



1for3 News

* Water * Health * Education *

* الماء * الصحة * التعليم *

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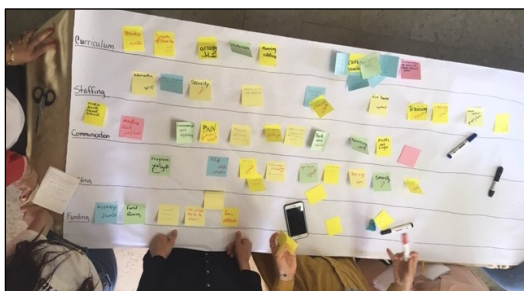


Environment, Health, & Education Come Together for Aida’s Youngest: Planning a Preschool

In late July, while teachers around the world were beginning to make their “Back to School” plans, a multitalented group from the US and Aida Camp did intensive planning for a long dreamed of preschool to be established at Lajee Center. From the US, two teachers and an architect joined 1for3 leaders to meet with a team of five community leaders from Aida Camp for an eight-day retreat addressing all aspects of the school. The five Aida community members will lead the planning of the preschool and will also be among its long-term staff. Razan Awais, a team member from Aida, commented on her experience, “I’ve learned how to be a patient person in order to create a creative generation that is full of thinking, energy, and intelligence.” She continued, “This project is very important to me because our refugee camp lacks a kindergarten, and this can improve our children in many aspects of life. We have to change [some elements of] our traditional way of teaching, and this will affect our children’s behaviors and actions in the future.”



The space for the preschool. Photo: Lajee Center.



Brainstorming together. Photo: Lajee Center.

The group examined the existing space, met with parents from Aida, received advice from educators from Bethlehem University, and talked to principals as they visited local preschools. They discussed how they would incorporate elements of all of Lajee Center’s programming for older children into the preschool, including from the library, the media unit, the health unit, the environment unit, and the music institute. The team continues to work on grant writing, architectural plans, and the curriculum. The preschool would serve approximately 50 children and employ about 12 people.

1for3 Leader Studies at Harvard

In July, Nashat Jawabreh of the Community Health Worker Program came from Palestine to the US for the first time to complete a certificate program at Harvard Medical School. The Global Health Delivery Intensive Program is a joint effort between Harvard School of Public Health and Harvard Medical School. The Harvard Center for Global Health Delivery - Dubai generously offered Jawabreh a full scholarship for this program. The Harvard GHD Program was a perfect fit for Nashat, as it is specifically designed for global health practitioners actively working to improve the health of their communities.

Welcoming your Involvement and Support!



Flavors of the season. Photo: Fatimah Shaikh. Thank you!

Put us on your fridge! *1for3 thrives on the energies & wisdom of two resourceful communities, in Palestine & in the US. Please consider supporting our work with a donation at 1for3.org. Or share this newsletter with friends! To get more involved, email our Executive Director at nidal.alazraq@1for3.org.*

Needs Assessment Completed in Al-Walaja Village

This summer, Fatimah Shaikh, a graduate student at the Fletcher School at Tufts University, conducted an assessment of how 1for3 might continue work in Al-Walaja, a village that has seen waves of Israeli appropriation of land and displacement of residents. Interviews focused on the status of water and sewage with the aim of developing programs utilizing in-home water treatment units designed by the Palestinian organization ARIJ. These small units dramatically



Caring for an ancient olive tree. Photo: Fatimah Shaikh.

decrease the cost of using septic tanks. They generate fertilizer and water for agricultural use out of household wastewater. Explained Shaikh, “Such units...serve as a means to resist Israeli colonial practices by giving villagers control over their water usage and sources.” This is a small measure of dignity in crisis. As one interviewee from Al-Walaja remarked, “We like to live as other countries live, in cleanliness and safety. But no one is able to guarantee us that. In regard to water and sewage, Israel has its hands on all of it...We are an occupied nation.”

Shaikh also reflected on the process of working in Palestine and with Lajee youth. “My experience conducting interviews in Al-Walaja was extremely rewarding. First...the interviews with farmers, families, and service providers moved my thinking from the macro geopolitical situation to the micro daily life experiences of Palestinians. Second, because of the language barrier I had the privilege of working with young adults from Aida Camp. This aspect of the experience gave me the chance to see the immense capacity and passion Palestinians, particularly the younger generation, have in advocating and working for the advancement of the larger community.”

Voices of 1for3: Gina Kurban, Co-Founder and Board Member

How did you decide to bring 1for3’s work to Palestine?

After completing other international water projects, 1for3 was looking for something new. We happened to see the short film, Everyday Nakba, at the Boston Palestine Film Festival in fall 2012, and we immediately wanted to learn more about Aida Camp and its water issues. Meeting Nidal (and Amahl) at the festival quickly helped turn our ideas into a reality. We had a shared vision and began working together immediately.

What is one powerful thing you remember about your first trip to Aida Camp? *I really didn’t have a clear understanding of how Palestinians in the West Bank lived. I’m not sure what I expected, but the people I met were incredibly proud and hospitable. On our last day, after a delicious homemade lunch prepared by one of the mothers in the camp, it was time for us to go to Jerusalem. We had been taken care of all week by a wonderful group of men who volunteered at Lajee Center. They followed behind our van in their own car. We reached a kind of*

roundabout where the van stopped. The guys got out in the pouring rain and knocked on our windows and waved. It was then I realized we were at a checkpoint. They were turning around to go back to the camp and we were the only ones free to leave and go to Jerusalem.

What are you most looking forward to about the next year with 1for3? *Our programs are truly changing lives. That has been such a gift to witness. After several years of continuing success in our environmental projects, it’s inspiring to see our new Community Health Worker (CHW) program follow in terms of growth and impact. I truly believe this model is the future of healthcare. The preschool is another exciting addition that is greatly needed and will certainly have a profound impact. The Environment Unit focuses on the youth, and the gardens built benefitted all generations. The CHWs focus mainly on the elderly, and the preschool will be helping the little ones and their parents—so I feel both proud and humbled that our programs are able to reach everyone in various ways. I look forward to all of these programs growing.*