

Seraj Library Project

Empowering Villages in Palestine, One Library at a Time

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Report to Donors

January 2018

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. To date, we have established Seraj Libraries in eight West Bank communities and sent more than \$466,000 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 Fiscal Year 2017 (July 2016 through June 2017)

Donations & Benefit Net

\$77,016

- 167 persons and organizations contributed to this total.
- Including 61 new donors who had not given in previous years.
- Organizational expense was 8%; we have no paid US staff.

First 2 Quarters, Fiscal 2018 (July 2017 through December 2017)

- ◆ In September we transferred **\$95,000** to Ramallah for the on-going work of Seraj in Palestine.
- ◆ Our **Benefit** on October 15, 2017 at the Chateau Ritz in Niles netted **\$25,496**. We appreciate the generous participation of so many; we sold 230 tickets, 139 auction items and \$2,200 in raffle tickets.
- ◆ We received our first-ever grant, \$7,000, from the **Bishop Robert Paddock Foundation** to strengthen Seraj's national presence in Palestine.
- ◆ Last summer, we raised \$17,000 to continue the **BJ Wagner Scholarship Program**, which supports Palestinian college students who volunteer in our libraries.
- ◆ **Emphases** for fiscal year 2018 include: **Innovation and Creativity Programs**. Seraj libraries have become places that encourage innovative thinking, where people can be creative and gather to think about new ways to improve themselves and their communities. Seraj is a place that helps individuals and communities transcend the occupation's restrictions. **Plus**, We are exploring possible sites for **2 additional libraries**.

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

Pauline Coffman, Board Co-Chair

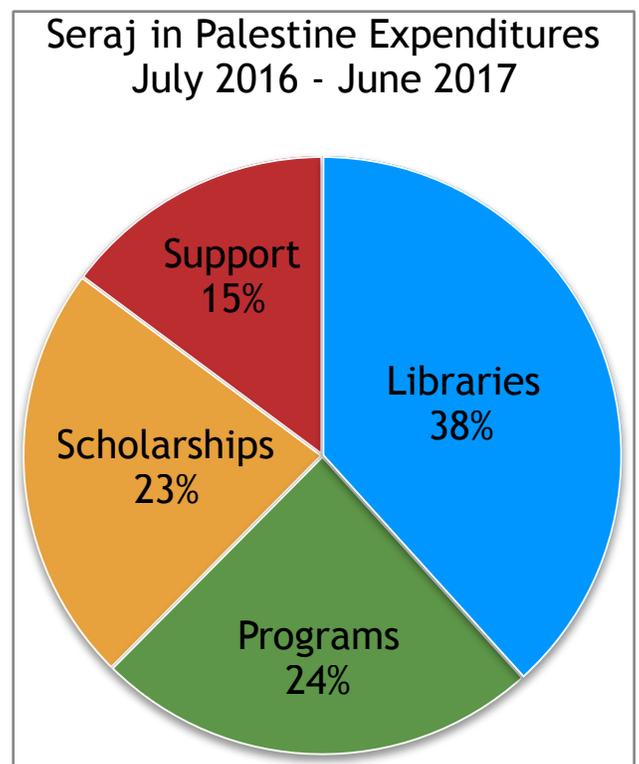
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John Cassel, Board Co-Chair & Treasurer

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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	\$35,770
Children's & Community Programs	\$22,530
College Scholarships	\$21,250
Administrative Support	\$13,840
TOTAL West Bank EXPENSES	\$93,390



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.

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) 40 donors \$43,840.

The B.J. Wagner Scholarship Program (2013) 61 donors \$23,920.

The Cotton Fite Memorial Fund (2017) 53 donors \$17,678.

Each of these Funds are ongoing and we invite your continuing participation. The new Jordan Valley Library was largely paid for with Wall funds. We have not yet determined an appropriate use for the Fite Fund.



Thanks for your generous support!