

US-OMEN



UNITED STATES ORGANIZATION FOR MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Spring/Summer 2009 / Issue # 8

\$130,000 TO THE NEEDY IN GAZA

Dear USOMEN Supporters and Friends,

Thank you for your continued generosity. US OMEN has been always been there for the needy and the less fortunate because of your generous support. As the late Martin Luther King, Jr. said: **"The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: "If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?" But... the Good Samaritan reversed the question: "If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"**

I know that you agree with me that we all cannot afford to stop our support to the many families, including the children that are sleeping in the cold and going hungry everyday. We cannot look away when we know that so many children are in need of basic food necessities including milk and medical care to help them grow. We cannot turn our backs on those who are willing to work to feed their families or those students who strive for a better future. We simply can't...



With your continued generous support, we can all feel better knowing we extended a helping hand to those in need and we helped put a smile on a child's face. As an Arab Proverb said: **"If you have much, give of your wealth; if you have little, give from your heart."**

Most recently US-OMEN donated more than \$130,000 to help the needy and displaced children and families in Gaza. US-OMEN partnered with ANERA, the American Near East Refugee Aid, to deliver the necessary basic food and other aid and services to the desperate and needy families. US-OMEN contributed to ANERA's "Cash for Work Program," which puts unemployed and needy families into working on farmlands. US-OMEN partnered with ANERA in the "Household Food Production Program", which helps 250 families raise their own food. US-OMEN also continued in its tradition to give needy students, scholarships at Birzeit University. US-OMEN contributed to Pastors for Peace to purchase medical supplies as part of the humanitarian convoy to Gaza known as Viva Palestina USA.

US-OMEN also partnered with many of our sister organizations and students in Southern California to collect, donate and send a container full of blankets and stuffed toys to the children in Gaza.

We are grateful to all of you for your continued support especially during these tough times. We are counting on you again, to help us continue to provide the humanitarian work of US-OMEN. June 20th was Refugee's day. Every day should be a refugee day because hunger and sickness is a daily occurrence for those in need. Everyday should be a refugee day when we help others in need. As Gibran Khalil Gibran said: **"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."**

We have many special holidays and Holy Days ahead of us. The Holy month of Ramadan is approaching soon and is a reminder for all of us to give generously and to remember those that are less fortunate than us.

Thank you for your generosity and look forward to your continued support. US OMEN continues to empower the needy because of YOU..

**Blankets & Stuffed Toys drive
to the Children of Gaza**

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Special Thank you to our donors who made our recent giving a reality:

- The **Anabta Community** in Southern California
- The extended family of **Mr. Adel Barakat**
- The **El Bireh Society** of Southern California
- The **Birzeit Society**, San Francisco chapter
- The **Asahel Club**, San Francisco Chapter

Please help us with any donation which we will channel through ANERA to benefit the continuous need in GAZA. Please, fill, cut and mail the form below:

YES, You can count on me to help the humanitarian efforts of US-OMEN in the fields of medical & educational needs.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

TEL: H: _____ W: _____ CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

E mail: _____

Method of Payment: ___ check
 ___ credit card # _____ Exp. Date: _____ \$ _____

Signature: _____

O Visa O Master Card O American Express O Discover
 Make checks payable to: US-OMEN P.O. Box 412, Norwalk, CA 90651

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Community

EMPOWERMENT NEWS



- **US-OMEN** responded to the latest massacre in Gaza with a letter fund raising campaign and a fund raising gathering by the Anabta community in the moorpark area. Close to \$65,000.00 was collected and channeled through The American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) to finance programs benefiting the needy people in Gaza.

\$50,000.00 Donated to finance *The Cash for Work Program* instituted by ANERA in Gaza where people are put to work to clean farm lands from plastics

\$10,000.00 Donated to ANERA *Household Food Production Program* where 10 chickens and feed are given to 250 families to grow the chicken and produce eggs.

- Fundraising events took place in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas in response to the viva Palestina– USA lifeline to GAZA campaign lunched by British parliamentarian George Galoway and Vietnam war veteran Ron Kovic, along with many others from across the nation. US-OMEN was happy to facilitate some of these fundraisings that netted \$69,000.00 which was donated to benefit the Viva Palestina—USA campaign . The funds were donated by the Anabta community in Los Angeles, Al Bireh Society, Birzeit Society and Al Sahel Club in San Francisco. US-OMEN thanked all for making this donation a reality.
- \$2,500.00 was donated to the Birzeit University US-OMEN/Dina Saleh scholarship fund for the 2009 school year.



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Donate for the US-OMEN Memorial Scholarship Funds in Honor of:

Late Palestinian Arab Poet **Mahmoud Darwish**

Late Egyptian Arab Historian **Dr. Abdel-Wahab El-Missiri**

Late Syrian Arab Director **Mustapha Akkad**

or start scholarship fund in your name with US-OMEN

Funds will benefit university needy students in the fields of

Arts, History and Media

Please indicate your preference when donating to special funds.

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Gaza Direct Relief

BLANKETS AND STUFFED TOYS TO THE CHILDREN OF GAZA

The United States Organization for Medical and Educational Needs (**US-OMEN**) and the Palestine Children's Relief Fund (**PCRF**) along with many other community organizations and members sponsored blankets and stuffed toys drive benefiting the children of GAZA.

A call went out to our community in Southern California to collect blankets and stuffed toys to be shipped to GAZA. Our community generously responded in a prompt manner making the campaign a smashing success.

A 20-foot container was filled with more than 1000 blankets and more than 1000 stuffed toys.

Volunteers from all the organizations came together to package and load the container. Shipping took place on March 3rd 2009, where it will be received and transferred through The United Nations Relief and Work Agency (**UNRWA**) to the people in GAZA. Haitham Aranki, of the US-OMEN estimates that the blankets will be in Gaza by mid April 2009. He said: *"given that people in Gaza are still in tents due to the destruction of their homes, those blankets will be greatly needed"*.

"This project gave our community the opportunity to offer some help to the people of GAZA and in that, our community was up to the task". Added Haitham Aranki, the secretary for US-OMEN.

"This was another demonstration of our community's organizations working together" said Lily Karam, the president of PCRF Chapter of Southern California.

In addition to the sponsorship of US- OMEN and PCRF, the blankets and stuffed toys campaign was co-sponsored by the following organizations:

Palestinian American Women Association-PAWA, Friends of Sabeel-OC/LA, Middle East Fellowship-SC, Birzeit Society, Ramallah Club, El Bireh Society, Bethlehem Association, Palestine Aid Society, The Arab American Community Center, Arab Student's organizations in UCI and UCR.



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