

Annual Report 2009  
The **Palestine**  
Children's  
**Relief**  
**Fund**



A non-profit humanitarian relief organization

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Annual Report 2009

The

Palestine

# Children's Relief Fund

A non-profit humanitarian relief organization

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Mohammad Hussein  
Northern Gaza

Mohammad Afana  
Southern Gaza

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Accounting:  
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#### **West Bank Social Workers**

Randa Sharara Ramallah Amal Dwaek Hebron Niveen Abed Al Hadi Bethlehem Linda Herzallah Nablus, Qalqilia and Salfet Maha Madani Tulkarem Mona Fayad Jenin and Tubas

#### **Gaza Field Workers**

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### Medesto Representative

Haji Khaled Sharmouj

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Abu Dhabi

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Cleveland

Hala Gabriel

chapter

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Baltimore Chapter

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Zabaneh Hourani

Doha Al Wazany

Kattan

Sahtout

Iman Abdulwahab

Hanan Saadeh

Sherief Hammad Nadine Samara Andrew DuFresne

**Houston Representative Rania Awwad**

**Medesto Representative Hajj Khaled Sharmouj**

**Conneticut Representative Nicole Khaghat**

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Edward Tawil Anis Zubi

Marwan El Masri

Naifa Mansour Laila Kassis

Hanan Mahmoud Naila Jirmanus

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Ahlam Shaheen Hala Nafe Chicago

Nawal Suleiman chapter

Joanne Rabah

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Tammy Hamed

Sahar Alrayyes

Eman Dughly

Sarah Alrayyes

Annie Salem

Suzi Azhari

Zohra Hamed

Laura Badwan Runda Badwan

Bay Area Ramsey Judah

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Nuha Shuman

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Huda Bayaa

Maya Karram-Houry

Adilah Dahdul

Amanda Nasser

Joe Dibs



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# The Palestine Children's Relief Fund

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# The Palestine Children's Relief Fund



A non-profit humanitarian relief organization

Message from the President &  
Chairman of the Board

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The The Children's Children's Relief Relief Fund Fund Palestine Palestine

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**Dear Friends,**

2009 was an extremely difficult year for the Palestinian people, as well as the PCRf family. In late December and through most of January, Israeli air, ground and naval forces assaulted the Gaza Strip in a proclaimed effort to stop militants from firing rockets into Israeli towns. The result was the complete destruction of what little infrastructure remained in Gaza after decades of *Intifada* and occupation. Thousands of innocent Palestinian civilians were killed and injured in Gaza, while the local Hamas regime did little to politically or economically alleviate the plight of the 1.5 million poor people that they now rule.

Meanwhile, the PCRf family was badly shaken and remain in deep grief with the passing of the head PCRf social worker, Ms. Huda Al-Masri. Huda was married for nearly 18 happy years to PCRf founder and president Steve Sosebee and together they helped to build the organization into one of the most effective and efficient groups working in the Middle East for children. Towards the end of the year, Dr. Jafar Nasir, the son of PCRf Chairman and co-founders Dr. Musa and Sue Nasir, passed away while in Guam working as a physician. These two irreplaceable members of the PCRf family have filled our hearts

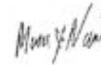
with grief, but also a determination to continue our humanitarian mission to help more children get the medical care that they need, but which is not available to them locally. We want to lessen the pain of parents all over the region who might suffer the same broken hearts and deep sadness that we experienced in 2009.

Despite these personal tragedies, the PCRf continued its work unabated. Over 50 volunteer surgery teams in pediatric cardiac surgery and cardiology, orthopedics and spine surgery, urology, plastic & reconstructive surgery, maxillofacial, pediatric dental care and many other important specialties went to Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon's camps to treat over 1,000 children in need. The pediatric cardiac surgery program in Makassed, which was initiated and supported by the PCRf, is improving and becoming more independent, with over 600 Palestinian babies have had life-saving surgery there in the past few years. Many of these projects were supported by a grant from the Sharjah-based Salam ya Saghar.

We also continue to send children abroad for free care that they cannot get locally. Over two-dozen children, suffering from birth defects to war wounds, went to the USA, Europe and parts of the

Middle East for millions of dollars worth of free care. The majority of kids went to Dubai in the UAE, which is part of an ongoing project with the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Humanitarian and Charity Establishment.

Our greatest thanks goes to the hundreds of volunteer doctors, nurses, specialists, host families, PCRf chapter members, and donors who made this work possible. We are a grassroots institution that brings together a wide range of people and resources from all over the world to address the humanitarian crisis facing Arab children in Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq. We hope that 2010 will be a better one for our staff and members, but more importantly one of less violence and suffering for the Arab children in the Middle East. Whatever the circumstances on the ground, the PCRf will continue to provide healing and hope to children and their families at a time when there is little of either.



**Dr. Musa Naser**  
Chairman of the Board



**Steve Sosebee**  
President & CEO

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Dr. Musa Naser Chairman of the Board

Steve Sosebee President & CEO



*In*  
Memorium

The The Children's Children's Relief Relief Fund Fund Palestine Palestine

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*Huda (Al-Masri ) Sosebee passed peacefully over to God's embrace on July 15, 2009 in her home in Kent, Ohio in the presence of her loving family, following a 7-month battle with Leukemia. Huda was the head social worker for the PCRf, where she touched the lives of thousands of sick and injured children throughout the Middle East. She was diagnosed on Christmas Day, 2008, while in the Emirates Hospital in Dubai helping treat several injured kids from Palestine.*

*Huda was born on December 18, 1962 in Ramallah, Palestine to Ibrahim Abdullah Al-Masri and Zahraa Flaifl and is survived by her brothers, Abdullah, Ahmed, Mohammed, Mahmoud and Nasser, and sisters, Hanan, Hiam and Waila. She is also survived by stepbrothers and sisters, Jihan, Hana, Hala, Hisham and Nahlah. Huda returned home to her mother, Zahraa, who passed away when she was 13-years-old. Huda left two beautiful daughters, Deema and Jenna, and a loving husband, Steve Sosebee, who she married in Ramallah on January 15, 1993. Her family and friends were the center and love of her life and provided her great joy and happiness, particularly in seeing the growth of her two special daughters over the past 12 years.*

*Huda earned her degree in social work from Al-Quds University in East Jerusalem and a master's degree in Public Health from Kent State University in 2006. In 1993, Huda began working as the head social worker for the PCRf. Her great human spirit touched the lives of dozens of injured children throughout the years, as she personally cared for many in her home in Ohio while they received treatment in the USA. Nearly 1,000 more children with different medical needs were touched by Huda's loving hand, as she helped organize and place them for free medical care in the USA, Europe and the Middle East. Throughout the years, Huda's hard work and loving care resulted in the treatment of thousands of needy children throughout Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. Even during her struggle with cancer, she worked to arrange for injured children host families, medical treatment and the loving care that they otherwise would not get in their homeland. Her departure is a deep loss for the poor and needy children of the Holy Land, as well as thousands of loving family and friends all over the world.*

*Huda was a loving mother and wife, a proud Arab woman and a courageous Palestinian who believed in the cause of peace and justice for her people and worked hard to heal the wounds of war and occupation for children all over the Middle East. Her departure is a terrible loss for all peace-loving people and especially for the children of Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq, who continue to suffer the lack of adequate health care in their countries. She was loved by thousands and will be missed by many more.*

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**The Palestine  
Children's  
Relief  
Fund**



A non-profit humanitarian relief organization

## Injured & Sick Children Treated Abroad in 2009

The PCRF was established during the first *Intifada* with the purpose of identifying sick and injured kids who could not be treated locally, and arrange free care for them abroad. Since 1990, over 850 children have been sent to North America, Europe and the Middle East for free care. We rely on the generous support of host families and volunteers who house and care for our children while they are being treated outside of their homeland, often without their parents. We also depend on the charitable contributions of dozens of doctors and hospitals who donate their services, amounting to millions of dollars of free care annually. With the war in Iraq and the continued siege and military assaults on the Gaza Strip, hundreds of children are still in need of care that they cannot get locally. The PCRF is the main relief group working in the Middle East to provide this care.

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