, West Bank, Nazareth and Lebanon. Each area has developed over the years its own identity, constitutions, and obtained a license to serve in the area most needed in their region. A central office in Jerusalem connects the regions making them into one unit with a board representing the different faith families and known as the central committee overseeing and supervising the work. The relationship between the area committees, the Central Office and the Central Committee remains strong and unified with a diversity of programs in the different regions.

The JCC began its work in 1950 and obtained its official status in 1961 under a Ministry of Interior decree number 264/AD. Most of its work focused on education and vocational training.

Schools and vocational training centers were established wherever the refugees lived. Fashion design, sewing, embroidery, carpentry, metal work, shoemaking, leather repair, and electronics were some of the skills offered. Hundreds of families owed and still owe their livelihood to what they learned at JCC.

Today some of the vocational programs continue but the schools could not survive. A number of vocational programs were replaced by other programs. They all aim at improving human rights conditions, improving community life, empowering women and youth, developing potentials for self realization and increasing community involvement in order to attain better income generation capacities.

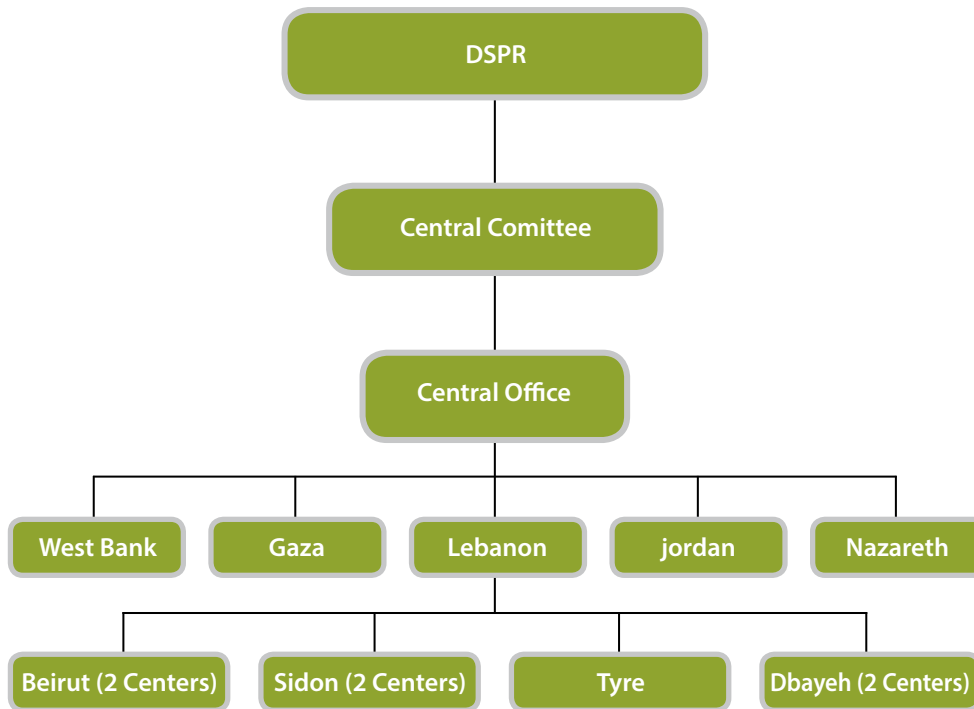
The arrival of the refugees from Syria necessitated the expansion of the JCC work to offer what they could. The destructive and bloody conflict in Syria has caused the flight of millions of people from their cities, towns and villages and forced them to take refuge in the neighboring countries and beyond. Lebanon received more than one million seven hundred thousand people with around sixty thousand of them being of Palestinian origin causing them to become second time refugees. Trying to help this new influx of refugees has added a new challenge to the JCC and has created the need for programs that will help these new refugees cope with their shattered lives and build themselves for the future.

For the JCC to meet its challenges and achieve its goals and objectives a variety of educational programs for all ages are offered. Offered as well are a number of market relevant vocational skills and numerous community activities.

JCC implements its own programs in four Centers in different areas of the country. These Centers also serve as Community Centers where people are invited to gather for lectures, workshops, trainings, conferences and for different celebrations.

Three new locations have been added with the advent of the Syrian refugees, namely Ein-El-Hilweh camp, Naimeh village and Ba'albeck. Programs implemented in these new locations deal mostly with education and community programs best suited to the new refugee needs.

## 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.



## DSPR Strategic Plan Goals of 2018-2020

- Palestinian refugees can live healthy lives.
- Palestinian Refugees can sustain themselves economically
- Refugee communities should be empowered to care for the needs and promote the rights of its members.
- Emergency relief is provided timely and sufficiently in accordance with Sphere standards.
- DSPR be financially sustainable.

**JCC implements its own programs within its various Centers.**

## Sabra Center



The center is located in Sabra area, south of Beirut. Adjacent to Shatilla camp, the area is interconnected, demographically and geographically. Common trends of poverty and harsh living conditions towers above the diversified population of local Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian refugees, and migrant workers of different nationalities.

JCC Center was established in 1950 as a family center with a kindergarten and a sewing program. Today the preschool program continues along with other educational and skill learning programs relevant to market and community needs . The center is led by an efficient team of teachers and staff. Every day from morning until late afternoon, the center is very busy. Once inside you will find a kindergarten , vocational training programs for youth and adults of both genders, educational support classes, literacy, a program for the elderly and a special class for students with a future. whom we call Children on the Go.

## Educational Programs

### Kindergarten

The well designed and updated kindergarten program takes the 3-5 year old children through the three levels of preschool education. Children learn while having fun in a creative environment of various teaching methodologies. Games, sports activities and songs in Arabic and English , are learned. With a specific focus on nurturing life skills, the children are continuously engaged in art, music, role play, and story reading. Thus, their learning is not only of vocabulary and math, but also includes expansion of knowledge. Enhancing self-expression, respect, self-esteem, teamwork and leadership skills are crucial to prepare the children for the future.

Since it was established in 1950, the center has graduated generations from the Palestinian refugee





community as well as from the local community. The kindergarten is home for the parents where they like to meet and reminisce, as many of them were once preschoolers in this center. The teachers and staff encourage parents' involvement in their children's education in order to achieve the best results during these precious formative years.

Five teachers and three assistants have a long time experience in the field of education. They frequently participate in training workshops that focus on developing teaching skills and methodologies. They participated, this year, in a workshop conducted by "Unite Lebanon Youth Project"(ULYP) which mainly focused on ways to effectively support children's mental and cognitive health, and provide psychosocial support. It defined symptoms of mental problems that can be recognized by teachers, and ways of referrals.

The KG3 class and their teachers were invited to the ULYP premises on the hillside area of Dibiyyeh, south of Beirut. The premise consists of large gardens where the children went daily for two weeks and played and



enjoyed planting, and playing with the animals kept on the premise.

The teachers have been trained to identify cases of children who might be suffering of learning difficulties so as to ask for help. Such children are then referred to the organization Mousawat for professional help. Through organized partnership, Mousawat psychologists, mental health specialists and speech therapists arrange regular follow-up visits to the center and provide ample service to the child in need. A special room in the center is reserved for this purpose which ensures confidentiality, privacy, emotional and physical safety of the child.



## School Support and Tutoring

To ensure community wellbeing, children's education is a top priority at JCC. Given the school curriculum and the big number of students in the classrooms, with the new added burden of the Syrian refugee children, make it difficult for teachers to give sufficient attention to each student. Children with their different learning abilities, behavioral problems and speech difficulties, in addition to poverty and bad living conditions, tend to easily drop out of school. To fight this tendency, JCC provides the home work support and tutoring that children need to remain in school.

Students aged 12-16, from different schools and of different scholastic levels are supported in their class assignments. The staff follows up on the progress of the students in their respective schools, and coordinates with them for further guidance.

One main teacher supported by two helpers provide the tutoring and support needed. Often volunteers from abroad provide the tutoring needed in the English homework and in subjects taught in English.



## Literacy

Focusing on the empowerment of women and encouraged by the method of adult literacy offered by the "Ecumenical Popular Education Program (EPEP)", JCC launched a literacy program in 2014. Being a socially stigmatized matter, people are reluctant to admit their illiteracy. Only four courageous women took up the challenge and joined the program that year. Their success attracted the many others who later joined. This year, women ranging in age from 18

to 60 were enrolled in the literacy class. The program includes reading, writing and simple arithmetic. They all worked hard to achieve a skill that improves their self-esteem and self confidence. It is a program that allows the women to reflect a sense of pride in their abilities to read advertisements, write their shopping lists, and participate in their children's homework when possible.





**Nadia Ghader**, a 65 year old woman has been attending the Literacy Program for the last two years. She now reads and writes fluently and is very thankful to JCC for providing her with the opportunity to learn. Proud and confident of her gained skills, she wrote to JCC:

*"I was deprived of education as a child and hated the fact that I was illiterate. When I heard of the literacy program at JCC, I immediately joined. At first, I didn't want to let my family know what I was doing until I was sure that I can succeed. As I progressed and started using my new found skill, I told them and they were delighted and are very proud of me, as I am proud of myself. I continue to come to the class, so as to continue to improve. I thank JCC for providing me with this great opportunity which has changed my life."*

## Activities:

The literacy students are invited to participate in many of the center's activities - lectures, workshops and outings. They are also encouraged to use the library and take out books to practice their reading. This year

they took an active role in celebrating the National day of "Solidarity with the Palestinian People" held in the city of Sidon to the south Lebanon.

## Library

The library is small but has a variety of books for various interests and ages. The shelves are organized into categories, in a systematic library form. A borrowing system is in place and ensures the return of books.

Group activities are run in the library fulfilling the objective of the varying use of this room. The preschool children pay a weekly visit with their teacher for a

story-reading session. They are exposed to a number of books after which they participate in choosing the story they want to listen to. The literacy students also use the library to practice their new reading skills by taking roles during the reading of some books. Students of all programs are encouraged to borrow books and enjoy reading them at home.

## Children on the Go- Program for Dropout Students

Dropping out of school remains a major issue within the refugee communities. Despite a decrease in the rates, the trend has not disappeared. Socioeconomic factors, such as, prevailing poverty and early marriage of girls; refuge and displacement situation; capacity of the schools resulting in overcrowded classrooms and overworked teachers; are some of the factors affecting children's attainment of an education.

Convinced that basic education is a human right, JCC introduced a special class which welcomes school dropouts or youth who have never been to school. Their parents bring them with the objective of teaching them a vocation or a skill in readiness for the labor market. However, assessing their abilities and level of knowledge, they are advised to enroll in this special class to increase their learning. After completing the course, some of these children and youth actually return to school, while others go for vocational training.

Still others remain in this class until they are ready. In general, this class exposes the children to enjoyable and encouraging learning experiences in a positive environment that helps them realize their potentials. These are the "Children on the Go". They are not "dropouts"!



## Activities:

"Children on the Go", along with their peers in the vocational classes, are often involved in various activities and workshops focusing on life skills building. This year, they all participated in the following trainings:

- The "Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts" (ARCPA) conducted a 3-month workshop with activities that focused on self-empowerment themes some of which were: time management, creative thinking, problem solving and managing pressure; cooperation and team building and other themes.

- A group from "Right to Play"- Australia- conducted a training workshop for the "Children on the Go" in the playground. The 4-day training involved recycling of unused materials to build portable playground items for children. The children crafted a wooden cart and playing tools and had a great time playing with them. Such items can be used in carnivals and recreational occasions for children.



## Summer Programs

Summer time is active at JCC Sabra Center. The six week summer program involves the children in recreational and fun activities, such as, drawing, painting, handicrafts, games and even a magician when available. It is open to all community children if they choose to join.

Every summer, ARCPA organizes a 10 day training camp in a mountain resort. Trainers come from different countries to provide various trainings in subjects of interest and benefit for the teachers and workers of the community organizations. Two teachers from JCC Sabra participated in the summer workshops. The training focused on: effective learning in promoting cultural identity,

adventure in children's literature and meditation and relaxing techniques. The participants are encouraged to share what they learned with their colleagues and apply what they learned to their beneficiaries.



## Community Programs

### Program for the Elderly

Once a week throughout the year, the older ladies of the community gather to enjoy a program of special interest to them. They learn how to improve their physical and mental well being, eat healthy food, do simple exercises and fight laziness. They discuss subjects of interest, seek advice on problems they are encountering and raise issues of concern. They reminisce about old days, express their feelings and frustrations and talk about their hopes. 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. The number has increased since the advent of the Syrians. It is their day and their program and they love it.



### Activities:



Celebrating Mothers' Day is of special importance where members of all programs participate. It is an occasion where a token of appreciation is shown to our elderly ladies with a nice gift.

The activities that all look forward to are the picnics they all have together. A family type restaurant by a river was the destination of the two picnics that were taken. The women like to bring their own ingredients and prepared their food together.

During the different occasions carried out in the center, some of the women ask to give a short speech or to recite verse and poetry, sometimes of their own composition.

## Lectures and Workshops at the Center

Awareness raising sessions in the form of lectures, and workshops, are often held at the center in collaboration with local and international organizations.

- Throughout the year, around 20 health awareness sessions were conducted by "Doctors without Borders" for male and female participants of different ages. The sessions dealt with personal hygiene and common health problems that affect children, youth and adults. A First Aid training workshop was also held.
- In the playground, Doctors without Borders, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, set up a vaccination program targeting the population of Sabra/Shatila, and the surrounding areas. Around 5,400 children were vaccinated against measles. A number of hygiene kits were distributed.
- The Mousawat Organization conducted awareness sessions for parents on children's social, physical and mental needs necessary for healthy development and non-violent behavior.
- The center hosted a 3-day workshop held by "Right To Play" for our teachers and teachers from other organizations. The training focused on interactive teaching methodologies for 3-5 year old children in the kindergarten..
- Coordination meetings were held at the center focusing on providing legal support to the Syrian refugees in the area of Sabra/Shatila. Following, a community meeting was held at the center where the Syrians received awareness on their legal rights.



## Community Network Activities

Being an integral part of the community with services that have extended for more than half a century, Sabra staff participate effectively in supporting the community, in alleviating their sufferings and concerns. This year witnessed active movements within the community. Conferences, discussion and meetings were held to empower the local community based organizations and tackle the refugee issue, especially the Syrians. The following conferences and network activities engaged JCC staff:

- The Committee for the Palestinian Refugees from Syria held its meeting in Shatila camp. The meeting discussed the refugees' condition and tactics for the distribution of aid. JCC efforts in this field were highly appreciated.
- A 4-day regional conference for "Funding Support for Education for All" program was held. The conference aimed at reinforcement of civil society efforts towards setting a regional strategic plan able to provide sufficient funding opportunities. Handicrafts were displayed.



## Community Network Activities

- JCC celebrates all national days, Lebanese and Palestinian, in addition to many other occasions such as Christmas, Adha and Teachers' day.



- Outings and trips for the different programs are regularly planned to educational and recreational sites to have fun and to learn.

## Vocational programs

Vocational training is offered in several professions selected according to local market needs.

### Hairdressing

One of the professions that are always in demand is hairdressing. With the modern hair styling and up-to-date scalp care, the art of hairdressing is ever new. Students learn the newest techniques of cutting, coloring, straightening, curling, lifting and styling of hair. It is a 6 month course which runs twice a year with 12-15 trainees in each group. Most of them find jobs directly after graduation while some start their own businesses by working from their homes.



**Mona Shaaban**, a Palestinian refugee living in Sabra, graduated from JCC center with a certificate in Hairdressing in 2015. She was directly able to find a job at a beauty salon in the area, based on her certification. "When I first applied to a vacancy at a hairdressing shop, the manager asked where I got my certificate from. When I said, 'from JCC Center', I was directly welcomed in," she said.

Mona now has her own hairdressing and beauty shop. She called it "Moon Light Salon". When visited the center to invite her teachers and friends for the opening, they asked what inspired the name. She explained that, "My learning gained at the center lit up my path; it's the light in the darkness. It is a Moon Light for me

## Beauty Skills

A four month course teaches facial skin care, the basics of applying makeup and the latest products and techniques in application. It also includes nail and toe care, keeping them clean and healthy. Designs and decorations on nails, makeup and addition of eye lashes are skills the participants learn. Seeking modernization and latest fashions and styles does not eliminate the cultural traditions and touch. Therefore Henna designs and application are part of the course.



## Practical work

As in all vocations, practice on the skills learned is necessary. The hairdressing and beauty class students are allowed, through an agreement, to visit a nearby home for poor elderly women and provide them with the hair care and necessary grooming. On one hand, the students practice their acquired skills and on the other hand, they bring joy to the old women's hearts by breaking their daily routine and providing them

with care and affection.

The teachers often visit leading beauty establishments to increase their knowledge and update themselves with the newest fashion of hairstyling, makeup techniques and products on the market. Occasionally, hairdressers are invited to the center to demonstrate new techniques and styles.

## Barbering Skills

Men and boys are attracted to this four month course where they learn 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 on each other. For practice, an agreement with a boy's orphanage has been reached where our students get their first experience before having to deal with the public. Although many boys are attracted and apply to this course, we prefer to encourage their return to school as they are usually too young.



# 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 1961, a radio and television repair course was initiated which by 1964 became a 4 year electronics program attracting a good number of young men. Good grades, mathematical abilities and a certificate of completion of the intermediate level were required. Graduates found employment easily either locally

or in the Gulf countries. But as restrictions were placed on the employment of refugees in the 1990s and basic education amongst the Palestinians youth started deteriorating, the three years were reduced to two years with the second year being optional.



The curriculum followed is simplified yet challenging. It is a mixture of both theoretical and practical. The market is closely monitored to keep abreast of all new electronic equipment introduced and being used. In general, the program teaches the installation of satellite dishes, fixing cellular phones, extending electrical wirings and cables, installing switches, sockets, lights, the distributions of boards and repairing electronic and house hold equipment.



## The Computer Program

With the increasing popularity of the computer in the 1990s with its extensive contributions to all fields, it was seen as a necessary and beneficial addition to the electronics program. The curriculum began with an introduction to the computer with its hardware, its software and extensive terminology. This was followed by learning to assemble and install the computer hardware and maintain its various parts diagnosing and repairing problems occurring. With time networking, identifying and repairing network related problems was added. But the most important

addition is relating the use of computers to the electronics field. The computer course has added to the attraction of the electronics program and has proved its importance to the job market. All students partake in both programs but some ask for extra training in a part of the program which they think is more suitable to their capabilities.

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:

Students participated in demonstrations asking for the right to work. A series of health lectures by Doctors Without Borders were attended. Three outings into nature were greatly enjoyed.



*Abdul Rahman Iskandarani* was a student in the Sabra government school but faced problems in the seventh grade. His parents moved him to the UNRWA school in the same area but the school's over crowdedness drove him to quit. Wanting to find direction to his life and anxious to help support his family, Abdul Rahman, decided to join the Electronics and Computer program at the JCC center. But no sooner did he do that, than his father became ill and died. Abdul Rahman experienced a shock and lost his ability to talk for two months. JCC supported him in seeking help of specialists and soon he was back in his classes. He worked hard to catch up as he really enjoyed the vocation he had chosen and his teachers were supportive and encouraging. He graduated in 2014 and immediately found employment. "I did not find any difficulty in finding a job, he said, as I was equipped with a certificate from JCC which increased my employment chances." This year he turned 19 years old and his solid base and five years experience has gained him employment in a good company in Abu Dhabi. Having a JCC certificate has certainly paved the way for a brighter future for Abdel Rahman and his family.

Programs of Sabra Center	No. of Beneficiaries	Duration
Kindergarten	124	9 months
School support	45	9 months
Literacy	16	9 months
Library	All programs	Ongoing
Children on the go	21	9 months
Elderly	75-80	9 months
Workshops & Lectures	500-555	Ongoing
Summer activities for Children	65	6 weeks
Electronics & Computer	12	9 months
Hair dressing	30	6 months
Beauty skills	15	6 months
Barbering	10	4 months



## Sidon Center



In the midst of the city of Sidon, to the south of Beirut, lies the JCC Center. It was established in 1950 as a vocational center for sewing and embroidery, and expanded its trainings to secretarial and hairdressing trainings in 1990. With the advent of the Syrian refugees in 2012, the Center moved its focus from vocational training to education by initiating an educational program for the Syrian Refugees. The program was extended to our other centers in Ain El Hilweh camp, on Tyre farm and to a new premise at the entrance of the Wavel camp near Baalback in the Beka'a valley, rented for this educational program. A big number of Syrian refugees reside in the Ba'lbac area and were in great need for such a program.

## Syrian Education Program

A big number of Syrian/Palestinian refugees had taken refuge in existing Palestinian refugee camps. They were experiencing the bitterness of losing their homes for the second time and needed the essentials of shelter, food and clothes. But it soon became evident that education presented a big problem as a result of the difference in the language of instruction. Arabic is the language of instruction for all subjects in Syria while in Lebanon, English and French are used for most major subjects with Arabic taught as a language. The younger children found it easier to adapt while many of the older children were unable to cope and dropped out of school. Finding big numbers of young people wasting the most formative years of their lives instigated the JCC to

introduce a schooling program for the higher classes following the Syrian curriculum and using the Arabic language for instruction. Amongst the refugees were many qualified Syrian teachers who knew the system well and needed to work. And so the JCC decided to launch an educational program for students aged 14-18 following the Syrian curriculum, using Arabic text books and Syrian instructors.



## Syrian Education Program in Sidon Center

The vocational programs in this center, were replaced by the Syrian educational program. Students of the intermediate and secondary levels poured in. The program was to lead them to two officially accredited diplomas. The first was granted at the completion of the intermediate level and the second was granted at the completion of the 12th level - high school. Both diplomas had to be accredited by the Ministry of Education in Syria which require students of both levels to travel to Damascus and take the official exams there.

Although the program was planned for 100 to 120 students, 580 students applied the first year which forced the need to seek space in our other centers. Instructional material was at first difficult to find but as printing presses were fixed in Syria and resumed their printing, books became available..

The big and challenging job which followed was obtaining application forms for the exams from the Syrian Ministry of Education in Damascus. These had to be obtained from the Ministry in Syria, filled and returned to Syria. Following was the obtaining of travel documents from the Lebanese security offices to allow and

insure safe passage of the students at the borders into Syria as well as insuring their re-entry into Lebanon- a very big undertaking. Securing safe lodging for 3 weeks for each group of students was also a responsibility. For some boys travel to Syria was a 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, looked forward to seeing their country again and worked hard to go and succeed.

The successful scholastic results which were the ultimate goal to achieve kept the program going coupled with the appreciation and success encountered.



*Twenty year old **Rahaf Steiti** is from the Yarmouk camp. In 2013, in the midst of her 8th grade, heavy fighting around her house pushed her family to take refuge in the Beka' valley in Lebanon. Having lost the scholastic year, Rahaf registered for it the following year, But was unable to cope as all courses are given in English or French both of which she did not know. Many of her friends were going through the same ordeal and were trying to get jobs in shops and groceries. But she was intent on finishing her education. When her family moved to Beirut, she heard about the JCC program and insisted on joining. Her happiness was unparalleled when she was given her textbooks and saw her Syrian teachers. She threw herself into studying and went along with her classmates to Syria for her official exams. In two years she was able to catch up with her lost years and received her intermediate and her final high school certificates. She is now registered at a university studying Media and dreaming of returning to Syria one day. Words cannot express her gratitude to JCC.*

## Syrian Education program in Ein -El- Hilweh:

In the heavily populated camp of Ein-el-Hilweh at the Eastern outskirts of Sidon, the JCC has a premise used mostly for recreational activities. As the need rose for additional space to accommodate the increasing number of Syrian students in the educational program run in Sidon Center, it was deemed necessary to use this premise to accommodate the big number of students who applied for the education program introduced in Sidon. Many of the students had taken refuge with their families in the camp and found the premise easily accessible. Thus, the premise was divided into classrooms with students following the curriculum prepared for this Syrian educational program which led them all to travel to Damascus for the accredited official exams.



## Syrian Educational Programs on the JCC Tyre Farm:

A good number of Palestinian/ Syrian refugees had taken up residence in the south of Lebanon in the three Palestinian refugee camps and their surroundings. All their children needed to continue their education but many suffered like their peers elsewhere of inability to cope with the local schools. Thus hearing about the JCC program in Sidon, they asked to have the same program run for them on the Tyre farm. As capable and experienced teachers lived amongst them, the Sidon program was replicated on the farm and the students travelled to Damascus for their official exams as well.



## Syrian Education program in Al- Jalil Camp- (Ba'alback):

Al Jalil camp lies 90 km East of Beirut near the historical city of Ba'alback in the Beqaa valley. It used to be a French army Barracks turned into a Palestinian refugee camp in 1948 and placed under the care of UNRWA in 1952. Being easily accessible to the Syrian borders, the camp attracted a lot of refugees. Like in other camps these families wanted their children to continue their education but soon realized their older children were unable to cope with the local schools. A group of

Syrian teachers seeing the problem decided to run an educational program for this age group and sought our help. Initially, JCC supported them by taking their students to Syria for their exams. But with time the teachers needed more support to continue and so JCC took over running it like it does in the other centers with the ultimate goal of travelling to Syria for the accreditation exams.

## Training workshops for teachers of the program

Educans Foundation is an organization in the Netherlands whose mission is training and educating young people for a better life. This is done through providing teachers with training on active teaching and learning based on classroom observations. Trainers from the Foundation come themselves and spend a number of days in the centers observing and filming the classrooms and studying the learning activities. Based on the films and observations a 2-4 day training workshops are carried out for all the teachers concerned.

Two trainings were conducted this year. One took

place from March 23 to 27 while the second was conducted in September 28 to October 10. Teachers of the Syrian program from Sidon, Ein-el-Hilweh, Tyre and Jalil camp participated with enthusiasm. All benefitted and expressed their joy with the experience of being together and receiving such training.

Hendrien Matt and Tonnie Spinhoven are the two "Educans" trainers who have been coming twice a year to carry out the teacher training program for our teachers. They stay in the area where they are conducting the workshops and spend a lot of time with the teachers.



## Programs in Sidon and Ein-el- Hilweh

### Psychosocial support:

It was noted that many of the students from all the centers who were getting ready to go to Syria for their exams were undergoing feelings of depression, self doubt and fear. A number of lectures and social

activities which encouraged them to express their feelings and needs were organized to help them gain self confidence, overcome self doubt, anxiety and fear of exams.

### Homework Support:

With classrooms getting increasingly overcrowded at the UNRWA schools and some local schools, many children find themselves unable to cope. It is even more difficult for children who have come from Syria and have to deal with a different curriculum and a foreign language. Getting help with homework has become essential for success as dropping out of school

has become the trend with most parents too busy or unable to help their children. Thus helping students with their homework is essential to prevent them from dropping out of schools and losing the most important formative years of their lives. This support is given in the Ein-el Hilweh Center

## Community Activities

Parents were invited periodically to discuss best ways to help their children and note their progress and learn to encourage and not shout or degrade

Parents were encouraged and advised on how to secure all official documents that will allow them and their families to be in Lebanon and facilitate their children's safe passage to sit for their exams in Damascus and return safely.

Lectures and workshops were carried out covering subjects of interest and value to the students, the parents and the teachers. For the students the subjects



handled were character and good conduct and self respect, hygiene and cleanliness, study and time management, effect of smoking and drugs.

After finishing their exams in Syria, the students were taken to visit historical landmarks in Damascus and to amusement places.

The gym facility in Ein -El Hilweh was well used by most of the students with special training of Karate.



## Other Educational Programs for Syrians:

### Educational support for students of Yarmouk Camp in Syria:

Yarmouk is a Palestinian refugee camp in Damascus which found itself heavily involved in the Syrian war. It is a large camp most of which was destroyed with many of its residents forced to flee. Yet there are those who remained trying to carry on with a normal life. An UNRWA school continued to function, offering classes up to the 9th grade only. A group of teachers, wanting their students to continue to the higher levels of schooling, took up the challenge of providing

the classes of the last three years of high school to enable the students to sit for the official degree of the Baccalaureate.

The JCC, heard about this effort and helped the teachers by providing books, paying for the registration of the students at the Ministry of Education and including the group as part of their own students in order to give them the official coverage needed to leave the camp.

## Educational program in Na'meh Village

In the village of Na'meh south of Beirut, a good number of Syrians took refuge trying to cope with their new life. But many of their children were unable to join schools as the schools in the area could not provide enough space for all. On the other hand, many dropped out of school as they could not cope with a new system, a different curriculum and new surroundings. As the number of children out of school increased and the need for a solution became pressing, an informal schooling program was initiated by a teacher in the area. As people heard of this new program in their midst, many came with their children desperate for help. This saw the program grow, encouraged by the JCC,

from a program into a small school. Classes ran from grade one to grade eight with an increasing number registering each year.



*Six year old Muhamad Mahmoud joined this small school last year. He refused to go into class and watched the children from afar. Muhamad is autistic. Realizing the problem and asking guidance from different sources, the teachers worked hard to handle his condition. They drew out a program which also involved his parents and all worked diligently with love and encouragement. Slowly but very slowly the child began to respond, enter into class and play with classmates. At present, his grades show that he is the 3rd in his class and loves coming to school*

## JCC Syrian graduates go to University:

The main goal of JCC since the start of the educational program for Syrian refugees in 2012, was to provide the students with the opportunity to continue the higher levels of school which will allow them to sit for the official exams in Damascus and obtain their baccalaureate diplomas. Their success will give them the choice of pursuing a career of their choice

including joining a university. To date 96 have actually joined universities and are studying different majors including sciences, computers, medicine, social studies, law or literature. They study in universities in different countries. Ten study in Syria, 75 in Lebanon, 5 in Germany 3 in Sweden, 2 in Austria and 1 in Russia.

Syrian Programs of Sidon, Ein El- Hilweh & Ba'alback	No. of Beneficiaries	Duration
High School classes	586	9 months
Travel from Lebanon to Damascus for Official exams	212	6 weeks- 3 weeks each level
Yarmouk students leave camp to take Official exams	140	3 weeks higher level
Psychosocial	78	Ongoing
Tutoring	84	9 months
Na'ameh Elementary School	410	9 months
Teacher Training	35	Two weeks- at 2 intervals
Fun activities	The community	
Students at University	96	According to courses



## Tyre Farm



The majority of Palestinian refugees had come to the south of Lebanon in 1948. Camps had been set up for them of which three remain today in addition to a number of informal gatherings. As the south is an agricultural land, the JCC began a farm in the year 2000 at the outskirts of the city of Tyre with the goal of teaching agriculture to the refugees, a profession most of their ancestors practiced. Working in agriculture does not need a working permit for Palestinian refugees as do many other professions. Convinced that this would encourage people and especially the young to study agriculture, an introductory 4 months course in the basics of agriculture was prepared. For this purpose, the land was well prepared with a water well and an irrigation system installed. Four plastic houses were set up for planting vegetables around the year while a side area was planted with fruit trees. Three old structures stood on the land, the first of which was turned into a greenhouse where a variety of vegetables and house plants could be grown from seeds in preparation to plant into the ground. The two other structures were prepared as classrooms and meeting spaces. An open space was designated for seasonal plants with a space left to socialize and hold workshops and meetings.

The course prepared offered basic agriculture training in theory and in practical work in the field, in the plastic houses and in the greenhouse. It also offered bee keeping as trees and wild flowers grow on the side of the farm offering the food bees need for honey production.

The course is offered twice a year with most of its graduates seeking employment in the surrounding fields or in agriculture related establishments. Some have rented small pieces of land to work on while others have found jobs in the Gulf countries or abroad.

The land was prepared to follow organic planting principles. Thus the fruits and vegetables grown on the farm are organic. Once a week, some of these vegetables and fruits are transported to be sold in Beirut. The German Church has kindly allowed us to use their yard for this purpose.



**Mohammad Ali** lives in a Palestinian refugee camp in the south of Lebanon and works as a school bus driver. He owns his bus but with 5 children, he can hardly keep up with the essential expenses. Hearing about the agriculture course offered at our farm Mohammad decided to join. He found the course enjoyable and beneficial and decided to practice his new skill on the roof of his house. His success motivated him to find a plot of land in the area where he lived and planted it with thyme and cabbage. His produce sold well and he was soon earning the extra income he needed. He is continually expressing his gratitude to JCC for providing him with this opportunity.

## Programs on the Farm

A number of programs had been offered last year with some continuing this year.

### Agriculture Training

Classes in basic agriculture -theory and practice are offered over four months twice per year. It attracts both genders and all ages.

### Literacy for adults

Realizing that many adults were illiterate instigated a program of literacy for adults last year. The women who had attended, studied eagerly and asked to

continue with the course. They came three times a week, attended faithfully, progressed fast, enjoyed it greatly and gave excellent results.

### School Support

Help in school homework began last year and was continued this year. It provided students who suffered from learning problems or had no help at home with

special care and tutoring. The farm, being a distance from most homes, offered transport to the students.

### Livelihood Project

To help refugees gain some income, training in beekeeping and soap making was given last year. At the end of the course, the trainees of the beekeeping class were given protective clothing, wooden hive frames, bee smokers and were helped to find a spot of land near shrubs and flowers to install their beehives. The men continued to receive supervision all through this year and had access to the farm for use of the honey machine for the production of their own honey for sale.

As the bees bought for teaching purposes increased honey production became part of the curriculum. It

has also become an attraction for schools who like to bring their children to see how honey is produced.



### Activities

Informative sessions given by "Relief International" were held for the Syrian students about their rights and duties that will allow them legal stay in Lebanon and legal both way travel across the borders.

A series of awareness sessions were carried out by "Naba'a" handling subjects like problems of early marriage, relations between sexes, handling obscene sites on the internet, responsibility for one's actions and drug abuse.

Programs on the Farm	No. of Beneficiaries	Duration
Agriculture classes	29	4 months -2/year
Literacy for adults	12	9 months
School Support	15	9 months
Honey production	16	9 months
Syrian program - Secondary Level	98	6 months
Sale of organic products in Beirut	The community	Ongoing

## Dbayeh Camp



Approximately 500 Palestinian refugee families live in Dbayeh camp, north of Beirut. Although it is built on a small hilly slope area, the camp is additionally home to few Lebanese families and at present, 90 Syrian refugee families as well. It consists of one main long street at the top of which stands a Church. Four narrow parallel streets lie to the right side of this road. Houses are closely built on both sides of the road, giving the camp a crowded appearance. Entrances of houses are decorated by pots of plants reflecting life to be nice and calm. At the entrance of the camp to the left hand side, lies a number of old structures that were once a school. The building was destroyed during the civil war and no permission has been granted to reconstruct it.

In the midst of the camp, lies the JCC premise which contains a Library/Community Center with a number of educational and artistic programs

### The Library /Community Center

It wasn't until 2008 that the community in Dbayeh became aware of the concept of a "public library" for community use. The advent of a library equipped with books, educational games and computers was established bearing the interest of the children and youth in the first place. Children were invited for story reading sessions where they listened to narration and were encouraged to read. The library aroused the interest of the parents, and other adults. They started to join and people began to acquire the habit of browsing through books for subjects of interest. A membership system has been put in place to organize borrowing and returning of books.

Other programs were introduced gradually turning the library into a Community Center. Activities for



developmental purposes, such as, art, music, dance, drama, lectures and workshops were implemented at the center. The library/Community Center became the hub of all activities in the camp for all ages.

## Tutoring program

To support children's education and improve their academic performance, JCC provides tutoring sessions. A study station is set in the library where students gather



in the afternoon to work on their school assignments. Parents are grateful to have this support, especially that most a low educational level. Most parents, if not all in the camp, are unable to afford private tutoring expenses.

Varying learning abilities among children, such as, slow learners, require special attention. However, some children do suffer of learning difficulties and problems, such as, speech defects, hyperactivity, concentration difficulties, and other psychological problems, needing specialized support. Five tutors, a speech therapist, a psychologist and a social worker provide the help and guidance needed for these students. These services offered by the center have showed positive results in both, school records and in the rate of school dropouts.

## Schooling for the Syrian Refugees

Schooling difficulties faced the children of the Syrian refugee families living in the camp and the surroundings as they do for the rest of the Syrian children in the country. They are not familiar with the Lebanese curriculum. The government strived to enroll all the Syrian children in the public schools, but many could not cope with the Lebanese curriculum and dropped out of school. To solve this issue, JCC began a special schooling program for these children.

Syrian parents voiced their preference to have their children follow the Syrian curriculum. For this purpose, JCC sought official recognition for the completion of a year's requirements from the Syrian Ministry of Education. However, this endeavors failed as the Lebanese

government decreed that all refugees in Lebanon must follow the local educational curriculum. The JCC had to go along and is now following the Lebanese curriculum.



## Arts, Crafts and Music



Art classes with a variety of handicrafts were carried out almost daily for the different ages of young people. Some of the many things they learned was to draw different animal shapes, cut and color them, make soap into different shapes and make cut roses from cardboard and paint them. Art classes were also conducted for women where they learned to draw and color on glass, wood, candles and ceramics. Learning musical instruments has always been a goal and this year began to see it realized. Some music instruments have been purchased, teachers have been identified and training has started with high hope of performing in the near future.

## Moral Guidance

It is important that people grow up to be honest and responsible adults. This is achieved by learning moral values at an early age. With television, cell phones and the social media entering every home, people's thoughts and lives are being influenced. Thus it is important that people and especially the youth learn to protect themselves from the many negative societal

influences that surround them and work to build their own character. Such lessons of guidance and self worth, can best be taken from the Bible with its teachings, stories, parables and values. Thus the children and youth are divided according to their age to attend and participate.

## Forgiveness and Transformation

A program to learn to resolve conflict peacefully was conducted for the first time. Twenty young people of diverse backgrounds and inclinations took part. They first came reluctantly, but they soon felt the benefit and looked forward to these meetings. The program taught them amongst other things : how to create

the conditions that are beneficial to build peace and understanding between individuals and their communities; how to identify and avoid dangerous situations and how to resist pressure from peers and adults to use violent behavior. All what they learned will lead to forgiveness and transformation.



## Sports

To the side of the camp, a small piece of land, once the playground of the school destroyed during the civil war, is used by the youth of the camp to meet and play. A foot ball team and a basket ball team made up of both genders were formed and meet there regularly



twice a week. Their trainers are from the camp and they train them to play well and to compete against each other and against teams from other camps. A Ping Pong table is available at all times for those who want to play. It is a very popular game amongst all ages.

## A gymnasium

A destroyed structure which was once a thriving school at the outskirts of the camp was fixed and prepared as a gym facility with a variety of exercise machines. A television screen for entertainment while exercising was put up as well. The facility attracted the whole

community and even those living in the vicinity. Two young men from the camp are in charge after they took special training to keep up with the growing membership list of young and old.

## Workshops, Lectures, and Trainings

A number of short courses, trainings and lectures took place during the year.

Two computer courses were offered for 3 months each. The first was an introduction to computers and the second was training on excel and photo shop. Pic computer class



Twelve people took a 3 month English course to improve their use of this language.

Training on the care of the elderly and administering first aid to them was given over a 3 month period.

The teachers received guidance workshops on students' learning problems and on helping them realize themselves encouraging them to reach their potential. Better communication with their students was stressed. A series of lectures on psychological issues were conducted.

Young people aged 16-25 received career guidance advice. This was followed by preparing a curriculum vitae, searching for a job and writing an application letter.

## Summer Program

The theme of this year's summer program was "Countries and Civilizations". It ran through July and August for five days per week as the children enthusiastically learned about other countries. They explored and discussed the different civilizations of the countries

chosen. The program included reading, researching, preparing questions, competing with general knowledge and learning and performing dances of the various countries. The program also included trips, folk stories and a magician.

## A Thrift Shop

Two rooms with their own entrance in the basement of the library stands a well stocked thrift shop. It contains used clothing, toys and household items. The people in the camp seek nice clothing at a very low price. The income goes to help many who are in need of medical tests and medicines



Dbayeh Center Programs	No. of Beneficiaries	Duration
Library/community center	All the community	Ongoing
Study station	54	9 months
Story reading	63	Ongoing
Elementary classes- Syrian refugees	82	9 months
Moral Education	40	Ongoing
Handicrafts for children	63	Ongoing
Computer, English	31	6 months
Handicrafts for women	35	4 months
Sports	42 (26 boys, football; 16 girls, basketball)	Ongoing
Gymnasium	46	Ongoing
Summer program	164	2 months
Lectures, workshops, trainings	150-175 women, men & youth	10 months
Thrift shop	Camp & neighborhood	Ongoing

## Advocacy

JCC continues to tell the story of a lost country, the story of uprooted and displaced people, the story of refugees living in camps for the last 70 years. It continues to recount 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. Many of the old timers, hold tightly onto their keys to houses that have long been demolished within the hundreds of villages that no more exist. The Palestinian refugees today, endure increasingly bad conditions in the camps. They suffer discrimination socially and politically and have very few civil rights. This injustice has caused them to suffer from poverty, misery, fear and hopelessness felt mostly by the youth.

JCC works to raise awareness of this situation in the world through partners who share our concern and support our work, and through independent church

groups of various affiliations in addition to researchers, students, the media, and people who care.. We hope that they will advocate for the Palestinian situation in their churches and through their organizations. The JCC also works with sister organizations to fight for the rights of the refugees on important issues.

Gaining support for the plight of the Palestinians, advocating for their rights and supporting their right of return is an important goal that JCC works for . At present, the world is preoccupied with the millions of Syrian refugees who have been uprooted from their country. All aid is directed at helping them. The JCC is helping them within its capacities, but under this catastrophic emergency, the Palestinian refugees, who have been refugees for the last 70 years, seem to be forgotten and swept into the background. This must not happen as nothing has happened to solve their problem and show them some light for a better future.

## An Alumnus Comes to Visit

**Imad Enchassi- PhD-** a 1967 graduate of JCC Sabra Kindergarten came to visit. Imad is a survivor of the 1982 Shatilla camp massacre, where he lived and grew up as a Palestinian refugee. He had come back to remember his days in this center and remember his wonderful teacher, Miss Samira Abu Rahmeh who used to hug him and comfort him as he sat in her lap. Here is where he played, learned to read, received two meals a day, was first vaccinated and where his life began. Imad still holds on to his grade card from his KG1 class, which described him as clean, polite and adorable. Imad had survived the massacre and helped in rescuing many. He said that during the massacre he thought of his teacher, Miss Rahmeh, whose name means "Mercy" in Arabic and who always wore a cross around her neck. He remembered her kindness and love for all.

Imad found his way to the United States in 1983 where he studied, received a PhD, got married, had children and is now a professor of Islamic Studies at Oklahoma City University. He is also an Imam and has established a number of centers where he works tirelessly on interfaith and in engaging people of different faiths to work together. He has named all his centers "Rahmeh"- Mercy- in honor of his wonderful teacher. He also established the Islamic Aid in Oklahoma City which aids the most vulnerable people in different parts of



the world.

Accompanying Imad was the Reverend Dr. Mitch Randall a Baptist pastor from the organization "Ethics Daily" in Oklahoma. Dr. Randall was filming a documentary about the life of Imad and wanted to start from the beginning. Sadly Miss Rahmeh was gone and they paid their respects at her grave.

We are deeply touched and encouraged to be visited by a former student and to be reminded of how love and education can give a child a foundation to impact the world as an adult.

## Farewell

Rev. Jonas Lange and his wife Dr. Chris live in the German Church building across from the JCC office. Rev. Jonas is the pastor of the German Church in Beirut and he and Chris have both been very supportive of JCC work. They have collected funds to help us meet our obligations and have allowed us to use the church yard to sell our organic vegetables. It is difficult to see them go after 9 years but as we thank them profoundly, we wish them all the best in the new assignment they have taken back home.



## Visitors and Partners

It is always a pleasure to receive our partners and visitors. Each comes to visit for a reason. Some support JCC work and want to see its progress, others want to learn more about the Palestinian refugees so as to write about them, make a film or carry out a research project. To us, no matter what the reason of their visit is, we welcome them and try to show the real situation

From "Embrace the Middle East" came Tim Livesey, the



new chief executive accompanied by Sophia Peiris and Jamie Eyre. They visited our centers in Sabra and in Dbayeh camps and saw the work and discussed the programs they supported. Tim

Two groups from the various churches of the Presbyterian Churches of the USA came to visit at different intervals led by the Rev. Elmarie Parker. One group who had visited the camps previously chose to gather for a discussion on the refugee situation and exchange information while the other group visited the JCC center in the Sabra/ Shatilla camp and saw its programs.



Wendy Gusharo from the United Church of Canada and David Wildeman from the General Board of Global Ministries met up with JCC director to attend a lecture about the refugees after which the work of JCC was discussed.

From Christian Aid came Mairead Collins and Jeed Basrouni with whom JCC discussed its work and especially the project they supported. Also the country representative Soha Shaer along with Maria Varela-Garrido visited the JCC office to further discuss Christian aid concerns.





Jens Halves from "Bread for the World" in Germany was joined by Francis Tams the organization's consultant in Jerusalem. The work of JCC was discussed and especially the assessment the BftW had funded for JCC and its plans to handle some important points.

Trish Murray from the Christian World Service of New Zealand came for a visit on her way to Jordan for the DSPR meetings. She had time to visit the Sabra center and our center in Sidon where she observed the program for the Syrian students.

Rev. Glynis Williams and Rev. Ian Fraser from the Presbyterian Church of Canada visited JCC and were taken to visit the Dbayeh camp and see its programs.

A group of pastors from Germany and Britain partaking in a special program at the Near East School of Theology were interested in visiting a Palestinian camp. They were taken to visit Sabra center and the Shatilla camp. Rev. Pamela Strachen from Scotland and Rev. Susanne Gessner from Germany showed a special interest in the JCC work and came to the JCC office to further discuss what they saw. Rev. Strachen also brought her friend Mrs. Catriona Oliphant from Chrome radio which is a radio program in Britain to learn about life in refugee camps and our work with the refugees. She visited the Sabra/ Shatila Center and the camp conducting interviews in addition to an interview with the JCC director.



Andre and Crystal Freulon from Family Care work hard at what they do- helping people. When they call or visit, it is always to offer something. This year they supplied through us warm jackets of different sizes to children in need. They also supplied through us medical equipment to two dispensaries- one in Dbayeh camp and the other in Ein-El-Hilwweh camp. Accompanying them on this visit were their friends from the Mormon church from whom came the donations.



## 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.

Suzann Mollner is not new to JCC work or to the Palestinian camps. She has volunteered in the camps for a number of years but decided to volunteer this year with JCC. Suzann used her knowledge and skill to assist JCC at the office and in the centers. She wrote a lot of articles showing our work and thus helping us show JCC work. But very importantly, she invited a young friend from the States - Alex Miester-and together they made a film about JCC and its work.



Bruno Biermann, Rahel Weber, David Stephan and Lucas Beraenkamp came to Lebanon to partake in a special course at the Near East School of theology. Upon visiting the JCC Sabra Center, they decided that they would like to help out each in his line of interest.

Bruno began a new web page for the JCC spending many hours at the office in addition to visiting the centers for first hand information and taking photographs. Bruno, who is an avid photographer, also gave a photography course to the students of the electronics class going there every week.

Rahel chose to teach English to the girls in the hairdressing class.

David chose to work with the Electronics students by teaching them English. He conducted his classes once a week.

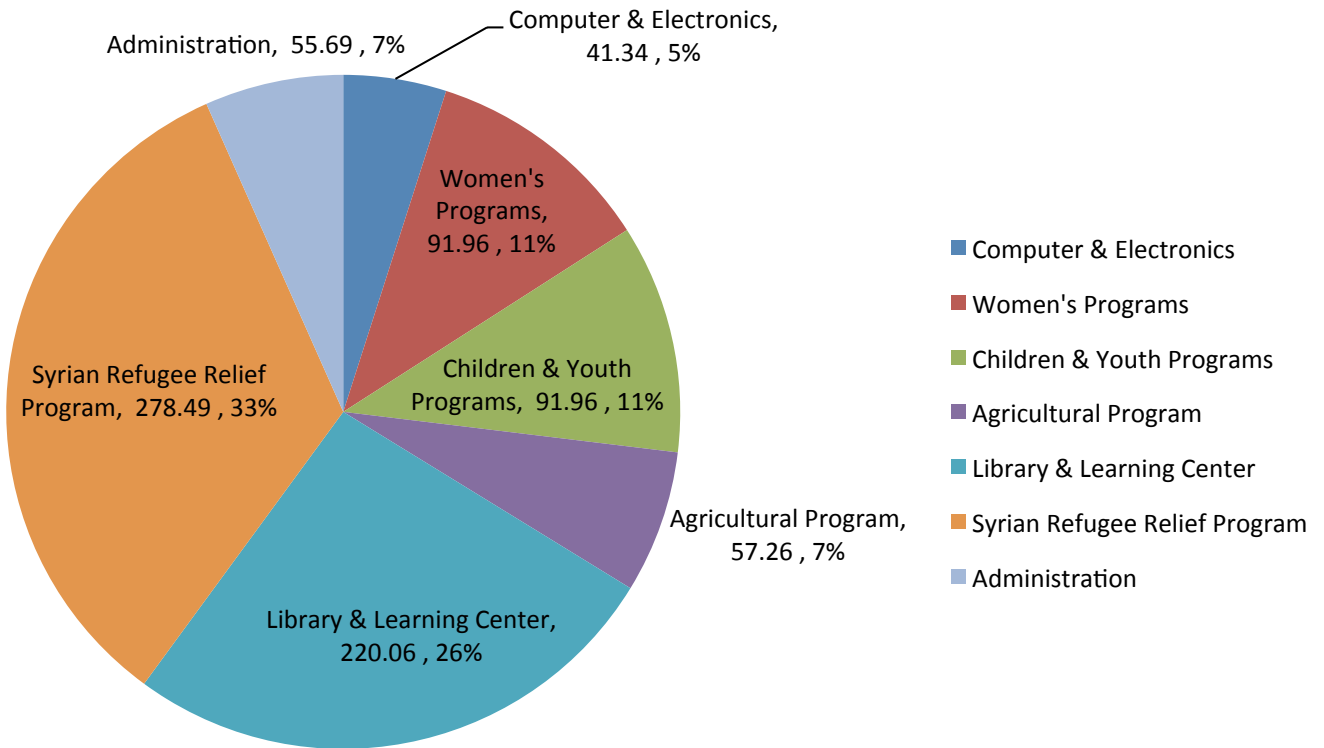


Jana Grieb, often volunteered in the Sabra center and mostly helped in teaching music. She brought her father Rev. Grieb, who was on a short visit, to visit the office and know more about our work.

Lucas bought music to the class of the "Children on the Go" by teaching them to play the drums and sing certain tunes.



## Distribution of Funds in (USD)



[www.dspr-me.org/jcc.html](http://www.dspr-me.org/jcc.html)



a member of  
**actalliance**

Park Lane Bldg, 4th floor, Abla Street (Sadat), Beirut - Lebanon  
Tel-Fax: +961 1 741 735 - E-mail: [jcc@dspr-me.org](mailto:jcc@dspr-me.org) -