

KinderUSA NEWS

KIDS IN NEED OF DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND RELIEF

Ramadan in Gaza and the West Bank

Your generous donations provided food for over 800 families in Gaza and 1800 in the West Bank. Women cooperatives produced cheese, honey, pressed dates, and zatar while 60 small scale farmers provided fresh fruits and vegetables along with live chickens to cook as they liked. In Gaza, female heads of household prepared 700 iftars consisting of rice, chicken, vegetable, juice, and desert over a three day period for families who have no facility to cook or store food. In the Jenin district of the West Bank, women cooperatives prepared 200 iftars for the children in the Orphan Care Society, the Light for the Blind, and the Society for the Physically Challenged.

The Ramadan Farmers Project, as in the past, works to provide a recovery of livelihood for farmers



who have lost the ability to farm their lands either due to military operations, as in Gaza, or the

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BOARD

As we approach the close of another year, Kinder USA would like to remind all of our donors that the work we continue to do is only possible with your generosity. There is no question that the current economic crisis, with the accompanying lack of resources, has affected the amount of work KinderUSA has been able to accomplish, though we have approached our work with greater innovation ensuring we reach as many children as possible with the budget available. Despite the disturbing economic climate, we find our inspiration from both you and our partners on the ground who remain creative in solving the needs of the civilian population in both Gaza and the West Bank with limited funding.

Palestinian children continue to face a human dignity crisis, characterized by the erosion of livelihoods, the continued denial of basic human rights and a forced dependency on international aid that affects all aspects of their daily life. In Gaza, the blockade,

now entering its fourth year leaves over 80% of the 1.5 million Gazan's, half of whom are children, dependent on international aid. Homes and schools remain in rubble or inhabitable leaving 40,000 eligible children unable to enroll in school while many more face another harsh winter without proper shelter.

What is happening in Gaza is an outrage and unnecessary. The rights and needs of civilians in Gaza should not be conditional on political objectives, nor can these children wait for 'negotiations' to conclude. KinderUSA will continue to support well health, nutrition, and development projects for the children in Gaza with full knowledge that peace will never materialize through force of arms, but rather through the eradication of poverty along with the protection and advancement of children.

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Women's Cooperative Gaza

Responding to the economic needs of vulnerable families in Gaza, KinderUSA employed female heads of household, training them in the production and marketing of white cheese for market distribution. This cheese was produced and used in our Ramadan food distribution and continues today serving the community. Providing a source of income and a means of empowerment, for only \$49,000, 18 women are able to care for their school age children and contribute to the economic development of their rural community.

"We lost everything during the war, our land, our homes and our ability to feed our children. If we had known the situation would be like this, we would not



have had so many children, but each new face brings a new blessing and hope," said Um Mohammed one of the women who has been trained in the cooperative. Thank you to all who made this appeal a success story for these women!!



Please **donate**
generously TODAY
using the enclosed
envelope so we can
fulfill our project goals
for 2010!

Kids for Kids Theater

For years, theatre and drama have been used in conflict areas as a means of working through the struggles of violence in everyday life. Yes Theatre, in the West Bank, works to promote theater and drama as effective tools for improving the psychosocial well-being of Palestinian youth. Partnering with KinderUSA and War Child Holland, Yes Theater promotes engagement with the dramatic arts directing the youth to produce plays performed for other school students and the community at large. The themes of the scripts were conceived by students providing them with an activity outside of school which encourages team building, democracy and nonviolence by using drama and theatre.

Beginning production early in the year, Yes Theatre students performed 29 shows during the



months of May and June. Reaching an audience of nearly 4800 children, parents, teachers, and local Palestinians, 1800 children participated in the project which was not possible without your generous donation of \$16,000. This project increased awareness that young people are powerful community members who can speak out to all, with reason, sensitivity, and imagination!

Eid in Nahr el Bared

For a third year, KinderUSA in partnership with the Palestinian Children and Youth Center in Nahr el-Bared organized Eid (holiday) celebrations, for the children. The camp situated in northern Lebanon, was all but destroyed in the summer of 2007 during the 15-week military confrontation between the Lebanese

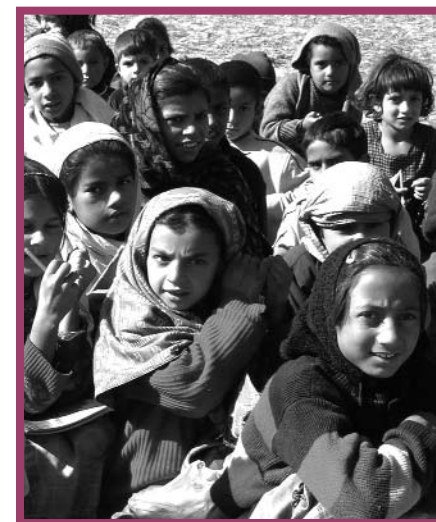
Army and Fatah al-Islam insurgents wreaking havoc in the lives of the camp population displacing over 30,000 people.

Organized by the youth and young adults of the Palestine Children and Youth Center, the 3-day children's fair in the camp celebrated Eid al-Fitr reaching approximately 6000 children of all ages. Dressed in costumes as

Pakistan Relief

Pakistan's worst floods in recorded history devastated the country this Ramadan in the mountainous northwest. Some 20 million people and 62,000 square miles of land - about one-fifth of the country - have been affected. Years of low rainfall had left many farmers struggling on the edge of financial survival, and they now face the worst floods in generations. Weeks after massive downpours first battered northern Pakistan, submerging tens of thousands of square miles of crops, over 1600 people have been killed and millions are homeless, as floodwaters continue to swell inflicting layer upon layer of misery to the population.

International Blue Crescent (IBC) and KinderUSA, long-time humanitarian partners who have been working in the region since



the 2005 earthquake, were able to answer the call for emergency relief with food, water, and hygiene products to 500 families stranded without shelter. "I am deeply saddened by the loss of life and the magnitude of this humanitarian catastrophe."

clowns and cartoon characters, the organizers enthusiastically coordinated competitive games, sporting activities, arts, crafts, and staged cultural performances for the children

Your donations provided these children 3 days of celebration observing the Muslim holiday as many children did across the globe!





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building of the wall separating families from their land. In addition, female heads of household received technical training and marketing producing cheese, zatar, molasses, and spices for our fresh food basket distribution – a project we are proud of and continues today (see Women’s Cooperative). Total expenditure for the month with your generous donations: \$278,000!

“Tahreer is the mother of 3 children all of whom live in a shelter without windows or protection from the outside elements. The Ramadan food basket was a “blessing” which lasted for some time, provided fresh foods that has been mostly out of their reach. The children were so pleased to have the food in their home to “eat without waiting for someone to bring food!”

“Sa’deya, 16 years old, lives with her 7 siblings and father in one room which was reconstructed after being destroyed during the military operations in January 2009 near the Israeli border. Without an income, the father sells cigarettes on the street to make a living to feed and care for his family. The food basket was a welcome change as fresh poultry and dairy is not within their financial ability. Sa’deya thanks all who contributed to bringing a hot meal every day during Ramadan.”



Cystic Fibrosis in Gaza

Working in cooperation with a local organization, KinderUSA supported a Cystic Fibrosis project in the Gaza Strip that provided full and comprehensive health services including consultation, diagnosis, treatment, and psychological and social rehabilitation for children and their parents. Cystic fibrosis is a chronic disease that is deadly if untreated or poorly treated but with regular basic care children can survive into adulthood. Toddlers are the highest percentage of patients being seen by the staff of professionals, though infants and pre-school children are among the treated.

Many parents are unable to cope both financially and with the proper skills to care for children with Cystic Fibrosis who need a



clean environment, a regular supply of oxygen and Inhalation therapy which need electricity in order to function along with medications such as enzymes and antibiotics. KinderUSA thanks our donors for their generous contribution \$27500 which provided much needed care for these children.

Summer Camp in Gaza

In partnership with UNRWA, KinderUSA provided 800 children a reprieve from the daily challenges faced in Gaza during the long summer days. Trampolines, swimming, kite-making, basketball, and soccer were some of the activities these children were able to participate in. For many of the children, this was their first time swimming, jumping on a trampoline or making a kite. Your generous dona-



tion of \$10,000 allowed these children to realize their talents, build positive relationships, learn new skills, and boost their self-confidence!



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PO BOX 224846
DALLAS TX 75222-9785

