



American Friends of the  
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**



## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Thirty years ago, at the time of the first Intifada, Episcopal leaders saw the need for a safe, secure channel to offer support to the humanitarian institutions owned and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) was born.

A nonpolitical, nonsectarian 501(c)(3) organization, AFEDJ is dedicated to raising financial support for schools, hospitals, and centers for children with disabilities in Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon. These institutions serve everyone, irrespective of their religion, ethnicity or ability to pay. They build hope for all in the Holy Land. The Christian values of equity, justice, and respect for the dignity of all are at the heart of our efforts.



**Cover:** Five year-olds about to graduate from a kindergarten program for Syrian refugees at Schneller School in Marka, Jordan



### 30 YEARS

A safe, secure channel to support Christian humanitarian institutions in the Middle East



### \$1.4 MILLION

Transferred by AFEDJ to support 14 institutions in 2018



### 4 STARS

The highest rating for financial accountability and transparency from [\*Charity Navigator\*](#)



### 90,187

The number of lives improved by the institutions supported by AFEDJ in 2018

## WHERE WE SERVE

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem currently operates humanitarian institutions in Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon. These institutions are powerful examples of Christian witness in this conflict-torn region.





*Princess Basma Center's Inclusive School provides equal educational opportunity to children with a wide range of disabilities*



**The institutions we serve are building a future of hope, equality and opportunity through these focus areas:**

- Opportunity for children with disabilities
- Access to comprehensive, quality healthcare
- Youth empowerment and employability
- Educational equity for girls and young women
- Next generation leadership

**In 2018 AFEDJ donors supported these institutions**

- Ahli Arab Hospital, Gaza
- Arab Episcopal School, Irbid, Jordan
- Arab Episcopal School, Ramallah, West Bank
- Christ Episcopal School, Nazareth, Israel
- Diocesan Summer Camps, West Bank and Israel
- Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center, Ramallah, West Bank
- Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, Salt, Jordan
- Jofeh Community Rehabilitation Center, Jordan Valley, Jordan
- Penman Clinic, Zababdeh, West Bank
- St. George's College, East Jerusalem
- St. George's School, East Jerusalem
- St. Luke's Hospital, Nablus, West Bank
- Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children, East Jerusalem
- Saviour's Episcopal School, Zarqa, Jordan
- Theodor Schneller School, Marka, Jordan

*“I was amazed and energized by the good work schools within the Diocese are accomplishing. School leaders and staff rank among the best I have ever met during a long career consulting in hundreds of U.S. schools.”*

–Nancy Opalack, CEO of the Harold C. Smith Foundation



## OPPORTUNITY FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Children with disabilities and their families face extraordinary hurdles in the region. In the West Bank, restrictions on movement constrain access to therapy and rehabilitation services.

The stigma against people with disabilities in the Middle East requires parents to be effective advocates for their children. In many places there are simply no publicly-funded services available.

Without the services offered by Diocese of Jerusalem institutions, many children with disabilities would remain at home with no hope for a productive future.



*This teacher with her students at Jofeh Rehabilitation Center in the Jordan Valley is a graduate of HLID who returned to serve her community upon finishing university*



*A deaf student signs a lunchtime blessing for his deaf-blind friend*



### HOLY LAND INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

*Salt, Jordan*

A safe haven of peace for 150 children and young people ages four to 25, the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf offers a full range of therapeutic services for hearing-impaired, deaf, and deaf-blind students and a K-12 academic boarding program.

HLID also offers a community clinic to local residents and mobile outreach services to Syrian refugees living in camps across Jordan. In 2018 the Harold C. Smith Foundation awarded HLID \$170,000 to fully fund one-year of the school’s cohort of 12 deaf-blind students.



## **ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE, QUALITY HEALTHCARE**

Travel restrictions are a daily reality for Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. For thousands of families across the region, the charitable hospitals and community clinics of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem are the only healthcare options in proximity to their homes.

Serving some of the most vulnerable people in the world, these institutions welcome all patients without regard to their religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay. Everyone is treated with dignity and respect. As AFEDJ Chair, Bishop Barry Beisner, explains, “People come through these doors because of the values these institutions incarnate.”

### **AHLI ARAB HOSPITAL**

*Gaza City*

Overcoming obstacles on many fronts is a daily routine for the leaders of Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, but 2018 offered up some particularly daunting challenges: Clashes at the border and deep unrest in Gaza in the spring, the effects of U.S. cuts in aid to the UN agency that serves Palestinian refugees, the total failure of the hospital’s aged water system in November and then, in early December, the critically important outpatient clinic building crumbled to dust forcing cramped conditions and a strain on other services. Despite those challenges, Ahli Hospital served 40,300 patients in 2018.

AFEDJ donors met multiple calls to support Ahli in unprecedented ways. Donations from 665 individual donors and 46 churches and dioceses totaled more than \$363,000 by year’s end. Never underestimate the power of one gift gathered together with many others to transform the lives of thousands of families and children.



*Kawthar Ahmad Musa Abu AlHaj has served for 20 years as a neonatal nurse at St. Luke’s Hospital in the northern West Bank city of Nablus*



*A baby suffering from low-weight and malnourishment thrives after treatment at Ahli’s clinic*





## **YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY**

According to the World Bank, only 41% residents of the West Bank between the ages of 15 and 29 were active in the labor market in 2017. In Jordan, among young Syrian refugees and children whose families have lived in Palestinian refugee camps for generations, the chance for employment as a path to economic stability is similarly small.

Enter the schools of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem where vocational programming for high-risk students is deeply valued. Whether it is the co-ed wood-working workshop at the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf or the culinary program serving refugee youth at Schneller School in Jordan, the schools of the diocese recognize that real-world job skills are at the heart of providing the chance for meaningful employment and economic gains for vulnerable families.



*Culinary arts students from impoverished refugee families gain practical employment skills at Schneller School in Jordan*

### **EPISCOPAL TECHNOLOGICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER**

*Ramallah, West Bank*

Even in the bustling West Bank city of Ramallah, opportunities for economic success after finishing secondary school are elusive. For the students who have not succeeded in traditional academic programs, ETVTC is a godsend. Students spend two years of hands-on learning in one of two tracks: hospitality and culinary arts or information technology.

Upon graduation 90 percent of students move to full-time employment, additional vocational training, or university studies. AFEDJ supporters offer hope and opportunity for success by funding scholarships, equipment purchases, and on-the-job training.



*Khaled recently returned to ETVTC to teach after obtaining his university degree and MBA*



*“We decided to partner with the Saviour’s School because we can see the transformative work that takes place there: girls thrive and blind students receive the accommodations they need to stay in school.”*

*–Lisa Sams, AFEDJ Trustee and member of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C.*



## **EDUCATIONAL EQUITY FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN**

In a region where political turmoil and economic distress are part of the daily landscape, families often choose to educate their sons but pull their daughters from school. Without an education, women are encouraged to marry early and, if they do enter the workforce, their employment options are limited.

With the help of AFEDJ donors, schools owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem offer opportunities for female students to excel and become leaders in their communities.

### **SAVIOUR’S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL**

*Zarqa, Jordan*

At Saviour’s School, a K-12 school of 302 students, General Director Dua’a Bisharat and her teachers work hard to keep the girls enrolled on track to graduate and take their place as equal members of society.

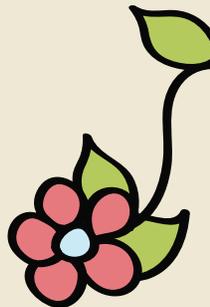
“We work extensively with our girl students to provide them with the kind of nurturing and encouragement a girl needs to become all that she can and wants to be in the future,” explains Bisharat.



*This fifth-grade girl at Christ Episcopal School in Nazareth knows the answer to a math problem*



*Saviour’s students Raneem, Noor, Christena, and Lora with their English teacher Muna Abulail*



*“As soon as I finish high school, I will visit the world. After one year, I will start university. I think I will study to be a computer engineer. That will be interesting, to be in high tech, to meet new people.”*

–Shams, a student at Christ Episcopal School in Nazareth



## NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP

Arabic-speaking students in the region’s schools face many barriers to success: limited access to post-secondary education and employment opportunities, travel restrictions, political turmoil, and impoverished family circumstances. Parents seek out schools run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in Jordan, Israel, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, because they offer a rigorous academic program and they teach and model Christian values of peace, reconciliation and respect for all. These schools’ 6,500 students graduate with the skills and the positive, hopeful outlook to become leaders in their communities.

Dolly Namour, Director of Academic Relations for the diocese, explains it this way, “We aspire to help our students expand their horizons, meet other cultures, and be willing to listen to others. We teach them steadfastness and resilience.”



*Some exuberant future leaders at St. George’s School in East Jerusalem*

### CHRIST EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

*Nazareth, Israel*

With a student population of 1,100 across grades K through 12, Christ Episcopal School in Nazareth is the largest school owned and operated by the Diocese of Jerusalem. Founded in 1851 by the Church Mission Society, it has long served Palestinian Christian and Muslim students who are a minority in Israel. As a Christian school in Israel, Christ School receives a limited government subsidy, which makes the contributions of AFEDJ donors increasingly important as the school struggles to make tuition affordable for all qualified students. According to school leaders, Muslim parents - whose children make up 85 percent of the students - turn to Christ School because of the quality of education and the values emphasized. Christ School offers an important foundation and head start for the minority population.



*Shams, a freshman at Christ School, shares her hopes and dreams for the future*





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The Most Rev. Suheil Dawani, *ex officio*  
East Jerusalem



*“After meeting with leaders across the Diocese of Jerusalem in October 2018, the message to us as American Friends is clear: these are our ministries, too, because we are one body in Christ. It’s not their ministry, and we’re the onlookers and cheerleaders. It’s our ministry.”*

–Bishop Barry Beisner, AFEDJ Chair

## BISHOPS’ ADVISORY COUNCIL

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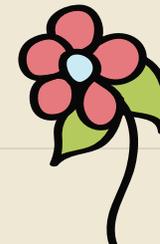
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*“Your friendship, prayers, and financial support help us sustain our mission and ministry through the parish work and through our schools, hospitals, and institutions for people with special needs. Thank you!”*

–Archbishop Suheil S. Dawani



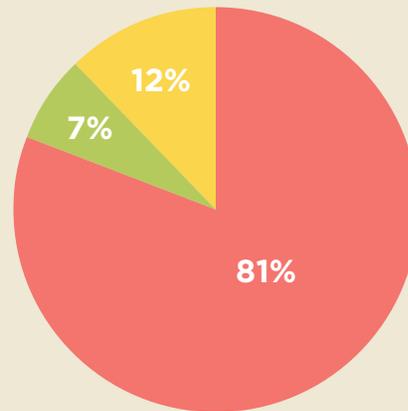
*“I came here feeling ashamed, and I leave here feeling strong.”*  
—a mother from Salfit, West Bank, (pictured below) with her daughter who has cerebral palsy



## FINANCIALS

### 2018 USE OF FUNDS

- Program Support  
\$1,518,612
- Administration  
\$137,080
- Development  
\$221,760

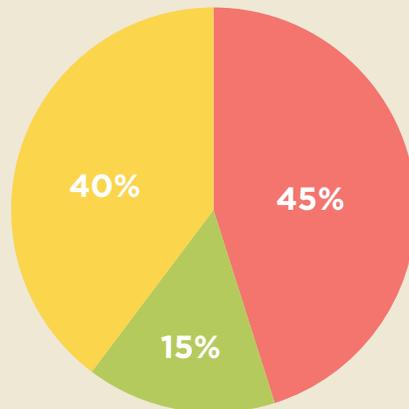


AFEDJ donors support the Mother’s Empowerment Program at Princess Basma Center for Disabled Children in East Jerusalem. The two- to three-week residential programs served 490 families in 2018. It allows mothers with newly-diagnosed children to overcome travel restrictions and learn to give individualized therapy when they return home. Psycho-social support for mothers allows them to transcend the stigma of their child’s disability and become strong advocates in their communities.



### 2018 SOURCE OF FUNDS

- Individuals \$844,857
- Churches \$281,619
- Foundations \$750,984



### Donors make a difference by providing support for:

- educational scholarships
- capital projects
- program support
- innovative projects
- equipment purchases
- professional development
- meeting emergency needs

AFEDJ offers one of the only safe, secure, and direct channels to support the humanitarian institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. We value financial accountability and transparency.

Please find our audited financials and most recent IRS 990 at [www.afedj.org/about/financials](http://www.afedj.org/about/financials).



*“You must have another language to serve the deaf. You must speak the language of love.”*

-Archdeacon Luay Haddad, Director of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, Salt, Jordan

