



Australian Foundation for Palestinian Children – “Olive Kids” Annual Report - 2016/2017

Date: 29 July 2017

Board & Executive: Nour Sukkar, Sara Elagha, Yasmeen Judeh, Carmen Abdulkader, Marym Elagha, Mo Hamdouna, Mohamed Othman, Amin Abbas, Mohammad Zahran, Nadia El-Hissi, Nasser Mashni

The Australian Foundation for Palestinian Children (*Olive Kids*) 2016/2017 annual report presents the achievements of the foundation on key projects and initiatives.

Child Sponsorship Program

Olive Kids' sponsorship program continued to expand in FY16. *Olive Kids* is committed to the continuation and ongoing sustainability and continuation of this critical program, offering much needed support to the children of Gaza.

The program channelled generous contribution from our Australian sponsors to our children in Gaza. These contributions currently support 234 orphans at a value of \$140,400 in annual aid in FY16.

Olive Kids strives to continuously improve this program, to ensure orphans services are covered and a portion of the sponsorship is set aside for the orphans' education.

Student Scholarship Program

Olive Kids' university sponsorship program was established this year in collaboration with the Islamic University of Gaza. The program focuses on alleviating the critical shortage of nurses in Gaza, offering 3 nursing scholarships to eligible students beginning March 2017 with a view to expanding in future. The annual cost of the 3 scholarships is \$10,000 per year for the 3 students. *Olive Kids* will continue to review and expand the program in future years.





Clothes Drives Program

The ongoing clothing drive program continued throughout the year, with the collection of high quality used clothing and toys. Shipment is planned for later in the year. The shipment is targeting the refugee camps in Jordan, and will be distributed in partnership with UNRWA.

Fundraising Events

Annual Dinner



The Olive Kids 9th Annual Fundraising Dinner was held on the 29th of May, at Peninsula on the waterfront of Victoria Harbour, Docklands. This year's event was the most successful one to date as reflected by the astounding fundraising effort. As a result of this event we were able to raise \$140,000. These funds will support a number of our programs and initiatives. Specifically, these funds will go towards paying the tuition for three nursing scholarships in Gaza, sending educational equipment to the Zaatari refugee camp and the building of a new wing at Al-Amal Orphanage in Gaza.

Projects

Olive Kids Wing at Al-Amal project

Olive Kids continued our campaign to fundraise for a new wing at Al-Amal to host children under 5 years of age. An MOU was signed with Al-Amal in May and the bidding process started at the end of the financial year with construction to start soon. The total cost of the project is \$200,000 AUD, one of the largest projects Olive Kids has ever embarked on.



Solar Project in Gaza

As part of our 2016 Empower Gaza campaign, *Olive Kids* proceeded with the planning and scoping of the Solar project installation at Al-Amal in Gaza. The team went through guiding Al-Amal through a process of energy optimisation, energy prioritisation and finally scope finalisation. Earlier in 2017, the selection of the supplier was concluded. The installation of the solar power system was completed in June 2017. The system is expected to be operational. The system aims to deliver the following:

- Install solar panels at Al-Amal
- Enable a more constant source of electricity
- Allow solar power to feed the grid to reduce the current monthly energy bill of USD\$20,000

Medical Missions

In collaboration with the Union of Health Work Committees (UHWC), *Olive Kids* facilitated an Australian medical mission to Alwada Hospital in Gaza between April 30th and May 12th 2017. Led by Associate Professor David Crocker (General and Neonatal Paediatric Surgeon), Dr Nick Gemmell-Smith (paediatric anaesthetist) and Mr Paul Chicchio (Nurse). The team conducted many critical operations and conducted skills transfer through practical in-theatre training and seminars for local surgeons. Olive Kids covered the costs of airfare and accommodation.



Collaboration with Children First Foundation

Olive Kids continued our collaboration with the Children First Foundation (CFF). In late 2016, Ali (17 years old) and Farah (8 years old) completed their treatment and returned home. Two new cases are currently under assessment for late 2017 consideration.

Olive Kids provides volunteers and translation assistance in addition to any other support the Children First Foundation may require.

Youth Leadership program - Know Thy Heritage

Olive Kids continued supporting HCEF, however without financial support. This year saw a continuation of promotion for the program, with an individual representing Australian-Palestinians in the 2017 delegation.

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*.

FY18 Focus

In FY18, *Olive Kids*' focus will be to further develop our programs, our relationships with our existing partner organisations and our volunteer engagement.

Our current programs are maturing and will require us to expand our operating model to ensure we continue to engage effectively with our donors and partners. This will involve reviewing how we operate key programs such as the Child Sponsorship program, and considering how we can maximise the impact of each donated dollar.

In April 2017, Olive Kids began consultation with UNRWA to explore how our medical program could be expanded to Lebanon. Whilst in early stages, screening for children that need life changing operations and sponsoring medical missions to the Palestinian Red Crescent Hospital in Lebanon are being explored as potential areas for future focus for the medical program.

During the year, we expect the construction of the Olive Kids wing at Al-Amal to be completed. In addition to being a milestone for our work, we aim to assess the project and also our solar solution at Al-Amal, to ensure the required results of the projects are delivered.

Olive Kids will also assess our first year of the student scholarship program and consider any changes or adjustments.

Olive Kids will also continue to engage Australian youth particularly from the community to expand our volunteers pool and build future capacities.

In FY18, the board will further develop the roles of board members and formalise substitute coverage as required.

Olive Kids Board