



Olive Kids - Australian Foundation for Palestinian Children Annual Report – 2014-15

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The Australian Foundation for Palestinian Children (Olive Kids) 2014-15 annual report presents the achievements of the foundation on key projects and initiatives.



Orphan Sponsorship Program

The *Olive Kids* orphan sponsorship program expanded to support 200 orphans this year. An estimated 1500 children were orphaned in Gaza as a result of the last war in July 2014. Al-Amal Institute for Orphans, our partner in Gaza, was overwhelmed with new arrivals and applications for its services. *Olive Kids* is committed to the ongoing continuation of this critical program, offering sustainable support from our kind Australian sponsors to our children in Gaza totalling \$120,000 in annual aid.

Olive Kids also implemented a bookkeeping system to support the expansion of the orphan sponsorship program, and continues to improve the program to ensure orphans services are covered and a portion of the sponsorship is set aside for the orphans' education.



Emergency Aid Campaign

During the attack on Gaza early in the financial year, our partners at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society were facing critical shortages of medical supplies, as they were trying to manage the heavily increased number of injured patients. Our partners at Al-Amal were also facing an influx of refugees, where urgent funds were needed to feed the children and their displaced families. *Olive Kids* initiated a social media emergency campaign, raising \$25,000 that was directed to the Red Crescent (\$20,000) and Al-Amal (\$5,000).



Clothing Drive

High quality used clothing, books and toys targeted for Palestinian refugees were collected during the year and shipped to the Jerash refugee camp in Jordan. A 20-foot container will be distributed in partnership with UNRWA before the end of 2015.

Please note our partnership agreement with UNRWA was formally signed in March 2015.

Fundraising Events

7th Annual Fundraising Dinner

Olive Kids held its 7th Annual Fundraising Dinner on 10th May 2015. The date was to coincide with Nakba Day, marking 67 years of the displacement of the Palestinian people. The fundraising dinner was a massive success, raising \$51,718, fulfilling the goals of this year's 'Let's Rebuild' campaign, while also bringing together in excess of 500 people.



The campaign this year focuses on rebuilding. The aims were to:

- Build 6 Orphan rooms hosting 44 orphans, cost \$3,500 each total of \$21,000
- Sponsor 44 new orphans
- Cover the cost of beds for 44 orphans at \$150, total \$6,600
- Collect \$10,000 in funds to cover our medical and education projects, including sending 2 medical surgeons to Palestine

Projects

Nutrition Project

After months of planning and conducting surveys and assessments, our nutrition campaign was delivered in early 2015. The education campaign was run in conjunction with Al-Amal Institute for Orphans, with the energetic Olive Kids volunteer Lina Breik remotely leading and delivering the sessions in Arabic, with topics covering:

- Healthy eating
- Ideal plate and cooking techniques
- Food hygiene
- Fats, sugar and salt content of foods
- Food and dental health



The sessions were well received by the audience of health workers, social workers, cooks and some of the older orphans at Al Amal. *Olive Kids* also arranged for portion plates to be sent to Al-Amal to maintain awareness, and are currently working on posters to reinforce the nutrition message.



Olive Kids also investigated low-cost water sanitisation solutions. *Olive Kids* sourced an Australian solar system, locally designed and manufactured to be sent to Gaza for trial at Al-Amal and an UNRWA school; However due to occupation restrictions, we were unable to have any such system allowed into Gaza.

Medical Missions

Olive Kids facilitated the annual medical mission to Al-Wada Hospital in Gaza, in collaboration with the Union of Health Work Committees – UHWC in late July 2015. The team was led by Associate Professor David Croaker (general and neonatal paediatric surgeon) and includes Mr Paul Chicchio (nurse) and Dr Ben Wagstaff (doctor). *Olive Kids* will cover their airfare and accommodation costs.



Collaboration with Children First Foundation

Olive Kids continues its active collaboration with the Children First Foundation (CFF). During the past year, we continued to offer our support to CFF during treatment of two Palestinian boys in Australia, where multiple surgical procedures were completed. The treatment for one of these boys has successfully been completed and he returned home early 2015. The second boy is likely to complete his procedures by the end of 2015, with a third girl expected to arrive in August 2015. *Olive Kids* provides volunteers and translation assistance in addition to any other support the Children First Foundation may require.



Merchandise

The *Olive Kids* team has expanded the fundraising initiative to include Olive Kids merchandise. The offering involves 3 items, and has so far been well received by our members and supporters.

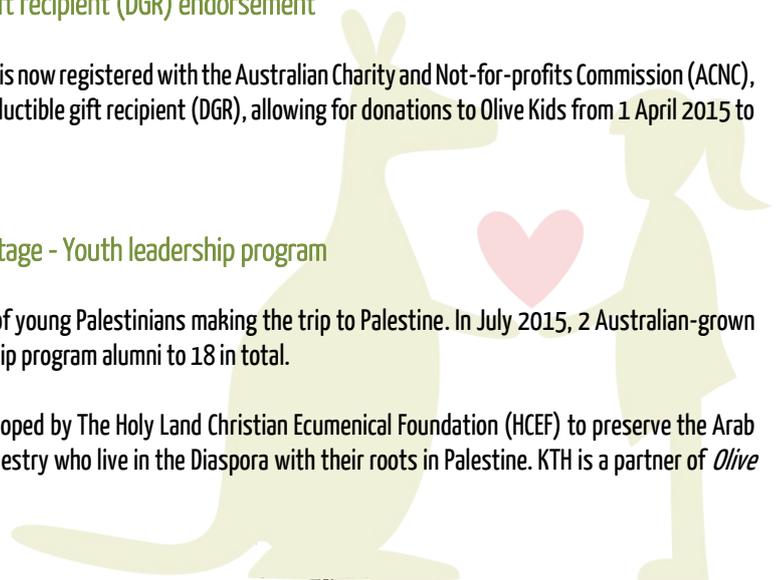
Deductible gift recipient (DGR) endorsement

Olive Kids achieved this very exciting milestone during FY15, and is now registered with the Australian Charity and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), and has also been approved by the Australian Tax Office as a deductible gift recipient (DGR), allowing for donations to Olive Kids from 1 April 2015 to be tax deductible.

Know Thy Heritage - Youth leadership program

Olive Kids continued partnering with HCEF, with another group of young Palestinians making the trip to Palestine. In July 2015, 2 Australian-grown Palestinians joined the 2015 program, to bring the KTH leadership program alumni to 18 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*.





2015-16 Focus

In the coming year, our focus will be to continue to address the effects of the 2014 war on Gaza. The rebuilding efforts in Gaza are still at their early stages, with the majority of aid pledges still unfunded. Gaza's infrastructure remains destroyed, and the children's living conditions remain as dire as they were 12 months ago.

The rebuilding project we embarked on will aim to complete the construction of an extension at Al-Amal to expand the capacity of their orphanage.

In late 2015, and as part of our aid directed to the refugee camps in Jordan, we aim to complete the setup of a playground in the main nursery in Jerash refugee camp. The playground is to replace the ruined swings in the nursery backyard.

In addition, we will explore helping our partners with sustainable energy solutions. This work will continue in addition to the ongoing work in medical and education projects.



Olive Kids Board

