



Nazareth Project Inc

Partnering with Nazareth Trust in Nazareth and surrounding areas

The campus of Nazareth Hospital and School of Nursing

ASHA Award for the School of Nursing

We are grateful to announce that Nazareth Project Inc. recently received a \$1.5 million award from ASHA (American Schools and Hospitals Abroad) that will be used for equipping the expanded Nazareth Academic School of Nursing. In response to this tremendous news the school's director, Dr. Salam Hadid, remarked, "This is a great encouragement and great support for us." Describing the future goals of the school, Dr. Hadid stated, "We currently have around 350 students in any one cohort but we would like to grow our capacity, offering nursing education to anyone who knocks at our door. The exam pass rate of our students is consistently between 98-100% each year."



Dr. Salam Hadid, Director of the Nazareth Academic School of Nursing, left, and Dr. Suzy Srouji, Director of External Affairs for Nazareth Trust, stand in the newly expanded School



Expansion of the Nazareth Academic School of Nursing

The two-year grant will be used for training equipment, digital resources, software and furniture in new classrooms and simulation rooms. For the only Arabic language nursing school in the region, this ASHA grant funding will help ensure the education of future generations of nurses in Nazareth and in the wider communities of Israel/Palestine.

The grant from ASHA and the subsequent projects in Nazareth that it supports, was made possible through the monetary gifts from NPI supporters.

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Gaza War Impact

The war in Gaza has not resulted in any military action in Nazareth, although the situation is tense and staff are experiencing anxiety and uncertainty. Nazareth Hospital is very busy with increased patient numbers – although no war-related patients as of this writing. The Nazareth School of Nursing has reverted to online teaching. The Nazareth Village and SERVE are temporarily closed.

The leadership of the Nazareth Trust sent the following message last month: "We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those of you who have sent us messages expressing your deep concern and prayer support following the horrific violence and destruction of life we have witnessed. These very tragic events have deeply traumatized both Jewish and Arab communities in Israel and Gaza and we share in their pain and sorrow at this very challenging time for all of us.

"Our prayerful desire is that Nazareth Hospital will continue to provide a ministry of healing, hope and hospitality in Jesus' name to all those who come to us in their hour of need – as it has during past wars and conflicts in the Holy Land."

Support NPI on November 17

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Howard Good, our executive director, said, "Our donors make ASHA grants possible by helping to fund the application process and the management of the grants."

(ASHA's mission is to provide assistance to overseas schools, libraries, and hospital centers to catalyze collaborations between U.S. citizens and citizens of other countries).

Commenting on the impact the ASHA award will have in Nazareth, Richard Mayhew, CEO of our sister organization, The Nazareth Trust, remarked, "I am so pleased and delighted, as it will make such a difference to the work of the School of Nursing and is a great encouragement to our staff. This is brilliant news."

Since 2015, NPI has received four grants totaling \$4,391,475 for new equipment at Nazareth Hospital for the Pediatric Surgery Unit, an updated Dialysis Unit, an expanded Trauma Unit, and now for equipment for the refurbished and enlarged teaching and simulation rooms at the School of Nursing.

Good highlighted the importance of NPI's work: "In light of current events, the impact that our supporters continue to have by supporting healthcare in this part of the world is immeasurable. We will continue to partner with our friends in Nazareth for the sake of peace and in the name of Jesus."

Update on the Nancy Martin Fund



Nancy Martin, Director of the Nazareth School of Nursing, meeting with Assistant Director, Sawzan Shehadeh, in 1987

Nazareth Project (NPI) is happy to report that as of October 25 we received a total of \$193,963 for the Nancy Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund. Our endowment goal for December 31 is to surpass \$200,000.

The Endowment Committee of the NPI Board has placed the Nancy Martin Memorial funds into an endowment account held and managed by Everence Trust Company. The committee plans to distribute scholarship monies on an annual basis to the Bursary Committee of the Nazareth Academic School of Nursing.

These forwarded funds will provide scholarships to lower-income nursing students at the School. Individual scholarships will likely range from 2,000 to 4,000 Shekels (\$500 - \$1,000).

Your continued support of the Nancy Martin Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund will help us to grow the endowment and empower future nursing students at the Nazareth Academic School of Nursing.

Quick facts about the Nazareth Academic School of Nursing (SON):

As of 2023 the SON has about 3,000 graduates.

79% of graduates are working in hospitals and clinics, 12% in rehabilitation centers and 9% in retirement homes.

75% of students are female; 25% are male.

The current student body is 78% Muslim, 20% Christian and 2% Jewish.

Currently, in a cohort of 350 students, 60 are in the BA program and 290 are in the conversion program.

Conversion students holding another BA – study for 2.5 years including classroom and practical courses.



Majdoleen

Farah and Nawatha visit the US representing SERVE Nazareth and Chaplaincy

October 6 – 15, 2023. The focus of the trip was volunteerism in Nazareth and chaplaincy at Nazareth Hospital. However, since they arrived one day before the Hamas attack on Israel and the resulting war in Gaza, they had many opportunities to speak about the realities of Israeli Arab Christians and Palestinians.

They spoke at Frazer Mennonite Church and at Lancaster Mennonite High School. In four states, they met leaders of mission organizations, colleges and seminaries and with people who are interested in volunteer chaplaincy at Nazareth Hospital.

Majdoleen, the Coordinator of SERVE Nazareth, encouraged students to consider volunteer opportunities in Nazareth through SERVE Nazareth. She noted that volunteers learn about a different culture while serving. They also grow in their faith as they live in Jesus' hometown.

Majdoleen and Christine met SERVE alumni during their travels. The experiences of the program's alumni

demonstrate the impact of Christian service in a learning context.

Christine, a member of the Spiritual Care team at Nazareth Hospital, highlighted that patients come from different ethnic and religious groups. She described chaplaincy as bridging the gap and extending hospitality between strangers.



Christine

"Hospitality is the foundation of chaplaincy and pastoral care at the Nazareth Hospital. Hospitality of heart towards the other isn't always easy. It requires care, authenticity and vulnerability while allowing for the possibility of failure and the possibility of transformation."

Christine acknowledged that the task is difficult: "It can be a challenge to keep on extending hospitality of heart to strangers. To the religious other. Even to those we have experienced or heard of as the 'enemy'. But God is at work."

Gratitude for an Excellent Diagnosis



In 2020, Alan Stein from Natick, Massachusetts received medical diagnoses in Israel by Dr. Amir Mari, a Neurogastroenterologist. Dr. Mari leads the Neurogastroenterology Unit at the Nazareth Hospital and does research in Gastroenterology, Internal Medicine and Hepatology. Dr. Mari also works at the Hillel Yafe Hospital in Israel, which is where he saw Stein as a patient.

Prof. Stein credits Dr. Mari with the early discovery of a neuroendocrine tumor in his pancreas after ordering a CT scan, followed by an MRI and a biopsy. He wrote: "Had it not been for Dr. Mari, at best my pancreatic cancer would not have gotten diagnosed until much later and the treatment, if even possible, much more difficult, so we are extremely grateful. Thanks to Dr. Mari, it is basically just an inconvenience."



In appreciation for his excellent diagnosis, Alan and his wife, Marsha Stein, are supporting Dr. Mari's research at Nazareth Hospital. To date the Steins have contributed \$40,000. Alan stated: "We decided to show our appreciation by helping to support Dr. Mari even though neither of us have ever been treated or even been to Nazareth Hospital."

Nazareth Hospital and Dr. Mari are very grateful for the Stein's financial support of his research. Nazareth Project encourages other NPI supporters to give generously like Alan and Marsha Stein.



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