



United Palestinian Appeal, Inc.

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UPA: a Profile

Mission

United Palestinian Appeal, Inc. is a non-profit, non-political, tax-exempt American charity, independent of any political affiliation or ideology. Its mission is to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians, particularly those in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and the refugee camps of Lebanon, and to contribute to the long-term socio-economic and cultural development of Palestinian society. UPA maintains its independence and integrity by not accepting funds from political groups or from any source that may attach unacceptable conditions to its contributions. Donations to UPA are tax-deductible in accordance with applicable laws. UPA's federal tax-exemption I.D. number is 11-2494808.

Since its establishment, UPA has developed numerous programs to assist Palestinians in the fields of health, education, child services, community development, and emergency relief.

Each year, UPA implements a variety of fundraising strategies, including direct mail campaigns, individual solicitations, corporate appeals, community outreach, and distribution of hand-made Palestinian artwork and embroidery. When needed, it also conducts emergency campaigns to address urgent humanitarian crises. UPA is proud to have contributed over \$15 million towards the development of Palestinian society, and we look forward to strengthening that development in the future.

History

- UPA was established in 1978 in the State of New York by a group of Palestinian-Americans from the business and professional communities who shared the objective of creating an efficient and professionally managed charity that would assist needy Palestinians.
- In 1980, UPA was granted tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
- In 1985, UPA became the first Palestinian-American charity to be registered with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as a Private and Voluntary Organization (PVO).*
- In 1985, UPA began funding the construction of a \$2.4 million nursing college on the Mount of Olives affiliated with Makassed Hospital. Thanks to a \$1 million grant from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, UPA was also able to greatly expand its assistance programs in the areas of health care, education, children's services, community development, and emergency relief.

* Registration does not imply endorsement.

- In 1986, UPA initiated its Child Sponsorship program.
- Between 1985 and 1987, UPA sent nearly half a million dollars worth of emergency medicines and supplies to Palestinian refugees in Southern Lebanon.
- In 1987, with the outbreak of the first intifada, UPA shifted its funding priorities to emergency medical relief for intifada-related injuries.
- In 1989, UPA became the first Palestinian-American charity accepted by the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), the national organization allowing for charitable solicitation of federal government employees.
- In 1990, al-Makassed/UPA Nursing College in East Jerusalem was completed, the first modern, four-year nursing college in Palestine offering training to meet the increasing health care demands of the Palestinian population.
- In 1991, UPA was accepted as a participating member agency by the Independent Charities of America (ICA), a nationwide consortium of approved charities soliciting state, federal and local public employees.
- In 1994, with the signing of the Oslo accords, UPA re-focused its grant making on programs aimed at the long-term socioeconomic recovery and development of Palestinian society in the West Bank and Gaza.
- From 2000 onwards, UPA responded to al-Aqsa intifada by giving priority to emergency medical relief.
- In 2002, UPA was awarded a \$2.7 million grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement a job creation and infrastructure development program for two years throughout the West Bank and Gaza in cooperation with the Welfare Association in East Jerusalem. The program represented an emergency response to devastating economic collapse, including an unemployment rate of over 60 percent.
- In 2003, UPA and its partner, Nour Foundation sent over \$424,000 worth of medicines and supplies to West Bank hospitals and clinics.
- In 2004, UPA successfully completed the USAID funded Emergency Employment Generation Project. It also shipped, with its partner, Nour Foundation, over \$1 million in medical supplies, including hygiene kits, supplemental feeding formula, blankets, and clothing, to UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) offices for distribution to hospitals, clinics, and schools in West Bank and Gaza.
- In 2005/2006, UPA partnered with Project Harmony in implementing the MEDIA Youth Leadership Exchange Program funded by the State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' Linking Individuals, Knowledge, and Culture Initiative between the US and Jordanian/Palestinian students. UPA was subcontracted in the amount of \$59,206 and provided over \$14,000 of in-kind services to the program.

In addition to the Youth Leadership Exchange Program, funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, UPA's activities in 2006 included:

- **Emergency Relief:**
 - A shipment of \$6.5 million worth of pharmaceuticals to United Nations Reliefs and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) for refugees and non-refugees in Gaza in over 15 of the UNRWA Health Centers, to aid over 35,000 needy Palestinians.
 - UPA facilitated a \$1.5 million pharmaceutical shipment to Hariri Foundation to aid Palestinian refugees and people of Lebanon.
- **Health**
 - Al-Ittihad Arab Women's Union Hospital in Nablus was provided with \$20,000 for the purchase of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals for the hospital.
 - Al-Huda Development Center, Gaza, was granted \$10,000 for the purchase of an ultrasound television, two probes, trolley, and a diagnostic bed for their newly established Medical Center.
 - Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS), Ramallah was provided with \$10,000 for the purchase of equipment and medication, which aided over 71,000 people in need of medical treatment by PMRS mobile clinic services and ambulances through their Emergency Healthcare Response Program
 - Rose of Jerusalem, Al-Azariah, Bethany was granted \$5,000 for the purchase of necessary medical equipment to aid those in need of physiotherapy treatment.
 - Union of Health Care Committees, Nablus was provided with \$6,100 for the purchase of 20 wheelchairs and 36 crutches for their Community Based Rehabilitation Program to benefit over 100 cases in need.
- **Community Development**
 - Al-Amal Society for Children Care, Khan Younis, Gaza was given \$10,000 for the purchase of books and clothing (t-shirts, trousers, and sweaters) for over 700 needy children between the ages of 5 and 15 in schools in five areas of Gaza, part of their Hope Bridges for Poor Children Program.
 - Peace Center for the Blind was provided with \$3,420 for the development of the Peace Center's Beauty Spa, training nine ladies every three months for employment in hair styling, manicure, and pedicure. Funds were also used for the purchase of equipment for the Spa, Peace Center's income generating facility.
 - Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), Jerusalem was granted \$10,000 for the establishment of training workshops in

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agricultural development in the area of Jenin, as part of the UAWC program to set up Palestinians Agricultural School Clubs.

- **Education**

- The Hope Fund Corporation was provided with \$3,403 for the transportation expenses of three bright young ladies from West Bank and refugee camps of Lebanon to study at universities in America.
- Rawdat El-Zuhur was provided with \$2,000 to support for their school Alumni Club. Funds were allocated to provide for cultural training workshops in art, dance, and drama, as well as, materials and supplies necessary for workshops.
- El-Funoun Dance Troupe was provided with \$30,799 to support their global tours bringing awareness and education of Palestinian culture, through the art of dance.
- Over 211 University students were provided with \$107,700 of scholarships to nine universities in West Bank and Gaza.

- **Child Sponsorship**

- Over \$150,000 was sent in 2006 to 30 schools, churches, and non-governmental organizations participating in UPA's Child Sponsorship Program, funding over 650 children.