

"To laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch...to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded!"
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Summer Camp Project For Children

Organisation

Wi'am, Palestinian Conflict Resolution and Transformation Center

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Area of the project

Bethlehem area, Palestine

The Organisation: Wi'am Centre

Wi'am is a grass-roots organization established in the year 1995 in Bethlehem, Palestine. Wi'am focuses on promoting peaceful resolution of conflicts with the ultimate aim of transforming relationships and promoting social changes. We also strive to provide children, young people with life capacities to be agents of change and provide them with a space to express their feelings positively, develop their life skills and be active agents of change.

Project Information

Project Title: **"Children Breathing Happiness"**

Area of implementation

Bethlehem area focusing on marginalized children from diverse areas (rural areas, refugee camps, , marginalized neighborhoods with no access to extra-curricular activities)

Rationale for the Summer Camp Project:

As school year is drawing to an end, children are looking for outlets and activities to fill their time and get out from their exposure to ongoing scenes/acts of violence and psychological harm that has a negative impact on their physical and mental wellbeing. As a Centre, we are looking to provide children with the tranquility of an open space The Summer Camp will feature fun, excitement, safe-environment, and learning through a wide range of activities that promote "can do" attitude that can help enhance children confidence. The Summer camps will be an opportunity for children to express their feelings, hopes and frustrations and give them the chance to develop their life skills they need such as critical thinking, problem-solving, voluntary work, listening.

The Project will take advantage of Wi'am garden and landscape to provide children with a learning environment and a safe space for learning, education, development and interaction.

Objectives:

1. To foster personal growth of children in a highly supportive environment,
2. To offer children with a unique camp atmosphere in which nature and sports are emphasized.
3. To instill the lifelong values of teamwork and individual responsibility among children in daily tasks in a healthy environment.
4. To build individual character, confidence and skills through a wide range of sports, workshops and cultural activities.
5. To build children's Skills and creativity in problem-solving, conflict resolution peer-mediation, to give exemplary behavior
6. To build children's positive character, personal growth, self-esteem and skills through a range of recreational activities

Beneficiaries:

The summer Camp project will target 150 marginalized Children, 6-15 years old, living in Bethlehem areas with a focus on marginalized areas near the Wall, rural villages, and refugee camps, where children experience daily situations of frustration and have no access to summer Camps.

Start and end date of the project.

June-July, 2015

Planned Activities during three-month period

Activity	Potential Outcomes
Preparatory phase and selection of staff/beneficiaries	*Setting a plan-of-action/selection of the target group and staff and networking with schools, parents and community centres
Personality development Phase	
Volunteerism	
Workshop on volunteerism	*Promote the spirit of volunteerism among children
Organize weekly Voluntary work in community centers and schools	*Increased personal engagement in voluntary work *Children gain better confidence in their personality with improved self-esteem
Educational trips to Jericho/Dead Sea/historical sites	*Better knowledge about local history
Visits to Museums	*Enhanced awareness of our heritage and history
Sport Activities	
* Swimming activities, Sport	*Empowering children's mental and physical motor and enhancing their critical thinking /informal learning capacities
Recreational Activities	
*Amusement/theatre shows *Music shows	*Better abilities of children to express themselves positively and release of frustration and negative feelings...
Drama Therapy	*Releasing Children anxiety with better mood for lively interaction between children

*Sculpting, drawing and Painting	*Children creativity is enhanced and better mental creativity
*Arts activities: painting as a self-reflection	*Children's psychological demeanor improved
*Drama learning *Basic photography learning	*Children are able to use the power of the word, image and theatre to express their feelings and express themselves freely
Problem Solving activities: Peer-Mediation, Conflict Resolution Trainings	
Peer-mediation, problem-solving, communication skills, conflict resolution, life-skills *skills to deal with stress via Music	*Children are better able to resolve problems and peer-conflicts they face *Children Communicate positively with their peers and the larger community *Children embrace non-violence in their life, family and school with enhanced positive behaviour

<i>Environmental Awareness Activities</i>	
Environmental workshop/Learning	*Children learn environmental tips/help inspire creativity while teaching your kids about recycling.
a. Composting Activity b. Planting trees in the open-space garden at Wi'am c. Site visits to Environmental centres /historical sites	**Children become involved in Environmental activities: setting up a compost heap, cultivating the garden, planting trees. **Children learn respect to the environment and green space preservation **Children learn ways to categorize waste according to recycling categories, glass/plastic/organic, recycling food waste to make home-made fertilizers *Children learn <i>green</i> alternatives and basic knowledge about Flora and Fauna

Expected outputs/Results:

1. **Improved Children critical thinking and initiatives**
2. **Children are able to ventilate their feelings and energy in a positive manner**
3. **Children are able to express themselves positively, release frustration, develop life skills,**
4. **Children gain basic skills in problem-solving, communication skills and peer-mediation**
5. Children gain basic learning skills on diverse environmental issues: green environment, recycling, composting, pollution and nature preservation.
6. Children self-esteem improved with children actively participate in voluntary work, Camp initiatives

7. Children gain basic theatre/drama skills which help them produce simple sketch/theatre performance on real-life problems facing them
8. A significant drop in the negative behavior among children is reported

Monitoring and Evaluation of the project

Wi'am will appoint a project coordinator and specialized staff to deal with children. We will provide both narrative and financial report at the end of the project. The reports will reflect feedback from the beneficiaries and field monitoring of children daily activities and comments. The report will include personal stories and lessons learned from the activities. At the end of the project, will conduct focus-group discussion involving key actors (parents, Wi'am staff, and children, Social workers) to discuss the project activities, impact, ways of improvement and follow-up action.

Therefore, your kind support to the Summer Camp will enhance the children's hope and the steadfastness of their families. We count on your generosity to help kids to air out especially in these difficult and challenging times. Your partnership with us fosters healthy relationship and creates friendship among our kids, their families and other communities. If you decide to fund this activity, Please do email us at: hope@alastah.org

Please do enjoy your Summer Vacation