

"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

Project Application Form

Organisation

Wi'am, Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center

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The Organization: Wi'am Centre

Wi'am is a grass-roots organisation 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 change. We also strive to provide children and young people with life capabilities to be agents of change while providing them with a space to express their feelings positively. We encourage them to develop these skills and to be active agents of change.

General Project Information

Project Title: *“Summer Camp: Children Access to Safe Environment, Personality Building and Problem-Solving”*”

Area of implementation

West Bank and Bethlehem areas targeting children coming from diverse areas (rural areas, refugee camps, marginalized neighborhoods with no access to extra-curricular activities)

Rationale for the Summer Camp Project:

Children are looking for safe outlets to air their frustrations and a learning environment to fill their time during the long Summer holidays. They need an escape from exposure to ongoing scenes/acts of violence and psychological harm that has a negative impact on their physical and mental well being. Children also need to learn conflict resolution and problem-solving skills to help create a better environment at school and help tackle problems of bullying, violence and negative behaviour and humiliation that goes on in schools, families or the larger context. We are looking to provide children with an open space that can create positive interaction between them in a safe environment.

Objectives of the project?

Objectives:

- 1. To reduce the levels of stress/anxiety among 150 marginalized children from different areas around of the West Bank*
- 2. To build children's skills and creativity in problem-solving, conflict resolution, peer-mediation and to encourage exemplary behaviour*
- 3. To build children's positive character, confidence, self-esteem and skills through a range of recreational activities inspired by music based on Peter Yarrow's "Operation Respect"*
- 4. To create peer-mediation groups among the participants from each area that can work as problem solvers in their schools, family and neighborhoods*

Beneficiaries:

The summer Camp project consists of three months work (June, July and August, 2016). Every month, we will have a four-week program aimed for 50 children (6-15 years old). In total, the project will target 150 children. All children involved will be Palestinians living in West Bank areas, focusing on marginalized areas near the Wall, rural villages, and refugee camps, where children experience daily situations of frustration and have no access to extra-curricular activities/services that suit their age group.

Start and end date of the project.

June 2016 – August 2016

Planned Activities during three-month period

| <i>Activity</i> | <i>Potential Outcomes</i> |
|---|--|
| 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 centers |
| <i>Personality development Phase</i> | |
| Volunteerism (educational/practical) | |
| Community Campaign entitled “Making your town Tidy” | *Enhance the culture of volunteerism through practical voluntary work in school and community centers *Conducting weekly voluntary work at schools and community centers |
| Educational trips to Jericho/Dead Sea/historical visits to museums, sites | *Better knowledge about local sites and history |
| <i>Sport Activities</i> | |
| * Swimming activities, Sport and Educational trips | *Empowering children’s mental and physical motor skills and enhancing their critical thinking /informal learning capacities |
| <i>Music, Recreation, peer-Mediation, conflict resolution Trainings</i> | |
| *Amusement shows performed by Children *Music shows “Don’t Laugh at me” | * Enhance children’s feelings and ability to express themselves positively; release frustration and negative feelings, |
| * Theatre performance from experience | *Children are able to express their attitude freely via art and theatre |
| *Sculpting, drawing and Painting | *Children’s creativity is enhanced and their mental thinking empowered |
| *Arts activities: Art/Music therapy activities, drawings | *Children’s psychological demeanour improved with more ability to think critically |
| *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 |
| Peer-mediation, problem-solving, communication skills, conflict resolution, life-skills | *Children are able to resolve basic problems they face and communicate positively with their peers and the larger community *Children form a peer-mediation desk in their school resolving conflicts on regular basis and tackling bullying cases among peers |

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| *skills to deal with stress via Music | *Children are able to deal with the stress in a constructive way that helps their school achievements, helps reduce school violence, and enhances positive behaviour |
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| <i>Environmental Awareness Activities</i> | |
|---|---|
| Environmental/Green activity: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. *Children learn ways to categorize waste according to recycling categories, glass/plastic/organic 2. recycling food waste to make home-made fertilizer |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Activities in sorting garbage/waste: composting b. Planting trees and flowers in Wi'am's open-space garden c. Site visits to Environmental centers /historical sites | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. *Involving children in environmental activities- cultivating the garden, planting trees teaches children to respect the environment and encourages green space preservation 4. *Children learn <i>green</i> alternatives to discarding garbage 5. Children learn to be good citizens |

Expected outputs/Results:

1. Children are able to express themselves positively, release frustration, develop life long skills, engage in dialogue and build hope for the future
2. Children gain basic skills in problem-solving, communication skills, peer-mediation
3. Children are able to form a peer-mediation desk with successful use of peer-mediation skills in resolving problems, conflicts and responding to peer problems
4. Children gain basic learning skills on diverse environmental issues: they become more appreciative of green environment, recycling, composting, pollution and nature-preservation .
5. Children's self-esteem is improved when children actively participate in voluntary work
6. Children gain basic theatre/drama skills which helps them produce simple sketch/theatre performance on real-life problems facing them in their community either at school or home and can suggest solutions
7. Children contribute to reducing bullying and other forms of peer conflicts at school through conflict resolution

Monitoring and Evaluation of the project

Wi'am will provide both narrative and financial reports. The reports will reflect feedback from the beneficiaries, field monitoring. The report will include personal stories, meetings with parents and students alike. Moreover, at the end of the project, Wi'am will conduct focus-group discussions on the project results to measure the project's impact, ways of improvement and follow-up action.