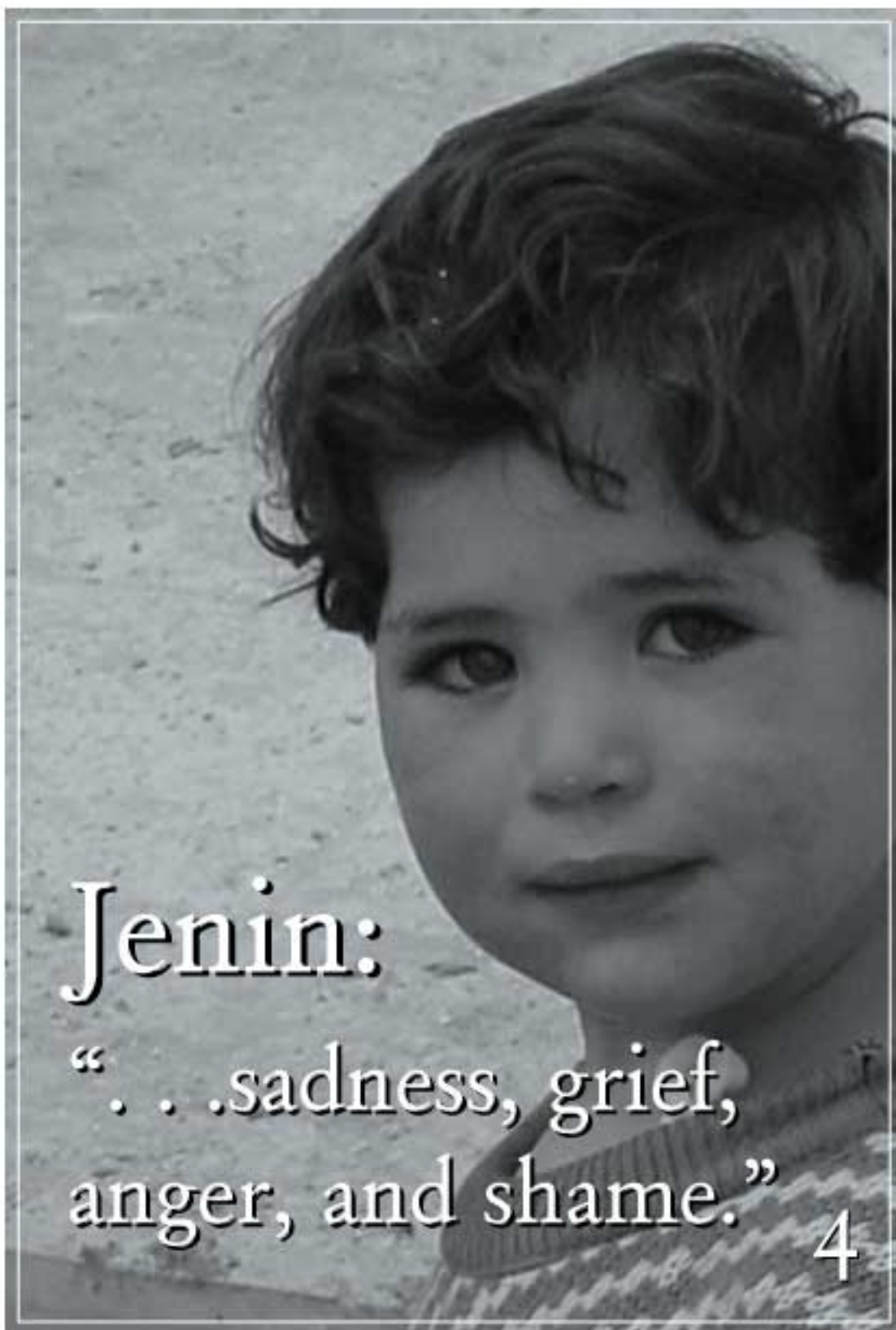


# KINDERUSA NEWS

KIDS IN NEED OF DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND RELIEF



Jenin:

“...sadness, grief,  
anger, and shame.”

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Destruction  
In Gaza

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## FROM THE BOARD

### Our Inaugural Issue

On behalf of the Board of Directors for Kinder-USA, welcome to the inaugural issue of the Kinder newsletter. Kinder stands for "Kids in Need of Development, Education, and Relief" and operates under the guiding belief that no child should live in want or fear.

The past several months have brought numerous challenges to humanitarian efforts in the West Bank and Gaza. In confronting these challenges, Kinder has maintained its primary focus - providing aid and comfort to children in need - and emerged a stronger organization. Kinder has begun the distribution of food packages in Gaza and the West Bank city of Jenin, which has been the scene of enormous devastation. Upcoming projects include the initiation of psychosocial trauma centers on the West Bank, a back-to-school project for Palestinian children whose lives have been disrupted by the ongoing conflict, and a unique wheelchair distribution program.

Our projects are proceeding at a rapid pace, and the children are counting on organizations such as Kinder to continue the work that has already begun. We, in turn, rely on the generosity and compassion of our contributors to continue this valuable work. Together, we can make an important difference, one child at a time.

Thank you for sharing our commitment to the children.



The impact of the humanitarian crisis affecting children in the Palestinian Territories cannot be over emphasized. Children's fundamental human rights are being abused even though the United Nations has provisions outlined in both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. KinderUSA is currently working on several projects to meet the humanitarian needs of these children, but our work cannot be completed without continued donor support.



# Looking Ahead

## Psychosocial Trauma Centers (PTC)

KinderUSA plans to implement two PTC's for children and their mothers in the West Bank and Gaza. Estimated cost for each facility to operate for one year: \$110,000.



## Orphan and Needy children sponsorship

As many of you have requested, our social workers are currently gathering names for our sponsorship program. Initially, our program will consist of children in Gaza. As the program grows, we will include children in the West Bank, Lebanon, and Jordan. Sponsorship per child: \$50.00. Our goals remain ambitious, but certainly achievable with your help!



# Back To School

FOR THE CHILDREN OF PALESTINE.

**"Make educational and vocational information and guidance available and accessible to all children."**

Article 28b, Convention on the Rights of the Child

"Back to school", a term that has become an annual rite of passage for families across the nation. The phrase signals the beginning of a retail frenzy; a mad rush to the malls of America in order to purchase the most sought after school supplies and the latest trends in fashion. These three words evoke a myriad of emotions in parents and children, from joy to gloom and excitement to anxiety. The right to an education is guaranteed in Article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and is one of the keys handed to children to unlock their potential and fulfill their dreams. However, for some children education is a right that is unobtainable. If we were to ask a Palestinian child to describe what the term "back to school" means, most certainly this child would not express the same enthusiasm

witnessed amongst American children. Their school may have been destroyed by heavy artillery fire or they may not be able to reach their school due to restrictions on movement. This is unacceptable, and as such, KinderUSA is strengthening its' resolve to ensure that each and every child in the Occupied Territories realizes their right to Education. For the upcoming 2002-2003 school year, KinderUSA is working towards this goal and is asking for your help.

Your one time GIFT

of **\$50**

*per student*

makes it possible for hundreds of children in the West Bank and Gaza to start the school year with Uniforms, Shoes, Backpacks, Notebooks, Pens, Pencils, and the Annual Tuition. Tomorrow's world is a treasure chest taking shape in the minds and bodies of these children today. Join us in building a future we can all be proud of.



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We are new as an  
organization, but  
we are veteran  
humanitarians.

The children  
cannot wait, and  
neither will we.

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## FROM THE FIELD

## JENIN: "...SADNESS,



Recently, many reports have come out concerning the depth of the destruction occurring in the West Bank and Gaza, in terms of life, infrastructure, and economy. According to the World Bank, over half of the Palestinian population lives on less than \$2 a day, and according to USAID, as many as one fifth of Palestinian children are suffering acute malnutrition.

Dr. Riad Abdelkarim, chairman of KinderUSA, visited the West Bank and Gaza in April and May of this year to conduct medical assessments. Following are excerpts of his "random thoughts" upon visiting Jenin:

"I feel ashamed to be part of a world that has allowed such

a monstrous crime to occur. . . my words cannot paint a thorough picture of what I felt walking through the camp yesterday. . . Honestly, I am so numbed by what I have seen that the rush of emotions blurs the cohesiveness of my thoughts. But I feel I owe it to the people of Jenin to say something, anything. . . Camp residents

were walking around as if in a trance, still clearly not able to comprehend—or accept—the wholesale destruction of their homes. It was as if the entire camp was drugged. . . As I leave the camp's "Ground Zero", I feel an uncomfortable mixture of sadness, grief, anger, and shame. Walking around with my video camera and digital still camera, I



# GRIEF, ANGER, AND SHAME.”



feel as if I am participating in some grotesque, macabre ritual. . . Final thought: I spent last night in the Jenin area. . . my heart continues to ache—mostly for the people of Jenin, but also for what we used to call humanity.”

Since Dr. Abdelkarim’s visit, much has been written about what did and did not happen in



for our work, but we believe that together we can harness the potential of humanity in our quest for a world where no child will ever have to witness the tragedy of Jenin again.

## A QUOTE

There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they grow up in peace.

KOFI ANNAN



Jenin. For our part, the appalling impact this tragedy has had on the surviving children can never be justified. We call upon the international community to use its’ influence to enforce adherence to the norms and standards of international humanitarian law particularly those statues concerning the welfare of children. There are formidable obstacles that lay ahead

## Destruction in Gaza



After the bombing of the densely populated residential area in Gaza, KinderUSA representatives visited the wounded surviving children in the hospital providing toys in an attempt to alleviate the psychological trauma they endured. Several of these children's homes were completely demolished leaving them without clothing and household items. KinderUSA, along with a coalition of relief agencies banded together to provide urgently needed clothing and household items for 11 families. KinderUSA provided each family with washing machine, gas oven with tubing, and vouchers for clothing. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families of the victims and all those affected by this tragedy.



## NOOR'S CORNER

# Kids Helping Kids In Need

KINDER USA is an organization that aids kids in need of development, education, and relief. This organization has received donations from people of various ages and backgrounds. One of their helpful donations was made by children that attend Brighter Horizons Academy in Texas. These children were asked why they donated and collected money to aid needy children. Seven-year-old Mohammad held an empty 'Sprite' can, and explained that this aluminum can was where he kept all the money he had collected. When asked why he took on this task, Mohammad said he did so in order to "feed hungry children." Osama, 5, said he donated money to poor children so that he could help "buy bandages to fix their hurt part." 11-year-old Yousuf said he donated because he "felt sorry for them and wanted to help them." Mohammad



exclaimed that he, alone, collected eleven dollars consisting of pennies, nickels, and dimes. "They might buy food, school supplies, clothing, and things to cover themselves with," affirmed Yousuf in a sorrowful, yet determined tone. Osama innocently, yet bravely declared that "the Israelis broke the Palestinian homes so I can give them money to buy new houses."

All of the young Brighter Horizon Academy donors were proud as well as happy for they had "helped poor and needy children smile" and they have "earned reward and Jannah (Paradise)."

If these innocent children easily and undoubtedly accepted to donate the few dollars that they owned in order to help children in need, then it should be an adult's automatic responsibility

to support these hungry children. "I want to see them smile because if they are not happy, then I will not be happy"... "they deserve to be happy just like any kid"... "We love to make a difference." If

most adults had a fraction of these children's feelings, then the world would see an enormous difference in needy children's faces. Instead of seeing hunger, pain, and sadness, they will start seeing smiles, peace, and security.

# Aiding the victims

## OVER 2000 FAMILIES REACHED



Without adequate access to food due to closures and curfews, it has been documented that the children of the West Bank and Gaza are seriously threatened with malnutrition, unprecedented amongst the Palestinian population. As part of a coordinated effort, **KinderUSA** worked alongside international and national organizations providing urgently needed support to these affected communities.

**Jenin:** **KinderUSA**, in coordination with Terre des Hommes of Switzerland, distributed 1000

food packages to the children and their families in Jenin and the surrounding villages. The impact of curfews and closures has placed a stranglehold on an already impoverished people, suffering from the worst economic conditions since the 1967 war. **KinderUSA** field workers were able to reach communities in remote, difficult to access areas in response to the ongoing crisis.

**Gaza:** Working with rosters provided by UNRWA of children in need, **KinderUSA** in cooperation with Ard al Insan concentrated on

providing much needed food relief to beneficiaries in Khan Younis and Rafah. The nearly complete isolation and dissection of the Gaza has resulted in a serious humanitarian crisis and deterioration of all living conditions with the need for assistance continually mounting. In response, **KinderUSA** distributed 1000 food packages containing enough food to feed a family of 8 for one month.

As part of **KinderUSA's** effort at bolstering the local economy, all food packages were purchased in the areas of distribution.



## KinderUSA Dallas, TX and Orange, CA: Sustaining Hope for the Children of Palestine

**Dallas, TX:** KinderUSA formerly introduced itself to a packed house of over 500 attendees in Dallas, TX April 28, 2002 at the Renaissance Hotel. Reporting live from Jenin, Dr. Riad Abdelkarim, chairman of KinderUSA, carried the audience through the death and destruction of the camp and the reality on the ground for every surviving child. Guest speaker Khaled Turaani, President of American Muslims for Jerusalem, carried the theme forward reiterating the tragedy befalling the Palestinian child and their families, which was followed by a six-minute video bearing witness to the devastation in Jenin. A special thank you goes out to all who made this event a success!

**Orange, CA:** On the evening of Sunday, July 21st, KinderUSA held a major fundraising event in Southern California. The event took place at the Sequoia Conference Center in Buena Park, Orange County, and was attended by an estimated 350 individuals. Speakers on the evening included Dr. Maher Hathout, the Reverend Darrel Meyers, and Dr. Riad



Abdelkarim, while the event was moderated by Dr. Laila Al-Marayati. The program also included a live telephone update from Khalil Marouf, a director of Terre des Hommes, regarding the deteriorating humanitarian condition in the West Bank with particular emphasis on the challenges faced by Palestinian children. Through the tireless efforts of countless dedicated volunteers and the local Kinder board members, the event was a genuine success that helped spark unprecedented interest in the organization and its ongoing humanitarian efforts.



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