

WI'AM Annual Report

2007

"We are like an olive tree, with its roots deeply rooted in the ground, and branches that reach out to the world. Our words produce more than sound, they walk tall to the four corners of earth. For some, the day to day activities are only part of the job, but here-it is a commitment to serve and enrich the community relationships to be an integral part of the future and change."

- Zoughbi Zoughbi

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Introduction

The work of Wi'am, to promote conflict resolution at all levels and dimensions of Palestinian society, has grown and continued during the past year. Much of Wi'am's work in the community is, of course, a response to the effects of the broader political and social issues that impact life here so starkly. The work of reconciliation thus continues to be of profound importance, addressed through restoring relationships within the community and advocating a just and lasting peace in the region, as well as many different projects including children's, youth and women's programs, organizing group visits and workshops, and publishing training material and books on conflict resolution and other related subjects.

Another year has come to an end. This year Wi'am has been able to watch as our women's department continues to work towards gender equality, our children's department provide education and recreation for children, our Citizen Diplomacy department welcome many visitors and continue its advocacy, our youth department create more conscience citizens within the society, and our mediation department continue to restore relationships within the community. We were able to celebrate the publications of training manuals and several articles. We were also able to provide Bethlehem area with a Christmas celebration that incorporated the collaboration and cooperation of our youth, children, women departments, as well as the larger community

We have cherished the love and support that we have received from you this past year, which has not only made these events possible, but our organization stronger. We look forward to getting to know you better and continue to have our relationship grow stronger in the coming year. May this coming year bring you moments of peace and joy

1. Community-Based (Sulha) Mediation

Wi'am's Sulha mediation seeks to restore peaceful relationships, address the unjust relations of society, and seek a solution to different local conflicts at the level of individuals, domestic and neighborhood settings. The creation of harmonious relations between people through a non-violent resolving of differences between members of the community is the essential goal. Wi'am's mediators have continued to have many such cases to address, including domestic

violence, marital problems, youth delinquency, problems within schools and land disputes.

Unfortunately the number of conflicts we mediate each year has ceased to diminish. This year, again, we provided Sulha for approximately 350 cases. The continued deterioration the socio-economic infrastructure has led to increased tension in our streets, combined with the occupation, which leads to degradation of dignity, and creates displaced anger. Together this leads to a pressure cooker situation, where several people are on edge which creates an environment where conflict arises and escalates quickly.

Therefore although we have not witnessed an increase in conflict we have seen an increase in the severity of the conflict. This pressure cooker situation has also led to an increase of domestic disputes. Therefore to respond to this situation, not only do we deploy mediators, we deploy counselors and social workers, to help aid in

bringing healing and harmonious relationships to the people of Bethlehem.

The conflicts that we have responded to are Family Disputes which include domestic violence, Financial Disputes which include issues of debt repayment, Car Accidents, Youth Violence, Theft, Real Estate Disputes which include land and property issues as

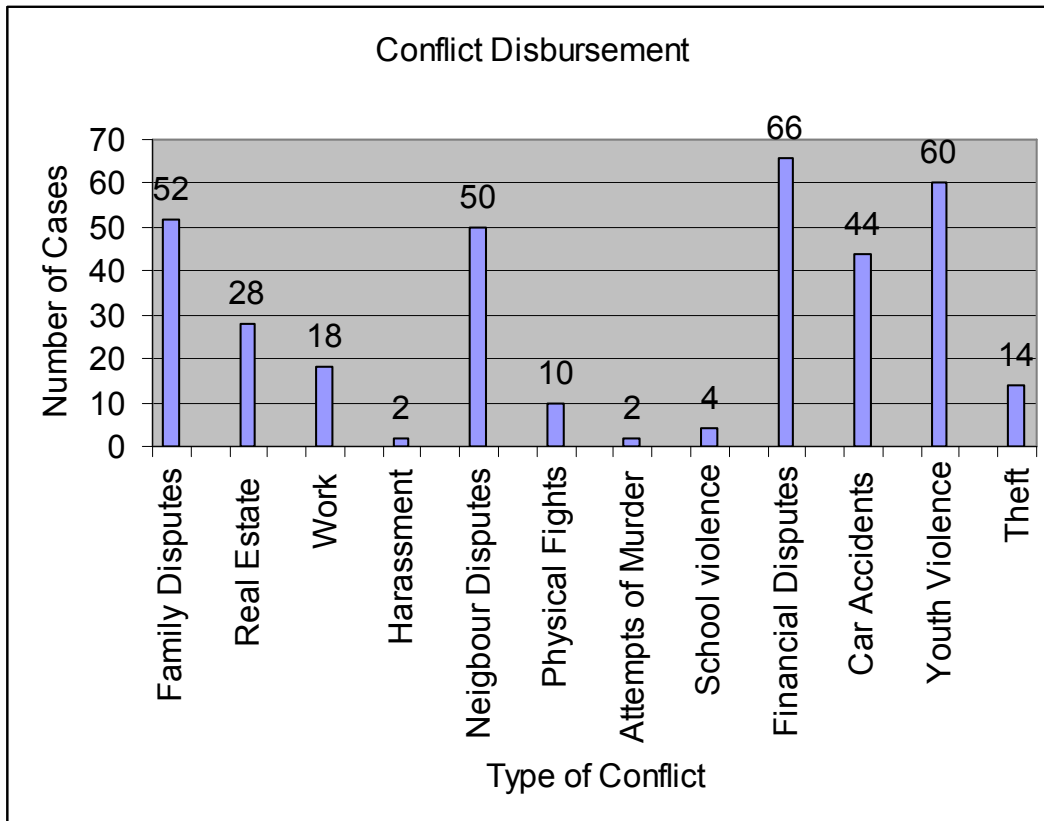


Figure 1 The number and type of conflict during 2007

well as tenant/landlord disputes, Work Disputes which include employer/employee issues, Harassment, Neighbor Disputes, Physical Fights, Attempts of Murder, and School violence which includes pupil/pupil disputes and pupil/teacher disputes. Included is a chart to illustrate the types of conflict and the number of cases.

Human Interest Story

One case where Sulha has helped is in a case of a local family consisting of a husband, a wife, and two children. The husband was employed however the money that he made was never brought home to the family. It was unknown where the money he was making was being spent on and although the wife frequently asked, he never told, and would become angry when she asked. The wife continued to ask where the money was going, yet the husband began to get more and more defensive and angry. Eventually the husband's anger turned to abuse. The wife's frustration of not having her and her children's needs met as well as the abuse now imposed on her escalated her frustration and she eventually gathered her children and left her husband and went to live with her parents. Through this conflict Wi'am was consulted. Wi'am deployed their mediators and used shuttle diplomacy to listen to both sides of the conflict. The children who had spent time in the dysfunctional environment also received counseling for the trauma that incurred. For months the mediators worked on this case listening to the husband and the wife and trying to convince the husband of his responsibility to support his family. Through months of mediation the husband came to the recognition of his wrongdoing and the wife and children returned home. Currently the situation has eased and the family reports they are doing well.

2. Women's Department

Wi'am is part of a network with thirteen different organizations that support women in the West Bank, through joint activities of lobbying, advocacy and campaign work. Women are a key target group for Wi'am, especially the marginalized and unprivileged coming from different geographical areas including the city, refugee camps and rural areas. The centre seeks to equip women with new skills to further empower them, and to raise their self-esteem. We try to provide women with training in leadership and communication skills, nonviolent conflict resolution, gender equality, human rights, and democracy. Through this education it is our hope that women become active participants in society and within the home, becoming partners in the decision making process.

2.1 Empowering Women

Wi'am is currently implementing a project called "Empowering Women" which reaches approximately 250 beneficiaries. This project combines civil and vocational education and training with counseling as a means to empower women. Wi'am works both in many villages surrounding Bethlehem, and within Bethlehem and the neighboring cities of Beit Jalla and Beit Sahour.

The following villages in the surrounding area of Bethlehem, in addition to a program within the city itself, have had women's programs during 2007 under this mandate: Al-Shawawreh, Marh Ma'ala, Beit Fajar, Zatar, Al-Ebedia, Al-Walejeh, Wad Fukem, Aida Camp, and Om Salmonala.

2.11 Civil Education and Training

Raising awareness, of human rights and especially the rights of women, is of crucial significance, particularly in the villages where changing the entrenched patriarchal social systems remains a significant issue. Conflict resolution is also very relevant in such contexts, providing means of solving problems within family situations.

We have provided the different villages and the city of Bethlehem with workshops on effective Communication Skills, Democracy, Human Rights, Women's Rights, Domestic Violence, Gender Equality, and Conflict Transformation. The women have reported that the sessions have shaped how they deal with family issues. Many women have taken the skills from the conflict transformation workshops and have applied them in the home. This application has been able to transform conflicts within their home and has been able to not only reduce conflicts but reduce the escalation of problems that develop into protracted conflicts. Women have reported a change in how they approach conflict and interact with their family members, potentially creating active participants within the home.

This training works to have women be able to understand their rights and to have the resources to know where to get help when needed. Not only does this training opt to help women understand what their rights are but to also provide knowledge in

how assert their rights. This training is a crucial step to empowering women for it gives the women the needed knowledge to become active participants in the community and family levels, which will impact gender equality.

2.12 Vocational Training and Education

Conflict in family settings are frequently caused or exacerbated by the wider economic situation of the country. Through initiating economic empowerment, by the development of micro-economies, women are able to generate some income,

relieving at least to some degree, this stress to family relations, as well as the local community.

The women's groups are trained in skills such as mosaic glass crafts, bead-work, embroidery, ceramics, pastry-making, olive soap making, and pickling processes. A young woman from one village recently brought her

work to Bethlehem and succeeded in finding a buyer for fifteen of her village's hand-made necklaces. Although it was not the initial intention, this vocational training also allows for creative output of the women, which can also serve as therapy for women to release pent up emotions.

2.13 Counseling

The abuse of women is a prevalent problem that is extremely difficult to talk openly about in Palestinian culture, and many women are afraid to speak openly to the police for fear of further ramifications. Wi'am seeks to provide a safe haven to open women's minds about possibilities of dealing



Women Painting Glass

with such situations, advising that while they do not necessarily need to involve the police, social counselors and social workers can be a source of help. Wi'am seeks to provide the resources to help support and heal women who are victims of domestic violence and also her family members who are victims of a dysfunctional environment. From the experiences shared to the counselor we are also informed of what sessions may need to be added to the project in order to effectively support women, and also new perspectives within domestic disputes that aid our mediators to provide better services.

Human Interest Story

An example of such issues encountered this year was the case of a twelve year old girl who had previously experienced sexual abuse from an uncle, resulting in trauma. Although the mother had attempted to help her, the trauma the girl experienced was creating depression and an unhealthy view of the self. Through participating in Wi'am's projects in the village, the mother asked Wi'am for help. The centre responded by sending a councilor to the village. Our counselor is working extensively to help heal the trauma caused by the harassment and also to help develop a healthy perspective of sexuality. When this girl was young she also received an extensive burn on her arm, which not only continues to cause physical pain, but also affects her physical image. Through our friendship with the Arab Rehabilitation

Center, the young girl is receiving medical attention and cosmetic surgery to alleviate the affects of the burn. Thus, the project is working at three levels to support he girl through trauma healing, education of a healthy view of sexuality, and medical attention. Her mother reports that she has seen improvement in her daughter.

By working with this girl, we recognized the need for women to be educated in how to cope and educate their teenagers. Since, we have provided two in different villages on how to provide support and how to deal with their teenagers



Woman Beading

Human Interest Story

Another case involved a family with two children, in which, following the parent's divorce, when visiting their father, the children felt mistreated by their stepmother. As a result, these children faced feelings of isolation and low self esteem. Their mother, who described herself in terms of disempowerment and personal weakness, turned to Wi'am for help in the hope that her children could grow into stronger and more confident persons. Through this engagement at the individual level, both the mother and her children became further empowered in their personal lives.

2.14 Bethlehem Area

The area of Bethlehem city have similar needs to the villages, however because there is greater accessibility to other

organizations, the project is slightly adapted as to not overlap with other organizations. Approximately 30 women meet on a weekly basis in our center and are also provided with vocational and educational training, as well as recreational activities and entertainment. The provision of a safe environment and space to talk, play, and take part in stress-relieving activities, such as yoga, are important elements of Wi'am's work. Other opportunities for this club include field trips to other women's organizations and regions in the West Bank, including the Jericho. In addition, we provide workshops on health care such as on diabetes or arthritis and on democracy and human rights, adapting the project to the needs of the women. We look forward to 2008 when the group will begin language studies in English.

2.2 Networking of Women's Groups

On August 9, 2007, thirty-five women from the village of Beit Fajar had the chance to visit the city of Bethlehem to meet their counterparts from both the city and from refugee camps. The women had the opportunity to meet, discuss, and share their experiences that women face from both rural villages and the city. They discussed different issues, the current political situation and their hopes and needs for the future. During the visit the women watched a documentary film entitled "Women's

Remembrance". Following the film the women had a discussion on the content of the film that highlighted the role of women in leadership during Al Nakba, and their impact on their society and on other women within the community. Then the women discussed obstacles and challenges women face as leaders within their



Women from Beit Fajar and Bethlehem meeting

communities. Afterwards, the whole group visited the local park in Bethlehem and participated in activities and enjoyed a meal together.

2.3 Women's Conferences

Operation 1325

During the first week of December, a seminar jointly organized by Wi'am and an organization for five Swedish women's and peace organizations, Operation 1325, was held at the Jericho Resort Village the seminar also entitled, Operation 1325. The basis of the network is the conviction that conflicts should be dealt with by peaceful and democratic means. The UN Resolution 1325, on women's security, which includes initiatives of increasing the number of women in decision-making in peace processes at all levels, and in conflict management and prevention, has been taken as a primary foundation to the organization's work.

The seminars purpose was to brainstorm ways in which to disseminate the resolution. The seminar overall was an extreme success, and all of our objectives were met. The women enjoyed learning and sharing their ideas. The conference also served as a great

way for women's organizations to network within Palestine and to also network with the larger global community. Part of what made this conference a success was that it incorporated both theoretical knowledge and practical knowledge on women's security. This seminar took place over a span of four days. This seminar included workshops on the resolution itself, how to disseminate the resolution, and on how to respond to conflict nonviolently.



Crafts as part of our Children's Department

2.4 Future Activities

Our Women's Coordinator has contacted women's organizations in different areas including remote villages and refugee camps such as, Marah Rabah and Ida Camp to explore the possibilities of providing various activities for those women. The initial response of the women's organizations has been positive. We have also been contacted by many women from Bethlehem city and suburbs of Bethlehem to provide more workshops to participate in.

Through our work with Women, Wi'am is recognizing the need to also work with men on issues of gender equality. It is our hope and vision that within this coming year that we will develop a program to reach out to men and educate them on gender equality and women's rights.

3. Children's Department

3.1 Friday Club

Children from Bethlehem area enjoy meeting every Friday morning to take part in both educational and recreational activities.

Here the children are able to do crafts, participate in theatre, sing, and learn. It is our hope to provide children with a safe place to learn and to play. Through folk dancing and singing we also hope to provide the children with cultural

activities that will strengthen and build their identity.

Through the activities we have identified cases where children have experienced trauma. For these children we provide them with social workers, trauma counseling, and trauma coping skills. The educational activities we provide are in how to effectively and nonviolently deal with conflict, and positive behavior in which in emanate. The average participation number every week is 40-60 children. We have three teachers that help us with this program who have experience in art and dancing.

3.2 Summer Camp

Again this summer Wi'am provided children with a summer camp. This camp was offered in two sections both having approximately 150 participants. Through this camp the children met three times a week. The camp provided recreational and educational activities as well as field trips. The children learnt things like painting, dubka dancing, drama, conflict resolution skills, and democracy. The

children were also able to go on different field trips to Jericho and to Beit Sahour. In Jericho the children went to Waha pool to go swimming and to Spanish park. The summer camp also provides lessons on the importance and impact volunteer work has on the community, and provides the children with a space to volunteer in local public institutions. This camp also visits Taleta Center where the children learn about the importance the environment including nature lessons and lesson recycling and pollution.

3.3 Training in Schools

This year we worked with approximately 20 grade eights from the Frere School. This program was sponsored by the YMCA and we provided the kids with trainers. This training program lasted 10 weeks in which the youths learnt about identity, the use of mediation in schools, team work, hyper activity, child rights, and gender equality. This group also took time to volunteer at the local "Save Our Souls", which is a local orphanage, picking up garbage and doing general yard clean-up and maintenance. At this projects conclusion the YMCA hosted a celebration day for the children to share what they had learned.



Grade 8's Volunteering at S.O.S

continue to enjoy discussing issues on gender equality, nonviolence, human rights, the electoral process, conflict transformation, local politics, and good governance. Through the continued discussion and education of these issues, the young people are working to create a more politically aware and conscience communities.

4.1 The Euro-Med Project

The work with youth has also included continued activities with the Euro-Med cross-cultural exchange programmes, an initiative to enable young people to encounter and learn from their counterparts from different countries. Such interaction is a vital means of overcoming

the distortions, fear and mistrust that can be easily created through misperceptions of the 'other'. Through these exchanges youth meet and build relationships that connect them to others personally at a grassroots level, an activity that can impact the future of relations between nations, as youth are the future of their countries. This dialogue between and of cultures, serves as a crucial answer to the, so-called, contemporary 'clash of cultures,' donating much discussions in international relations.

4. Youth Work and Projects

The youth have been able to participate in varying different programs and partnerships this past year. The youth

4.11 Inventing the Future:

In 2007 Wi'am was a participant in a two-year project, 'Inventing the Future',

coordinated by the Italian organization Centro Studied Iniziative Europeo Onlus (CE.S.I.E) in Palermo, Sicily. Wi'am was one of seven international partners, including groups from Italy, Spain, France, Bulgaria, Moldova and Israel. The project seeks to work on non-violent methodologies to resolving conflict with youth using and learning the reciprocal maieutic approach (RMA). The project considers the root causes of conflict

within cultures, different ethnicities and faiths, in particularly in youth contexts, human rights, and to promote dialogue about non-violent conflict transformation and a culture of respect. The first meeting between all the international

partners took place between 11-19

February 2007, where participants had the chance to meet face to face, develop relationships and take part in RMA workshops, allowing youth to encounter RMA and thus enable them to organise similar workshops for their local communities. Between March and September, the participants developed local meetings where participants came from both sides of the conflict. These activities aimed to develop an awareness of the conflict, its causes and effects on communities and especially the youth, promote the youth's communication and dynamic involvement within community initiatives.

In the beginning of February 2008 all the youth participants will meet in a youth exchange program in Spain. There ideas about RMA and conclusions from the different workshops will be exchanged. The youth will then take part in a training course

that will equip them with the skills of peer educators, theoretical information about human rights and conflict transformation. In June the participants will have the opportunity to learn from international experts on these issues, during a closing conference in Moldova. A very significant element of the project as a whole is its continual emphasis on dissemination activities by the youth within their own



Youth Discussion

localities, spreading their learning and also developing their own practical abilities in peer education.

From August 2007 one participant from each group will be

able to volunteer in a partner

country, a project lasting four months that will allow the development of intercultural skills, intercultural exchange, an awareness of other youth conflicts, and participation in the group activities of the hosting party.

During September and October 2008, the final months of the programme, the project will be evaluated and brought to a close, involving an analysis of the project's impact on the local community. Each partner country will hold a local closing event that will also involve other local partners. The final meeting at an international level will be held in Bulgaria.

4.12 "Common World-Common Futures"

Part of the Euro-Med initiative was for the youth to be able to take part in the conference "Common World-Common Futures" in German in May of 2007. The main objective of the conference was to increase mutual understanding of the different cultures by looking at the common responsibility for our common home, the earth. This conference therefore enhanced cultural and environmental awareness. This conference focused on the human responsibility we have to protect and take care of our environment, and looked at the devastating effects of climate change.



Youth Participating in Training for Trainers

4.13 "I Have a Dream"

Another conference under the span of Euro-Med is the conference entitled "I Have a Dream" which met in Paris in October. This conference gathered youth from Europe and the Middle East. This conference gathered 20 different young people and set choreography, mixing Hip Hop and Modern dance, to highlight Martin Luther King's speech 'I Have a Dream'.

4.2 Computer Lab Project

In the past year a proposal for a computer laboratory for youth has been completed, and is currently in need of funding to enable its further completion. The centre has two youth groups, aged between 14-18 and 18-25. Wi'am has been able to rent a spacious room ideally suited for use as a computer laboratory. In the task of promoting non-violent behaviour, development of knowledge, participation in community issues, and the growth of the youth's own capacities are highly significant. Computer skills are an important tool in all of these facets, by allowing them access to the internet, intercultural communication and awareness, and the opportunity for creative

self-expression. Additionally, the internet provides a means of networking with other youth groups around the world who are similarly working towards the goal of non-violence.

Objectives:

1. To create a computer laboratory for young people in the Wiam Center, consisting of twenty computers, two printers, a scanner, and a photocopying machine, including a high-speed internet connection.
2. To allow the young people, through the use of the internet, a major realignment of negative images, wrong ideas, misconceptions and prejudices about other people.
3. To provide the young people with a forum in which they can communicate with other groups, and possibly arrange meetings and activities which will further Objective #2.

4. To expand the use of the new youth spaces beyond their value as a gathering and social area, to become a space of education and empowerment.

It is our intention that this computer laboratory be available to the young people without charge, and without bias as to religion, race, or ethnicity. We intend to create an atmosphere of mutual respect, dialogue, and understanding, and to the best of our ability will offer counseling and peaceful conflict resolution to the youth as needed.

4.3 Influential Youths on Decision Makers

The youth at Wi'am are continuing the program entitled, "Influential Youths on the Decision Makers." This program empowers youth and exposes youth to the responsibilities of decision makers and how to influence them.

This program incorporates workshops on democracy, conflict resolution, and gender equality. Through this program the youth were able to meet and have open discussions with members of the Legislative Council, as well as, meet the Minister of Tourism.

Some of the issues the youth lobbied were for improved and new facilities for the youth, such as public clubs and public gardens. Another important issue the youth addressed was to improve facilities and

resources for tourists, things such maps and brochures.

4.4 Training for Trainers

Young people have been able to take part in a civic education program which not only educates and provides young people with skills in conflict transformation, mediation, human rights, gender equality, and democratic governance, but also trains them to be able to educate others as well. This training allows the young people to learn and take what they have learnt to their social peer groups, whether in their universities or social clubs. Not only does this educate young people about governance and nonviolent conflict resolution, it also promotes the development of both leadership and communication skills.



A Citizen Diplomacy Group meeting at Wi'am

Approximately 40-50 young people of have been able to take part in this initiative on an ongoing basis, and receive training that is interactive, practical, and participatory. This training is based on our own experience of our mediators and uses case studies from the field. This training incorporates conflict resolution, conflict analysis, conflict mapping, political awareness, conflict and society, mediation (Sulha), and leadership and communication skills. By developing these young multipliers it is our hope that

they will be catalysts for societal change and help in the sustainable development of a nonviolent democratic culture.

5. Citizen Diplomacy

5.1 Visitors

The Wi'am Centre has been visited by many groups, reaching well over 630 individuals, from around the world during the past year. Groups and people from the US, the UK, Sweden, and Finland all received orientation to the region and an

"Thanks to you... it was the trip of a lifetime. We are overloaded with fond memories!"

-Quote from Citizen Diplomacy group

Ramallah. Meaningful discussions with the youth from Wi'am about their cultural interests and differences were also held with the group's participants. These tours allow for groups and individuals to tour and see the Holy Land, but to also witness the Palestinian story. This past year we hosted 5 groups under this initiative. In addition, we had 5 individuals

come separately to participate in Citizen Diplomacy. In total we hosted over 100 participants through this project. In addition throughout the year we have hosted well over 25 groups with usually more than 20 people per group in our office to attend presentations and lectures about our work

overview of the existing political situation, as well as tours of Bethlehem, Hebron, Jerusalem and

and about life, culture, and the political situation in Palestine.

5.2 Tourism Project

Beginning in January the youth look forward to a new program. This program is aimed at educating the youth about the tourist sites in Palestine. This education will involve visiting the sites and also learning the historical, biblical, and political significance of the sites. This will not only provide the youth with the ability and knowledge to educate and guide others, it is our hope that it will also strengthen their sense of identity.

6. Publications

During 2007 Wi'am has managed to publish a series of manuals in Arabic,



Singing Santa's at Christmas Program

representing the completion of the collective work of the staff members over a significant period of time. These publications have been funded by the Mennonite Central Committee. The manuals, made up of both workshops related to the book's theme, and with

the latter part containing relevant literature from the workshops needed/useful to the trainers using them, contain articles exploring different elements of Wi'am's approach to the broader topic of non-violent conflict resolution, and additionally, articles from a number of civil activists on important topics such as inter-faith and inter-cultural

dialogue. The following titles have been published in Arabic, and are available from the Wi'am Centre.

- ☒ Conflict Resolution and Non-violence
- ☒ Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue and Globalization
- ☒ Human Rights, Human Safety, and Advocacy
- ☒ Civil Society and Democracy
- ☒ Realistic Cases from Palestine
- ☒ Bethlehem through History

In 2008 we look forward to compiling a book of articles on various topics and issues relating to nonviolence and Palestine written in English.

7. Apprenticeship Project

This past year Wi'am also provided the community of Bethlehem with an apprenticeship project for unskilled workers. As unemployment continues to rise in the West Bank, we saw the need to develop an apprenticeship program for unskilled and skilled workers, as a way to gain opportunities for future employment.

Through this project at least 600 unemployed apprentices have found temporary work in at least 30 local institutions and public places where they are doing maintenance and renovation work. The revenue generated from their work

allows them to meet some of their financial responsibilities, particularly, paying for bills and tuition for their children to attend school. Through this project some people have been able to even find permanent employment at the various institutions.

8. Christmas Smile Project

Again Wi'am was able to provide the Bethlehem area with a Christmas celebration. Through this celebration our children's group put on a program that included drama, folk dancing (dubka), and singing. The children's department worked for over 3 months in preparation of the program, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance. In attendance we had over 800-1000 children alone, not including their family members accompanying them. The women's department also contributed to the program by singing different Christmas carols, and our youth groups helped supervise, organize, and distribute the gifts.

The gifts that were given this year to all of the children were fleece blankets and bags of chocolate. Again, this year we felt the joy of Christmas through this program and the children's smiles.



Christmas Program

9. Conferences and Special Engagements

Although we have attended several conferences through the above mandates, our staff has also had additional opportunity to attend conferences for the purpose of networking and capacity building.

9.1 Peace for Life

In November two of our staffs and two of our interns were able to go Jordan to take part in a conference through the peace network, *Peace for Life*. This conference took an ecumenical approach to criticizing the politics of empire that are oppressing the Palestinian Territories. This conference included various activists, clergy, and community leaders from different faiths including Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and Hinduism.

9.2 Iraqi Refugees in Syria

This fall our director, Zoughbi Zoughbi, was able to accompany an American envoy, as an interpreter, of doctors, artists, pastors, and photographers to Syria to see, document, and hear the stories the treatment the Iraqi refugees have endured in both Iraq and Syria. As well, this group looked at the implications of a host country accepting and absorbing so many refugees.

9.3 Youth Power

The "Youth Power" project is a three-year initiative that is carried out under the auspices of the European Union. It is sponsored by Kurve (Germany) with it partnering organizations being Wi'am Center (Palestine), Center for Nonviolent Action (Sarajevo/Belgrad), and CBC (Macedonia). This network provides training for the different organizations which is then taught and instructed at the each organization. Trainings include topics on nonviolence and conflict transformation. This project also allows for an exchange of organizations. Each organization has the possibility to visit partnering organizations. Through this

initiative Wi'am staff has been able to visit the CNA in Sarajevo and Kurve in Germany. This exchange allows an exchange in experiences and techniques in how to education young people on nonviolent initiatives and conflict transformation. This exchange also allows for each organization to get to know the countries socio-political and economic situation that the youth are facing. In the future we look forward to when the youth, themselves, will be able to participate in an exchange to learn each organizations cultural context as well as continue to develop their skills and knowledge on nonviolence.

10. Current Funding Needs

Many have been wondering what the needs are for Wi'am at the present time. Although our programs are often in need of funding, we are also in need of immediate office support. This support enhances our programs, our projects, and our office. With the support of these needs, Wi'am can provide not only better services, but also expand services for the community of Bethlehem and the surrounding area.

Some of these needs include:

- Social worker and counselor for our counseling unit
- Computers
- Furniture for our Citizen Diplomacy housing and office
- Enhancement of our resource center either through financial

- support or the donation of books and material.
- Administrative Assistant
- Air conditioning/central heating for the training hall
- Funding for our kids chorus which includes dancing and drama and other ongoing activities for children throughout the year
- Educational material for children

Your constant thoughts, prayers, and support are always appreciated.

Donations to any one of these needs or contributions to all are greatly cherished.

11. Thank-you

We would like to thank all of interns and volunteers who have supported us. Again we have been blessed with a combination of international and local support. These interns and volunteers have pushed us, supported us, and walked with us on the path to community rejuvenation, with out their work the services we provide would cease to exist.

Once again we would also like to say thank-you to all of you who have supported us through prayer, words of encouragement, solidarity, friendly thoughts, and financial donations. Without your support we would not be able to provide these services for the people of Bethlehem and surrounding area. It is because of you that the above programs have been able to succeed and exceed in many expectations. Although we cannot fully articulate our appreciation, we thank-you for your ongoing support.