

# Seraj Library Project

Empowering Villages in Palestine, One Library at a Time

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## Report to Donors

January 2019

Dear Seraj Friends:

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to The Seraj Library Project. You can read about Seraj's mission, libraries & projects on our website (including past newsletters) at [www.serajlibraries.org](http://www.serajlibraries.org). To date, we have established Seraj Libraries in ten West Bank communities and sent more than \$597,000 to Palestine for Libraries and Programs.

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

### Our "Wonderful" Fiscal Year 2018 (July 2017 through June 2018 )

**Donations & Benefit Net** **\$141,767** an 84% increase over 2017!

- 289 persons and organizations contributed to this total.
- Including 96 new donors who had not given in previous years.
- Organizational expense was 5%; we have no paid US staff.

### First 2 Quarters, Fiscal 2019 (July 2018 through December 2018)

- ◆ In September we transferred **\$130,000** to Ramallah for the on-going work of Seraj in Palestine.
- ◆ Our **Benefit** on October 14, 2018 at the Chateau Ritz in Niles netted **\$58,893**. We appreciate the generous participation of so many; our attendance was about 155, We offered 110 auction items and sold \$1,510 in raffle tickets.
- ◆ The **Live Auction**, a new addition to our Benefit events, raised \$35,500. An authentic Palestinian dinner was sold at auction for \$1,300.
- ◆ We are delighted to report a second \$7,000 grant, from the **Bishop Robert Paddock Foundation** to strengthen Seraj's national presence in Palestine.
- ◆ **Emphases** for fiscal year 2019 include: 1) Preliminary work on a **Palestinian Storytelling Center**, in support of Palestinian cultural identity and heritage. Seraj has had an ongoing interest in the power and utility of storytelling. 2) Continuing our successful and popular **scholarship program**, which has supported 54 college students to date. 3) A new focus on updating and enlarging our **book collections** in all ten libraries. Many of our older books are becoming frayed, and there is demand for new additions. About \$5,000 will restock a library.

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

Pauline Coffman, Board Co-Chair

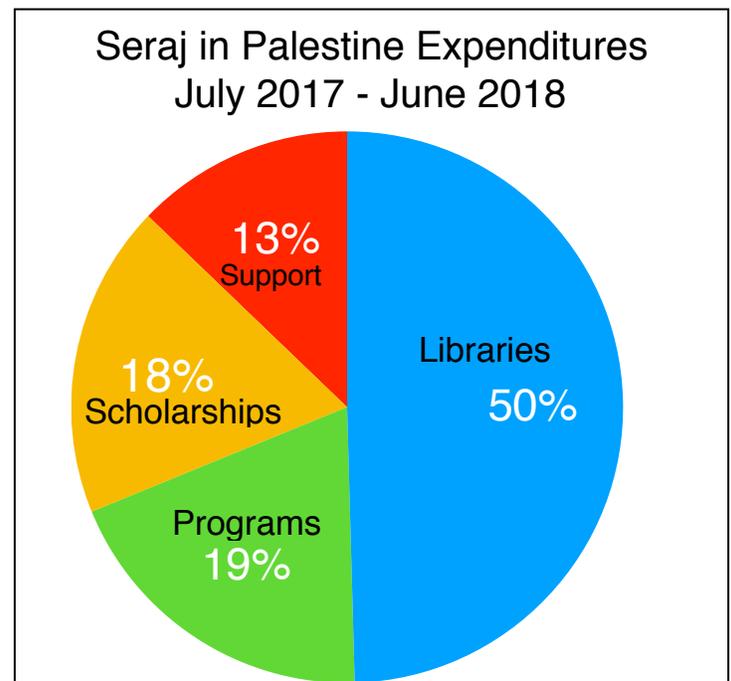
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*See more financial reporting on the reverse*

Seraj in Palestine Expenditures for West Bank Libraries. Last Fiscal Year	
New Libraries, & upgrades for existing Libraries	\$58,000
Children's & Community Programs	\$22,530
College Scholarships	\$21,500
Administrative Support	\$15,000
<b>TOTAL West Bank EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$117,030</b>



The most valuable asset in Seraj's work is the presence of Estephan & Laurie Salameh, on-the-ground and initiating and overseeing our work in the West Bank. It's difficult and complex work, requiring patience and wisdom. Yet, even in the face of Occupation, we are able to accomplish remarkable things for the good of Palestinian communities and children. *Seraj Library Projects are created by Palestinians, on behalf of Palestinians.*

### ***Reporting on Seraj Campaigns***

As a part of our on-going work, we have focused attention on three distinct campaigns. Each provided an opportunity for donors to contribute to inspiring and important projects. Here is a brief report on the 3 campaigns:

**The James and Eleanor Wall Library Fund (2015) 41 donors \$43,849.**

**The B.J. Wagner Scholarship Program (2013) 66 donors \$29,380**

**The Cotton Fite Memorial Fund (2017) 84 donors \$65,710.**

Each of these Funds are ongoing and we invite your continuing participation. The new Jordan Valley Library was largely paid for with Wall funds. The **Fite Fund** will underwrite the new **Palestinian Storytelling Center**.



***Thanks for your generous support!***

