



Nazareth Project Inc

Partnering with Nazareth Trust in Nazareth and surrounding areas

Palestinian Physicians travel from West Bank to Nazareth Hospital for Advanced Training



Dr. Amer Yassen Abu Rumaila

Since March of 2023, Nazareth Project (NPI) has been raising funds to support advanced training at Nazareth Hospital for Palestinian physicians from the West Bank. This training is similar to a residency program in the United States.

To date, NPI has raised over \$60,000 and we hope to raise another \$30,000 before the end of 2024. The funds are used to cover the costs of their training beyond what their sending hospitals can provide.

Dr. Amer Yassen Abu Rumaila is a surgeon from Hebron in the West Bank. His specialized training at Nazareth Hospital is in laparoscopic and bariatric surgery. This specialization is urgently needed in the West Bank.

Dr. Rumaila is married and has one child. He earlier studied medicine in Egypt at Alexandria University's Faculty of Medicine.

West Bank residents face limited mobility due to checkpoints and imposed travel restrictions. **Therefore bringing more specialized services into the West Bank health system could truly make the difference between life and death for many West Bank patients.**

Dr. Rumaila has been pleased with his experience at Nazareth Hospital: "I found a lot of experience and exposure to my field of specialization and the Hospital has a well-qualified laparoscopic and bariatric surgeon, Dr Wissam Abboud."

To support this important project please send a check to NPI or donate online at: <https://nazarethproject.org/support-donations>

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If so, please go to <https://nazarethproject.org/subscription-for-npi-newsletter-by-email/>, scan the QR code below or email us at npi@nazarethproject.org



NPI plans to raise \$30,000 this year to continue training West Bank doctors.

Help NPI to match a \$30,000 pledge from a Pennsylvania-based corporate foundation.

Your contributions by the end of November will help NPI to secure the \$30,000 grant

Update

Nancy Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund

On June 27, the Nancy Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund forwarded \$15,000 to the Bursary Fund of the Nazareth Academic School of Nursing. The current balance is nearly \$215,000. **NPI hopes to raise an additional \$35,000 for the Nancy Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund during 2024.** Your memorial gifts honoring the legacy of the school's former director, Nancy Martin, and the hard-working students at the School will help us to reach that goal!



Donate - NMMSF

Randa Elias retires after 39+ years with Nazareth Hospital



Randa Elias with friends from Summer Peace-Building Institute

Randa Elias retired on May 31, 2024 after many years of dedicated service at Nazareth Hospital. Most recently she served as the Director of Quality Control. Earlier in her career, Randa was the first local leader to fill the position of Director of Nursing at Nazareth Hospital, a position previously filled by expats.

Upon her retirement, Waseem Dibbini, Acting CEO of the Nazareth Trust, expressed deep gratitude for Randa's unwavering commitment and exceptional service over the past four decades. He noted that her career was marked by dedication, a sincere trust in God, and many cherished friendships.

Special connection to NPI: In May, 2008 Randa travelled to the US as NPI's sponsored guest to study at the Summer Peace-Building Institute in Harrisonburg, VA. The SPI course was entitled: Women, Leadership, & Peace-building. After ten days learning

alongside participants from Bosnia, Nepal, Rwanda and Darfur, Randa traveled from Harrisonburg to Lancaster, PA with NPI staff, Midge Crystle and Karen Miller Rauch.

While in Lancaster, Randa enjoyed visits with NPI staff as well as old friends Bob and Nancy Martin. NPI supporters were offered an opportunity to meet Ms. Elias and hear her story. Former NPI staff member, Karen Miller Rauch, recalls the gathering of 80 at Neffsville Mennonite Church. "In addition to sharing about the history of the Hospital, giving an overview of the departments and sharing patient stories, Randa read from Acts chapter 2, pointing out that Arabs were there at Pentecost. Her reflections on peacebuilding began with acknowledgment of

the internal identity conflict inherent in living as a minority within a minority—a Christian, an Arab/Palestinian, and a citizen of Israel. This left a strong impression on many of us, confirming the significance of the work NPI is doing. The next year, when I traveled to Nazareth, I enjoyed the opportunity to connect again with Randa over a meal in Nazareth. She is a warm person with a Christlike servant's heart, and a gifted leader. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with her over my years at NPI."



Randa Elias with Karen Miller Rauch



Randa Elias with Waseem Dibbini May 2024

Nazareth Academic School of Nursing Partners with Ono Academic College

On April 18, 2024, a cooperation agreement was signed between Nazareth Academic School of Nursing and Ono Academic College located in Kiryat Ono, Israel. Management and staff from both organizations were present for this important event – see photo below.

This partnership will enable the two institutions to initiate joint academic programs, such as: A Bachelor's Program, a professional BSN transfer course, and the new "Afik Mafar" program, providing opportunities to students who do not have all the requirements to begin a Bachelor's degree to start their education in nursing.

During the ceremony Waseem Dibbini, Acting CEO of the Nazareth Trust remarked: "Since its establishment, the Nazareth Trust has been working to empower the Arab community—bridging gaps and achieving equal opportunities through Nazareth Hospital, Nazareth Academic School of Nursing, and Nazareth Village, providing medical care and academic qualifications, and job opportunities for the people in our community. The Nazareth Trust is distinguished by its special interest in providing care in culturally and socially appropriate ways, in order

to help our children achieve their full potential for a better professional and personal future."

Dr. Salam Hadid, Director of the Nazareth Academic School of Nursing said, "**The Nursing School in Nazareth has had an imprint in the field of nursing education for 100 years—developing educational programs in the field of nursing and adapting them to the needs of the region.** The school is distinguished by its high professionalism, supportive and stimulating family atmosphere. Our educational opportunities increased with the recent construction project including smart classrooms and the most advanced simulation rooms in the country."

The new classrooms and simulation rooms are outfitted with equipment and furniture provided by a \$1.5 million grant from USAID/ASHA. Financial support provided by NPI contributors support NPI's application for and reporting on the ASHA grants.

Waseem Dibbini appointed as the new CEO of the Nazareth Trust.



Waseem Dibbini

At a recent meeting of the Nazareth Trust board, Waseem Dibbini was appointed as the new CEO of the Trust. Waseem follows Richard Mayhew as CEO. He has served the Trust as Deputy CEO and Chief Financial Officer.

Nazareth Project is sponsoring a tour to Israel in mid-March 2025. Specific dates TBD.



Ibrahim Emtanis with Joanne and Wayne Speigle

The tour will be led by Ibrahim Emtanis who grew up in Nazareth and has worked as a professional guide since 2013. Pastor Wayne Speigle, chair of the NPI Board, will serve as the tour host. For more information contact npi@nazarethproject.org



From left to right: Prof. Fahed Hakim; Prof. Orly Turin, Head of the Nursing Department at the Ono Academic College; Dr. Salam Hadid; Waseem Dibbini; Rami Haddad, CFO at the Ono Academic College; Prof. Shlomo Noy, President of the Ono Academic College



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A view of the ancient port city of Caesarea Maritima which was built during the reign of Herod the Great in the late first century B.C.E.