

2011



Annual Report

The Palestine Children's Relief Fund

A non-profit humanitarian relief organization



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Message from the President & Chairman of the Board

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2011 was our twentieth year as a non-profit organization providing specialized medical care, surgery, and other humanitarian aid for sick and injured children in the Middle East. From our humble beginnings of placing one injured child at a time for treatment in the USA, to our current ability to provide thousands of children from Palestine, Lebanon's camps and war-torn Iraq crucial specialized surgery all over the world, we have remained focused on working to heal the wounds of war, poverty and occupation in the Middle East. Our objective in the beginning remains as it is today - to identify and provide free expert care for any child who we can help, regardless of their nationality, religion, gender, creed or race. Our strength over the nearly two decades that we have been working has been to work with like-minded volunteers from all over the world who share this humanitarian belief.

2011 was an important year for the PCRf. We began construction on the "Huda Al Masry Pediatric Oncology and Hematology Department" in Al Hussein Hospital in Beit Jala, the first and only public cancer department in Palestine. In addition, we continue to build chapters all over the world, and have now a strong presence for sending children to growing regional powers like Chile in South America and Turkey in the Middle East. Our greatest achievement, however, remains our ability to bring in hundreds of volunteer doctors and nurses each year to provide free care for thousands of sick and injured children, while at the same time, building local capacity and training in an effort to improve the care of children locally.

Our plans for 2012 will see the opening of the pediatric oncology department in Beit Jala, the continuation of the pediatric cardiac surgery program in Makassed Hospital, which saves the lives of over 200 babies each year with congenital heart disease, and our promise to try to help any child in need of specialized surgery for free, either through visiting missions, or sending them abroad.

Our support for other humanitarian relief programs, like the child sponsorship project, shipping quality pediatric wheelchairs to handicapped kids or supporting summer camps will continue as well.

The PCRf stands proudly as a grassroots organization using the support and hard work of thousands of volunteers all over the world, from Auckland, Santiago and Dubai, to Los Angeles, Chicago, Paris and Beirut. Take a good look at the specific details of this annual report. You will see not only the tremendous amount of healing and goodwill being done by these volunteers, but also the feeling of hope and love that we give to the poor and needy children of the Middle East. 2012 is another year of deep challenges for the people of the region. We hope that you will join us to respond to their needs and support our good work for the sake of humanity and its children.

In Solidarity,



Dr. Musa Nasir
Chairman of the Board



Steve Sosebee
President & CEO



Special Section

In 2011, several notable events occurred in our ongoing effort to help provide expert treatment and to save the lives of sick and injured children in the Middle East.

2011



Dr. Alan Kerr Receives Palestine's Highest Honor



On April 15, Dr. Alan Kerr from Auckland, New Zealand received Palestine's "Medal of Honor" from PA President Mahmoud Abbas for saving more than 600 children's lives from the West Bank and Gaza Strip since 2000. Dr. Kerr has led more than twenty-five surgery missions to Ramallah, Shifa and Makassed Hospitals over the past eleven years through the PCRf, and has been instrumental in building the first and only pediatric cardiac surgery program to serve Palestinian children locally. More than 2,500 children have had life-saving open-heart surgery since 1998. We applaud and appreciate Dr. Kerr's humanitarian service for our children in Palestine. He is a true hero for the cause of peace and justice in Palestine.

PCRf Signs Agreement with Chilean Pediatric Surgery Society



On August 26th, the PCRf signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chilean Pediatric Surgery Society (SCHCP) in Santiago. Signed by PCRf President/CEO Steve Sosebee, CPSS President Dr. Francisco Saitua, the agreement stipulates that the SCHCP will provide surgical support to the PCRf in sending volunteer teams of surgeons and other medical personnel to treat patients and train professionals in the Middle East in an effort to improve the quality of health care. It also states that the SCHCP will provide at least one pediatric surgical mission year to Palestine, while the PCRf will provide support in covering the basic costs of the mission (air fare, accommodations and food) for up to two weeks. The agreement also offers the opportunity to provide treatment for sick or complex cases who cannot be treated in Palestine, and also short-term training courses for Palestinian doctors in Chilean teaching institutions. This is the first major agreement between the PCRf and a foreign surgical society. Following the agreement, two Chilean teams visited Palestine in November, and a ten-year-old boy had urological surgery in Chile.



Three Teams Summit Africa's Highest Peak for the PCRF



In 2011, three volunteer teams of climbers from all over the Middle East climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak and the world's largest free-standing mountain, to raise funds for the PCRF.

On February 24, a 12-member team that included Ali and Salma Alireza, Fouad Dajani, Samer Sarraf, Reem Shaat, Husein Alireza, Hisham Elfarouki, Deema Al-Masri Sosebee, Tarek Dajani, Dalya Alireza, Toufiq Farah and Steve Sosebee reached the summit after climbing more than 8 hours overnight using the Machame Route. Reem Shaat and Dalya Alireza were the first Saudi women to reach Uhuru, while 14-year-old Deema Al-Masri Sosebee was the youngest Arab girl to reach the peak.

On March 6th, a 5-member team that included Dina Amer, Sumaya Abughazaleh, Meyce Alaududin, Tarek

Abu Ghazaleh, and Tareq Qaddumi reached Uhuru Peak at 5,895 meters at 6:30 AM, using the Lemosho Route.

On November 10th, Rawan Muwahid reached Uhuru Peak using the Machame route. She was part of a larger team, but raised donations for the PCRF.

While all of the climbers paid their own way, the main companies who donated to support the PCRF in the name of the climbers were: Dubai Contracting Company (DCC), CCC, Juffali, and the Arab Palestinian Investment Company. Also sponsoring the climb, in addition to dozens of individuals, were Bayt.com, Black Pearl Capital, Golin Harris, Hertz Saudi Arabia, Just Falafel, Shuaa Capital, CTI Group, Tamer, Avalon Pharma, and Al Tazaj. We would like to thank all of the sponsors and climbers for the most successful fund-raising effort in the 20-year history of the PCRF.

Marathon Runners Raise Funds for PCRF

In 2011, volunteers raised funds from sponsors to run in marathons all over the world, most notably the Dubai, Chicago and St. Louis Marathons. The annual event in Dubai had dozens of volunteers running through the PCRF-UAE chapter, while "Team Palestine" in Chicago and St. Louis raised over \$50,000 to support medical care for children in Palestine.



PCRF Launches the Building of Palestine's First Public Pediatric Oncology/ Hematology Department

In June, construction began on the building of the 14-bed "Huda al-Masry Pediatric Oncology and Hematology Department" at Al Hussein Hospital in the West Bank town of Beit Jala. It is being built in the name and honor of the late head social worker of the PCRF, Huda (Al-Masri) Sosebee, who passed away in 2009 from leukemia. This project was initiated in response to the dire need of a public department within the PA Ministry of Health to better provide services and care for Palestinian children with cancer, taking into consideration their economic and medical conditions, as well as the general political realities facing children and their families seeking care beyond the West Bank. In addition to the building of this department, the PCRF also will provide state-of-the-art equipment, training for doctors and nurses in Palestine and abroad, and social support for the families and their children effected by this terrible disease. Hundreds of children each year are diagnosed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with this disease, which require care (that?) is inadequately provided with the public sector due to poor infrastructure and training. The PCRF is cooperating with the King Hussein Cancer Center in Amman and Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City to establish a proper course of development and training is followed to have a center of excellence in Palestine.





Injured & Sick Children Treated Abroad in 2011

The PCRF was established in 1991 first and foremost to provide free medical care abroad for injured Palestinian children in the first uprising, or *Intifada*. Over the past twenty years, more than one-thousand sick and injured children from all over Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and war-torn Iraq have been sent to North America, Europe and parts of the Middle East and Asia for free care they could not get locally. The PCRF is the main organization arranging such care, and we depend on hundreds of volunteers and host families all over the world to care for these children and ensure that their treatment abroad is not only supported on a medical level, but also socially and culturally. In 2011, the PCRF expanded the countries of treatment for our children, sending the first children to Chile and Turkey for treatment.



2011 in USA 

Two Injured Gaza Girls Have Surgery in the USA

In early January, 15-year-old Nojoud Basel from Gaza City and 6-year-old Nebal Al Shamali from Rafah went to the USA for free surgery that was not available to them in Gaza. Nojoud suffered a serious head injury from an Israeli bomb on January 6, 2009 and had neurosurgery by Dr. Yoon Hahn at Advocate Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn, IL. This was the 2nd child injured in Gaza sent to Dr. Hahn in the past year for surgery, and she was hosted and cared for by the Chicago PCRF chapter.



Nebal traveled with her mother Ikram to Long Island, New York after suffering third-degree burns on the lower part of her body in a home accident that occurred during the Israeli assault on Gaza. She had plastic and reconstructive surgery by Dr. Kevah Alizadeh, President of the Long Island Plastic Surgery Group Foundation (LIPSG), while the girl and her mother were cared for and hosted by the PCRF NJ/NY Chapter.



Burned Palestinian Girl Has Surgery in Atlanta



In March, five-year-old Saedra Afeefi from Doha village near Bethlehem had plastic and reconstructive surgery at Paces Surgical Center in Atlanta. Saedra was burned on her face, legs, arms and chest in a home accident and could not get adequate care in Palestine. We arranged her care on a charitable basis with plastic surgeon Dr. Kristin Boehm and anesthesiologist Dr. Narueen Adam, both of whom also led a surgery mission to treat Palestinian refugees in 2010 in Lebanon. Saedra was sent with her mother Taghreed and were cared for by the PCRF Atlanta Chapter.

Three Injured Gaza Kids Sent to the USA for Free Treatment in June



In June, three children from the Gaza Strip arrived in the USA to start medical care that they could not get in their besieged country. Four-year-old Dalya Alotla from Jebalya had orthopedic care at the Shriners Hospital in Philadelphia. She traveled with her mother Yasmin and was cared for by the NY/NJ PCRF chapter. Ten-year-old Daoud Abu Aramana returned for plastic surgery at the Cleveland Clinic after suffering a head wound from an Israeli bomb in 2009. He had reconstructive surgery by Dr. Frank Papay, while 12-year-old Abeer Aldammagh had plastic and reconstructive surgery by Dr. Bill Leighton at Scottsdale Health Care in Arizona after suffering 3rd degree burns on her face and body in an accident. She was cared for by the PCRF Arizona Chapter.



Ramallah Girl Sent to Los Angeles for Surgery

In June, twelve-year-old Liali Suleiman from Beit Aour Al Tahta in the Ramallah had orthopedic surgery at the Shriners Hospital in Los Angeles. She was born with orthopedic deformities of both her arms and legs, and could not be treated in Palestine due to the lack of specialists and facilities. The girl went with her mother Leila and were taken care of by the local Southern California Chapter of the PCRF.

Syrian Boy Has Life-Saving Surgery in Italy

In September, six-year-old Saleh Taha Al Ali from Raqa in Syria had open-heart surgery by Dr. Stefano Luisi Messa, Italy. He was born with complex congenital heart disease and could not get treatment in his country. Accompanying the boy was his mother, Wlida Jomaa. Dr. Luisi has provided surgery for many children through the PCRf in his hospital over the past several years, and saved the lives of over 100 Palestinian children by leading over a dozen surgery missions to Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem, including four missions in 2011.



Two Burned Gaza Girls Have Surgery in Houston, Texas

In September, two burned sisters from Rafah in the Gaza Strip arrived in the USA for free medical care. Hala, 11, and Fatimah, 10, Al Najjar had plastic and reconstructive surgery by Dr. Bill Riley at Memorial Herman Hospital in Sugar Land, Texas. Dr. Riley has led several volunteer surgery missions to Palestine through the PCRf over the past few years, and is the founder of a non-profit organization called "Operation Rainbow." The girls were hosted and cared for by volunteers in the Houston area.



Gaza Boy has Orthopedic Surgery in Los Angeles



In October, Seven-year-old Ahmed Al Saloul from the Nuseriat Refugee Camp in the Gaza Strip had orthopedic surgery on his left hip at the Shriners Hospital in Los Angeles. Ahmed came with two burned sisters from Gaza, and was cared for by the PCRf Southern California chapter. The Los Angeles Shriners Hospital has treated dozens of injured and needy Palestinian children over the past 20 years through the PCRf.

Injured Gaza Girl Sent to St Louis for Surgery

In October, Thirteen-year-old Hadil Sammouni was sent to St Louis for neurosurgical treatment by Dr Samer Elbabaa, the Chief of the section of Pediatric



Neurosurgery at the St. Louis School of Medicine. Hadil was injured by an IDF shell in her head in January 2009 and suffered from a significant craneodect, which Dr Elbabaa repaired on November 15th. Hadil was cared for by local host families and volunteers in the community.

Injured Iraqi Girl Returns for Surgery in the USA



In December, 9-year-old Shahad Al-Jumali from Baghdad had orthopedic surgery by Dr. John Riester at Aultman Hospital in Canton, Ohio. The girl lost her leg from a bomb four years ago in the war and was treated in 2009 through the PCRF in Ohio. She came back to have corrective orthopedic surgery by Dr. Reister and also to have her prosthesis rebuilt at Yanke Bionics in Akron, Ohio. Shahad came with her mother Shahlaa and is being supported by the Kent Mosque.

2011 in Italy

Iraqi Girl Has Life-Saving Surgery in Italy



In July, four-year-old Sana Hatem Shakir from Alambar, Iraq had open-heart surgery by Dr. Stefano Luisi at Ospedale del Cuore in Massa, Italy. This girl was born with a heart defect called Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF), which couldn't be repaired in her war-torn country. Over 2,000 children are born with heart defects annually in Iraq, and most have to travel abroad for surgery or worse, get no care at all and die. Sana and her mother Ameerah were fortunate to go to Italy. Dozens of Iraqi children have joined the many hundreds of Palestinian kids in being treated abroad over the past twenty years, as the PCRF does not discriminate in helping any child get the medical care that they need.

Refugee Baby from Syria Has Life-Saving Surgery in Italy



In February, four-month-old Hala Al Rafee from the Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus had life-saving open-heart surgery in Bergamo, Italy under the care of Dr. Giancarlo Crupi. Hala was sent with her mother Suhad because the complex heart surgery that she needed could not be provided in Syria. Dr. Crupi has treated over a dozen children from all over the Middle East for free in Bergamo, Italy, while also leading many surgery missions over the past 10 years to Ramallah, Gaza and East Jerusalem, saving the lives of over 100 other Palestinian children. In June and October 2011, he led missions to Jerusalem, saving the lives of nearly two-dozen babies.

2011 in London **Iraqi Child Has
life-Saving Surgery in
London**

In May, three-year-old Farah Ibrahim Abdelhadi from Iraq had open-heart surgery at the Royal Brompton Hospital in London. This girl traveled with her mother through the PCRf after being identified with congenital heart disease, which could not be treated in her war-torn country. Her treatment was arranged and sponsored by the Chain of Hope charity in the U.K., and her surgery was performed by Dr. B. Sethia, who has led over a dozen cardiac surgery missions to Palestine through the PCRf over the past 12 years, including two in 2011. The PCRf has worked with Chain of Hope in the past to treat other kids from Iraq in the U.K.

2011 in Egypt **Jenin Girl sent to Egypt for Urological Surgery**

In July, eighteen-year-old Afnan Nuriat from Maithlon village near Jenin returned to Mansoura University Hospital in Egypt to continue her treatment for her congenital urological defects that she was treated for there in 2006. Her care and treatment, as well as housing, were under the generous support and care of Dr. Hassan Abol-Enein, PhD., the Director of Urology and Nephrology Center.

**West Bank boy Has Surgery in Egypt**

In October, 15-year-old Ahmed Belo had urological reconstructive surgery by Professor Dr. Hassan Abu Ain at Mansoura Hospital in Egypt. The boy was born with bladder deformity which could not be treated by surgery in Palestine. Dr. Abu Ain is a pediatric urologist who has treated PCRf patients on a charitable level in the past, including a girl from Jenin earlier in 2011. He also provides housing for the children.



2011 in Kuwait

Four Palestinian Children Sent to Kuwait for Medical Care

In August, four children went to Kuwait for medical care not available to them in Palestine. The group included Gaza boy Omar Abdulaziz Al Deerawi, 12, who went with his mother Madiyya, and three from the West Bank: Sameh Abdulfattah Abdulghani Samsoud, 17, Hamzah Fawaz Ahmed, 13, Marwan Khalil Mohammad Hroosh, 15. The boy's treatment was sponsored by the Ruler of Kuwait through the Ministry of Health. In 2010, the PCRF sent a burned girl from Jenin to Kuwait for plastic and reconstructive surgery. Their treatment was at the Ibn Sina and Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospitals, and their social support was supported with provided volunteers from the community in Kuwait.



2011 in Turkey

First Palestinian Child Sent Through PCRF to Turkey for Surgery



In October, twelve-year-old Shefa Najajdeh from the West Bank town of Hebron had urological surgery by Dr. Coskun Sahin at Sema Hospital in Istanbul, Turkey. This is the first child from Palestine that the PCRF has sent to Turkey for surgery. Shefa was taken care of by many volunteers in Turkey, where she traveled without her family.

2011 in United Arab Emirates

Five Injured Gaza Children Sent to the UAE for Medical Treatment

In September and October of 2011 five children from the besieged Gaza Strip arrived to the United Arab Emirates for treatment for medical conditions which could not be adequately treated for in Gaza. Eleven-year old Bisan Al Sallaq from Gaza City was injured by an Israeli shell in January, 2009 on her chest and had reconstructive surgery at Emirates Hospital in Dubai. Eleven year-old Odai Al-Jamal from Jebalya was injured by an Israeli tank shell in 2006 and lost a leg, as well as suffering from many other orthopedic deformities. He was treated in cooperation with the Little Wings Foundation. After his orthopedic surgery, Odai was fitted with a new prosthesis for his amputated leg at German Limbtech and was trained and rehabilitated at Kidz First Clinic in Dubai. Fourteen-year-old Hassan Hawila from the Jebalia refugee camp was injured by an Israeli shell in January, 2009 and had orthopedic care through Al-Noor Hospital in Al Ain. All three of these injured children stayed with host families arranged by the UAE-PCRF Chapter. Two year old Lana Al Emoor went with her mother Eman from Khan Younis for ophthalmic care at Moorfields Hospital. She was born with a congenital defect that left her blind in one eye and severally nearsighted in the other. Arriving in October with her mother Rula, was twenty-month-old Zein Al Dalo. This baby was born totally blind and without eyes. Moorefields specialist Paul Geelan built her a customised ocular prosthesis for both her eyes and inserted to fill the void eye sockets which gave her a beautiful aesthetic look. The two mothers and their children shared a serviced apartment donated by a local businessmen. Volunteers and members of the local and expat community provided an network of support teams for these five patients during their treatment there.

Over 50 injured Palestinian children have been sent by the PCRF to the UAE since 2006. We are grateful to the Palestinian Consulate in Dubai for their assistance in securing visas and logistical support, as well as the UAE authorities for permitting these children treatment in their country.



2011 in Germany 

Iraqi Girl Has Life-Saving Surgery in Germany

On December 26th, four-year-old Noor Abed Nawaf from Al Anbar in Iraq traveled with her grandmother Mahdiyah to Leipzig, Germany for life-saving open-heart surgery that is not available in her war-torn country. Dr. Michael Weidenbach in Leipzig, Germany operated on her through UK-base charity Chain of Hope, who has cooperated with the PCRF in the past to help provide life-saving care for other children from the Middle East. Volunteers in Jordan helped to care for them during their stay there waiting for her visa.

2011 in Jordan 

Palestinian Youths Sent to Jordan for Artificial Limbs



In early June, the PCRF sent children with amputations from the West Bank to Jordan for new prostheses, due to the very poor quality of artificial limbs in Palestine. Donations by members of the South African Community in Dubai secured the fund for treatment for the thirteen children in need for new prosthetics at the Ibn Sina Center in Amman. The close proximity of this facility allowed for all to travel to Jordan with their parents at a fraction of the cost incurred for travel abroad, while they were cared for by many volunteers in Jordan. Some of these children have been treated in the past through the PCRF, particularly in Dubai.

2011 in Chile

First Palestinian Child sent to Chile for Treatment



In December, 10-year-old Mohammad Al Kharraz from Nablus had a surgery at the Exequiel González Cortés Hospital in Santiago, Chile. He was born with bladder exstrophy, a condition that prevented him from urinating normally and also forced him to wear diapers permanently.

The operation reconstructed the cervical sphincter and then expanded the bladder so to reconstruct the bladder neck to give strength so he can store urine. At the same time, surgeons made an extension of the bladder with a segment of intestine, thus increasing the storage capacity of this liquid waste.

Mohammed was first identified for surgery by Dr. Pedro-Jose Lopez, a pediatric urologist who was on a PCRf mission to Nablus in March, 2011.

Mohammed is the first child arrives in Chile thanks to an agreement between PCRf and the Chilean Society of Pediatric Surgery, agreement signed last August in Chile. Also supporting this boy was the Palestinian Foundation of Chile. Medical Team was lead by Dr. Ricardo Subieta, Chief Doctor of Pediatric Department at Exequiel Gonzalez Cortés Hospital, and included Dr. Nelly Letelier, Dr. Pedro José Lopez, Dr. Soledad Celis and Dr. Andrea Ruiz.



Volunteer Surgery & Medical Missions in 2011

The Palestine Children's Relief Fund is the main international humanitarian relief organization arranging, sponsoring and running surgery missions to the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and Lebanon's refugee camps. Over the past 10 years, over 15,000 injured and sick children have had specialized surgery in their home country by visiting specialists sent to treat them from all over the world. Hundreds of doctors and nurses have also been trained and gained experience from working with our teams, who come with a spirit of humanity and solidarity for the people that they are serving. In 2010, we sent more teams to work than any time in our nearly 20-year history.



Pediatric Cardiac Surgery & Cardiology

In Palestine, hundreds of babies are born each year with congenital heart disease. Whereas ten years ago, many of these children either had to travel abroad for care or face the prospects of an early death, today hundreds of babies have surgery every year at Makassed Hospital on the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem through visiting PCRf missions coming from all over the world. Thanks to the hard work and skill of hundreds of volunteer doctors and nurses, thousands of Palestinian children are alive today. In addition to surgery, the PCRf has built the pediatric cardiac intensive care unit (ICU) in Makassed, and donated echocardiography machines to doctors all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We would like to introduce you to the cardiac surgeons who led missions to Palestine in 2011:

Dr. Adil Husain

His first mission to Palestine with the PCRf was in 2008, and since then he volunteers every year to provide life-saving care for children with heart disease. Dr. Husain is an Associate Professor of Surgery and the Division Chief - Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery/Congenital Heart Network at University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio, Texas.



February

On February 25, Dr. Husain led a seven-member team of doctors and nurses from the USA on a week-long mission in which thirteen children, mostly from the besieged Gaza Strip, had life-saving open-heart surgery. His team included surgeon Dr. Sujata Subramanian from Chicago, Florida pediatric cardiologist Dr. Jay Fricker, Loma Linda University perfusionist Kholoud Nassar, and San Antonio PICU doctors Clint Pietz and Minnette Son, as well as nurse Cathy Woodward.





Dr. Alan Kerr

No single man in the history of Palestine has saved more children's lives than Dr. Alan Kerr. Since he first came to Palestine in 2000, Dr. Kerr has operated on nearly 700 sick babies with congenital heart disease, starting in Ramallah Hospital, working during the very difficult and dangerous days in Shifa Hospital in Gaza, and the last few years in Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem. In April, Dr. Kerr was awarded Palestine's Medal of Honor from PA President Mahmoud Abbas for his service to the humanitarian needs of Palestinian children. His three missions in 2011 bring his total to twenty-seven trips to Palestine through the PCRF.



April

On April 20, a three-member team of two doctors and one ICU nurse completed a three-week mission in which nearly two dozen children with congenital heart disease from the West Bank and Gaza Strip had surgery. Returning to Palestine again after many humanitarian trips there were anesthesiologist/intensivist Dr. David Buckley and ICU nurse Warren Narin.



July

In late July, Dr. Alan Kerr returned to Palestine for the second time in 2011 and for his twenty-sixth time since 2000 to provide life-saving surgery on sick babies from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Dr. Alan Kerr is the father of pediatric cardiac surgery in New Zealand and built the department at Green Lane Hospital in Auckland. He worked without his team on this mission, saving the lives of fifteen sick babies, while training local doctors in Makassed Hospital.



September

On September 28, Dr. Kerr led an eight-member team of doctors and nurses from Auckland, New Zealand on a two-week mission to Makassed Hospital, saving the lives of 31 babies, most from the besieged Gaza Strip. This was Dr. Kerr's twenty-seventh volunteer mission to Palestine through the PCRFB, and the team included returning anesthesiologist Dr. David Buckley, intensivist Dr. John Beca, pediatric cardiologist Dr. John Wright, medical technician Carsten Zopf, ICU nurses Nicola Gini and Christine Armstrong. Also joining the team for the first time was pediatric cardiac surgeon Dr. Kirsten Finucane.





Dr. B. Sethia

He is a pediatric cardiac surgeon at the Royal Brompton Hospital in London and has been volunteering on missions to operate on children with heart disease through the PCRF since 1999. Dr. Sethia has led over a dozen surgery missions, including two in 2011. He also has treated children from Iraq and Palestine with heart disease through the PCRF in London, in cooperation with the Chain of Hope charity. He also was the president of the main consulting arm of the PCRF's effort to build a long-term program in heart disease in Palestine, the International Palestinian Cardiac Relief Organization (IPCRO). His missions in 2011 were:



March

On March 10, Dr. Sethia led a 3-member team from the United Kingdom which included Birmingham anesthesiologist/intensivist Dr. Alistair Cranston and ICU nurse Natasha Pool. All three volunteers have been working in Palestine with the PCRF for years. Over one-dozen sick babies had life-saving surgery on this mission.

November

On November 18, Dr. Sethia led a five-member team of doctors and nurses from the UK and USA on a week-long trip to Makassed Hospital in which nearly a dozen Gaza and West Bank babies had life saving surgery. The team included returning Birmingham anesthesiologist/intensivist Dr. Alistair Cranston, Bay Area pediatric cardiologist Dr. Michael Cooper, and two new ICU nurses from the Royal Brompton Hospital in London, Justine Gibbs and Lydia Lofton. Nearly a dozen children had surgery on this mission.



Dr. Giovanni Stellin

He is a professor at the University of Padova Medical School in Italy and started coming to Palestine with the PCRf in August, 2010. This is his second volunteer mission to Palestine.



March

On March 25, Prof. Stellin led a 4-member team of doctors and a nurse from the University Hospital in Padova, Italy for a week-long mission to provide sick Palestinian babies from the West Bank and Gaza Strip open-heart surgery at Makassed Hospital on the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem. The team included surgeon Dr. Messimo Padalino, cardiac anesthesia and ICU Dr. Demetrio Pittarello and scrub nurse Elisabetta Cattelan. 11 babies with serious heart disease had life-saving surgery on this mission.

Dr. Thierry Bove

Since 1999, the University of Ghent has sent nearly two dozen pediatric cardiac surgery missions to Palestine through the PCRf. One of the main surgeons on in this program is Dr. Bove, a pediatric and adult cardiac surgeon from Belgium. He has saved the lives of dozens of Palestinian children through the PCRf.



May

On May 27th, Dr. Bove led a three-member team from the University of Ghent in Belgium for a week long mission to provide open-heart surgery on sick babies with congenital heart disease from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The team included pediatric cardiologist/Intensivist Dr. Kristof Vandekerckhove and Perfusionist Dirk De Smet, both of whom have also been on several past volunteer missions to Palestine with the PCRf.



Dr. Giancarlo Crupi

He was one of the first pediatric cardiac surgeons to come and work successfully in Palestine with the PCRF. For over a dozen years, this pediatric cardiac, this pediatric cardiac surgeon from Bergamo, Italy, has been saving the lives of hundreds of Palestinian children in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem. He also has been treating children for free from Iraq, Palestine and Syria at his hospital in Italy through the PCRF.



June

On June 17, Dr. Crupi led a team from Bergamo for a week-long trip to Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem. The team included surgeon Dr. Federico Brunelli and intensivist Dr. Lorenzo Grazioli.

November



On November 5, Dr. Crupi led a four-doctor team to Makassed Hospital to treat children born in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with congenital heart disease, as well as to build a program in pediatric cardiac surgery at Makassed Hospital on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. The team included Dr. Laura Preda, a Bergamo cardiologist, Dr. Ducco Pederici, a surgeon from Bergamo and Sicilian anesthesiologist Dr. Dario Salvo. They worked for one week and provided a dozen children the care and treatment that is otherwise not available to them in Palestine.



Dr. Stefano Luisi

He has led over a dozen surgery missions to Palestine with the PCRF over the past few years, saving the lives of well over one-hundred sick children. He also has provided several Palestinian, Syrian and Iraqi children care at his hospital in Massa, Italy. In addition to leading so many missions with the PCRF, he has also arranged training for several specialists from Makassed in Italy, and has provided equipment and supplies for donation. His missions in 2011 are:



February

On February 11, Dr. Stefano Luisi led the first pediatric cardiac surgery mission to Palestine with the PCRF, which included pediatric cardiologist Dr. Luciano De Simone from Florence and Dr. Vivian Bader, who is currently training in the UK after working in Makassed for the past several years. One-dozen sick babies from the West Bank and Gaza Strip had surgery on this mission.

May



On May 19th, Dr. Luisi led a four-member team of doctors and a nurse for a week-long mission that included surgeon Dr. Francesca Chiaramonti, intensivist/anesthesiologist Dr. Paolo Del Sarto, and anesthesia technician Barbara Del Giudice. Ten babies from the West Bank and Gaza had surgery on this mission. Dr. Del Sarto has also been on several volunteer missions to Palestine through the PCRF in the past.



October



On October 22nd, Dr. Luisi led a five-member team of doctors and nurses from Messa, Italy on a week-long mission of saving the lives of children with congenital heart disease to Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem, his third mission in 2011 through the PCRF. The team included surgeon Dr. Egidio Varone, anaesthetist Dr. Pierantonio Furfori, and cardiologist Dr. Ines Kristo.

December

Dr. Luisi led a six-member team from Italy to Makassed in mid-December for his fourth trip in 2011. Joining him was anesthesiologist/intensivist Dr. Paolo del Sarto, who has been on numerous volunteer trips with the PCRF in the past. Coming for the first time were cardiologist Dr. Roberta Bini, anesthesiologist Dr. Elisa Barberi, cardiac surgeon Dr. Michele Murzi and ICU nurse Barbara Baldi. A dozen children had life-saving surgery by this mission, the final cardiac surgery trip to Palestine in 2011.

Dr. Dominique Metras

Prof. Dominique Metras is a pediatric cardiac surgeon from Hopital d'Enfants de la Timone in Marseille, France, who returned to Palestine through the PCRFB to continue his decades-long support for Palestinian children with heart disease.

July

On July 8, Dr. Metras completed a week-long mission to Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem with his son, surgeon Dr. Alexandre Metras. Prof. Metras has led several past surgery missions to Palestine through the PCRFB, including a trip in December, 2010. He has saved the lives of several dozen children from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including eleven on this trip.



December

In December, Dr. Dominique Metras finished a week of surgery on babies from the West Bank and Gaza at Makassed Hospital on the Mount of Olives. He was accompanied by his son Dr. Alexander Metras, who also joined his father on a mission to Palestine last July.



Maxillofacial Surgery

Hundreds of patients in Palestine are in need of specialized facial surgery, from cleft lip and palate deformities, to more complex, staged procedures that require extensive follow-up and expensive tools and implants. Thanks to many international missions, hundreds of patients each year get expert care, while local doctors get the training and experience that they need to better treat their own patients in the future. The Smile Train has been a major partner of the PCRF in helping to support these humanitarian surgery missions to Palestine over the past several years.



Dr. Mark Ray

Since 2006, this ENT surgeon from Tennessee has been leading cleft lip and palate surgery missions to Ramallah Hospital in the West Bank. Over one-hundred children with such deformities have had expert surgery through the hard work of Dr. Ray and his volunteers.

March

On March 17, Dr. Ray led a three-member team from the USA completed a week of reconstructive surgery on children with cleft lip and palate deformities at the Kuwaiti Hospital in the Ramallah Medical Complex. The team included Washington, D.C. anesthesiologist Dr. Richard Bosco and OR nurse Lizzie Graves. The team screened nearly 70 children and treated nearly 30 children with a variety of cleft lip or palate deformities. Both Dr. Bosco and Ms. Graves have volunteered with the PCRF in the past.

Dr. María Loreto Castellón Zirpel

She is a plastic and maxillofacial surgeon from Santiago, Chile who currently practices in the Exequiel González Cortés Hospital and the Luis Calvo Mackenna Hospital.

Dr. Rodrigo Alejandro Fariña Sirandoni

He is a plastic and maxillofacial surgeon from Santiago, Chile who currently practices in the Luis Calvo Mackenna Hospital



November/December

This was the first maxillofacial surgery mission from Chile to work in Palestine. Led by surgeons Dr. María Loreto Castellón Zirpel and Dr. Rodrigo Alejandro Fariña Sirandoni, the team included Dr. Jaime Marcelo Mayorga Maldonado, Dr. María Francisca Uribe Fenner and anesthesiologist Dr. Silvana Cavallieri Badilla, all from from Luis Calvo Mackenna Hospital. They operated on over twenty patients with significant facial deformities.



Dr. Khaled Abughazaleh

He is a Palestinian-American maxillofacial surgeon in Chicago who has been actively leading surgery teams from all over North and South America to Palestine for the past several years, treating hundreds of patients. Khaled and his wife Sahar are also very active with the PCRF Chicago chapter.

January

On January 11, Dr. Abughazaleh led a 7-member team of doctors and nurses from North and South America to the West Bank to provide maxillofacial surgery for children at Salfit government hospital. The team included surgeons Prof. Rafael Ruiz Rodriguez and Dr. Juan Carlos Lopez from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico, Prof. Fernando Sandoval, the Dean of the dental school University San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador, Dr. Imad Tamimi from the King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Jeddah, anesthesiologist Dr. Paul Meyer from the University of Iowa and OR nurse from San Diego, Amal Jubran. All of the team members have been on past PCRF missions to the Middle East to treat children as volunteers.



June

On June 4, Dr. Abughazaleh led a four-member team of doctors on a two-week mission of maxillofacial surgery on children in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The team worked the first week at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. Returning on this mission were Dr. Juan Carlos Lopez Noriega from the University of Mexico, and Ecuadorean surgeon Prof. Raul Fernando Sandoval, as well as American anesthesiologist Dr. Paul Meyer from Iowa. The team moved the second week to Salfit Hospital and included nurse Amal Jubran from San Diego, as well as Los Angeles anesthesiologist Dr. Omar Durra, Dr. Ala' Abujazar and Dr. Salam Salman. All have volunteered with the PCRF many times in the past and have treated hundreds of complex facial deformities since 2006. This is the first maxillofacial mission to the besieged Gaza Strip.





December

On December 2nd, Dr. Abughazaleh led a nine-member team of doctors from North and South America on a week-long Maxillofacial surgical mission to Salfeet Hospital in the central West Bank. The team included prominent University of Mexico Professors Dr. Rafeal Ruiz Rodriquez and Dr. Juan Carlos Lopez Noriega, the Ecuadorean father-son surgeon team from the University of San Francisco in Quito Professor Fernando R. Sandoval and Dr. Fernando Sandoval, from the University of Kentucky Medical center assistant professor Dr. Ruba Khader and resident Dr. Robert Hunsaker and New Jersey Oral Maxillofacial Surgeon Dr. Imad Tamimi, with anesthesiologist Dr. Paul Meyer from the University of Iowa. All members of this team have volunteered in the past with the PCRF and have treated hundreds of patients in Palestine with serious facial deformities, including cleft lip and palate. The mission was partially under the generous sponsorship of The Smile Train. Palestinian President honored the team with thanks and gifts during their trip to Palestine as well.





Pediatric Urological Surgery

Hundreds of babies are born in Palestine every year with complex urological disorders that require specialists who are in very short supply in Palestine. The PCRF has been the main organization bringing in volunteer pediatric urological surgery teams to provide surgery for these children, as well as training and experience for the local doctors and nurses. The missions in 2011 were:

Dr. J. Christopher Austin

His first mission to Palestine through the PCRF was a successful one for this Associate Professor of Surgery/ Urology at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Oregon.



January

On January 29, Dr. Austin led a three-member team from the USA on a week-long mission at Alia Hospital in the West Bank town of Hebron. The team included returning volunteers anesthesiologist Dr. Paul Meyer from Iowa and OR nurse Amal Jubran from San Diego. Nearly 100 children with urological defects were seen by the team, and 22 had complex surgery for free.

Dr. Pedro-José López Egaña

A pediatric urological surgeon from Santiago, Chile, this was his first mission to Palestine through the PCRf. Dr. López also treated a child from the PCRf as a charity case at his hospital in Chile in November, 2011. This was the first Palestinian child sent to Chile for donated medical care.



March

On March 31, a three-man team of doctors from Santiago, Chile completed a two-week surgical mission in Rafidiah Hospital in the West Bank town of Nablus. Dr. López was joined by Pediatric surgeon Dr. Patricio Herrera and anesthesiologist Dr. Pablo Andrés Gonzales Rojas from the Hospital Exequiel Gonzalez Cortes. They provided nearly 40 Palestinian children with complex disorders expert surgery, while at the same time working with and training the local surgeons in Nablus.



Dr. John Gazak

For the past two years, this North Carolina pediatric urologist has been leading surgery missions through the PCRF to Palestine, as well as treating children at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte.

May

On May 8th, Dr. Gazak led a three-member team from the USA on a pediatric urological surgery mission to the Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir El Balah, a town in central Gaza. The team included returning volunteers, anesthesiologist Dr. Kevin Healy and OR nurse Teresa Bubb. The team was on several past PCRF missions to the West Bank, and this was their first trip to the Gaza Strip. They treated nearly two-dozen children with complex urological deformities and also helped to provide support and training for the local surgeons.



Dr. S. Wan

A urological surgeon from the USA, this was Dr. Wan's first trip to Palestine through the PCRF. In addition to helping many patients, he also donated thousands of dollars worth of valuable equipment and supplies for local doctors and the MOH hospital.

October

On October 21, Dr. Wan led a five-member team of doctors and nurses to Alia Hospital in Hebron. The team included anesthesiologist from Iowa, Dr. Paul Meyer, Dr. Jubran Dakwar and nurses Amal Jubran and Amanda Nasser from San Diego. The team worked for two weeks providing children with urological disorders the care that they need but cannot get within the local healthcare system in Palestine.

Dr. Sakti Das

An American-based urological surgeon from the Bay Area, Dr. Das volunteers all over the world through International Volunteers in Urology to help those in need of his specialized skill. He has been on several past missions with the PCRF to Palestine, first coming in 2007.



March

On March 31, Dr. Das, completed a week long mission at the Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir El Balah in the central Gaza Strip. Nearly two dozen patients had surgery with Dr. Das, who worked with local surgeons to help in training and upgrading services.

Dr. Jose Sepulveda

He is the head of the Pediatric Orthopedic and Surgical Unit at the Hospital Clinico De Magallanes in southern Chile. This was his first mission to Palestine through the PCRF.

Dr. Francisco Reed

He is a pediatric urologist from Mexico currently practicing at the Hospital Exequiel Gonzalez Cortes in Santiago. It was his first mission to Palestine.



December

In early December, two Chilean surgeons and an anesthesiologist completed the first volunteer missions to the West Bank town of Nablus through the support of the PCRF. Led by Dr. Jose Antonio Sepulveda Cuevas, who was joined by Dr. Francisco Javier Reed Lopez-Güereña, they were supported by anesthesiologist Dr. Pedro Fuentealba Cuevas, from the Magallanes Clinic in Punta Arenas. Working at Rafidiah government hospital, the team did fifty-one large operations on children with a variety of congenital malformations.

The PCRF worked with the Palestinian Foundation in Chile to help sponsor this team.



Pediatric Neurosurgery

Children born with brain, neurological or spinal disorders often require complex surgery that cannot be provided in Palestine due to the lack of specialists in this very specific subspecialty of neurosurgery. Adding to this is the large number of injured children requiring neurosurgery due to the conflict in Gaza and the West Bank. The PCRF has been working with several pediatric neurosurgeons over the past few years to identify and treat children in need of such care. In 2011, we supported three missions to Palestine.



Dr. Samer Elbabaa

He is the chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery in the Saint Louis University School of Medicine in Missouri. This was his second surgery trip to Palestine through the PCRF. He also operated on a 13-year-old injured Gaza girl through the PCRF in November, 2011.

January

On January 21, Dr. Elbabaa led a six-member team of doctors and nurses from the USA on a week-long mission of providing sick and injured children from the West Bank and Gaza Strip pediatric neurosurgery in Ramallah Hospital. The team included German surgeon Dr. Bülent Yapticilar, anesthesiologist Dr. Robert Jacob and Keith Denny from the University of Cincinnati, and Loma Linda nurse Asma Taha, who has been on several past PCRF missions and was awarded the second-annual “Huda Al-Masri Humanitarian Award” by the PCRF Southern California Chapter at their annual Gala in September. The team saw nearly three-dozen children with a variety of complex disorders and provided surgery on nine children.



Dr. Alex Zouros

He is the Associate Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery and Pediatrics and the Chief in the Section of Pediatric Neurosurgery as well as the Neurosurgical Residency Program Director at Loma Linda University in California. He has been on several past PCRf missions to Palestine since 2007, as well as treating children for free at his hospital in the USA.

July

On July 8, Dr. Zouros led a four-member team of doctors and nurses from North America on a week-long trip to the medical complex in Ramallah. The team included anesthesiologist Dr. Justin Horricks, ICU nurse from Tennessee Meira Yasin and Dr. Faris Shweikeh from Loma Linda. They worked half a week at Ramallah Hospital in the West Bank and later moved to Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem, where more complex cases were operated on.



Dr. Lorenzo Genitori

He is the Chief Director of the Unit of Paediatric Neurosurgery at the “Anna Meyer” Children’s Hospital in Florence, Italy, and the Coordinator of Intensive and Neonatal Paediatric Neurosurgery in Tuscany. One of the most respected pediatric neurosurgeons in Italy, he led a mission to Nablus with the PCRf in October, 2010, and treated a child with a brain tumor, Ola Abu Jamous, in November.

December

Dr. Genitori led a five-person mission to the Kuwaiti Hospital in the Ramallah Medical Complex in mid-December to provide children with neurological disorders surgery that they otherwise could not get locally. Joining Dr. Genitori was surgeon Dr. Federico Mussa and anesthesiologist Dr. Francesca Rossetti, both on their first mission to Palestine. Returning for their second trip to treat Palestinian children with Dr. Genitori was surgery nurse Valeria Vasta and Simona Vergna. Over a dozen children had complex surgery on their heads and spines through the hard work of this team.





Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

There are thousands of burned and deformed children in Palestine and Lebanon's refugee camps as a result of home accidents, trauma and birth defects. There are too few qualified surgeons trying to provide expert care for these children locally, particularly in the public sector. Over the past fifteen years, the PCR has brought plastic surgeons from all over the world to treat thousands of children for free. In 2011, we continued to sponsor these missions to Gaza, the West Bank and the camps of Lebanon.



Dr. Walter Kunzi

A plastic and reconstructive surgeon from the University Hospital in Zürich, Switzerland, Dr. Kunzi has been treating children in Gaza through the PCR since 2007. He has been part of larger missions with other European teams, and led his own surgery team from Germany and Switzerland as well.

March

On March 11, Dr. Kunzi led a four-member team of doctors and nurses on a week-long surgery mission at the European Gaza Hospital in Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip. The team included maxillofacial surgeon Dr. Johannes Kutenberger from Kantons Hospital in Lucerne, OR nurses Barbel Costabile and Kathrin Schulze, both from the University Hospital in Zürich. All have volunteered before with the PCR to provide volunteer reconstructive surgery on poor and needy children in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Dr. Randolph Smith

A plastic surgeon from Augusta Plastic Surgery Associates in Georgia, he has led several missions to the West Bank through the PCRF over the past few years, treating several dozen poor and needy patients.



January

On January 22, Dr. Smith led a five-member team of doctors and nurses on a week-long mission treating children with burns and other deformities that could not be treated locally. The team included Cincinnati anesthesiologist Dr. Deanna Dalia, anesthesia associate Christina Becker Schuckmann, OR nurse Amal Jubran from San Diego and OR assistant Rebeca Smith. The team worked at the Thabet Thabet Hospital in Tulkarem, operating on 31 children free of charge.

Dr. Hisham Ammous

The head of plastic and reconstructive surgery at Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem, and has also worked with the PCRF to treat children in Lebanon for nearly ten years. He is the main plastic surgeon in Palestine and has also work with the PCRF to treat hundreds of patients in the West Bank.



June

On June 25, Dr. Ammous began a week-long trip to Lebanon's impoverished refugee camps to provide plastic and reconstructive surgery on children who could not get adequate care locally. The mission was at the Human Call Hospital in the Ein El Hilweh Refugee Camp near Sidon. Palestinian refugees do not have easy access to local health care services in Lebanon due to their stateless citizenship status.

Dr. Diachi Morioka

He is a plastic surgeon from Tokyo, Japan who has led missions with the PCRF to treat burned and needy children in the Gaza Strip, West Bank and Lebanon's camps since 2008. He volunteers with charities all over the world and helps the poor and needy from Asia throughout Africa.



July

On July 25, Dr. Morioka completed a two-week surgery mission at the Thabet Thabet Hospital in Tulkarem and Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis. Dozens of Palestinian children had specialized reconstructive surgery. Dr. Morioka last volunteered with the PCRF in 2010.



Dr. Enrico Robotti

He is the Chief of the Department of Plastic Surgery, Ospedali Riuniti di Bergamo, Italy, and the Acting Chief of the Department of Maxillofacial Surgery. Dr. Robotti is the current president of the Italian Plastic Surgery Society, and has led several plastic surgery missions to Palestine through the PCRF over the past nearly ten years, including trips to Gaza and, last year, to Hebron in the West Bank.



December

On December 3rd, Dr. Robotti led a six-member team of doctors and nurses from Bergamo, Italy to the New Jericho Hospital in the West Bank. The team included surgeons, Dr. Luca Orтели and Dr. Bernado Righi, anesthesiologist Dr. Alberto Benigni and nurses Osabella Pescati and Elisabetta Piazzalunga. All members of this team have volunteered on many past missions to Palestine through the PCRF, including several trips to the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Pietro Massei

He is the Professor and the Director of the Division of Plastic Surgery at the Hospital of Lucca, Tuscany in Italy. Dr. Massei has performed over eight thousand operations in the fields of Plastic, Reconstructive, Esthetic Surgery and published thirty articles in respected medical journals.



November

In November, Dr. Massei led a three-member team on an eight-day mission to Rafidia Hospital in the West Bank town of Nablus. He provided expert reconstructive care of burned children, with support from surgeon Dr. Pagnini Daniele and OR nurse Maria Rosa Paolini. Over thirty children had surgery by this team, on their second mission to Palestine through PCRF. They also worked in 2010 in Nablus.

General and Pediatric Surgery

Pediatric and General Surgery are two specialties that are changing constantly, and we are the main organization bringing in surgery teams from all over the world to provide training and care for patients otherwise not able to get adequate treatment locally.

Dr. Saad Saad

Every year, this Palestinian-American pediatric surgeon from New Jersey leads a team into the West Bank town of Ramallah to operate on children. He also has treated PCRF children for free in his hospital in the USA in the past.



June

On June 23, Dr. Saad led a three-member team on a week-long trip to provide pediatric surgery for children from the West Bank and Gaza Strip at Ramallah Hospital. The team included anesthesiologist Dr. Khaled Morsi and OR nurse from San Diego, Amal Atieh Jubran, all of whom have volunteered for the PCRF many times in the past.

Dr. Patricio Herrera

A pediatric surgeon from Santiago, Chile, Dr. Herrera was also on a mission to Ramallah Hospital in 2008.



March

On March 31, Dr. Herrera joined a three-member team of doctors from Santiago, Chile on a two-week surgical mission in Rafidiah Hospital in the West Bank town of Nablus. Also joining was pediatric urological surgeon Dr. Pedro-José López Egaña and anesthesiologist Dr. Pablo Andrés Gonzales Rojas from the Hospital Exequiel Gonzalez Cortes. They provided nearly forty children complex and unavailable operations, while at the same time working with and training the local surgeons in Nablus.



Dr. James Starling

A general surgeon now residing in North Carolina, Dr. Starling has led general surgery missions with the PCRF to Jenin, Hebron and now Beit Jala over the past few years.



August

On August 1, Dr. James Starling completed a week-long mission to Hussein Hospital in the West Bank town of Beit Jala, where he screened and operated on over a dozen patients with a variety of surgical needs.



Dr. Abdalla Zarroug

A pediatric surgeon from the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Zarroug's first mission to Palestine was with a spine surgeon to the besieged Gaza Strip.

September

On September 17th, Dr. Zarroug was part of a four-member team from the Mayo Clinic and operated on children with congenital malformations at the European Gaza Hospital in Khan Younis. The team included orthopedic spine surgeon Dr. Ahmad Nassr, nurse Jane Millo-Goergen and Medtronic rep. Todd Lichty.



Dr. Andrea Carobbi

He is the director of the General Surgery Unit of the Hospital of Lucca in Tuscany, Italy. He specializes in oncological surgery and advanced minimally invasive surgery. He has organized and led two surgery missions for the PCRf to Nablus since 2010.



November

Dr. Carobbi led a four-member team of general and plastic surgeons from Italy on an eight-day mission to Rafidia Hospital in the West Bank town of Nablus. Dr. Carobbi provided expert laproscopic training and experience to local surgeons, while also donating over \$40,000 worth of medical supplies to the hospital. Over thirty patients also had surgery through this mission. Many complex surgical cases were also performed under his guidance.

Orthopedic and Spine Surgery

There are a high number of patients in Palestine suffering from orthopedic disorders that cannot be adequately treated locally. This is the result of the trauma that is common due to the conflict and birth defects in children. There are very few specialists in pediatric orthopedics and spine surgery there, particularly in the public sector.

Dr. Christophe Oberlin

Over the past decade, this orthopedic surgeon from Paris has been leading missions in to the besieged Gaza Strip to provide training for local surgeons, as well as treatment for complex cases. The PCRf has been working with Dr. Oberlin and his team for the past few years, helping to organize and sponsor their trips, which have greatly improved the quality of orthopedic surgery, hand surgery and peripheral nerve surgery in the southern part of Gaza.



March

On March 19, Dr. Oberlin led a mission on a week-long trip to Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip. He was joined by anesthesiologist Dr. Chstrophe Denantes, who has been on many past surgery missions with Dr. Oberlin and other French teams to Palestine.



July

On July 17th, Dr. Oberlin led a three-member team on a week-long mission to the Gaza Strip. The team included anesthesiologist Dr. Christophe Denetes and OR nurse Paulette Fauche, and was to include UK surgeon Anes Rafee, but he was denied entry into Gaza by the Israeli authorities. This team has led several treating and teaching missions to Gaza over the past several years, working mainly at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis and Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.



October

On October 7, Dr. Oberlin led a three-member team to Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. The team included Dr. Asan Rafee Azez, a UK-based orthopedic/hand surgeon and French anesthesiologist Dr. Christophe Denantes, both of whom have been on several past missions with the PCRF. A total of seventeen operations were performed by the team.

Dr. Thomas Bailey, Jr. & Dr. Ghassan Alami

Dr. Bailey is an orthopedic and spine surgeon from the Medical College of Georgia Hospital in Augusta, GA and has been on several past missions to Palestine through the PCRF. Dr. Alami is an orthopedic surgeon from Saint-Jérôme Hospital Montreal, Canada. This was his first mission to Palestine through the PCRF.



June

On June 18, these orthopedic surgeons from North America completed a week-long trip to Jenin Hospital in the northern West Bank. Dr. Bailey Jr. and Dr. Alami provided hands-on training and experience for local orthopedic surgeons in Jenin, as well as pediatric orthopedic care for children suffering from trauma and congenital malformations.

Dr. Ahmad Nassr

He is an orthopedic spine surgeon from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. This was his first mission to Palestine through the PCRF.



September

On September 17th, Dr. Nassr led a four-member team from the Mayo Clinic on a week of surgery at the European Gaza Hospital in Khan Younis. Led by orthopedic spine surgeon Dr. Ahmad Nassr and pediatric surgeon Dr. Abdalla Zarroug, the team included nurse Jane Millo-Goergen and Medtronic rep. Todd Lichty and screened and operated on dozens of sick and injured poor and needy patients. Unfortunately, the nearly one-million dollars worth of surgical supplies were not permitted into Gaza by Egyptian customs, otherwise many more serious spine cases could have had the care that they needed, but which is otherwise not available to them in their besieged homeland. This is the first mission by this surgery team, who promised to return next year.





Dr. Dominique Le Nen

He is an orthopedic surgeon from Brest, France and has been on past missions to Palestine in cooperation with the PCRF. The French Consulate in East Jerusalem assists in sponsoring these missions to Palestine.

October

On October 7th, Dr. Le Nen led a mission of doctors and a nurse on a volunteer orthopedic surgery mission to Jenin government hospital in the northern West Bank. The team included surgeon Dr. Jean-Philippe Vincent and nurse Paulette Fauché, both of whom have volunteered with the PCRF in the past. The team are from Brest, France and were training local physicians and treating patients in Jenin, and they also provided lectures in orthopedics.



Dr. Marc Sinclair

He is a German orthopedic surgeon working in Dubai and the head of the Little Wings Foundation, a charity who has been cooperating with the PCRF to send surgery teams to Palestine and to treat patients in the UAE. They worked in 2010 in the Gaza Strip with the PCRF.

October

October 30th, Dr. Sinclair led a six-member team of doctors and nurses from a Dubai-based charity called «Little Wings» on a week-long mission to the Ramallah Medical Complex in the West Bank. The team included surgeon Dr. Stephanie Bohm, anesthesiologist Dr. David Sinclair, Margaret Sacre, Gillian Beale and Angela Whyte.



British Orthopedic Surgery Team Treats Refugees in Lebanon

On November 18, two British doctors completed a week of orthopedic surgery on Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Dr. Asan Rafee, who has volunteered with the PCRF in the past in Gaza, was accompanied by anesthesiologist Dr. Geoff Sloan. They worked at the Human Call Association Hospital in the Ein El Helwi refugee camp.

Ophthalmology

There are thousands of Palestinians in need of eye surgery due to injury, aging and other diseases. While many get expert care in East Jerusalem, a much larger number are unable to have access to the city, or are not covered by insurance to reach the hospital. The PCRf provide hundreds of poor patients each year cataract surgery and other operations, restoring sight and quality of life for a people already burdened by poverty and occupation.

Dr. Roberto Jules

He is an ophthalmic surgeon from El Salvador who has been volunteering to restore the eye sight for hundreds of Palestinian patients through the PCRf for the past few years.

October

On October 15, Dr. Jules led a three-member team on a week-long trip to Rafidia Hospital in Nablus. The team included returning volunteer surgeon Dr Fidel Herrera from Mexico City, and they were joined by Dr Omar Krad from California on his first PCRf mission. They restored and saved the sight of over 100 patients, and brought with them tens of thousands of dollars worth of donated supplies and equipment.



Dr. Francis Nathan

He is an ophthalmic surgeon from Adelaide, Australia who has been restoring the eye sight of poor people all over the world with his wife Merlin for decades. He has saved the eyesight of thousands of Palestinians through his volunteering with the PCRf in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon's camps for ten years.

February

On February 17, Dr. Francis led a 5-day mission to the Al-Nida' Hospital in the Ein el Hilweh refugee camp in Sidon, Lebanon. The mission was part of an ongoing campaign to provide poor refugees in Lebanon expert medical care that is not easily accessible to them due to political or economic reasons. Dozens of refugees had cataract and other surgery through this mission.



Pediatric Dental Surgery

Children with special needs often go without adequate dental care in Palestine and Lebanon's camps due to the severity of their disability, and the inability of the local caregivers to treat them. For many years, the PCRF has been sponsoring pediatric dental surgery missions from abroad to provide expert care and treatment for children with special needs.



Dr. Sahar Alrayyes

She is a full-time assistant professor and the Predoctoral Clinic Director at the University of Illinois, Department of Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Alrayyas is a diplomat of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and a member of the American Academy of Pediatric dentistry. She is also a member and a board director and current president of the Illinois Society of Pediatric Dentistry.

July

On July 2nd, a three member team of dentists from the USA arrived in the West Bank town of Tulkarem to continue the ongoing PCRF effort to provide pediatric dental care for poor and difficult children in the West Bank. The team consisted of Dr. Sahar Alrayyes and Dr. Lina Qahwash from Chicago and Dr. Bilal Siab from North Carolina, all of whom have volunteered for the PCRF many times in the past. Children with special needs do not get adequate dental care in Palestine and this is the PCRF way to try to help them get the care that they need.



Dr. Bilal Saib, DDS

He has been volunteering on PCRf missions to Tulkarem to provide dozens of children dental surgery since 2008, and currently lives and practices in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.



December

For the last week of December, a three-member team from the USA treated forty-seven children in Tulkarem in the north-west West Bank. Pediatric Dentist Dr. Sahar Alrayyes from Chicago and Dr. Bilal Siab from North Carolina provided expert volunteer oral care for mostly children with special needs at both the government Thabet Thabet Hospital and the Zakat Hospital in Tulkarem. Also on the mission was Sarah Alrayyes autism & developmental disorders specialist from Chicago who visited and consulted at local autism centers. Helping on the mission was local Qalqilya dentist Suad Samara, who volunteered her services to the PCRf.



Dr. Daniel Ravel

He is a board-certified pediatric dentist who has been providing care to children in the greater Fayetteville, NC area since 1997. Dr. Ravel has made numerous presentations to medical and dental teaching programs, clinics, and organizations in various countries around the world, and has staff privileges at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, and Highsmith-Rainey Specialty Hospital in Fayetteville. He has led several PCRF missions to the West Bank and Lebanon over the past few years.



December

Dr. Ravel went to the Haifa Hospital in the Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp in Beirut to provide expert dental care for refugee Palestinian children with special needs. Working with the local staff in the hospital, Dr. Ravel treated nearly two-dozen children who otherwise would not get adequate dental care due to their mental or physical handicap.

Misc. Missions

In addition to addressing the main surgical needs of children by the PCRF, we also support medical teams to the region that can help train local doctors and provide expert care in areas that are otherwise not adequately addressed.

French ENT Team Completes Mission in Jenin



On September 15, Dr. Albrice Levrat and Dr. Benoit Theoleyre, two ENT surgeons from France, completed a weeklong mission of treating patients and training local doctors in the Jenin government hospital in the northern West Bank. They worked on equipment provided to the hospital through a joint project between the PCRF and the French Consulate in East Jerusalem. The PCRF has supported and coordinated several French surgery teams to Jenin in the past, and has worked with the French Consulate to support orthopedic missions to Gaza and Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem in pediatric cardiac surgery in the past.



Breast Cancer Screening and Surgery Mission to Lebanon's Camps

On October 10, Dr. Cathy and David Brenner finished another mission to serve Palestinians in the Badawi and Naher Al Barad refugee camps in northern Lebanon. The one week-mission, in which 149 women were screened, was organized through the Palestine Children Relief's Funds-Lebanon Chapter. During the clinics 2 women were detected in need for surgeries which represents the 1.3% of the sample. Dr. Cathy Brenner, imparted 7 lectures in coordination with the local NGOs, in Baddawi: Enjaz Center and in Naher El-Bared: Al-Basma Center, Dar El-Shaikhoukha, The Women Programming Center-UNRWA and The Palestinian Women Union. The main purpose of the developed awareness campaign was the Breast Cancer Early Detection. Dr. David Brenner is a urological surgeon who provided surgical care for several needy patients.





Medical Conferences

We continue to sponsor the transfer of medical knowledge and information in the Middle East by organizing and sponsoring conferences in which local and international specialists interact and communicate on needs and new developments in their fields.

Urologists Provide Surgery for Dozens of Patients, Lecture at Conference in Ramallah

On March 4, five urologists from the USA and the UAE were the main speakers at the semi-annual meeting of the Palestinian Urological Society at the Beauty Inn Hotel in Ramallah. The doctors operated the previous week in West Bank hospitals, focusing mainly on urological patients with cancer. This project was in cooperation with the International Volunteers in Urology (IVU), an American organization who the PCRF has worked in the past. One team operated at the Jenin Government Hospital and was led by Dr. Scott Eggener and Dr. Joel de Castro from Chicago and included Dr. Laura Leddy from Seattle. The second team operated at Beit Jala Hospital and included Dr. Waleed Hassan from Al Tawam Hospital in Al Ain, the UAE and Dr. Karim Touijera from New York. Dozens of patients had expert surgical care, as well as the training and experience provided to local surgeons. The conference was attended by 40 Palestinian specialists and included several lectures and a panel discussions.



Annual Meeting of IPCRO Addresses the Building of Cardiac Surgery for Children in Palestine

On September 17, international doctors met with their local Palestinian colleagues for the 8th annual International Palestinian Cardiac Relief Organization (IPCRO) in East Jerusalem. IPCRO is the consulting arm of the PCRF, and has been working since 1993 to build the first and only pediatric cardiac surgery program in Palestine. The meeting was chaired by Royal Brompton cardiac surgery and IPCRO president, Dr. B. Sethia and included Dr. Alan Kerr and anesthesiologist Dr. David Buckley from New Zealand, Dr. Stefano Luisi and Dr. Giancarlo Crupi from Italy, Dr. Katrien Francois from Ghent in Belgium, Dr. Philippe Luxereau from France, Dr. Mahmoud Nashashibi from Makassed Hospital. The meeting was attended also by the new medical director of Makassed Hospital, Dr. Bassam Abu-Lidbeh and the chairman of the Makassed Foundation, Dr. Arafat Hidmy. The focus of the meeting was to address the issue of training and expanding the program within the hospital. Over 1,000 sick Palestinian babies with congenital heart disease have had life-saving open-heart surgery through visiting PCRF missions to Makased since this project began. Dr. Steafano Luisi from Italy was elected the next president of IPCRO.



First Annual PCRF Conference on Pediatric Oncology/Hematology Held in Ramallah

On March 17, the PCRF hosted with the PA Ministry of Health the first international conference in Ramallah dedicated to the scientific discussion of pediatric oncology and hematology. This is part of an ongoing project initiated to build a pediatric oncology department in the Hussein Hospital in Beit Jala, as well as training the local staff and helping to support families with children suffering from cancer in Palestine. The conference was under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Fathi Abu Moghli, the minister of health, and included lectures by the team from Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, which was led by bone marrow transplant specialist Dr. Mohamed Radhi, an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at CMH. The team included Pharmacologist Dr. Kristin Held, Clinical Specialist, Pediatric Stem Cell Transplant, Clinical Nurse Specialist in oncology and hematology Cathy Burks, RN Amy Diggs and Hematology/Oncology Social Worker Angela K. George. This was their second trip to Palestine.





Humanitarian Relief Projects for 2011

In addition to being the main organization bringing volunteer surgery teams to Palestine and sending injured and sick children abroad for free care, we also provide direct humanitarian material aid and support for children all over Palestine, as well as the refugee populations in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. These projects are designed to help alleviate the suffering of children living under occupation or in poverty in the diaspora.



Handicapped Child Sponsorship Project

Since 2000, the PCRf has been linking concerned donors outside with hundreds of disabled and sick children throughout Palestine and in Lebanon's refugee camps. The purpose of this project is to help chronically disabled and sick children whose families are too poor to provide them the medication or support they need to overcome their disabilities. Many Palestinian children in poverty require medication or supplies and are neglected due to the lack of proper social support from their families or community. We identify these children and link them with sponsors abroad, who pay a small fee every month, 100% of which goes to buying medication for the family. No cash is given to the families. In addition, the PCRf has sponsored a mission by an American pediatrician, to ensure the children in this program are being provided the proper care and support.

Pediatrician Screens Handicapped Refugee Children in Lebanon's Camps



During the last week of October and the first week of November, Dr. Barbara Zind, an American pediatrician from Colorado, volunteered for a mission to the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon to provide expert medical support for the dozens of Palestinian children in our Child Sponsorship Program. This is Dr. Zind's second mission to Lebanon's camps through the PCRf, as she did a similar mission there in 2010, as well as a trip to the Jordan Valley in the West Bank to provide care for the neglected beduin population. Children in the refugee camps do not have good access to quality medical care, and this program is to help improve their quality of care.



Summer Camps

Since 2000, the PCRF has been sponsoring summer camps for poor and disabled Palestinian children all over the Middle East. These camps have been helpful in breaking down the stereotypes that exist towards handicapped people, as well as providing cultural, educational, social activities and events to enable disadvantaged children to have useful summer experiences.



PCRF Sponsors Summer Camps for Children in the Besieged Gaza Strip

In late June, the PCRF sponsored several summer camps in the besieged Gaza Strip for poor and disabled Palestinian children. This is an ongoing humanitarian project that the PCRF has been supporting in cooperation with local NGOs for 10 years. Children in Gaza suffer not only from a high number of disabled youths due to the violence that has engulfed their homeland for decades, but also from extreme poverty and political oppression. The purpose of these camps is to not only give poor children in Gaza summer activities that enable them to enjoy life and their childhood, but also to integrate disabled youths with those who do not endure such physical issues, as each camp has a high percentage of children with physical disabilities. In Central Gaza, the camps were Al Farah and Marah camps, as well as Al Samood camp. In Southern Gaza, Rewad El Mostafqbal Summer camp and El Amal Camp provided kids in Rafah and Khan Younis activities such as swimming, visits to the zoo and other cultural and social endeavors. In northern Gaza, the children in the traumatized village of Beit Lahya enjoyed a summer camp in cooperation with the Palestinian Medical Relief Society.



Hebron Summer Camps

Shomoo Gaza 3

Shomoo Alhoriah

Bethlehem Summer Camps

Al-Najah Camp

Al-Zhour Camp

Nablus Summer Camps

Alyasmeen Camp

Ibtisama Camp

Alfarah Camp

Tulkarem Summer Camps

Nour Camp

"Love" Camp

Jenin summer Camps

Al-Amal Camp

Al-Amal Camp

The Fourth Iradah camp

Ramallah Summer Camps

Alyasmeen Camp

Al-Farah Camp

Gaza's Summer Camps

Alsmood3 Camp

Farah and Marah Camp

Southern Gaza

Alamal Camp

Rwad Almostaqbal Camp

Southern Gaza

Alamal Camp

Al-Amal Camp

Lebanon summer camps

"Our summer in fun corners" Camp

"Right to play" Camp

Jordan Summer camps

Gaza Camp

Echocardiography Machine Donated to Gaza

In early August, the PCRF donated an Philips 5000 echocardiography machine to the pediatric cardiology department in Gaza City to provide screening for children born with heart disease. This machine will help save the lives of children born with congenital malformations of their hearts in the besieged Gaza Strip by first enabling local doctors to identify their exact ailment. This is part of the ongoing program by the PCRF to establish a comprehensive, nation-wide program for children in Palestine with heart disease. Nearly one-hundred Gaza babies a year have life-saving surgery by the PCRF missions to Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem.



Location	Starting date	Ending Date	Children Served
Hebron City	3/7/2011	16/7/2011	70 Kids
Ethna Village	3/7/2011	16/7/2011	70 Kids
Thabra Village	9/7/2011	20/7/2011	80 kids
Marah Malla	2/7/2011	13/7/2011	75 kids
Baita Village/ Nablus	2/7/2011	16/7/2011	120 Kids
Hableh/Qalqyia	14/7/2011	28/7/2011	100 Kids
Salfit charitable Society	12/7/2011	26/7/2011	100 Kids
Anabta village	5/7/2011	21/7/2011	100 kids
Nur Shams Camp	7/7/2011	21/7/2011	80 kids
Jenin	10/7/2011	25/7/2011	60 kids
Tubas District	10/7/2011	25/7/2011	60 kids
Silah Alharthiah Village	15/6/2011	28/6/2011	50 kids
Ramallah	13/6/2011	28/6/2011	80 kids
Betunia village	11/7/2011	21/7/2011	90 kids
Dier Albalah	25/6/2011	10/7/2011	60 Kids
Dier Albalah	20/6/2011	4/7/2011	50 Kids
Khan Younis	18/6/2011	1/7/2011	60 Kids
Rafah	18/6/2011	1/7/2011	50 kids
Jabali Camp	1/7/2011	14/7/2011	50 kids
Biet Lahia	1/7/2011	14/7/2011	50 Kids
South lebanon- Ain Elhelweh Camp	1/7/2011	29/7/2011	70 kids
North Lebanon- Naher Albared	15/7/2011	30/7/2011	412 Kids
UNRWA boys elementary school /Gaza Camp-Jeresh	9/7/2011	30/7/2011	100 Kids



First PCRF Summer Camp in Jordan for Palestinian Refugees

For ten years, the PCRF has been sponsoring summer camps for poor and disabled Palestinian children in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Lebanon's camps. In 2011, the PCRF supported a summer camp for children in the Gaza/Jerash Refugee Camp. The camp is a collaborative project between the PCRF and the Gaza Camp Community Development Office (CDO). The goal of the summer camp is to provide a three-week summer camp experience for the children of Gaza (Jerash) Camp, which is located about 45 km north of Amman, adjacent to the city of Jerash. At the summer camp, the goal is to teach the campers about organized athletics, community service, and engage them in fun activities that encourage creativity. Campers were also taught about team work and personal discipline, and how to conduct themselves in a respectful manner.



Over 200 Children in Jenin Get Free Eyeglasses

In May, over 200 custom eyeglasses were distributed for poor children in the Jenin district of the northern West Bank. These children all came from very poor families who struggle to provide the basic necessities for their children, resulting, in this case, with children having poor grades and education due to their lack of eyeglasses. This is an ongoing humanitarian project for the PCRF, with over 2,000 children having free eyeglasses and eye exams provided in Lebanon's camps, the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the past few years.

PCRF Sponsors Camp for Visually Impaired Children in Hebron



In July, the PCRF sponsored the Shomoo Gaza 3 camp at the Blind Society in Hebron. Seventy children mainly from Beit Omar, Beitola, Noba and Sa'ir villages in the Southern West Bank enjoyed various social and educational activities, which included swimming, trips to amusement parks and many other events. We have been sponsoring summer camps for children in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon's refugee camps and for the first time, in Jordan's Gaza camp. For over 10 years, the PCRF has been bringing in disabled and mainstream children during the summer to break down the stereotypes that exist towards such children and to help improve their acceptance. PCRF volunteers from mainly Dubai have been helping in the camps and provide educational and entertainment materials.

Hundreds of Disabled Children Get Free Wheelchairs in Palestine

In June, a four-member team of volunteers from the USA distributed specialized pediatric wheelchairs for hundreds of disabled children in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The PCRF has sent thousands of highly-specialized pediatric wheelchairs for Palestinian children in Lebanon, Syria and Palestine. The team included Occupational therapists Tom Glumac, Gregory Skolaski, Eva Ma, and Dick Stepan; all four having volunteered with the PCRF in the past. The first container was sent in coordination with LA-based "Wheels for Humanity" and was distributed in cooperation with the municipalities of Ramallah and El Bireh for handicapped children in the central West Bank. The second container was sent through Hope Haven International Charities of Iowa to the besieged Gaza Strip. The PCRF has worked with both organizations over the past several years, while Washington-based ANERA was able to clear the chairs into Palestine.



PCRF in Media



Giving time, helping lives

Dreams of a walk along beach for young Oday

Free surgery for Palestinian bomb victim

Boy of 12 prepares for life with a prosthetic leg after charities fly him to Dubai for operation

By El Shouh



Boy Oday goes to the UAE for free surgery, to see with Mohamed Luzzani, left, and Dr. Khalid Abdou, right. (Photo: PCRF)



مغامر يتنطلق من دبي إلى الصين على دراجة نارية

Inside a PCRF Mission

By Rashad Darwish

Here is a fact. We live in a world filled with hate, greed, religious and political differences. There is the very rich and the very poor. There are moments when it is impossible to help the less fortunate without an agenda to benefit oneself. We are seeing governments reach epic proportions. It is easy for the people who give, I question exactly what they are trying to get in return.

Palestinian children who are in desperate need of medical attention. I finally arrived late in the evening upon entering the hotel Nablis. I was immediately met by Dr. Khalid Abdou, who also traveled from Chicago to help coordinate these missions. He shook my hand and said "Rashad, you've written, and anxious to see exactly how our doctors work. I was eager to find out why PCRF is sending a team of doctors by the website charity.org. It is a good thing you are here, because this trip and do they really understand the pain and suffering of our Palestinian children?"



The team included Dr. Fernando Sandoval (Sandoval), Verónica López (López), Juan Carlos Rodríguez (Rodríguez), and Dr. Khalid Abdou. They set up a temporary clinic in the basement of the hotel. The team included Dr. Fernando Sandoval (Sandoval), Verónica López (López), Juan Carlos Rodríguez (Rodríguez), and Dr. Khalid Abdou. They set up a temporary clinic in the basement of the hotel.

Free medical treatment makes Palestinian children smile again

CHARITY SPONSORS PHYSICALLY-IMPAIRED WITH HELP FROM VOLUNTEERS

DUBAI NEWS SUNDAY DECEMBER 6, 2011

Free medical treatment makes Palestinian children smile again. CHARITY SPONSORS PHYSICALLY-IMPAIRED WITH HELP FROM VOLUNTEERS. The team included Dr. Fernando Sandoval (Sandoval), Verónica López (López), Juan Carlos Rodríguez (Rodríguez), and Dr. Khalid Abdou. They set up a temporary clinic in the basement of the hotel.



New lease of life. A 12-year-old boy from Gaza smiles a light moment with the team of doctors who flew to Dubai to help him. (Photo: PCRF)

Palestinian children in Dubai's loving care

By El Shouh. A Palestinian boy in Dubai will have orthopaedic surgery at a Dubai hospital today. Oday Al Jamal, 11, arrived for the operation only a few days ago. It will be the second he has received in two years, thanks to the UAE chapter of the Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF). Three other children from the West Bank and Gaza...



Enviarán médicos para operar a niños en Palestina

Convenio fue suscrito entre la Sociedad de Cirugía Pediátrica Chilena y el Fondo de Ayuda para la Infancia Palestina.

Un convenio de cooperación para atender a niños palestinos que requieren intervenciones quirúrgicas firmaron ayer el Fondo de Ayuda a la Infancia Palestina, dirigida por el estebano, Steve Sandoval, y la Sociedad de Cirugía Pediátrica Chilena con los hospitales y clínicas de Chile. El convenio se firmó en un momento de gran importancia para los niños palestinos que requieren intervenciones quirúrgicas. El convenio se firmó en un momento de gran importancia para los niños palestinos que requieren intervenciones quirúrgicas.



Children from Gaza. (Photo: PCRF)

IN THE CITY

Play time

Dubai's biggest charity playdate to raise money for Palestinian children

SOLIDARITEA ARABIA ANNOUNCES the fun ParTeva event, which takes place on Wednesday, November 30 at Mini Monsters on Sheikh Zayed Road.

The goal is to help raise \$25,000 for the Palestine Children's Relief Fund, for the building of an activity playroom as part of the new Pediatric Cancer Wing of Al Hussein Hospital in Beit Jalla, near Bethlehem.

The free and fun-filled day at Dubai's largest

indoor soft play area welcomes children and parents to help raise money for the cause. Together with sessions for children from the age of one and above, Solidaritea Arabia will also host a 20-minute "Move & Groove" dance class. All visitors will have the opportunity to browse the ParTeva souq, where entrepreneurial mums will showcase a selection of handmade products.

E-mail info@solidaritea.com for more information.

Healing for Gaza's innocent victims

Bian and Oday are two friends among the 51 children flown to Dubai by the Palestine Children's Relief Fund for specialist treatment. The fund, with other charitable organisations, is giving young patients the promise of full and normal lives. **Mary El Shouhry reports**



When it comes to healing, it is not just the physical but the emotional and psychological that counts. For the 51 children flown to Dubai by the Palestine Children's Relief Fund for specialist treatment, the promise of full and normal lives is being fulfilled. Mary El Shouhry reports on the journey of these young patients and the support they receive from the fund and other charitable organisations.

SouthlandNews

Healing the wounds of conflict

Palestinian teen's skull surgery a success at Hope Children's Hospital



A young Palestinian girl, 15-year-old, has successfully undergone skull surgery at Hope Children's Hospital in Dubai. The surgery was performed by a team of experts and was a significant step towards her recovery. The girl, who was injured during a conflict in Gaza, is now recovering well and is expected to return home soon.

The young girl, who was injured during a conflict in Gaza, is now recovering well and is expected to return home soon.

Trauma // Treatment

Host families for Palestinian patients given extensive check-ups



Must realise not all pain physical and have experience of children

Host families for Palestinian patients are given extensive check-ups to ensure they are prepared to care for the children. The check-ups cover various aspects of the children's health and well-being, including their physical and emotional needs. The host families are also given information on how to provide a supportive and caring environment for the children.

"These children have experienced the loss of their homes and families. Many of them have physical disabilities and the host families must realise that the children are not just patients but also young people who need love and support. The host families are given extensive check-ups to ensure they are prepared to care for the children and provide a supportive and caring environment for them."

SOUTHTOWNSTAR

FROM GAZA WITH HOPE

After a year of hardship, a young girl from Gaza is now smiling and looking towards a brighter future. Her story is one of resilience and hope, and it is a testament to the power of love and support.

Get involved in a noble cause

Gulf News reader calls for volunteers to help wounded children from Palestine make a new beginning in life



Helping hands

A world of opportunities opened up for Gulf News reader Asman Abdul Jabbar, who has begun volunteering for the Palestine Children's Relief Fund. He hopes readers are interested in helping, too.

By **ASMAN ABDUL JABBAR**, Gulf News Reader

We often wake up in the morning, asking all that we own for the past 17 years and often thought limited. I grew up in a world of luxury, all the while not seeing what was engraved on the other side of the coin. A year ago, I came to know Palestine Children's Relief Fund. I remember the first time I stood in the morning sun, not ever before. The PCRF invites from Palestine for due to the countless heroes and the selfless volunteers, every one to the UAE, returned on his or her face. On December 1, 2011,

arrived in Dubai. Mohammad, Yasmin, and Ahmad were hosted by extremely generous volunteers. The children cruised around Dubai and visited different places - from swimming pools to the Global Village - all due to the efforts of the volunteers. These children also had to receive the medical care, due to the injuries they had suffered.

Hurt in Gaza blast, teen recovers here

BRAIN SURGERY | With two-year partial paralysis repaired, 'she's a happy 15-year-old'

Brain surgery with two-year partial paralysis repaired, she's a happy 15-year-old. The young girl, who was injured during a conflict in Gaza, is now recovering well and is expected to return home soon.

She underwent brain surgery to repair her partial paralysis, which had lasted for two years. The surgery was performed by a team of experts and was a significant step towards her recovery. The girl is now happy and healthy, and is a testament to the power of love and support.



The young girl, who was injured during a conflict in Gaza, is now recovering well and is expected to return home soon.

PARTY PATROL

Charity begins at home

A charity event was held for the Palestine Children's Relief Fund. The event was a success and raised a significant amount of money for the fund. The photos show the attendees and the atmosphere of the event.



Budget for 2012

2011



Pediatric cardiology/cardiac surgery: East Jerusalem*14 missions from North America, Europe and New Zealand*

a. plane tickets for 50 doctors and nurses	\$80,000
b. one week accommodations	\$50,000

*Covered by Arab Fund for Development (Kuwait)***Plastic and reconstructive surgery: The West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon***10 missions from North and South America, Europe, Japan*

a. plane tickets for 40 doctors and nurses	\$60,000
b. one week accommodations	\$40,000

Pediatric urology: The West Bank, Gaza Strip*6 missions from North and South America, Europe*

a. plane tickets for 20 doctors and nurses	\$30,000
b. one week accommodations	\$20,000

Pediatric orthopedic surgery: The West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon*5 missions from North/South America, Australia, Europe, Middle East*

a. plane tickets for 20 doctors and nurses	\$30,000
b. one week accommodations	\$20,000

Pediatric general surgery: The West Bank, Gaza Strip*4 missions from North/South America, Europe*

a. plane tickets for 12 doctors and nurses	\$18,000
b. one week accommodations	\$12,000

Pediatric neurosurgery: The West Bank, East Jerusalem*4 missions from North America, Europe*

a. plane tickets for 16 doctors and nurses	\$24,000
b. one week accommodations	\$16,000

Cleft lip-palate/maxillofacial surgery: The West Bank, Gaza Strip*6 missions from North/South America, Europe*

a. plane tickets for 38 doctors and nurses	\$47,000
b. one week accommodations	\$18,000

Pediatric oncology/hematology: The West Bank, East Jerusalem*6 missions from North America, South American, Jordan*

a. plane tickets for 24 doctors and nurses	\$36,000
b. one week accommodations	\$24,000

Pediatric dental surgery: The West Bank, Lebanon*4 missions from North America*

a. plane tickets for 10 doctors	\$15,000
b. accommodations for one week	\$10,000

Treatment for Injured Children Abroad:*40 Children to be sent abroad to North American, Europe, South America and the Middle East*

a. Plane tickets for child and mother:	\$75,000
b. Visa and other basic fees:	\$5,000

TOTAL **\$80,000****Humanitarian Relief Projects***240-foot containers of wheelchairs shipped to Palestine*

• Handling fees	\$30,000
• Shipping Costs	\$12,000
• Local Shipping and Transportation	\$8,000

Summer Camps in Palestine and Lebanon

• Six camps in the Gaza Strip	\$12,000
• Ten camps in the West bank	\$24,000
• Three Camps in Lebanon	\$6,000

Pediatric Oncology/Hematology

• Two fellowships abroad	\$24,000
• Medical Equipment	\$310,000
• Social support for families	\$65,000

Child Sponsorship Program **\$20,000****Eyeglasses for Poor Children** **\$15,000****Food Distributions for Gaza Children** **\$40,000**

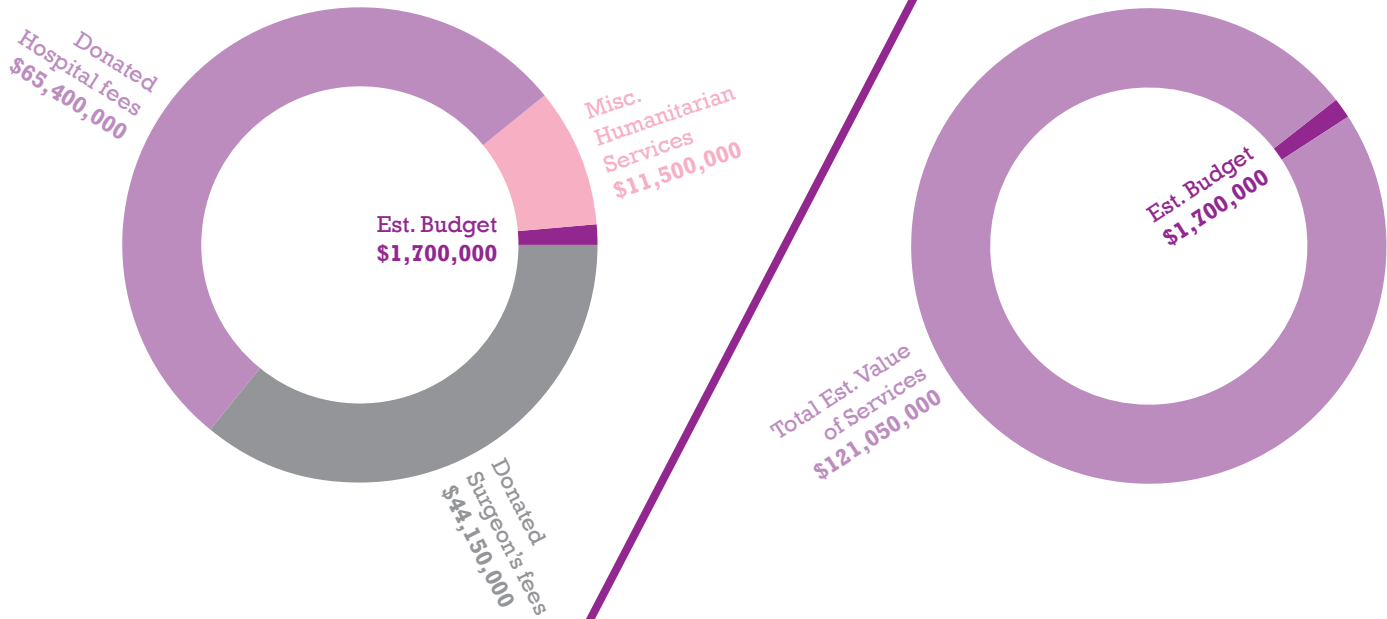
**TOTAL
BUDGET
FOR RELIEF
PROJECTS
2011:
\$986,000**



In the past several annual reports, we have tried to convey the true economic value of our humanitarian relief work for sick and injured children in the Middle East. Unlike most other NGOs, the PCRF does not give cash money to people or other organizations on the ground, but rather provides direct donated relief services for poor, injured and sick children.

While there is no moral way to measure the monetary value of a child's life, we can determine what the estimated value is of the free care and other humanitarian services that we provide for children who we send outside for medical treatment, treat through our volunteer surgery missions to Palestine and Lebanon, or support through other relief efforts. Over the past six years, we have seen both the amount of the total estimated value of our services increase, as well as the actual resources that we put into providing these humanitarian services.

In 2011, approximately 3,650 children had expert medical tests, evaluations, screenings, surgery, medicine, wheelchairs or participated in summer camps, received some form of material humanitarian support at no cost to them or their families, or were supported through some form of humanitarian medical support. We also sent over thirty injured and sick Arab children abroad for free care, some of it requiring extended stays in hospitals and ICUs. This resulted in tens of millions of dollars worth of donated services, which doesn't show up in our financial audit. The true financial value of this work is best understood in the following graphs.



Please Send Your Tax-Exempt Donations to:

**The PCRF
PO Box 1926
Kent, OH USA
44240**

Or online at:

www.pcrf.net

BankWire Information: Palestine

The Palestine Children's Relief Fund

Arab Bank PLC

Al Bireh- Palestine

Arab Bank PS 22030

Account: 196870

BankWire Information: USA

Due to Security issues, please contact us for account transfer information

Please Join Our Online Volunteer Community at:

www.community.pcrf.net

Tax-ID number

93-1057665



2011 in Numbers

The following charts are the number of patients who had surgery and other services through the PCRF in hospitals in Palestine and Lebanon by our visiting medical missions and humanitarian projects. We do not charge patients for any of the humanitarian services that we provide, nor do we financially compensate any of the doctors or nurses who treat our patients as volunteers. In short, all services are provided free of charge to children.

Specialist	Operated	Screened
Adult & Pediatric Urology	119	590
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery	226	587
Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery	56	98
Orthopedic Surgery	118	240
Pediatric Cardiac Surgery	190	220
General Adult Surgery	63	80
Ophthalmologic Surgery	101	120
Pediatric Neurosurgery	18	110
Maxillofacial Surgery	137	290
Pediatric Surgery	32	80
ENT Surgery	11	25
Adult Oncological Surgery	7	24
Pediatric Dental Surgery	96	220
Total	1,174	2,684

Misc. Humanitarian Service Provided

Eyeglasses for Children	289
Wheelchairs	367
Summer Camp Participants	225
Handicapped Child Sponsorship Program	2,570