



1for3 News

* Water * Health * Education *

* الماء * الصحة * التعليم *

December 2019



Reporting Back on Summer Workshops

In the fall, Boston-based members of the 1for3 team presented on their summer work at Lajee. Here are some of the highlights!

@Nidal Al-Azraq: Israel makes a lot of money out of Palestinians' need for water, medical care, and even sewage—and Israel prohibits Palestinian development of infrastructure and health care facilities. Our projects help to create some small measures of independence.

@Andrew Kurban: Our programs are tools for Palestinians to wage love and combat political oppression.

On the Community Health Worker (CHW) Program...

@Nidal Al-Azraq: The CHW program builds trust in health care given that that trust has been broken in so many ways.

@Andrew Kurban: Many doctors in the Palestinian health care system are overloaded with patients. The CHW program makes it possible to treat each person with dignity and respect. This helps ease the toll of diabetes.

On A Summer Workshop Planning for the Preschool Project

@Hubert Murray: Dawn to dusk workshops planning the preschool offered time for participants to think about how they imagine their society will be in the next generation.

@Katherine Hanna: We want our school to have a loving, inclusive, respectful environment, including for children with special needs.

@Katherine Hanna: Why build a preschool, given the relentless challenges of occupation? It gives Palestinians in Aida a way to build a new society with and for their youngest members.

@Hubert Murray: Just like the CHW program is about neighbors helping neighbors, we want to build this preschool in a way that strengthens the community. Aida has so many skilled electricians, plasterers, & plumbers. You can see this from how people build their own homes. But many are unemployed or underemployed. As we build the preschool, we'll be committed to maximizing employment of people from Aida.



On Summer Research on Expanding Work in Al-Walaja

@Fatimah Shaikh: In Al-Walaja village, there is an old water network with a high (39%) rate of leakage. Household water treatment units are a way for families to gain independence from the Israeli water and sewage systems, and for them to save money in the long term.



A December campaign led by 1for3's and Lajee Center's Community Health Unit encouraged people to "Protect Your Family" from unhealthy foods that cause diabetes. Patients and Community Health Workers participated in this community outreach in Bethlehem.

This winter, 1for3 appreciates any support you can provide to our programs for water, health, and education! You can donate at 1for3.org.

Voices of 1for3: Salah Ajarma, Co-Founder of Lajee Center

You helped to establish Lajee Center just about 20 years ago! Can you tell us about one important change you've seen at Lajee over the last 2 decades?

One of the biggest changes is the increase of girls' & women's participation. I remember when we opened, we had just two young women working with us and a low level of participation of girls in our programs. Now, the majority of our programs are run by women, and many, many girls take part in every unit.

What is something you are proud of in Lajee's work in recent years?

I am really proud to see that some of the youth who grew up in Lajee are running Lajee today. One of them is Amani As'ad who started as a young child in the dance troupe, and now she has become the head of the board at Lajee. Mohammad Al-Azza (Musa) is another great example. He learned about photography at Lajee, and now he has taught a new generation his skills in photography and video production.

How has being a father changed how you view Lajee Center's mission?

When I joined the team to establish Lajee Center, I hoped I would see my kids being nurtured (and having fun) in a safe and progressive place where they could get their cultural and political education without anyone manipulating their minds and telling them what to say and do. Sure enough, my children are here learning and having fun at Lajee, and now my oldest is representing Palestinians around the world as an oud player.

How has the collaboration with 1for3 given you a new perspective on building a strong and healthy community?

Our collaboration has given Lajee security and stability, especially in these difficult times that our people are experiencing. It has given us a new dimension to our work, on health and the environment—rights that are crucial for Palestinians.

How would you like to see Lajee Center grow in the next year?

I want to see Lajee achieving one of its biggest dreams, that is the establishment of the preschool. It is a dream of every parent in the camp to have a spacious, safe, clean preschool to send their children to in those crucial early years. We will be delighted to welcome some of Aida's youngest to Lajee for an enriching preschool experience that is in tune with our other activities.



***This Week in Palestine* features an oral history of water activism in Boston!**

This summer, a newcomer to Boston, Marshall Hanig, worked with 1for3 board member Amahl Bishara to conduct an oral history of activism in Boston at the intersection of environmentalism and justice for Palestine. The project became a broadcast for "This Week in Palestine." Listen [online](#) to learn more about the family histories of some of Boston's activist leaders and for their views on why thinking about the environment and Palestine together is an important path forward toward justice. *Image, top: Salah Ajarma and Lajee Youth. Left: Art created in a recent 1for3 reception.*

