

The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children

Annual Report 2008

Opening Note



CEO—Mrs. Betty Majaj

Dear Partners and Friends,

At this time of year, while approaching the Holy Christmas season, we would like to send greetings by wishing you a blessed and peaceful year.

In spite of the violence enriching our region, the Centre continues to play a big role in the provision of services for the

Summer Camp 2008

This year's summer camp was assisted by our team of rehabilitation staff during July 2-21; 45 children with special needs, mainly physically disabled and hearing impaired joined the camp ages four to seven years. For the 7th consecutive year volunteers have been gratefully recruited through Highway Projects—UK, our partners, along side our local staff. Children enjoyed a whole

physically disabled and the hearing impaired children from East Jerusalem and the West Bank. We are extending the Sheltered Workshop for vocational training to the physically disabled young adults in order to allow more candidates the opportunity to join the program.

Besides, we have expanded our integrated school level by adding grade 11 with the hope of completing grade 12 covering the total high school education and thus preparing the students to pursue higher university education.

Life in general is far from normal, hard to predict and plan ahead, yet we have learned to keep striving for a better honorable life with the aim of attaining peace and justice. We feel

range of activities, including arts, crafts and special events and visits. Mothers shared in the program including out-door activities being an enjoyable and great unique opportunity for many to visit religious sites within Jerusalem and other forbidden areas for them since many years of deprivation imposed on them by the Israeli authorities, just because they happen to be residents in the West Bank. At the end of the camp, children exhibited their art work followed by an eve-

fortunate that our dedicated, committed staff from the West Bank report daily to duty despite the different journeys having to face Israeli harassment and army road blocks all around.

All of this and more is affecting the behavior of school children, who suffer from fear, anxiety and insecurity and feel deprived of their basic rights; thanks to dedicated teachers who are trying hard to find ways and means to help them cope and look forward to a brighter future.

We thank you for your unfailing help and support in these tough times and hope that you will keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

ning of fun and dinner at the Seven Arches Hotel for all those who shared and contributed to the camp including guests. I can note that this year's camp was very special for both children and mothers who urged us to include them always.



Playdough activity

Client Centered
"Empowerment ..
Inclusion ..
Ownership ..
Customer Satisfaction ..
Commitment"

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Nursing Unit



Initial Assessment of an in-patient at the Nursing Unit

A major development was undertaken at the nursing unit by implementing the Quality Management System, international ISO standards, in order to upgrade the patients' files filing system and record keeping, overall monitoring of the patients' sessions, and initial assessment of the patients general condition.

The staff at the nursing unit participated in many workshops along with the therapists and welcomed the opportunity to develop their

skills in future workshops as they are available.

We can say that the overall performance of the staff members at the nursing unit was recognizable. They all have set their objectives for continued development for the benefit of the children with special needs.

Since the beginning of 2008, 228 in-patients were admitted, 129 being new patients admitted for the first time; the other 99 were re-admissions.



Patients' files

Donations through our Banks :

- ☞ HSBC Private Bank (UK) Limited, Account# 303289 0001, **SWIFT/ BIC Code:** SMCGB2P
- ☞ Mercantile-Discount Bank Ltd. **Bank # (17)** , **Branch # (638)** , Account # (402052), **Swift Code:** BARDILIT.

Unknown funding through BibleLands-UK

To our friends who sent us gifts through BibleLands and have not received a receipt or a thank you note from us, do receive our apologies, your contribution has assisted BibleLands to submit their regular monthly grant to the Basma Center being GBP 1,750 as per their new policy plan.

The Sheltered Workshop

Our vocational training department is supporting young men and women from 18 years and over. The candidates receive training and acquire skills in the field of straw and cane work and light carpentry. We continue this program with different

groups according to the abilities of the beneficiaries. Those with mild disabilities get training in secretarial work, or at the orthopedic workshop or as door keepers.



School update

Additional children enrolled to the school this year, making a total enrollment of 677 students, (257 females & 470 males), among them 74 hearing impaired children, 41 of them have had cochlear implants, the rest have hearing aids; 6 are visually impaired; 5 have different health problems and the rest are normal

bodied children. We still need to add one more class next year to complete our secondary education level to enable students to further their college education. All school children live within the Jerusalem boundaries and do not require permits to commute daily.



A dissection performed at the Science Lab

Tax Deductible Donations

Gracious Donations can be forwarded to us through :

- ☞ The General Board of Global Ministries— United Methodist Church (www.gb-gm-umc.org) General Advance Specials: Account #: 14238A— Gifts for Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children.

- ☞ The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S. * Please designate your donations for the Jerusalem Princess Basma Center via St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem.

DFMS : 815 Second Avenue , New York, NY 10017 Tel 1-800-334-7626.

New Staff Addition

I am sorry to report that Salwa Abed-Rabbo, my secretary at the Centre will be leaving us as of January 1, 2009. Salwa decided to pursue a new career in her life, being an accomplished dressmaker and designer. She has served as my executive secretary over a period

of 10 years and was a committed, hardworking and dedicated staff member.

We are sorry to lose her; Salwa will be succeeded by Miss Taline Deldelian; wishing them both luck and success.



Salwa & Taline busy at work at end of year ...

"JCDC exists to transfer

- ☞ **education**
- ☞ **knowledge**
- ☞ **expertise**

**In rehabilitation
&
Inclusive education**

to the environment of children with special needs"

Continued Support of European Union

World Health Organization—WHO, that conducted the implementation of the second phase of the ISO standards project at the East Jerusalem Hospitals early 2008, organized a workshop at the Inter-continental Hotel in Jericho on November 27, 2008.

Directors and Managers representing the six East Jerusalem Hospitals attended this workshop and discussed the outcome of the work and the

lessons that were learnt from the cooperation during the year 2008.

Group discussions and brainstorming were in progress in order to identify the future needs and priorities of the six health care facilities. WHO will use the gathered information in an effort to prepare a proposal to the EU requesting the continuation of the financial support to the various hospitals in East

Jerusalem.

Our many thanks and appreciation to the EU for their vital funding and support, and to the WHO for their input.

It is worth noting that the second phase of the project allowed the inclusion of the Rehabilitation Department into the Quality Management System.

Research Update & Up-grading of skills

The scientific research was finalized this year; the results were announced during the conference on disabilities held in Eilat May 2008.

JCDC staff presented excellent performance in conducting this research, which will allow participation in future research studies.

The final report was submitted and distributed to all partners concerned.

All therapists have participated in several workshops to keep informed about the latest updates in information regarding special needs in general. Among many workshops attended I mention:

"MOVE" a new approach in the treatment of physical disabilities; Feeding and Seating for children with Cerebral Palsy; Spasticity Management.

JCDC continues to receive Physiotherapy and Occupational therapy student from local universities for internship and practical training.



Workshop in Jericho attended by directors and managers from east Jerusalem Hospitals.

**Quality Centered
"Team Work ..
Innovation ..
Competency"**

Thanks and Acknowledgement

- ☞ We are happy to mention that the numbers of visitors did increase this year. Several groups of tourists from abroad did visit our Centre, mostly from USA, UK and Germany. This increasing number is probably a result of our efforts to update our partners and friends from abroad through our newsletter and information about the situation here and our Centre in particular; we cannot but worry about the future, considering that our Centre depends on donations to cover the remaining 35% of our budget.
- ☞ We regret to announce the passing away of Mrs. Jean Phleps, one time volunteer at the Centre. At the request of her husband, Mr. Lewis Phelps, donations in lieu of flowers were made to the Centre school budget; what a meaningful way to honor her memory. Mrs. Phelps had in previous years volunteered to help the children in the English Language and she loved doing it and the children loved her in return
- ☞ Our sympathies and gratitude to her husband and friends. May God bless her soul.
- ☞ We are grateful to the St. John's Eye Hospital for their assistance in offering to screen / test the eyes of around 800 of our school students and inpatients.
- ☞ Continued support for our programs and activities is still in progress from many of our partners and friends:
- ☞ The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem—USA
- ☞ General board of Global Ministries—USA
- ☞ Dr. & Mrs. Michel Farah—USA
- ☞ The Sisters of St. Joseph of the Diocese of London—Canada
- ☞ Anglican Church of Paphos—Cyprus
- ☞ Sylvia Ghibaudo—France
- ☞ Mr. & Mrs. Michael Brown—USA
- ☞ BibleLands Society—UK
- ☞ Diakonia / NAD—Sweden / Norway
- ☞ General Consulate of Belgium - Jerusalem Office
- ☞ Arab Women's Association-UK
- ☞ Highway Project-UK
- ☞ Care International-USA
- ☞ European Commission - Palestine Representation
- ☞ Faisal Hussein Foundation - Palestine
- ☞ Christian Aid - UK
- ☞ Opec Fund for International Development - Austria
- ☞ Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
- ☞ Many other individuals that are gratefully remembered and acknowledged personally
- ☞ Randa Majaj and Bill Veach
- ☞ Mr. and Mrs. Armond Habiby

Christmas Celebrations



We took the news with great dismay ... Santa (Mr Phillip Morrison and his wife Mary Margaret) were not able to be with us in person this year, due to some health issues that needed attention.

Their very close friends and helpers in previous Christmas offerings, Mr. Jim and Glenda Hutchenson filled for them this year. Their friend Brenda Crews joined them on this trip.

The Christmas celebrations brought joy and happiness to the children as usual as much as we did ... and we thank Jim and Glenda for their help.

We wish you both, Phillip and Mary Margaret, good health and peace of mind and hope to see you with us next year ... you were present in our hearts and thoughts, even though you were physically thousands of miles away.

Take good care of your health and God bless you and your friends.



Santa Clause and his teams during their Christmas offerings for the school and rehabilitation department at "The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre for Disabled

**For further assistance,
please use the contact information shown below ...**

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