

# ANNUAL REPORT



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4 A Message of Thanks

**Board of Directors** 





**PCRF Staff** 

8 The PCRF **Chapters** 

10 Our **Partners** and **Volunteers** 

12 Volunteer Medical **Missions** 



**16 Covid-19 Humanitarian RESPONSE** 





20 **Children Treated Abroad** 





22 **Humanitarian Projects** 

24 **Humanitarian Programs** 

28 **Gaza Amputee Project** 



30 Huda Al Masri Department





32 Dr. Musa and Suhaila Nasir **Department** 

34 New **Projects** 

36 **Large Infrastructure Projects** 



Dear Friends.

2020 was one of the most challenging years in recent memory, not only in the Middle East, where PCRF's main mission is focused but also on a global scale, where health systems and economies suffered greatly.

In March, when the COVID-19 virus erupted in Palestine, we postponed bringing in international volunteer medical missions and halted sending injured kids abroad for free care - two of our core programs and focused further on urgent humanitarian relief for at-risk communities. We also initiated support for the MOH and other public health authorities on the ground to help contain the spread of the virus. Over the course of the year, tens of thousands of poor and needy people received direct aid, medical supplies, relief materials, and benefitted from our direct support to hospitals and health care providers to help avoid or treat the COVID-19 virus.

While much of the world was under guarantine and practicing different forms or degrees of guarantine, we continued the building of a new pediatric intensive care unit and pediatric cardiology department in the Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah, West Bank. We also continued to support our two pediatric cancer departments - the Huda Al Masri Pediatric Cancer Department in Bethlehem, and the Dr. Musa

and Suhaila Nasir Pediatric Cancer Department in Gaza, where hundreds of children have received free, life-saving care since we opened them both.

While we were not able to hold many of our chapter gala events in 2020, our global community of volunteers and supporters did help us to continue to fund our humanitarian work through virtual events, activities, and gatherings. We thank you for your continued hard work and support.

2021 promises to be a year of more challenges. While a new vaccine has entered the market, when it will reach the most vulnerable populations in the Middle East, who we are dedicated to serving, remains unclear. Our plan is to continue our humanitarian work both in responding to the urgent needs brought on by the conditions in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and Jordan's camps, as well as to continue to expand and grow on large infrastructure projects to help develop a self-sufficient and efficient public health system.

Thank you for making PCRF one of the most impactful nonprofits in the Middle East, with nine-straight fourstar ratings from Charity Navigator, as well as the ongoing trust and respect from our supporters all over the world. We wish you a safe and healthy 2021.

Steve Sosebren



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March 1, 2020

Steve Sosebee Palestine Children's Relief Fund P.O. Box 1926 Kent. OH 44240

Dear Steve Sosebee:

On behalf of Charity Navigator, I wish to congratulate Palestine Children's Relief Fund on attaining the coveted 4-star rating for demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

The nonprofit sector is advancing and expanding. As our organizations evolve, so do the desires and interests of our supporters. Astute donors are yearning for greater accountability, transparency, and for concrete results from us. With more than 1.5 million American charities, Charity Navigator aims to accentuate the work of efficient and transparent organizations. The intent of our work is to provide donors with essential information to give them greater confidence in both the charitable decisions that they make and the nonprofit sector.

Based on the most recent information available, we have issued a new rating for your organization. We are proud to announce Palestine Children's Relief Fund has earned our ninth consecutive 4-star rating. This is our highest possible rating and indicates that your organization adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way. Attaining a 4-star rating verifies that Palestine Children's Relief Fund exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in your area of work. Only 3% of the charities we evaluate have received at least 9 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Palestine Children's Relief Fund outperforms most other charities in America. This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator sets Palestine Children's Relief Fund apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness.

Forbes, Business Week, and Kiplinger's Financial Magazine, among others, have profiled and celebrated our unique method of applying data-driven analysis to the charitable sector. We evaluate ten times more charities than our nearest competitor and currently attract more visitors to our website than all other charity rating groups combined, thus making us the leading charity evaluator in America. Our data shows that users of our site donated more than they planned to before viewing our findings, and in fact, it is estimated that last year Charity Navigator influenced approximately \$10 billion in charitable gifts

Your achievement and the 4-star rating will enhance your organization's fundraising and public relations efforts. Our favorable review of Palestine Children's Relief Fund's financial health and commitment to accountability & transparency is now visible on our website.

We wish you continued success in your charitable endeavors.

Sincerely,

Michael Thatcher President and CEO

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Sarah Alrayyes **Dunia Saed** Martina Luisi Amanda Pudloski

Chanters Coordinator **Patient Affairs Coordinator** Italian Coordinator Admin/ Office Manager

Hehron Social Worker

Transporter and Cleaner

Lina Agrabawi Admin, Accounting, and **Procurement Specialist** Tarek Hlaihel Admin. Accounting, and **Procurement Specialist** Ekhlas Hussein **Program Coordinator** Aref laber **Program Coordinator** Mahmoud Al Haii **Program Coordinator** Mohammad Al Haii **Program Coordinator** 

Field Worker

Wael Moussa

Subail Flaifl Nima Ashour Mohammad Afana **Khaled Naiiar** Asma Noman Fadi Talouli Mahmoud Abu Khdair Abdelazeez Noman Islam Hijazi Somod Halaweh Heha Kareem Reem Matar Mohammad Ahu Ghali Arwa El Farra Faten Kanoun Narmeen Al Haii

Omran Shondoghli

Gaza Area Manager **Cancer Department Program Manager** South Gaza Area Coordinator Central Gaza Area Coordinator North Gaza Area Coordinator **Procurement Officer** Field Officer Media Officer **Medical Missions Assistant Medical Missions Assistant** North Gaza Social Worker

Central Gaza Social Worker South Gaza Social Worker South Gaza Field Worker Cancer Department Social Worker **Cancer Department** Social Worker Transporter and Cleaner



## PCRF CHAPTERS

Our volunteer network of chapters is the core foundation of the PCRF's success and structure. They take care of the children we send for treatment abroad and hold fundraising activities and events to help us achieve our humanitarian programs and projects in the Middle East. Our dozens of chapters worldwide were impacted significantly by the COVID pandemic in 2020, canceling and postponing several benefit dinners and other events. However, thanks to their continued dedication to the PCRF mission, we held a few events before the guarantine and several virtual fundraising events during the year. These events were:





#### **North America**

- Alabama
- Atlanta
- **Boston**
- Charlotte
- Chicago
- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Columbus
- Dallas
- DC-Metro
- Delaware

- Detroit
- Harrisburg
- Houston
- New Jersey
- New York City
- Philadelphia
- **Portland**
- Raleigh
- San Francisco-Bay Area
- Southern California
- Tampa
- **Washington State**

#### Europe

Italy

#### **Middle East**

- Jordan
- Qatar

#### The PCRF Student Clubs

- Kent State University
- Ohio State University
- **Rutgers University**
- · The University of Illinois at Chicago

#### **CHAPTER EVENTS IN 2020**

Chapter	Name of Event	Benefitting Project/Initiative
Chicago	Chicago Ladies' Sob7iyyeh	Huda Al Masri Cancer Department
Cleveland	Ladies' Night Out	Al Baqa'a Primary Health Clinic
Atlanta	7th Trivia Night	General Fund
Detroit	Gaza Orphan Sponsorship Fundraiser	Gaza Orphans Sponsorship
New Jersey	May's Gift Networking Event	General Fund
Charlotte	6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Bowling Event	General Fund
Chicago	12 <sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Dinner	Alia Hospital ER
Columbus	Online Silent Auction	General Fund
New Jersey	Virtual Benefit	Dental Clinic Jordan
Delaware	2020 Virtual Fundraising Campaign	Thalasemia & Sickle Cell Project- Lebanon
Charlotte	Virtual Benefit	Diabetic children in Southern Gaza; Inclusive Special Education in Talfeet Village Improving Primary Healthcare in Jericho & Jordan Valley (annexation areas).
Atlanta	8 <sup>th</sup> Annual 5K	Make a Wish Program Fund
Dallas	Virtual Shirt Fundraiser	General Fund
Tampa	Virtual Fundraising Campaign	Safad Hospital - Al Beddawi Camp (Lebanon)
New York	Virtual Benefit (Cooking with Fadi Kattan)	Jenin Resource Room For Boys School
Bay Area	Benefit Fundraiser	Safad Hospital - Al Beddawi Camp (Lebanon)
Portland	Virtual Trivia Night	Safad Hospital - Al Beddawi Camp (Lebanon)
TP4PCRF	Virtual 5K Falafel Event	One Time Surgical Cases-Jordan
Southern California	Virtual Subhyeh Benefit	Safad Hospital - Al Beddawi Camp (Lebanon)











## **OUR PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS**

We can do more by partnering with like-minded organizations that share our humanistic values than we can alone. That's why each year, we partner with many local and international NGOs to raise funds and to run volunteer medical missions that provide treatment for thousands of children each year. Groups like Team Palestine for PCRF and Cycling4Gaza have been long-time supporters and raised over one million dollars each for projects, while others support volunteer medical missions and surgery for children.

#### Our partners include:

- The Hammer Forum (Germany)
- The Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA)
- Smile Train (USA)
- Gift of Life International (USA)
- **World Health Organization**
- UNRWA
- Taawon
- **Kuwait Red Crescent Society**

































PCRF globally sponsors volunteer surgery teams to provide free care for sick and injured patients and training for local doctors and nurses in hospitals in Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan. In 2019, we sponsored 175 volunteer missions to the region and were well on our way in 2020 to reach that number again. However, in early March, the COVID outbreak put on hold this program, in which PCRF is the leading NGO in the world implementing. In the first ten weeks of 2020, we sponsored 20 missions, treating nearly 300 patients and screening many more children in need.

#### **JANUARY**

Specialty	Head of Mission Name	Hospital	Location	Nationality	Screened	Treated
Maxillofacial Surgery	Dr. Walid Ayad	Shifa	Gaza	German	54	18
Plastic/Reconstructive Surgery	Dr. Ibrahim Musa	Shifa	Gaza	German	47	18
Neurosurgery	Dr. Alaa Eldin Alsharkawy	EGH	Gaza	German	40	7
Urology	Dr. Rami lusef	Shifa	Gaza	Europe	49	17
Emergency Care Training	Dr. Mads Gilbert	Other	Gaza	Europe	0	0
Cardiac Surgery	Dr. Imad Tabry	EGH	Gaza	USA	18	18
Pediatric Cardiac Surgery	Dr. Francisco Sanotoro	PMC	West Bank	Italy	Needs As	sessment
Pediatric Surgery	Dr. Hanan Said	Rafidia	West Bank	UK	44	20
Pediatric Surgery	Dr. Hanan said	Shifa	Gaza	UK	55	24
Pediatric Cardiac Surgery	Dr. Dominique Metras	PMC	West Bank	Italy	11	8
Neurosurgery	Dr. Alexander Zouros	EGH	Gaza	USA	39	10
Vacular Surgery/Kidney transplant	Dr. Walid Masoud	Shifa	Gaza	Jordan	8	4
					365	144













#### **FEBRUARY**

Specialty	Name	Hospital	Location	Nationality	Screened	Treated
Plastic/Reconstructive Surgery	Dr. Daichi Morioka	Thabet Tulkarem	West Bank	Japan	70	22
Pediatric Dental Surgery	Dr. Paolo Arcangeli	Other	West Bank	Italy	54	54
Oncology/Hematology	Dr. Rami Abu Masmah	Rantisi	Gaza	USA	Training	Mission
Public Health Training	Dr. Angelo Stefanini	Other	Gaza	Italy	Training	Mission
Pediatric Cardiac Surgery	Dr. Francisco Sanotoro	PMC	West Bank	Italy	9	6
Plastic/Reconstructive Surgery	Dr. Volker Wedler	Jenin	West Bank	Swiss	67	27
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery	Dr. Tom Bailey	PMC	West Bank	USA	32	8
					232	117

#### **MARCH**

Specialty	Name	Hospital	Location	Nationality	Screened	Treated
Hand Surgery	Dr. Christophe Oberlin	EGH	Gaza	France	38	12
Hand Surgery	Dr. Christophe Oberlin	Shifa	Gaza	UK	30	8
					68	20













#### **COVID-19 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**

The Coronavirus outbreak in early 2020 impacted the Middle East severely, as congested populations in refugee camps and significant cities, underdeveloped specialized health services, and limited resources in Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan required NGOs like PCRF to step up and act.

And act we did. Immediately we began distributing direct aid to at-risk populations, providing infection control materials, food, and other supplies to those in refugee camps as far north as Baddawi camp in Lebanon down to Rafah in southern Gaza. Also, we supported the public health sector with testing kits, PPE, and other urgent aid to better combat the virus's spread. As we enter 2021, the COVID-19 virus is still spreading throughout the Middle East, and PCRF remains on the ground helping to support those who need help the most. The following projects in 2020 were all privately funded through generous donors from all over the world.



Location	Project	People Helped
	Food and Hygiene Support	145
	Infection Control Supplies	3 institutions
Nablus & Salfit	Hygiene Kits	300
ount	Food	200
	Gifts	17
	Infection control supplies and Hygiene Kits	35
	Food	320
5	Diabetes Medication + strips	25
Bethlehem	Hygiene Kits	250 Families
	Infection Control	3,445
	Hygiene Kits/Infection Control	250
	Infection Control	3445
Ramallah	Food	600
Namanan	Medical Supplies	1 institution
Jericho	Food	200
	Food and Hygiene Support	46
Tulkarem &	Food + Infection Control Supplies	1 institution
Qalqilya	Hygiene Kits	140
	Food	200
	Hygiene and infection control	34 Individuals
	Infection control supplies and Hygiene Kits	21
Jenin & Tubas	Hygiene Kits	60
	Food	300
	Hygiene Kits	490
Hebron	Infection Control Supplies	70
	Food	186

Location	Project	People Helped
	Hygiene Kits and sterilization materials	300
Gaza City	Hygiene Kits	200
	Food	200
North Gaza	Food	200
	Medical supplies	1 institution
Central Gaza	Hygiene Kits and sterilization materials	395
	Food	200
	Food	410
South Gaza	Hygiene Kits and sterilization materials	393
	Food	450
lordan	Medical Supplies	1 institution
JUI Udii	Infection Control Supplies	2 institutions
	Milk + Diapers	279
North	Food	1800
Lebanon	Food + Hygiene Kits	450
Central	Food	1750
Lebanon	Food + Hygiene Kits	688
South Lebanon	Food	2150



#### **HUDA AL-MASRI CANCER DEPARTMENT / WEST BANK**

Medical Supplies	50
PPE + Infection Control Supplies	250
Infection Control	600

#### DR. MUSA AND SUHAILA NASIR DEPARTMENT / GAZA

Masks	200
PPE	1 institution
Medical Supplies	150
Infection Control Supplies	250







Since our founding in 1991, PCRF has sent over 2,000 sick and injured children from all over the Middle East for free care that they could not get locally to hospitals worldwide. Most of these are in the USA, where our volunteer host families and chapters take care of them while they are away from their families. In 2020, the COVID pandemic outbreak forced us to suspend this program, and our team worked hard to get children back home while they were completing treatment in the USA. The following children were treated abroad in the past year:

#### **CHILDREN TREATED ABROAD DURING 2020**







Child's Name	Age	District	Location	Specialty	Hospital
Ahmed Zaatari	14	Hebron	Dallas	Orthopedic Surgery	Texas Scottish Rite Hospital
Ilham Mansi	15	Ramallah	Chicago	Orthopedic Surgery	Shriners Hospital for Children
Kareem Alhamayda	2	South Gaza	Dubai, UAE	Ophthalmic Surgery	Imperial Healthcare
Thaer Jouda	14	North Gaza	Portland	Orthopedic Surgery	Shriners Hospital for Children
Ahd Hamdan	9	Central Gaza	Southern California	Prosthetics	Shriners Hospital for Children
Ibrahim Abukhatab	14	Central Gaza	San Diego	Prosthetics	Hanger Clinic
Mostafa Abusufaqa	15	Tulkarem	Dallas	Orthopedic Surgery	Texas Scottish Rite Hospital









In 2020, PCRF implemented various impactful humanitarian projects and programs for children, remote communities, and refugee camps in the Middle East. These projects provided urgent aid for neglected and marginalized children and supported institutional development. Our 2020 humanitarian projects benefited thousands of children impacted by the COVID-19 virus and those with injuries, diseases, and other medical conditions.

#### ONE TIME SURGERY SPONSORSHIP: LEBANON AND JORDAN

In 2020, PCRF continued to sponsor surgery for refugee children in Lebanese and Jordanian hospitals. We raised funds for these operations led through our weekly crowdfunding campaigns, and in some cases, in cooperation with other NGOs on the ground to help reduce the costs. While the program is mainly for Palestinian and Syrian refugees, we also include Jordanian, Lebanese and Iraqi children. The COVID pandemic impacted this program in 2020 because for several months, elective surgery cases were on hold due to the emergency in both countries' health sectors.



**One Time Surgery Cases** in Lebanon: 124

**One Time Surgery Cases** 

in Jordan: 149

**One Time Non-Surgery** Sponsorship: 80

**Total: 353** 





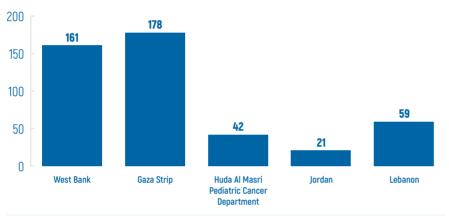




In 2020 PCRF continued our impactful humanitarian programs for children in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Jordan. These programs support the humanitarian needs of children suffering from poverty, lack of access to medicine and aid, and those suffering from regional political circumstances in refugee camps all over the region, including amputees, orphans, and refugees.

#### **ONE-TIME MEDICAL SPONSORSHIP**

Each day children come to our attention who need medical aid and support that their families cannot provide them alone. Every week we appeal to our online community worldwide to help us give these children medicine, tests, equipment, and other humanitarian aid that they need. Although our fieldwork was impacted in 2020 due to the government lockdowns, we were still able to provide 461 children with sponsorship during the year in the following locations:





Total No. of beneficiaries: 461

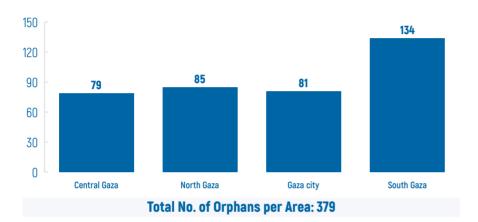






#### **GAZA ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP**

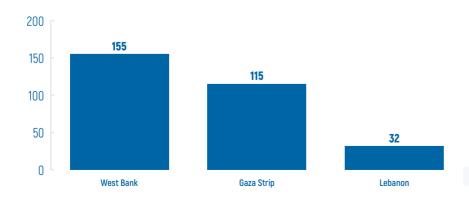
In 2014, PCRF started an orphan sponsorship program in Gaza to help children who lost parents during the July attacks, which left hundreds of civilians dead. In 2020 we expanded the program and continued to provide them the necessary humanitarian support required to endure the COVID crisis and the many other challenges of life in the Gaza Strip. We now have 379 orphaned children in Gaza who we provide monthly supplies of food, clothing, medicine, and other essential humanitarian aid. Our partners at the Zakat Foundation also sponsor 200 Gaza orphans through PCRF.





#### MONTHLY HANDICAPPED SPONSORSHIP

For over 20 years, PCRF has provided hundreds of children with chronic diseases or other conditions monthly help in medication, therapy, and additional support that their families cannot offer them. In 2020, we increased the number of children in this program and will expand it in 2021 to Jordan. Hundreds of monthly sponsors worldwide provide support for these children, which we purchase locally and deliver to the families.





Total No. of beneficiaries: 302

#### **SYRIAN GAZA REFUGEES SPONSORSHIP**

In 2020, we continued to provide humanitarian aid to children in Gaza who fled the Syrian civil war are continue to live with minimal resources. We provide them with food, medicine, clothing, and other humanitarian needs to ensure that they can survive.







#### **GAZA MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM**

In 2020, we continued to support a team of mental health professionals to provide counseling, therapy, and other mental health services to children undergoing cancer treatment in our Dr. Musa and Suhaila Nasir Pediatric Cancer Department. We also offered these services to children in our Gaza Amputee Project. Other needy children in Gaza are also getting mental health services to give them the special care they need locally.







In 2020, we continued to provide all amputee children in Gaza humanitarian aid by sponsoring the building, repair, and fitting of new artificial limbs, social networking and activities for them, rehabilitation, and psychological support and counseling. We are in the second year of this project, which also includes training local technicians in building better prosthetics and supporting surgeons and other health professionals in Gaza to better care for these amputee children.











Named after our head social worker, who helped build PCRF for 17 years before her tragic passing from cancer in 2009, the department opened in April 2013 as the first and only public pediatric cancer department in Palestine. Thousands of generous private donors worldwide raised over two million dollars to build this department in the Beit Jala Hospital near Bethlehem. After opening the new department in Gaza in 2019, the Huda Al Masri department remains the only pediatric oncology center in the West Bank, treating hundreds of children each year for cancer and blood diseases for free care locally. Before we opened our department, these are children who would have had to leave their families to travel across checkpoints for costly and often fragmented care.











Named after two co-founding members of the PCRF, the department opened in February 2019 as the first and only oncology department for Gaza children. In 2020, the department continued to function despite the Covid-19 pandemic and provided hundreds of children with cancer and blood diseases free care locally. Before we opened our department, these are children who would have had to leave their families in Gaza to travel outside for costly and often fragmented care.











In 2021, PCRF will initiate the following projects to provide equipment and infrastructure to improve the public health sector in Palestine and Lebanon's camps. PCRF manages these projects and does not outsource to a third party to ensure transparency and efficiency for maximum impact. These many projects will significantly improve the health sector, both locally where patients are treated and on a national scale, by building better services, providing self-sufficiency for caregivers, and independent services for the ministry of health.

**Improving the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Al Nasser Pediatric Hospital**, **Gaza Strip** 

(\$30,000)

**Improving Primary Health Care Clinics, Gaza Strip** 

(\$20,000)

Improving the ENT **Department at Al Agsa** Hospital, Gaza Strip

(\$11,470)

**Equipping the Emergency** Room of Al Huda Medical Center, Gaza Strip

(\$33,100)

**Renovating the Emergency** Department of Dr. Khalil Suliman Hospital, Jenin

(\$404,470)

**Providing the Health** Directorate with a Medical Waste Disposal Device. Ramallah

(\$25,000)

**Improving the Neurosurgical Department at Rafidia** Hospital, Nablus

(\$723,000)

**Improving the Vascular Department at Rafidia Hospital, Nablus** 

(\$6,714)

Improving the Endoscopy Department at Beit Jala Hospital, Bethlehem

(\$315,000)

**Improving the Surgical** Department at Aliah Hospital, Hebron

(\$18,575)

**Providing Thabet Thabet Hospital with Medical Equipment, Tulkarem** 

(\$512,040)

**Rehabilitation of Emergency Department at Yatta Hospital** 

(\$230,000)



## LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE **PROJECTS**

In 2020, PCRF continued to build two significant projects impacting the public health sector and saving children's lives in Palestine. The Muhammad Zaman Akil Pediatric Intensive Care Unit is a 14-bed new department that is nearing completion. In cooperation with the Kuwait Red Crescent and the Welfare Fund "Taawon," it will provide the public health sector with space and the equipment to treat sick and injured children with expert care. Also being built on top of the PICU is the Ahmed Abu Ghazaleh Pediatric Cardiology Department, including a new catheterization laboratory, which will provide sick children pediatric cardiac surgery. Both of these two departments are at the Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah.

In 2021, PCRF plans to continue providing new x-ray machines to Gaza to help fight COVID from funds donated in 2020 and a new dialysis department in Shifa Hospital. We also will rehabilitate the Emergency Department at Alia Hospital in Hebron; upgrade and support neonatal ICUs in both Jenin and Qalgilya; build an extension in the Huda Al Masri Pediatric Cancer Department; and provide OR and ICU equipment for Safad Hospital in the Baddawi Refugee Camp in Lebanon. We also will open a new OR in Thabet Thabet Hospital in Tulkarem; and take on many other projects to support the sustainable medical care of children in Palestine.





#### USA

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#### Please Send Your Tax-Exempt Donations to: The PCRF / PO Box 1926 / Kent, OH USA / 44240

**GAZA OFFICE** 

#### BANK WIRE INFORMATION: PALESTINE

The Palestine Children's Relief Fund

**Bank of Palestine** 

Branch 458

IBAN: USD: PS18PALS045822058580013000000

ILS: PS03PALS045822058580993000000
EUR: PS23PALS045822058580333000000
JOD: PS83PALS045822058580293000000

#### **BANK WIRE INFORMATION: USA**

Due to security issues, please contact us for account transfer information TAX-ID NUMBER 93-1057665













