

A Uniquely Independent School in Bethlehem Promoting Peace & Human Rights

HOPE FLOWERS SCHOOL

School Year 2016-2017

BEACON of LIGHT and HOPE!

As the political and economic situation spirals downward for Palestinians in the West Bank, Hope Flowers School (HFS) provides a **BEACON of LIGHT and HOPE!** Your interest and support has enabled the growth and prominence that HFS has enjoyed this year, empowering students, parents and the community to meet the challenges of this conflict-ridden society.

Growth:

Enrollment for 2016-2017 increased dramatically to 350 students, with the same gender ratio as last year—49% girls. **Seventy special needs students are integrated into regular classes** fostering the human rights values of the school. The quality of education is being recognized and more transfer students are applying. **Hot lunches** are served to all through the generous support of the US *Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund* and *Swiss Palestine Demain*. In too many cases these lunches are the only main meal of the day. Like last year, nearly **eighty scholarships** were given and tuition kept low in view of the area's high unemployment.

Prominence:

The peace building curriculum components and the afternoon psycho-social programs offered to at risk HFS students and children referred from other schools has attracted visitors from the region and abroad. Thirty German students and their teachers came to study the school's approaches in these areas and Jordanians have sent materials they developed with HFS to Syrian refugee groups in Iraq. The Palestine Ministry of Education is currently in discussion with HFS to bring their curriculum into government schools while an official from the Roman Catholic Church in Palestine visited to explore implementation in their schools.

Groups from Australia, the Netherlands, the US, Japan, and elsewhere have seen what John Newton Hickox of Americans Committed to Justice and Truth saw on two visits: **“a place that is really thriving ... with happy children and parents very satisfied with the program.”**

Grant Awarded!

After an eight month long grueling review of 230 applicants, **HFS was one of seven organizations just awarded a conflict mitigation grant by USAID!** HFS teachers will be trained in Jerusalem along with Israeli professionals in bi-weekly classes on the instruction and rehabilitation of autistic children. **This places HFS as the premier resource for autistic children in the West Bank.**

Local prominence, international recognition and your support are vital to HFS' survival in the face of continued settlement pressures. LIGHT and HOPE are found within the school with teaching excellence and eager students.

(Please turn over.)

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Teacher Spotlight:



Ms. Abeer has taught kindergarteners for 15 years and has had the pleasure of teaching children whose parents were once students. Valuing a strong foundation for the children, she credits their success in school to the ongoing professional development she is offered and the committed involvement of parents. While she could earn more money teaching in a government school, Ms. Abeer says **she stays at HFS because here she finds shared purpose, values and mutual support.**

80 Scholarships and Counting...

Meet Munai, a kindergarten student whose professional parents are currently unemployed. Tension and conflict abound in her community but **LIGHT and HOPE** are found within the school where there is peace and learning. Munai receives a full scholarship with a uniform, winter clothing, a hot meal each day and transportation. Like Munai many children are only able to attend Hope Flowers School with scholarship aid. The administration has set aside **80 scholarships that need to be funded** but as the year progresses, need for more assistance is anticipated.



You can make a difference in the life of a child or two!
You can make a difference through teacher salary support!
You can bring LIGHT and HOPE at a critical time in the lives of many!
Please return the donation slip by mail or donate online at:
<http://peace-with-justice.org/hope-flowers-school>

Thank you on behalf of the students, teachers and staff of Hope Flowers School!

..... Please detach.

Your Donor Support means so very much to Hope Flowers School!!

Your tax deductible donation, made through **Coalition for Peace with Justice** may be designated for ___scholarships, ___teacher salaries, or ___general operations.

___\$500 (scholarship aid for one child) ___\$250 ___\$100 ___\$50 ___Other

Please make your check payable to **Coalition for Peace with Justice** with **HFS designation in memo line. Mail to P.O. Box 2081, Chapel Hill, NC 27515.**

Or visit www.cpwj.org and use credit card payment on-line at:
<http://peace-with-justice.org/hope-flowers-school/>



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