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Letter from PCRF Chairman & President

other year has passed, and the humanitarian crisis facing Arab children in the Middle East has worsened considerably. While thousands of innocent children in Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq have been killed and injured over the past several months, there is no end is sight to the circumstances that are putting these poor kids in harm's way. 15 years ago, in 1991, we founded The Palestine Children's Relief Fund to arrange free medical care for sick and injured Arab children who could not be adequately treated in their homeland. Since then, we have sent over 700 children to North America, Europe and parts of the Middle East for free care, including over 30 injured and sick children in 2006. That includes Adham Ghalia, 11, a survivor a massacre in Gaza last June, when his whole family was killed while picnicking on the beach. We managed to arrange for him complex neurosurgery in New Jersey. Another child we brought was 11-year-old Mutussam Abu Karsh from Gaza, who lost his leg and hand from an Israeli shell and had orthopedic surgery in Los Angeles. Both innocent victims have a new chance at life.

Their stories, as well as many others, are included in this annual report.

Over the past 10 years, we have been organizing, funding and running volunteer medical missions to Palestine and the refugee camps in Lebanon and Syria to provide free medical care for sick and injured patients, as well as training for local physicians. In 2006, we sent over two dozen missions to the region, providing free care for hundreds of patients in need of surgery not available to them locally. In the Spring of 2006, the US government imposed a ban preventing charities like the PCRF from having any contact with the Palestinian Authority. We immediately applied for a license to continue to send missions into PA hospitals, where children in Palestine are treated for free. In May, we received a license and continued to send volunteer medical missions to Ministry of Health hospitals in Palestine. Hundreds of patients got much-needed medical care as a result. We have no political or financial ties with any government or non-governmental organizations or persons in the Middle East, including the PA.



In addition to providing free surgery for children in need, we also provide other forms of humanitarian aid for children in the Middle East. This includes sponsoring summer camps for disabled kids, a child sponsorship program for disabled youths whose families are too poor to provide them the medicine or supplies they need, free powder milk for malnourished children, a women empowerment program for single mothers in Lebanon's refugee camps, and wheelchair distributions for disabled people. We also initiated a project to identify and provide every poor child in need of eyeglasses in Palestine and Lebanon's camps free prescription eye wear so to improve their educational experience.

Our greatest achievement in 2006 was the creation and establishment of the first and only pediatric cardiac intensive care unit (ICU) in Palestine at Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem. This is part of our ongoing project to create an independent pediatric cardiac surgery program where Palestinian babies born with heart disease will have surgery by Palestinian doctors in a Palestinian hospital without having to suffer and die due to the lack of treatment, or travel to another country for treatment. In 2006, over 100 Palestinian children had life-saving open-heart surgery through the PCRF missions to Makassed Hospital.

2007 promises to be another year of challenge and responsibility for those concerned about the humanitarian crisis facing children in the Middle East. We are committed to continuing our efforts to identify every sick and injured child in Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq who needs specialized surgery that they cannot get locally, and provide them that care for free. To do that, we need your help and support.

We are a grassroots non-political, non-profit organization that helps children based on their need, not on their religion, race, nationality, ethnicity, gender or creed. Our goal is to do something positive for the innocent victims of war, poverty and occupation in the Middle East. By helping provide medical for children in need and building programs on the ground that provide a long-term solution to deficiencies in the health care system, we are able to show those in need that we care about them and their children. Our hardworking volunteer doctors, nurses, host families, chapter members and employees have come together to show what can be done to help alleviate the suffering of innocent victims of war and occupation in a positive way.

We thank the PCRF volunteers and generous donors for making 2006 our most successful year ever. Please help us again respond to the humanitarian crisis facing Arab children in the Middle East in 2007, so we can save lives and heal wounds of poor and innocent children.

Yours Truly,

Dr. Musa Nasir

Chairman of the Board

President & CEO

Letter from President Jimmy Carter

As president, I worked to broker a peaceful settlement between Arabs and Jews in the Middle East. Despite the progress made during my tenure in office, the crisis in the region has grown progressively worse. This is especially true in the Palestinian territories, where poverty and hardship has produced a level of anger and frustration that threatens to undermine the prospects for a lasting peace in the Holy Land. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, nearly two million Palestinian children currently live under the difficult constraints of Israeli occupation, where access to adequate healthcare and quality education has become increasingly difficult. As concerned humanitarians, we must act immediately to address this crisis and work to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian children in the Middle East.

The Palestine Children's Relief Fund is a non-profit organization with over 15 years of experience in providing free, specialized, surgical care for sick and injured children in the Middle East who cannot find the treatment they need locally. Over the years, thousands of needy Palestinian, Lebanese, Iraqi, and Syrian children have had medical care and other urgent aid through the work of the PCRF.

I would like to encourage friends who are interested in helping heal the wounds of war and occupation in the Middle East to support the humanitarian work of the Palestine Children's Relief Fund. They have a proven track record of providing life saving, non-political aid in an area where children are suffering and in great need.





Children Treated Abroad in 2006

Children Treated in the Middle East



Children Treated in USA:

Mutussam Abu Karsh

In the fall, 9-year-old Musussam Abu Karsh from the northern Gaza Strip had several operations on his leg and hand after being injured by an Israeli artillery shell in December, 2005. He lost his leg and part of his hand and was treated at the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Los Angeles, CA.





Adham Ghalia

In November, 2006 11-year-old Adham Gahlia, who was injured by an IDF shell on a Gaza beach in June, where most of his family was killed, had neurosurgery at Monmouth Hospital in New Jersey by Dr. Andrew Elkwood.

