



1995 - 2015

20
years

بناء... إثماء... رجاء

Investing in *future & hope*

 DiyarConsortium

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 DiyarProductions



20
years
بناء... إثماء... رجاء
Investing in *future & hope*



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FOREWORD



Dear Friends,

Salaam from Bethlehem. The year 2015 marked Diyar's 20th anniversary. It was on September 28, 1995 that we inaugurated Dar Annadwa in the newly renovated crypt of Christmas Lutheran Church, as a place for worldwide encounter. As we gathered to celebrate the anniversary, we looked back and recognized the growth that this ministry has experienced over the years. The staff has grown from 4 persons in 1995 to over 115 employees in 2015. The number of direct beneficiaries grew from less than 1000 people in 1995 to over 60,000 people. Geographically speaking, Diyar started its work in Bethlehem city, then developed further to become a national player, and now is active on regional and international levels. The overall operational budget has also grown from the initial \$88,095 in 1995 to \$3.5 million in 2015. In less than 20 years, projects totaling more than \$40 million were implemented (\$25 million for construction and \$15 million in programs). In addition, within twenty years, 250,000 square meters of new infrastructure has been constructed so far and once the master plan is completed, Diyar will be the largest construction project carried out in Bethlehem since Herod the Great.

In all of the construction projects, Diyar emphasized aesthetics, cultural heritage, and green buildings. Thanks to utilizing solar energy, Diyar was able in 2015 to generate 40% of its energy consumption through solar. By 2020, we hope to reach zero-energy goal.

In all these years Diyar programs were highlighted in many media outlets including the BBC, CNN, ABC, CBS, HBO, ARD, ZDF, ORF, BR, al-Jazeera, Ma'an News Agency and Palestine TV. Diyar was also featured in publications such as the Economist, Newsweek, The Washington Post, The New York Times and The Boston Globe.

The impact of this ministry on Palestine and beyond is stunning. We were the first organization to introduce the concept of authentic tourism and the first institution in the Middle East to receive the ToDo! Award for Socially Responsible Tourism at the largest tourism fair, which is the International Tourism Exchange in Berlin, Germany. Today, there are several NGOs as well as tour operators who incorporate

alternative itineraries into their schedules. When we started in 1995, there were only 60 Palestinian tour guides (out of a total of 4000 guides); all of them were over 60 years old and had received their license from the Jordanian government prior to 1967. Thanks to Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture, today there are over 500 trained and accredited Palestinian tour guides, who became Palestine's ambassadors, sharing the Palestinian narrative with international visitors. Also within this period, Diyar developed to be the cultural hub in Bethlehem and is regarded as "the most professional cultural entity in the southern part of the West Bank." In 2010, Diyar started its own publishing arm and was the first Palestinian publisher to have their publication available simultaneously on Amazon and Kindle.

With the establishment of Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture, Diyar developed to be the number one address for formal, non-formal, and vocational education in new fields such as film, jewelry, design, theater, music and contemporary

arts, enhancing the employability of young people and providing emerging industries with qualified personnel. It is therefore fitting that in 2015 we were selected by DVV International as the main hub in the West Bank for adult education and lifelong learning.

Within these 20 years, Diyar was able to start many community initiatives and programs: The Reintegration Program supporting Palestinian young people to return to Palestine; The Health and Wellness Center; The Civic Engagement Program with its multiple initiatives including Diyar Civic Cultural Network and Palestinian Youth Leadership Training which focuses on cultural leadership; Religion and State I-III; The Christian Academic Forum for Citizenship in the Arab World; The Network of Christian Seminaries and Islamic Colleges in the Arab World; Diyar for Women Sports with the first female soccer team in Palestine; Ajyal Program for the Elderly; Diyar Academy for Children and Youth; Diyar Dance Theatre; Azwaj Program for Young Couples; Dandanat Dance & Music Youth Festival

and many more. However, all of this was not easy to accomplish. When we started back in 1995, there was a hope on the horizon that an end to the Occupation is in sight. During these last 20 years we went through seven wars, with lots of ups and downs, and today no one can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Diyar philosophy throughout the last 20 years continued to defy the hopelessness and despair with programs and initiatives designed to empower our people to creatively resist the Occupation, communicating hope while uplifting the human story and aspiration of our people for abundant living. Diyar continues to be a success story because of its vision, mission, members, board, staff, friends and supporters. Their commitment made and makes all the difference. We thank the Lord for this success.

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb
President



Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture

Education for Human Security and Empowerment

Visual Arts Education for Palestinian Youth

The Dar Al-Kalima University College in 2015 witnessed expansion of faculty, completion of infrastructure, accreditation of new programs and the holding of a new graduation ceremony.

Four full time faculty members were hired in drama, music, tourism and English language. Additionally, the University College hired two new part-time

faculties from Canada in film and contemporary art. In terms of infrastructure, the fifth floor of the Visual and Performing Arts Building was finished. The Visual Arts Department moved to the new offices and facilities.

One additional BA program in graphic design for Marketing and Advertising was accredited as well as a special diploma in fine dining; additionally, two new BA programs were submitted at the beginning of the year. A total of 6 BA programs await accreditation.

Finally, the seventh graduation ceremony was held, during which 70 students graduated.

1. Visual Arts Program

• Projects

“Portrait of Palestine” Project: Supported by the Ministry of Higher Education and the World Bank, this initiative continued in 2015 by signing three new MOUs with al-Falastinie TV, Palmedia and Rakan Company, in addition to participating in the “Film & Television Careers’ Connection (FTCC)” at the Royal Film Commission (RFC) in October in Amman, Jordan.

“Made in Palestine” Project: This project, funded by NCA and FELM, was completed in 2015 with the establishing of the “Itqan for Jewelry Making” company that focuses on silver and jewelry design and production. The majority of the company’s partners are DAK graduates.

“Social Transformation through Youth Media” Project: Supported by Otto Per Mille, 10 films were produced (5 documentaries and 5 narrative) and screened locally, regionally and internationally. In

addition, 250 DVD packages that contain the 10 films on 2 discs and information about the project were produced and distributed, as well as uploaded on the web and are currently shared with festivals for submissions. The issues dealt with focused on freedom and rights (freedom from religious oppression, right to health, right to worship, right to personal property, right to hold political views and free expression, women’s rights against honor killings, right to work and in dignity, right to be free from incarceration, right to dream and right to keep memory).



- **Visiting Artists**

- Script expert and dramaturge **Keith Cunningham** gave a two- day workshop on scripts and drama for the film students.
- British animator **George Snow** presented a lecture on March 26, 2015 on animation. He will return in 2016 to teach a course at DAK.
- Artist **Steve Sabella** presented an artist talk and had a book launching on April 7, 2015.
- Dutch artist **Jan van Der Kooi** presented an artist talk on October 1, 2015.
- Palestinian Canadian film director **Majdi al-Omari** came for a screening and discussion of his film **Standstill** on October 29, 2015. At the end of the year, Mr. Omari joined the faculty to teach narrative film.
- Canadian academician **Jeff O'Brien** was present for discussion of the 1976 documentary film "Ici et Ailleurs" (Here and Elsewhere) on Thursday, December 3, 2015.

- Swedish artist **Inger Jonasson** was hosted to supervise the water color course during the winter semester 2015.
- Ceramicist **George Lowe** from the USA was hosted as a visiting artist and lecturer during the fall semester 2015, to teach advanced ceramic course.



- Artist **Eman Haram** was hosted during the last week of April 2015, where she gave a lecture about her work on April 30, 2015. She also met with the students, attended some film screenings and gave her feedback.

- Lecturer **Simon Stanford**, funded by the Church of Sweden, worked during 2015 with the students on several projects as well as on creating an opportunity for them to go to Sweden to show their films and participate in film festivals.

- **Festivals and Exhibitions**

- Contemporary Art students' exhibition was held on February 10, 2015 to celebrate the landscape paintings drawn during a one-day workshop at Rashayde near Bethlehem, in cooperation with Masar Ibrahim Al-Khalil institution and supervised by faculty member Johny Andonia.
- Contemporary Art students' exhibition was held on April 14, 2015 to celebrate the art works done during the water color course and symposium, which was supervised by visiting artist Inger Jonasson.
- Jazz concert "la Fête de la Musique" by Pierrick Pedron Group was hosted on June 10, 2015 in addition to the art exhibition "100 Days in Solitude"

by Gazan artist Nidaa Badwan in cooperation with the French Consulate and Alliance Française de Bethléem.

- Contemporary Art students participated in the Bet Lahem Live Festival with the "Pop-Up Art Gallery" in Bethlehem during July 2015.
- Contemporary Art students participated in the Si:n Festival by screening their films at the Goethe Institute in Ramallah as well as in Bethlehem, between July 7-9, 2015.
- The University College hosted a pantomime performance by Osama Said.

- **Study Tours**

- A study tour to audio-visual organizations in Jordan was carried out between August 2-6, 2015 where students of the TV and cinema diploma, faculty and administrators visited private sector and higher education institutions. The study tour introduced the students to the wider world of media and connected them with regional

media outlets so as to open new training and employment opportunities for the graduates of the program.

- Dar al-Kalima University College students went on an educational trip to the Qalandia Biennale in October 2015. Around 100 students participated where they visited many exhibitions and had the opportunity to speak to some of the artists.

- **Competitions**

The Ismail Shammout Competition for Fine Art: A celebration of the life and remarkable work of the Palestinian artist Ismail Shammout as well as the announcement of the competition winners took place at the University College in Bethlehem on March 2, 2015. An exhibition of the competition's final ten works, including those of the two winners, was also held at the University College.



2. Performing Arts

- As part of the preparatory phase of the project funded during the academic year 2014/2015 by the Finnish Foreign Ministry entitled "Strength for Development from Culture", Professor Dr. Pekka Vapaavuori was hosted at the Performing Arts Department where he gave master classes in piano for the students. In a second visit, Professor Dr. Pekka Vapaavuori was accompanied by Instructor Markus Ilomäki, who worked with the students of the Drama Program.

- Two of the Music Performance graduates participated in the annual art festival "Room for Hope", which was organized by the Bright Stars of Bethlehem in the USA.
- Music Performance students conducted several concerts during the year at the University College.

3. Cultural Heritage and Tourism Studies

- **Projects**

- FOP Project: Several meetings took place as part of the project, including a partners' meeting in Ravello, Italy in February 2015. In addition, an international forum was held between May 12-13, 2015 in Valletta, Malta where the project was presented on the international level and its results shared with the other partners and stakeholders. As well, a delegation from the Society Geographical Italiana, the Italian partner

in this initiative, visited Bethlehem in November 2015 and examined the houses selected for the planned scattered hotel and the follow-up process on the bids for renovation work.



- DAAD Exchange Program Project: The exchange program, which is carried out with a partner university in Eberswalde-HNEE, continued and several activities were implemented in 2015 including a delegation visit to Bethlehem in May 2015 from the partner university with 15 German

students who were introduced to the many facets of tourism in Palestine. In addition, five German students together with two professors and the project's coordinator came to Bethlehem for one week in November 2015 to meet with different key stakeholders in the tourism market and to introduce the German partner to the different perspectives on the political, social, academic, economic and cultural realities of Palestine.



- Tour Guide Training Program in Jenin Project: Starting in November 2015, a tour guide program that is funded by the GIZ for the duration of four months was delivered to seven young professionals from the Jenin district to qualify them to become tour guides in their region.
- **Residencies**
- Three students of the Culinary Art traveled for three weeks to Bielefeld, Germany in order to gain hands-on experience and training in their field.

- **Lectures, Symposiums, Visits and Master Classes**

- DAK hosted Prof. Dr. Heidemarie Winkel to teach a course on Gender, Racism and Sexism to the students of the Palestinian Tour Guide (PTG) program throughout the month of September 2015.
- The Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem "ARIJ" gave a workshop in October 2015 on "Promoting Socio-economic Sustainable Development through Innovation". The workshop was based on a project held by ARIJ tourism development in Wadi Al-Bathan.

- Two German experts in the field of tourism marketing and development met with some of the PTG students in December 2015, and gave inputs and recommendations on how to design a tourist program. The two experts also carried out a workshop that tackled the issue of alternative tourism and ways to enhance the tourism experience in Bethlehem.
- A representative from the Art De La Table School in France visited DAK throughout June 2015 to learn about its programs and to open channels for future collaborations. During her stay, the representative visited several hotels, coffee shops and restaurants to learn more about the culinary culture of Palestine.



4. Curricula Development and Applying for New Programs

The following programs were developed and submitted to the Ministry of Higher Education for accreditation

- BA in Interior Design
- BA in Art Business Management



Dar al-Kalima University College Library in Numbers

2015 Acquisitions

Number of Books	267
Number of Reference Books	28
Number of Films	17

By the end of 2015, the total number of acquisitions at the library reached **7571**.

Dar al-Kalima University College: Numbers of Students in 2015

Department	Winter 2015	Summer 2015	Fall 2015
Visual Arts	106	16	101
Performing Arts	14	6	22
Cultural Heritage & Tourism Studies	78	60	69
Continuous Education	29	5	28

Success Story



“Social Transformation Through Youth Media” Project
The Film “The Living of the Pigeons” By the student Baha’ Abu Shanab participated in more than 17 festivals worldwide and received several awards, including:

- Best Documentary Award at ZUMFF 2015 / Abu Dhabi (five years of participation and the fourth year in a row a DAK student receives this award);
- Best Film, Palestine Film Category at International Young Filmmakers Festival, Palestine;
- Amnesty International France Prize at Poitiers Film Festival.

The film “Praises of the Wounds” by the student Muhammad Al-Fateh Abu Snieneh participated in several festivals and received several awards, including:

- Honorary Mention at ZUMFF 2015 / Abu Dhabi;
- Best International Film at NDU Film festival / Beirut;
- Best Production Management at Abu al- Houli Film Festival / Egypt.

Baha’ Abu Shanab writes:

“I was lucky to be part of this project, which allowed me to experience all stages of film-making along with great supervision, assistance and equipment needed in order to make a film. I made my first film through this project, and I am proud of what has been done.”

International Conferences

Following its academic and contextual traditions, Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture implemented in 2015 its 8th conference that focused on the Palestinian Diaspora. This event is part of a series of academic programs launched in 2005 on the topic of "Shaping Communities in Times of Crisis: Narratives of Land, Peoples and Identities".

Several major academic publications with contributions from over 100 scholars from over 20 countries were among the outcomes of these conferences in addition to a growing network of academicians who are incorporating the Palestinian question into their writings.

The response to our invitation to having a conference on the Palestinian Diaspora was greater than expected. The studies on Diaspora, migration and identity formation outside the "mother land" are increasing in number and scope. In the last ten years several papers, doctoral theses and books were published focusing on certain aspects of the Palestinian Diaspora. The conference provided a forum in Palestine for sharing such research and for a lively interaction and dialogue among Palestinians in Palestine with a good number of international scholars.

The conference was originally scheduled from August 17-24, 2014, but due to the war on Gaza that was still

waging in summer of 2014 we had to postpone it by a year, one week prior to the original start of the conference. This resulted that few scholars, mainly from Latin America, who were scheduled to speak in 2014 were not able to join the conference in 2015. The conference consisted of three full days of lectures and dialogue, in addition to two optional days of excursion and emersion into the socio-political, economic and religious contexts. An international art exhibition was also part of the conference.

The program was conducted in English, but on the last day a closing panel was broadcasted live on the two main TV stations in Palestine reaching to millions of people in Palestine, across the region, and throughout the world.

The conference aimed at sparking an intra-Palestinian and international dialogue on the issue of Palestinian Diaspora. Participants were able to:

- Map the Palestinian Diaspora, especially in Europe and the Americas;
- Provide a pertinent forum of discussion on the in-

- terplay between the Palestinians in the Diaspora with their host countries on the one hand and their "mother" country Palestine on the other;
- Analyze the impact of the Diaspora on the formation of Palestinian identity and the impact of context in historic Palestine on the identity of Palestinians in the Diaspora;
- Share some of the papers, research and findings;
- Explore new readings of the Diaspora in the midst of new sociopolitical contexts;
- Encourage some interdisciplinary analysis in relation to Palestinian land and identity.

In terms of direct target group, we aimed at reaching, inviting and receiving a group of 50 to 60 academicians, social scientists and anthropologists, theologians, artists, political scientists and community leaders to actively participate in the conference. We had 41 international researchers, in addition to over 50 local Palestinian academicians. Around 30 of those contributed to the event as guest lecturers, presentation respondents and dialogue moderators. Special achievement was the participation of 12 younger scholars from the Palestinian Diaspora itself.

The participation of scholars from 15 countries worldwide (e.g., Palestine, Europe, USA, Latin America, Africa and Asia) brought to the event not only an international scope, persuasions and perspectives, but fostered an ecumenical, interdisciplinary, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural environ, dialogues and philosophy. Remarkable was the high attendance of local Palestinians ranging from 100 on daily average to almost 200 at the opening with the presence of the Palestinian Minister of Higher Education.



A book with all proceedings of the conference is being prepared and edited with the aim of sharing its results, reflections and recommendations with broader academic groups, institutions and libraries in the rest of the world.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation and thanks to our main partner EMW in Germany for their generous support and friendship.



The Model Adult Education Center in Palestine

In 2015 and as part of the process of supporting the structures of adult education and spreading awareness on the importance of life-long learning in Palestine, Dar al-Kalima University College/Diyar signed a partnership agreement with DVV International to develop a model adult education center in the West Bank. Dar al-Kalima University College/Diyar was selected as the ideal partner after undergoing a rigorous screening and selection process, competing with many other national educational facilities and organizations.

Having more than 20 years of experience in the non-formal sector of adult education in Palestine,

DAK/Diyar has been implementing approaches that are based on innovation in adult education and in targeting adults and youth. Developing the model adult education center is yet another step in this direction, demonstrating the commitment to the goal of enhancing and developing adult education programs that respond to the Palestinian culture and context with new perspectives of learning and teaching adults as part of the organization's mission to empower the local community members and groups to develop attitudes and capacities to continuously and actively seek new knowledge and apply it in ways that enhance their quality of life.



Religion and State III



Long before the so-called Arab Spring, a project was envisioned (in 2008) to address a chronic unhealthy relationship between religion and state in the Arab world, and the impact of that relationship on the quality of life and the exercise of citizenship in the four countries selected (Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine). In search of **a unifying vision** for the region, two earlier phases of the project, working primarily with academics of various disciplines, policy makers, community leaders as well as activists, encompassed an examination of various areas where religion and state intersect, practices that manifest a disconnect between an optimal society where all citizens enjoy the full dignity of freedom in the exercise of their

inalienable rights and the realities on the ground. Phase II of the project (2013 – 2014) focused on the place and role of Christians in the process of rehabilitation and renewal of their societies, with a special emphasis on youth and potential young leaders. Cumulative research of the preceding years pointed to **10 challenges** confronting the Middle East today. Unanimously endorsing the validity of these challenges, project participants who worked together for the duration of that phase forged **a statement of commitment** to undertake a proactive role aiming at the desired change, and created an organism that would serve as a vehicle for action: Hence, the **Christian Academic Forum for Citizenship in the**

Arab World (CAFCAW). In December 2014, **CAFCAW** was formally announced and a document titled **“From the Nile to the Euphrates: The Call of Faith and Citizenship”** summarizing the ten challenges and the statement of commitment was launched.

In Phase III (2015 – 2016), the project has moved forward with the objective of achieving the results listed above.

- Basic mapping of activities of Christian youth has been done. This will lead to launching a competition and conferring an award for an initiative by Christian youth evidencing effective engagement in society.
- A major international, interdisciplinary and intergenerational conference was held at Paphos, Cyprus, in July 2015. The theme of the conference was “Shifting Identities: Social, Political and Religious Changes in the Arab World.” Fifty-one persons, including 13 youth, participated. Half of the participants were female. Approximately 20 papers were presented on various aspects of that

theme, including sociological, psychological, theological, political, and historical studies. These papers have been submitted and edited for publication in a book that is expected to be released in 2016, and distributed appropriately.

- A wide-spread effort has been carried out in 2015 to distribute and to interpret the content of the CAFCAW document “*From the Nile to the Euphrates...*” through numerous speaking engagements at major events in the Arab Middle East, Europe, North America, and Southern Africa. Examples of events in which this was done include a conference at St. Joseph University in Beirut, Lebanon; a high-level meeting on interfaith & intercultural dialogue in Barcelona, Spain; a Catholic Conference of Clergy and Laity in Bern, Switzerland; and a *Kairos* conference in Cape Town, South Africa.
- Two training workshops for young leaders took place in Lebanon and Palestine with the focus on the concept of citizenship in its historical context, the role of organizations in promoting active and responsible citizenship and essential components of advocacy.

The Network for Christian Seminaries and Islamic Colleges in the Arab World

A brand new initiative was launched by Diyar in cooperation with KAICIID Dialogue Centre to establish a first of its kind network of Christian seminaries and Islamic Sharia colleges in the Arab world. The founding meeting took place on November 5 – 6, 2015 at the International Dialogue Centre's (KAICIID) headquarters in Vienna. A network of this kind is an important step to reach to the training institutions that graduate the pastors, preachers, and imams in the region with the goal of imbedding the culture of dialogue as a core value in religious education.

The need to form a network of Arab institutes and faculties is obvious and crucial in the aftermath of the so-called Arab Spring as an important step to combat religious extremism and to create a platform for an ongoing institutional academic dialogue between Muslim and Christian scholars. This will lead to the exchange of experiences between intellectual and

religious leaders in faculties and universities and will form the basis for developing a scientific approach that promotes the culture of dialogue, diversity and respect for others, and education that fosters religious and cultural diversity.

Twelve deans and presidents of Sharia and Christian Theology Faculties from the Arab world gathered in the KAICIID headquarters in Vienna to discuss how to integrate interreligious dialogue into formal education, with the intention of empowering the preachers and clerics of tomorrow to use dialogue tools in order to deal with controversial issues.

The participating religious educators and scholars structured an initial concept and action plan for the development of a common approach for education for citizenship and pluralism that fosters cultural and religious diversity.



The Civic Engagement Program

The Civic Engagement Program consists of multiple projects that are core to achieving its mission, which is to empower the Palestinian young people as active citizens and future leaders. Among the most important of these projects is the Diyar Civic Cultural Network, the focus of which in 2015 was mainly on youth employability, as this was the issue that its youth members, who number is close to 300 persons, identified as among the most critical concerns and questions that face the Palestinian youth today.

However, there were also challenges faced by the program in 2015, specifically during the last quarter of the year, in that Palestine and its youth experienced

greater violence by the Israeli military and settlers, so much so that it became extremely dangerous for the Palestinian youth to travel across Palestinian cities without risking their lives. Such atmosphere influenced dramatically the Civic Engagement Program's operations, and as a result, some of the planned projects were halted and delayed until early 2016.

Yet despite these challenges, several significant highlights marked the year 2015:

Training Workshops on Employability: Seven-themed training workshops with a total of 28 sessions were carried out in 2015 that were critical



to the participants as they acquired greater self-discovery, understanding and skills in identifying, enhancing and promoting their employability capacities, and analyzing and matching their abilities with the Palestinian labor market needs, and thus working toward increasing their possibilities at personal and professional advancement.

The trainees comprised of 95 participants with 52 females and 43 males. The workshops included topics such as: Discovering Personal and Vocational Affections and Approaches; Developing a Social Enterprise Business Plan; Project Management Skills; Writing Skills of Creative and Successful CVs;

Effective Networking Skills (The Art of Networking, Building and Cultivating Relations); Job Interview and Presentation Skills.

Internships & Community Service: Even though the timing of this activity, which was part of the overall training on employability, coincided with the rising political tensions during the last quarter of 2015 and as such the young people's participation rate was reduced, still 68.42% of the 95 participants interned and committed to community service with at least 20 organizations including NGOs, schools, banks, private businesses, media outlets and so on in different parts of Palestine. This activity was very effective not only in the sense of enhancing the youth's capacities and raising their awareness of the actual labor market and its institutions, practices and current needs but also in networking and finding outlets to further increase their chances of gaining employment, as was the case of two young people who were hired after doing their internships.

Social Enterprises: A special two-day training on how to design, develop and manage revenue-generating

businesses with primarily social aims and objectives was carried out, which motivated the network's members into a stronger, more cohesive and vibrant teamwork as they all engaged in a peer-to-peer learning and collectively collaborated on the content, approach and implementation of this activity. At the end, four different social enterprises emerged from the participants, namely: "Tomorrow's Youth", which is a caravan that travels into the different villages to sell recycled toys and games for children with learning disabilities; "Vitamin", which is a restaurant for healthy food; "In Our Silence A Story", which is a kindergarten for children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing; and "Green Legs", a greenhouse for the production of medicinal plants. The youth hope to develop these ideas further and bring them into reality.



"Min Haqi" Quarterly Online Newsletter:

In 2015, a quarterly online magazine entitled "Min Haqi" (My Right) was introduced, which holds the same name as the 2014 campaign on youth employment. In addition to including news of the Diyar Civic Cultural Network, the newsletter encouraged the young people to contribute with articles, stories, poems, photographs and other types of creative expressions. All in all, 3 issues of the magazine were produced in 2015.



"Min Haqi" Weekly Online Radio Show: A weekly 40-minute online radio show called "Min Haqi" (My Right) was created in 2015. It was prepared and hosted by one of the young women members of the

national network, Ms. Ikhlas Abu Zir, and operated and broadcasted by POWER FM, a group of young people who are also members of the Civic Cultural Network. The show, which commenced in October, focused each week on a specific topic that concerns youth and society at large, with mainly youth guests as speakers. These topics included unemployment, creative resistance, domestic violence, emigration, volunteer-ship, social enterprises, women's role in youth and resistance work, and young people with special needs. In total, there were 10 episodes featured with solid plans to continue throughout 2016.

Community Initiatives: A growth in the young people's commitment and devotion to social issues was witnessed in 2015. Not only did they focus on concerns that are directly related to their situation,



such as employment where they spoke again this year at many schools to students regarding educational and career choices, but also on issues that involve other segments of society, particularly children. For example, the threat of closing an educational facility that serves highly disadvantaged population of young children in Bethlehem due to financial challenges prompted a large number of the youth to donate money and gifts, though they themselves are economically challenged.

Regional Presence: The Diyar Civic Cultural Network enhanced its presence at the regional level in 2015. Four members of the network participated in a conference entitled "United Against Violence in the Name of Religion: Social Media as a Space for Dialogue" in Amman, Jordan from September 11-16, 2015. The conference, which had an attendance of over 120 young people from different parts of the Arab world, was a great opportunity to network with other youth from the region. A follow-up of this conference took place in Rabat, Morocco in December 2015, at which two members participated as well.

Ajyal Elderly Care Program

During 2015, Ajyal Elderly Care program continued to provide quality program for the elderly in the Bethlehem area. Aside from 110 home visits that were conducted to the home-bound seniors, more than 50 activities were carried out throughout the year that included joint meals, health awareness-raising lectures, spiritual gatherings and fellowship, special celebrations, and trips. In addition, the clubs that revolve around special interests such as the book and yoga clubs continued to hold their weekly sessions. Some of these activities were carried out jointly with the Azwaj Young Couples Program, as this is an important exercise to promote greater empathy

and understanding among the different generations of others' issues and challenges.

Few highlights of this program include the following:
Educational/Recreational Trips: In 2015, there were five trips organized for the elderly. These trips are very important, since otherwise the elderly are not able to travel on their own to many of these places or financially afford it. Among these trips was an overnight excursion to Tiberius and Ras Naqoura, as well as a trip to Ramallah where the elderly visited the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish's Museum.



Parish Nurse Group Visit: 25 parish nurses from different countries in the world including the USA, Germany and Australia spent four days of seminar and multiple activities with the Ajyal and Azwaj groups. The seminar topic revolved around grief and how to deal with the loss of a loved one.

Music Therapy Workshop: A full day workshop with two music therapists from Germany was held, during which the elderly learned how to play some musical instruments and engage in light exercises and movement to the sound of music.



Azwaj Program

The main goal of Azwaj program is to create stronger and healthier family relationships by empowering young families to be active in the community and meeting their social, spiritual, educational and recreational needs through offering quality activities including awareness-raising lectures and workshops, cultural events, spiritual and recreational gatherings and fieldtrips.

In 2015, the main highlights of this program were the following:

“How to Build A Community” Conference: a two-day conference entitled “How to Build A Community” was organized in Nazareth with the support of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM). It focused on

introducing the participants to different approaches of how to build and strengthen relationships within the family, community and church.



The Nutrition Lectures: A series of lectures on nutritional meals, especially for children, was given by

an Azwaj member, the nutritionist Ms. Hana' Rabadi. The lectures included both theoretical and practical components, and it was an enjoyable activity as it involved the whole family in preparing the meals.

“Ways of Dealing with Anger” Workshop: A unique workshop was given by Dr. Margaret Griffiths from the USA, a committed friend and supporter of the Azwaj program, where the focus was on anger from the point of view of psychology as well as the Bible and ways to deal with it.



Celebrating Recovery Program

This program is an effective tool for dealing with and healing life's large and small struggles and challenges, which was introduced to Ajjal Intergenerational Program in 2014. After several months of adapting and introducing the concept into the Palestinian context, the year 2015 witnessed a dramatic growth in the number of participants. There were mainly three focus groups, namely seniors, youth and women, with a total number of 92 persons who underwent eight months of hard group work and personal search. This phase was necessary as it provided the opportunity to select few capable candidates to be trainer of trainers for this program in 2016.

Ergosoma Training

A three-year project commenced in 2015 with the first phase consisting of two major workshops carried out by trainers from Germany and Austria, in addition to the weekly training sessions. The aim of the project is to prepare Ergosoma practitioners for the first time in Palestine. The Ergosoma method is a way leading to relaxation, inner balance, harmony and stability of body, mind and soul. Ergosoma supports health protection and health care.



Diyar Academy for Children and Youth

The main highlights of the Diyar Academy for Children and Youth for 2015 were the following:

The Theater and Dance School

Theater and Dance Creative Labs

The theater and dance creative labs aim to expose the Academy's students to the essential elements of theater and dance, including creating a production from the ground up. In 2015, the following productions were made:

"Banat Tech" Creative Lab: "Banat Tech", which means Girls' Technology, is a comedy play that was created

by the drama students. It focused on the interactions of 13 young women through social media reflecting not only their obsession with new technologies but also with the amount of freedom they enjoy on social media but not in real life as a result of living under the Israeli Occupation on the one hand and a patriarchal society on the other.



“Women” Dance Production: “Women” is a hybrid of Dabke Palestinian folkloric dance and western contemporary dance that explores the parallels between the conquest of Palestinian land and Palestinian women’s bodies. Performed by three women dancers from Diyar Dance Theatre, it was choreographed by Ms. Nicole Bindler, a USA-based choreographer and performer. The production was launched in Bethlehem in July 2015 and will be touring the U.S. in July 2017.



“Selfie with Grandma & Grandpa!” Christmas Play 2015: “SelfiewithGrandma&Grandpa!” isa50-minute Christmas theater performance for children, continuing with the characters first introduced few years back. The play was performed at 17 different locations such as schools, churches, community

centers throughout the West Bank, reaching out to thousands of children from different communities.



International Tours and Cultural Exchanges

“Boundless” Dance Exchange: The second phase of the dance exchange “Boundless”, which was started in 2014 between Diyar Dance Theatre and De Loopers group from Germany, took place in Bethlehem in March 2015. Similar to the 2014 exchange that was held in Germany, the 2015 Bethlehem encounter culminated in a joint public performance between the two dance groups. The dance exchange was organized by Lidicehaus Bremen from Germany.



“Forget the Border” Music Theater Exchange: A music theater exchange between Diyar Dance Theatre and Freie Waldorschule Rosenheim from Germany was organized in 2015. The exchange and joint performances focused on the common struggles of children, irrespective of their nationality, religion, color, etc. The exchange started first in Bethlehem in May 2015, followed by a second phase in Munich and Rosenheim, Germany in June 2015.

Success Story

Bethlehem Christmas Parade

Diyar Dance Theatre partnered with Media Plus in the implementation of a unique and a first time Christmas parade in the city of Bethlehem. Our role was to provide the artistic expertise and artists who portrayed the Christmas story through seven floats that are decorated platforms with lights, and towed behind a vehicle like a Jeep. The parade toured the streets of Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour and provided the residents of Bethlehem governorate with the atmosphere of the Christmas season in times of doubt, fear and uncertainty.

The Sport School

“Football for Gender Equality” Event: Diyar Academy for Children and Youth and the Right To Play organization held a full day athletic event to promote gender equality through football (soccer) as a core principle that must be ensured in all programming

and activities. The event was organized at the Dar al Kalima Sports Hall in Bethlehem in November 2015, with six mixed teams of boys and girls from the Bethlehem governorate participating in this unique initiative.

Sports Camps for Girls: Two successful sports camps for girls were carried out in June and August, 2015. The two-week camps, which focused not only on athletic training but also on enhancing the young girls' leadership skills, had a total of 150 registrants, surpassing the targeted 120 participants and thus



demonstrating the success of these camps and the good reputation acquired from past experiences. The ages of the participating girls ranged between 7 to 16 years old, who represented diverse socio-economic and geographical backgrounds.



Discover Football Lebanon Tournament: Diyar soccer team participated in the International Women's Football and Cultural Festival, organized by Discover Football Germany and the Girls Football Academy of Lebanon, which took place from July 26 to August 1, 2015 in Lebanon. The festival allowed active exchange and networking between players from various countries, as it included teams from Palestine, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt and Jordan.



The Art School

Children's Book Writing Workshop: During 2015, Diyar Academy for Children and Youth carried out a unique children's book writing workshop for 19 children between the ages of 10 to 16 years old from the Bethlehem governorate, particularly from marginalized communities including villages, refugee camps and area C, that contributed to empowering these young children to learn how to turn their personal narratives through illustration, with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights being the framework, into story books. Publication of the best illustrated stories so that other children can read, become exposed to these critical issues and be inspired to follow suit will be carried out in 2016.

Success Story

Diyar Sports Week

Diyar Academy for Children and Youth hosted for the first time in Palestine a sports week for girls and women athletes in soccer, volleyball, swimming and handball. It was organized with the national sports federations so as to reach out to as many athletes as possible in the different localities in the West Bank. As a result, 30 teams with a total of almost 400 participants, ages 12 to 30 years old, participated in this unique activity. The sports week aimed at promoting gender equality as an integral element in sports and achieving acceptance for women and girls who play sports as they fight against discrimination on all levels.

Culture Program

Even though the last quarter of the year witnessed a grave worsening in the political conditions in Palestine, which resulted in the cancellation of some of the scheduled events, still the year 2015 was an exceptional year because it marked significant milestones not only for the Culture Program but also for Diyar at large. The milestones were the following:

Twenty Years of Diyar: Investing in Future and Hope

Formerly known as the International Center of Bethlehem (Dar Annadwa), Diyar celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2015 under the theme "Investing in Future and Hope". The meaningful occasion presented an opportunity to reflect on Diyar's progress and impact during the last twenty years, especially with regards to its contribution toward advancing arts and culture in Palestine, and also on future steps to take



to continue to empower the Palestinian community with hope and resilience.

The 20th year celebrations included carrying out a year-long calendar of cultural events, so that at least 70 diverse and quality cultural events were held that included festivals, theatre plays, musical concerts, film screenings, workshops and conferences, book launchings and art exhibitions. The celebrations were marked with a special finale featuring the Palestinian celebrity Hani Mitwasi.

Ten Years of Dandanat Music & Dance Festival

The year 2015 also marked the 10th anniversary of the Dandanat Music & Dance Festival, which is a yearly festival in cooperation between Diyar and BILDA (The Swedish Study Association). This festival is designed to bring young Palestinian and Swedish music and dance groups together, whose style range from hip hop to hard rock to pop. The Dandanat festival was held for three days in Bethlehem, Palestine.



The 2015 External Review and Evaluation of Addar Cultural and Conference Center

An external evaluation of the first ten years of the founding of Addar Cultural and Conference Center (2003-2013), where the majority of Diyar's cultural events are held, was commissioned to review the progress and assess the impact of the establishing of such an undertaking in achieving its stated objectives, mainly in terms of its relevance to the target group, i.e. the local community with its different segments but also local and international artists and audience groups and the effectiveness of meeting their needs.

Efficiency in the operations, sustainability, relevance and growth were also the focus of the evaluation.

Findings of this external review were extremely positive, attesting to the high quality and standards of Diyar and its different programs. In one section of the report, the reviewer comments "Despite the limited technical and human resources capacity of the Palestinian Ministry of Culture, especially of its office in Bethlehem, ADDAR coordinated well its activities with the Ministry and is still highly regarded by them as the most professional cultural entity in the Southern part of the West Bank. This review - that covered 10 years (2003-2013) - found that ADDAR was the main provider for cultural events in Bethlehem, no competition was detected during that period even with the other cultural centers that used to get four times financial subsidies more than ADDAR but from other donors, the efficiency was obvious."



The Celebrity Hani Mitwasi celebrating the 20 years of Diyar at Addar Hall.

Authentic Tourism Program

Authentic Tourism Groups:

The year 2015 witnessed another drop in the number of visiting groups when compared to 2014 due to the deterioration of the political situation, especially during the last few months of the year. A total of 332 persons from the USA, Germany, Sweden and Finland visited through the Authentic Tourism Program, the majority of whom were from the USA.

Studiosus Groups from Germany:

The dramatic drop in international visitors and tourists to Bethlehem and Palestine can be clearly demonstrated when looking at the Studiosus groups from Germany. These are special groups who come

for the day to Bethlehem and Diyar, to learn more about the work and current issues. The chart below shows comparison between the number of persons who visited Diyar in 2014 and 2015:



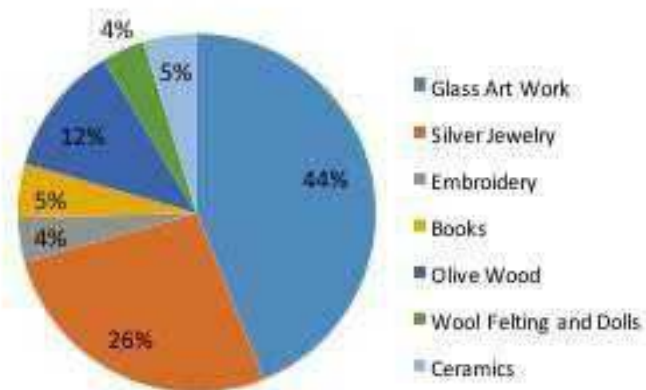
2014 Studiosus			2015 Studiosus		
Month	# Pax	Lunch	Month	# Pax	Lunch
January	0	0	January	0	0
February	29	29	February	0	0
March	141	141	March	29	25
April	145	145	April	83	80
May	116	116	May	44	40
June	87	87	June	25	20
July	0	0	July	0	0
August	0	0	August	0	0
September	0	0	September	29	18
October	87	74	October	47	40
November	116	116	November	58	54
December	29	29	December	0	0
Total	750	737	Total	315	277

Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture and Diyar received a total of 933 visitors throughout different pilgrimage tours from different countries as follows:

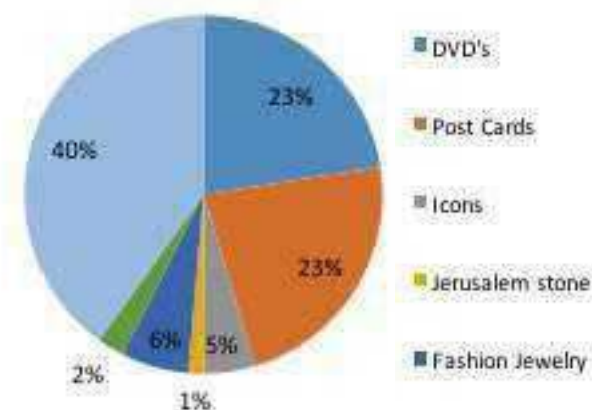
United States : 597 guests, **United Kingdom**: 9 guests, **Germany** : 137 guests, **China**: 43 guests, **Finland**: 24 guests, **Sweden** : 46 guests, **Italy** 13 guests, **Denmark** 31 guests, **Austria** 20 guests, **Australia** 31 guests

Gift Shop Sales for 2015

Best Sales



Other Sales

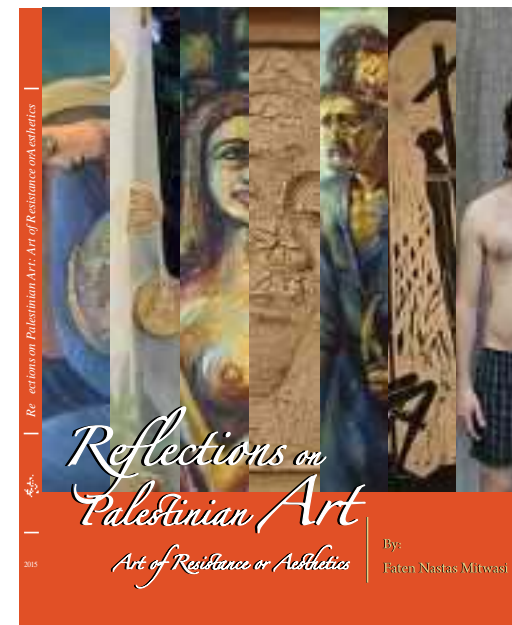
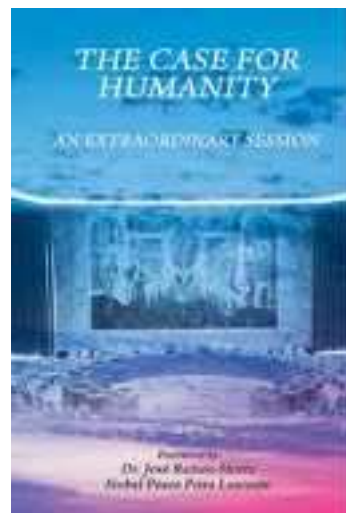
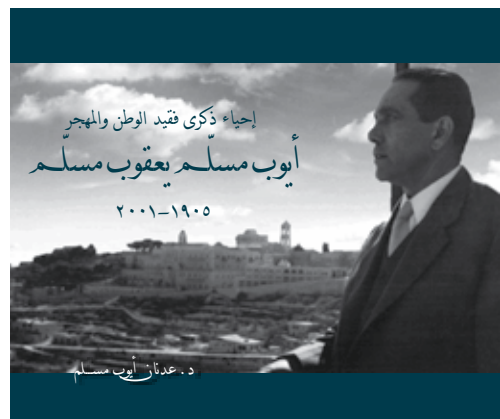


Facts and Highlights:
 12000 Items were sold at the Gift Shop in 2015, among which are:
 2250 olive wood pieces, 6400 recycled glass art pieces and 960 silver jewelry.

Best Sellers:

- Books: Faith in the Face of Empire
- Ceramics: Spoon rest with olive designs, cup ceramic coaster with wooden frame
- Felted lamb wool: Small Nativity and Shepherds' Field set
- Stoles: Variety of colors and designs
- Recycled glass items: The Dancing Angel, The Glass Eye Drop and the Peace Dove
- Olive Wood: Christmas tree Ornaments with Acrylic Paint (different designs and colors)
- Silver Jewelry: Twin Olive Leaf Pendant, Olive Leaves Ring and the Silver Cross with the Chain.

Diyar Publisher



Media Coverage 2015

In 2015, there was extensive media coverage on Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts & Culture and Diyar, with two main events receiving wide attention, namely the Ismail Shammout award ceremony and the opening of the "Palestinian Diaspora" conference. The main achievements of the media department in 2015 are as follows, divided into 7 sections:

News Reports: There were 106 news reports; 60 reports on the different departments of the Dar al-Kalima University College and 46 reports on the programs of Diyar.

Written and Print Media: Al-Quds, Al-Ayyam, Al-Hayat and Al-Arab newspapers reported 171 times on Dar al-Kalima University College and Diyar. Also, both Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam newspapers and Palestine

Youth Magazine posted about 26 promotions. In addition, approximately 12,166 advertising materials were printed including flyers, billboards, medals, T-shirts, business cards and the annual calendar.

Audio Media: About 1665 advertisements were promoted on many radio stations including: Radio Bethlehem 2000, Radio Baladna, Radio Mawwal, Radio Orient and Radio Marah. Besides, there were 71 interviews carried out on: Ajyal Radio Network, Radio Bethlehem 2000, Radio Baladna, Radio Mawwal, Radio Orient, Radio Marah, Radio Nisa FM, Radio Voice of Palestine and Radio Hala. Also, there were 3 live broadcasting on the activities of the Dar al-Kalima University College and Diyar on Radio Baladna, and Dar al-Kalima University College sponsored one program on Radio Baladna.

Visual and Audio Media: About 117 advertisements were promoted on Maan TV, in addition to 8 interviews broadcasted on different satellite channels such as General Authority for Radio and Television (Palestine TV, Maan TV and Pal Today TV). Also, there were 45 news reports broadcasted on the following channels: General Authority for Radio and Television (Palestine TV and Maan TV), Al-Mayadeen TV, Christian Media Center, Al-Quds TV, the Italian TV and Al-Hurra TV.

Moreover, there were about 7 live broadcasting on the activities of Dar al-Kalima University College and Diyar on the following TVs: Al-Jazeera, General Authority for Radio and Television (Palestine TV and Maan TV). In addition, Maan TV sponsored the Diyar Sports Week by broadcasting advertisements, conducting interviews and reporting in the news.

Multimedia Coverage: About 809 reports were published on the different news agencies and media websites such as: Palestinian News & Info Agency (WAFA), Maan News Agency, Radio Bethlehem 2000, Radio Baladna, Radio Mawwal, Al-Quds Newspaper website, Raya Network, Palestine News Network

(PNN), Panet website, Al-Hayat Newspaper website, *Al-Watan Voice* website, Pal 24 website, Radio Orient, Radio Nagham, *Al-Hourriah* Magazine website, Zaman News Press Agency, *Shfa News*, R4fm Radio, Bethlehem TV, Asdaa News website, Pal Today Agency, Bethlehem Network News, Al-Fajer TV, Palestine TV website, Radio Voice of Palestine website and other agencies and websites. In addition, all coverage was published on Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts & Culture and Diyar websites as well as their official Facebook pages.

School Visits: Many schools visited the University College to raise awareness among their students about its work and unique specializations. Approximately 1033 students visited from different schools including: Talitha Kumi School, 'Uja Secondary School for Girls, Masqat School for Girls, St. Afram School, Schmidt School, Khader Secondary School for Girls, Ta'amreh Secondary School for Girls and Malek Khaled Primary School. Also, the University College participated in the first academic fair of the Palestinian Higher Education Institutions.

Archives: All material including pictures and news reports has been archived and preserved in the media department.



Construction Projects

The Dar Al-Kalima Indoor Sports Hall Changing Rooms Facilities

Funded by: The United Nations Ofce on Sport for Development and Peace

The Dar al-Kalima Indoor Sports Hall's changing rooms were inaugurated with a special opening ceremony in November, 2015 with the presence of Mr. Wilfried Lemke, the special advisor of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace in Geneva, Switzerland.

This extension, which was constructed based on the worldwide recommended standards for safety and health as a sports facility, is fully functional in terms

of providing a hygienic atmosphere before and after training and participating in games for the Dar al-Kalima University College/Diyar and visiting teams and athletes.



The building is comprised of main entrance and a small corridor to reach the stairs; equipment storage for the sportshall equipment and accessories; women and men changing rooms with showers, WC units and sinks. Each changing room unit comprises of 3 WC, 3 showers, 3 sinks, a changing area and lockers; WC Unit for special needs and a small cleaner's storage space.

The Visual & Performing Arts' Fifth Floor Finishing and Furnishing

The final construction stage of the Visual & Performing Arts' fifth floor was completed in 2015. The fifth floor is equipped with:

- 5 office rooms for the faculty
- A meeting room
- 7 editing rooms with international standard of equipment
- 3 lecture rooms with a capacity of 40 students in each room

- A large open space multi-task art workshop for the use of the student projects
- Fully insulated studio and control rooms
- Toilets facilities, janitor's closet and special needs' toilet area.
- VRV A/C system

Installation of Solar Photovoltaic System for Dar al-Kalima University College



Dar Al Kalima University College installed a solar system with a capacity of 47 KWp funded by numerous German donors through our friendship

association in Germany and is functional since September 2015. The system is supposed to reduce the consumed electricity at the Dar al-Kalima University College up to 40 % of the annual consumption, besides its clean effect on the environment. The installation of the solar parts, which were imported from Germany, was made by Green Palestine team under the supervision of the German team from Heinrich-Hertz-Schule in Karlsruhe, Germany.



Special Thanks to... Our friends, supporters and donors who believe in what we do, and to those who contributed directly or indirectly to our ministries.

- Ageh Arbeitsgemeinschaft F. Entwick
- Bank Of Palestine
- Betlehem Venner Denmark
- Bilda
- Bread For The World - Protestant Development Servi
- Bright Stars Of Bethlehem
- British Consulate-General
- Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- Church Of Scotland
- Church Of Sweden
- Consolidated Contractors Group S.a. - Ccc
- Dar Al-Kalima Foederverein
- Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
- Diakonie Austria
- Dvv International
- Finish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (Felm)
- Foundation Bible & Orient Switzerland
- Fpse International Solidarity Fund
- Healing The Living Stones
- Holyland Christians Society Inc
- Icco - Interchurch Org. For Development Co-Op.
- Italian Geographical Society
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- Quality Improvement Fund (Qif) - Mohe
- Representative Office Of Finland In Ramallah
- Sternenstaub Foundation
- The Synergos Institute Inc
- United Nations Office On Sport For Development And Peace
- United Palestinian Appeal, Inc
- Zahi And Amal Khouri

Diyar Consortium