

The School of Joy - Beit Sahour



Children at the School Joy with the School's Director Fr Mamdouh AbuSada

The situation

The prevailing harsh political and economic situation in the West Bank particularly affects young people. The absence of welfare services makes life for families with children with learning disabilities even more difficult. In many cases children with low academic achievements drop out of education to roam the streets. The Christian run School of Joy in Beit Sahour aims to rehabilitate children of all faiths and races found in these situations, preparing them to play a full and productive role in their community. The school charges nominal fees only from students who are able to pay and, as many students come from very poor backgrounds, relies on donations to offset its many running costs.

How does FHL help?

Since 2009 FHL has supported the School of Joy, just a few miles from Bethlehem, making grants totalling £250k over the last 8 years. FHL also supports the Director of the School, Fr Mamdouh AbuSada, by arranging speaking engagements for him in the UK and encouraging UK pilgrimage organisers to make time in their itineraries to visit the school. FHL advises Fr Mamdouh on the school's accounts and on how to manage overheads as effectively as possible. FHL contributes approximately £55,000 each year to the School.

What impact does FHL make?

FHL funding covers 70% of the school's running costs and has enabled the school to double the number of classes to six, increase the number of pupils to 67, introduce better facilities and invest in well qualified teaching staff. All the children receive at least one meal a day and enjoy fun activities while learning in a caring environment.

Could you support the School of Joy?

Increased support for the School of Joy would enable the School to reach more children and provide extra specialist services. Do you know a group or individual who could make a donation of £125 a month (£1,500 a year) to cover costs for one child at the School?

Organising a pilgrimage? Why not make time in your itinerary to visit the School of Joy and engage with the 'Living Stones' of the Holy Land?

Financial donations can be made online by visiting www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk and clicking on the DONATE NOW button, if you wish to support t Martha's House specifically please mark our donation 'St Martha's House Running Costs'. Alternatively, a cheque payable to 'Friends of the Holy Land' can be sent to the address shown below. Standing order forms are available on our website under 'GET INVOLVED' tab on the 'Donate Money' page, or by contacting the office.

Volunteer with us: Volunteers are needed to help in our office in Kenilworth or to speak at events across the country, please let us know if you can help.

Contact:

Address: Friends of the Holy Land, Farmer Ward Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2DH

Email: office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

Tel: 01926 512980

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