



Australian Foundation for Palestinian Children – “Olive Kids” Annual Report - 2013/2014

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The Australian Foundation for Palestinian Children (*Olive Kids*) 2013/2014 annual report presents the achievements of the foundation on key projects and initiatives.

Orphan's project

Olive Kids sponsorship program expanded to support over 150 orphans. The sponsorships of \$50 monthly payment are transferred in full. The program is managed in collaboration with our partner orphanage Al-Amal institute in Gaza, where orphans services are covered and a portion of the sponsorship is set aside for the orphans' education.



IN MEMORY: ALI SHA'BOUB ASH-SHINBARI

On 8 July 2014, Israel launched a war on Gaza which resulted in over 2000 deaths including many children. *Olive Kids* lost one of our orphans Ali Sha'boub ash-Shinbari, 9 years old orphan. Ali was killed on July 23, 2014, in an Israeli bombing of a UNRWA school in Beit Hanoun, in northern Gaza. The attack killed 15 others and, critically injured many more.

Clothes Drives

High quality used clothing, books and toys targeted for Palestinian refugees were collected during the year and shipping was held to explore changing the destination to Gaza as opposed to Jordan camps this time. Our partners at UNRWA however advised this not being an option due to Israeli restrictions. A 20-foot container will be shipped to Jordan to be distributed in partnership with UNRWA before the end of 2014.

Fundraising Events

Annual Dinner

Olive Kids celebrated the 6th Annual Fundraising Dinner on 1st Dec 2013. The date was to coincide with the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people marked on the 29th Nov of every year. The fundraising dinner was a massive success. It raised the funds needed to fulfil the

goals of this year's nutrition project and it also brought together in excess of 400 people who are passionate about improving the lives of Palestinian children.



The theme of this year's campaign, "Helping the Children of Gaza Grow", was nutrition. We were able to raise sufficient funds to facilitate many of our intended goals. Our achievements on the night were:

- Sponsor 50 new orphans
- Cover the cost to send 2 surgeons to Palestine in Feb 2014, and
- Collect a total of \$30,000 in funds to cover our nutrition and water projects in Gaza

Additionally, our vital goal to raise more awareness of the difficult circumstances faced by Palestinian children was also achieved. By involving public personalities in this year's dinner including sports personalities, an award-winning chef and MasterChef 2013 contestants we not only raised the calibre of the dinner, but we were also able to reach a wider audience.



Film Screening

As Palestinians mark 66 years since Al-Nakba (15th May) and 47 years since Al-Naksa (5th June) Olive Kids organised a fund raising events to screen Oscar Nominated film 'Omar' at Cinema Nova. The session was followed by a brief talk by Olive Kids explaining the difficult conditions Palestinians face under the occupation. The film exposes these conditions for Palestinian youth in particular.

The tickets to 240 theatre was sold out the day before and the event raised over \$2500 to help cover our youth program in collaboration with KTH.



Projects

Nutrition Project

The nutrition campaign has 3 elements, sanitise, supplement and educate. With >90% of water considered unfit for human consumption in Gaza, *Olive Kids* investigated low-cost water sanitisation solutions. *Olive Kids* collaborated with EWASH (Emergency Water and Hygiene in the Occupied Palestinian Territories) and identified cost effective solar solutions manufactured in Melbourne to be sent to Gaza. We were unable however to secure approval to ship the water purification panels to Gaza due to occupation restrictions. Alternative options are being investigated.

Anaemia and iron and calcium deficiencies are wide spread throughout the strip. Providing supplements to pregnant and breastfeeding women will potentially elevate these health problems. This is being worked on with UHWC (Union of Health Work Committees).

There is poor nutrition ignorance among Palestinian children and carers. *Olive Kids* volunteers with expertise in nutrition developed targeted education offerings for teaching carers and Palestinians children how to make good nutritional choices, taking into account their unique situation of siege, which limits access to food varieties. Delivery is planned in the coming months.

Education Project

In the previous financial year, *Olive Kids* purchased 4 interactive whiteboards for Al-Amal orphanage in Gaza. After addressing many challenges with delivery all 4 whiteboards are now operating at the orphanage. Unfortunately, the usage is limited due to the ongoing power shortages and ongoing infrastructure damage due to the ongoing occupation and siege.

Medical Missions

Between the 2nd and the 14th of Feb 2014, *Olive Kids* sponsored and facilitated a mission to Alwada Hospital in Gaza, in collaboration with the Union of Health Work Committees - UHWC. The team lead by Associate Professor David Croaker (General and Neonatal Paediatric Surgeon) and included Mr Paul Chicchio (Nurse). Paul Chicchio looked after the technical support (instruments, sterilisation, and general organisational matters), and Prof Croaker performed the clinics and surgical operations.



108 outpatient consultations were recorded, 42 separate general anaesthetic cases, some had more than one procedure under the same anaesthetic. Of those 42 cases, there were 21

hypospadias cases, mostly as single procedures, but in some cases associated with orchiopexy. The remainder of the cases were largely urological.



In addition to the operations, the mission has a key element of skills transfer through direct engagement of local surgeons in the procedures and medical work involved

We are very grateful to the regular contribution and support of Professor David and Mr Paul. Professor David is planning to continue his collaboration with Olive Kids and UHWC with future missions to also focus on Paediatric surgery.

Collaboration with Children First Foundation

Olive Kids continues its active collaboration with CFF. During the last 12 months, support continued to be offered to CFF as treatment of a Palestinian Boy in Australia, where multiple surgical procedures were completed. The boy's treatment has been successful and expected to conclude later in 2014. *Olive Kids* is providing volunteers and translation assistance in addition to any other support the Children First Foundation may require. New cases were identified and are being finalized.

Relief – Gaza Fluids

Olive Kids responded to the urgent needs of the fluids in Gaza end of 2013 by donating \$5000 worth of Blankets to the family of Gaza. The distribution was completed in collaboration with AlAmal and Afaq organisations.





Youth Leadership program - Know Thy Heritage

Olive Kids continued partnering with HCEF with another group of young Palestinians making the trip to Palestine. In June 2014, 4 Australian-grown Palestinians joined the 2014 program, to bring the KTH leadership program alumni to 15 in total.



[Know Thy Heritage](#) (KTH) is an annual leadership program developed by The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF) to preserve the Arab Palestinian heritage. It aims to connect youth of Palestinian ancestry who live in the Diaspora, with their roots in Palestine. KTH is a partner of *Olive Kids*.

FY15 Focus

In FY15, our focus will have to shift back on relief activities to alleviate the affects of war on Gaza. At the time of writing this report, we are faced with Gaza that is 50% in destruction and children severely traumatised. This will involve existing and new projects to urgently address the needs of the children.

The malnutrition project will continue in FY15, in addition to ongoing work in the medical and education areas.

In FY15, further work on our membership and establishing our tax deductibility (DGR) status will also continue.

Olive Kids Board