



Report to Donors

January 2022

Dear Seraj Friends:

In this continuing time of COVID, Seraj has had a good year. We thank you for your on-going generosity and commitment to the Seraj Library Project. You can read about Seraj's mission, libraries & projects on our website (including 2021 newsletters) at www.serajlibraries.org. To date, we have established Seraj Libraries in ten West Bank communities and sent more than **One Million Dollars** to Palestine for Libraries and Programs. A significant marker!

At each calendar year-end we provide a brief financial overview of how we are managing your generous gifts.

Another Strong Fiscal Year - 2021 (July 2020 through June 2021)

Donations & Benefit Net - \$129,580 A strong response in a pandemic year!

- 207 persons and organizations contributed to this total,
- including 52 new donors who had not given in previous years.
- Organizational expense was a remarkable 3%; we have no paid US staff. Almost all of your gifts to Seraj go directly to our libraries and programs!

First 2 Quarters, Fiscal 2022 (July through December 2021)

- ◆ Our second **Virtual Benefit, Bringing Light to the Generations**, began on October 3, 2021. Over the course of the next 5 days, we distributed 3,600 emails, each containing a video and description of our work. The videos were viewed 201 times. See all the newsletters and videos, and the Benefit report at: www.serajlibraries.org. We appreciate the generous participation of so many; our donations and pledges combined to **\$58,758**.
- ◆ **Emphases for fiscal year 2022**. Seraj has found itself with two incredible opportunities.
 1. Our on-going development of a **Palestinian Storytelling Center** is located in a cultural renewal area of Kufor Aqab. We are rehabbing two 125+ year old homes for a library and the storytelling center.
 2. At the same time, we are participating in the renewal of old city Birzeit with a **Cultural Center**. The old city is remarkable, and we have been asked to develop an enclosed courtyard and the 6 surrounding apartments. We are establishing a children's library, a computer & math lab, arts and music centers, a cafe and more. Both projects will enhance the work of all our libraries and establish Seraj as a cultural force in Palestine.
- ◆ We celebrate **two undergirding grants** for the Birzeit Cultural Hub. **Loai Najjar** has provided full funding for the new math & computer lab. The **Bishop Robert Paddock Foundation** has committed to a \$30,000 match to establish a new children's library.

We are delighted to be in partnership with you. There is much more to be done!

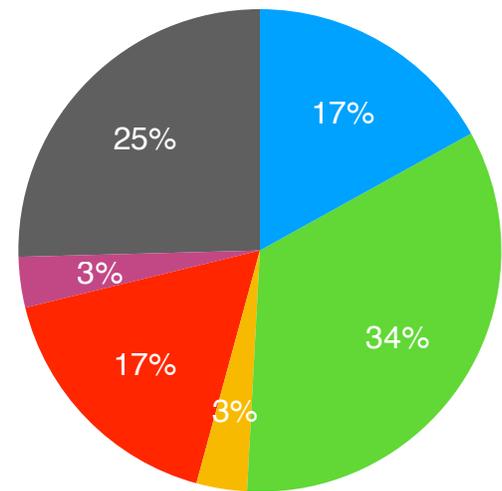
John Cassel, Board Chair & Treasurer, johnjcassel@gmail.com

See more financial reporting on the reverse.

2022 Budget - Palestine

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Kufor Aquab & Storytelling Center	\$50,000
Birzeit Library, Science & Cultural Hub	\$100,000
Library Upgrades/maintenance	\$10,000
Library Programs & Activities	\$50,000
Fellows Scholarship Program	\$10,000
Human Resources & Operations	\$75,000
2022 Palestine Budget Total	\$295,000
The budget is crafted in shekels and converted to US dollars	

Seraj in Palestine Budget



In these numbers you can see tangible evidence of the evolving, and now thriving, Seraj story. In 2020 Seraj Palestine, under full lockdown, spent only \$23,708. Palestine is now emerging from the pandemic and Seraj is working with some excellent contractors to build out our **Storytelling Center and Birzeit Hub**. The programs of both projects will begin this spring and summer. Stories will come to life, children will engage the larger world, students will be supported and challenged. The strong support provided by recent US giving to Seraj make all this possible. Our unending thanks to our donors — you!

Seraj Library Projects are designed and implemented by Palestinians, on behalf of Palestinians.

Board Leadership - US & Palestine

Since its inception in 2009, **Seraj US** has been led by a diverse Board of committed supporters. With no paid staff, US Seraj Board members have also carried the day-to-day responsibilities for the work. In recent years the Board has participated in a Board development effort, and has solidified its ability to provide wise guidance to the organization.

Seraj Palestine has established itself as a recognized NGO under the Palestinian Authority and has recruited a governing Board to provide direction and vision. The two governing Boards are in regular communication and collaboration.



Thanks for your generous support!

