



New scholastic year

On behalf of Hope Flowers School's teachers, students and local community, we would like to express to Association Palestine Demain our appreciation and gratitude for their very helpful support to Hope Flowers School (HFS).

The scholastic year of 2017/2018 is progressing in very good way despite all difficulties in our area. The number of students at HFS has increased in 2017. Most of the new students were children from other schools whom participated in HFS afternoon program "Child protection program" and whom were in need for HFS services on daily basis. Others are children with special needs (mainly learning disabilities) whom referred to HFS to benefit of existing rehabilitation, education and psychosocial services available at HFS.

Memorial of Hussein Issa, Founder of Hope Flowers School

March 5th, 2018 was Hussein Issa's 18th memorial day. HFS staff and students organized a memorial day for Hussein emphasizing his dream and legacy.

It was March 5th, 2000 When Hussein's heart stopped beating. Hussein was a Palestinian refugee, whose family was confiscated in the 1948 war, and grew up in very limited circumstances in Deheishe refugee camp south of Bethlehem. So, from early on, he was sensitized to the deprivation faced by the Palestinian children and their families. Yet he was not embittered by his experience. Rather he felt motivated to work in every way to enhance the human rights of Palestinian people while concentrating on meeting the basic needs of the Palestinian children.

Hussein started Al-Amal Child care center in 1984 as a response to those needs. Hussein found a critical need for childcare. Hussein knew from his background in social work and education the proven benefits of preschool education for young children. He knew from the refugee camps and other neighborhoods that nothing like it was already available, and he knew he wanted to serve them.



Hussein Issa



So, Al-Amal opened its doors with little more than good intentions and hard work – from "below zero", as Hussein pointed out, with not even chairs at first. The Hope Flowers expanded gradually from Al-Amal Child Care center until it became the Hope Flowers School in 1989.

In 1992, there was a major need to expand the school, a piece of ground of 6500 square meters were bought in Al-khader village, 4 km southern Bethlehem and a modern school building was built. Despite that HFS is existing since 34 years, the needs and suffering of the Palestinian children have increased. However, HFS remains a beacon of Hope in the mid of darkness!

Educational Progress

HFS is operating in two shifts, a morning shift from 08:00 – 14:00 and an afternoon shift from 14:00 – 17:00. During the morning shift, 350 regular students 4-13 years old are receiving, education, rehabilitation and psycho-social counseling. While in the afternoon 100 children are following child protection program and / or receiving remedial education, psycho-social counseling and rehabilitation. Many children at the afternoon shift are referred from other schools and centers to benefit of HFS's unique services. 80% of the students at HFS are coming from refugee camps and less privileged communities in Bethlehem area and neighboring towns. These areas are known for its lack of social services and poverty. Unemployment among parents of children is estimated of 29%.

Towards Center of Excellence in supporting children with disabilities

(HFS) has received in 2014, a grant from European Union (EU) and Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) to provide training for Palestinian professionals to support Children with Developmental Disabilities (CDD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

On January 6th, 2018 Swiss Ambassador in Tel Aviv, Mr. Ruch, has visited the training and connected with both trainees and staff.

Currently, there are 16 autistic children studying at HFS. The Autism program at HFS is unique in the West Bank. Many children from neighbouring towns in the West Bank are referred to HFS to receive services. The school provides special education, occupational therapy, speech therapy and psycho-social counselling for children with disabilities



From L to R Antoinette Dandan, Sara Saca, , Ambassador Ruch and Hanan Nustas.

Israeli Settlement expansion near Hope Flowers School

The land confiscation and Israeli settlement expansion near HFS continues. A new neighborhood is built that just few hundred meters away from Hope Flowers School. According to Israeli plan the new neighborhood will host about 400 homes.

The settlement continues to expand. Tens of new homes have been built for Israeli colonists. Pictures below show the increase in new homes. The new settlement is forming threat not only to HFS but also to tens of Palestinian houses near the school. 30 homes have received demolition order from the Israeli army. Despite demolition orders, people continued to build new homes. Many people have no other place to go and people do not want certainly their ground to be confiscated by Israelis.



Israeli bulldozers crushing stone of Palestinian hills near Hope Flowers School late 2017



New settlement at the top of the hill 300 m from Hope Flowers School



Situation in March 2018



You can support the work of HFS through
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