



Oasis of Peace

American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23





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Abir Elzowidi,
*Director of the
American Friends/NSWAS
National office*

Dear Cherished Friends and Supporters,

We began 2023 with a flurry of new projects and excitement: the Primary School's language lab had just opened, the School for Peace was launching partnerships with universities across the region, and the Humanitarian Aid Program was helping fund three new medical centers in Gaza. Through the spring and summer, your donations helped Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam (NSWAS) provide special programs to local youth, young professionals, and artists while ensuring the Village's day-to-day activities were on track and running smoothly.

And then, October came. Since then, the attack on Israel and the subsequent, ongoing war in Gaza has impacted all of us in different ways. Many of us have lost loved ones. Many are worried about the violence and destruction still to come. And many are afraid that a just peace will not emerge at the end of the hostilities.

Of course, the war impacted NSWAS activities, too. Priorities shifted, and some needs became more urgent. Children had to be kept safe and in school. Village residents and their neighbors required resources and reassurance. Most of all, dialogue between Palestinians and Jews—whether in the Village, in the region, or around the world—had to be nurtured and sustained.

Throughout 2023, NSWAS has held steadfast to its founding belief that open, honest, and constructive dialogue is the only way through seemingly intractable conflict. Which is why, in spite of the tragedy still unfolding, the Village has never been more relevant or vital than in this moment. Fueled by your support, their efforts have been literally lifechanging, as they have helped so many across the globe channel their anger, frustration, and sadness into healing and a way forward.

I remain grateful for your unwavering commitment and extraordinary generosity, without which many of NSWAS's achievements would not have been possible, and I look forward to expanding our community of supporters in 2024.

With hope and gratitude,

Joan Waller
President, American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

You Helped Shine a Light on Peace

Gold
Transparency
2023

Candid.



★ ★ ★ ★
CHARITY NAVIGATOR

Four Star Charity

Score 100 Most Recent Fiscal Year: FY 2022

*This charity navigator's score is **100%**, earning it a Four-Star rating. If this organization aligns with your passions and values, you can give with confidence.*

For the fifth consecutive year, American Friends of NSWAS has earned four stars on Charity Navigator. This year, we also received the 2023 GuideStar Gold Seal for Transparency from Candid.

Our donors' steadfast support through the years has played no small part in the media's renewed interest in the Village and its unique and inspirational mission. The world is finally catching up to understanding what we've known all along: NSWAS is proof that peace is possible, even in the midst of the most difficult conflicts.

In 2023, dozens of media outlets around the world profiled NSWAS, including the BBC, the CBC, *El País*, *The New York Times*, *Le Parisian*, and *The Scotsman*. And, many organizations around the world have been turning to the Village for advice and insight on how to end the war. NSWAS continues to emphasize that a commitment to peace starts with a belief in shared society, and that the international community must come together to push for an immediate ceasefire.

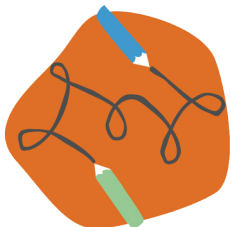
The Primary School



The Primary School continues to be a model for bilingual, binational education in Israel. This year, it has also been a tremendous resource for children and families in the region struggling to make sense of war. The majority of the Primary School's 196 students live outside the Village, with 90% of enrollees traveling more than twenty miles each day to attend.

In 2023, your support:

- Built a new, permanent bilingual nursery for toddlers and pre-kindergarteners.
- Established a Language Center, empowering students to practice real-life Hebrew and Arabic language skills with each other. The center has reduced the amount of time students spend in separate, single-language lessons, so classrooms are even more cohesive. Especially in the confusion of war, language is what helps the children come back together.
- Provided tuition assistance for 18 fifth graders—nine from Jewish families and nine from Arab families.
- Covered unexpected costs related to temporarily enrolling children from a nearby elementary school. Students from that school, which lacks an air raid shelter, are now safely learning alongside Primary School children.
- Enabled the Village to complete work on the Little Lady Lori's Playground and the Fred Segal Peace and Friendship's Soccer Field, where girls and boys of all ages and faiths play together.



In 2022-23, American Friends of NSWAS provided \$289,000 to the Primary School.

Jews need one kind of support, Arabs another, and we still try to bring them together and create a whole community.

—Neama Abo Delu,
Primary School Principal

The School for Peace



This year, the School for Peace was inundated with requests from colleges and universities, professional organizations, and government agencies urgently seeking to foster open and honest dialogue between Arabs and Jews in Israel—and around the world. Your generous donations helped the school activate their global network of alumni to make important things happen in spite of great difficulty.

This year, you helped the School for Peace:

- Convene more than 100 alumni in person to reflect on what more is needed to grow and sustain dialogues necessary for peace in Israel and the region.
- Offer trainings to a dozen academic and professional organizations on how to nurture difficult discussions while protecting students and staff from harm.
- Host online dialogues for Jewish Israelis and Palestinians living in the Netherlands, Britain, Germany, Switzerland and Spain.
- Lead more than 50 workshops, trainings, and dialogue courses to help hundreds of Israelis integrate peace practices into their professional and personal lives.

In 2022-23, American Friends of NSWAS provided \$144,000 to the School for Peace.



“We will not succumb to the darkness of quietude and the chilling distance of alienation. We will maintain the hard-won trust between the Palestinian and Jewish graduates of our many School for Peace programs, harness their collective power, and disseminate it outwardly into the world.”

—Dr. Roi Silberberg, School for Peace Director

Spiritual Center and Oasis Art Gallery



Cultivating vibrant, thought-provoking spaces where Arabs and Jews can find common ground has been an integral part of NSWAS's success through the years. In 2023, your donations established new programs for artists, teens, women, and other groups seeking ways to come together across religious and national differences.

Your support of the Village's cultural and spiritual wellbeing enabled:

- The Oasis Art Gallery to organize *Us and Them*, an exhibition featuring works by Palestinian and Jewish artists that offers perspectives on racism, nationalism, and prejudice.
- The Spiritual Center to offer healing sessions for Villagers and area residents. Psychologists, social workers, and School for Peace staff were on hand to support supporting those struggling during the crisis, especially children. The center also offered mindfulness, meditation and movement workshops, as well as a host of other meetings, lessons, and activities.



In 2022-23, American Friends of NSWAS provided \$40,000 to the Spiritual Center and Oasis Art Gallery.

“
The way we have chosen—arguing and still being committed to each other's wellbeing—works. It is possible to manage the conflict in such a way that both sides win. It is not easy, but it can be done.
—Ariela Bairy-Ben Ishay,
Village resident
”

Humanitarian Aid Program



With your help, NSWAS is preparing for the moment when it will again be possible to bring medical aid to Gaza through its Humanitarian Aid Program. The program provides medicine and medical supplies, funds lifesaving surgeries and care, and helps hospitals meet infrastructure needs like electricity, generators, and building repairs. In response to the war, NSWAS has also created a new stream of aid for Village workers living under the Palestinian National Authority who have lost their work permits during the war. This money is easing financial hardship and demonstrating solidarity with those from West Bank villages who have kept the Village clean, repaired, safe, and tended to over the years.



In 2022-23, American Friends of NSWAS provided \$12,000 to the Humanitarian Aid Program.

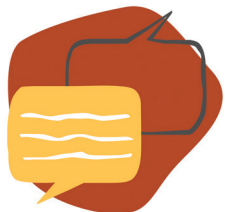
The Nadi Youth Center



The NADI continues to make a huge difference in the lives of local youth who benefit from the social connection and learning opportunities they would otherwise go without. This year, you provided activities, leadership and skill-building opportunities, and—most important—fun for young people living in the midst of terrible violence and conflict.

With your support, the NADI Youth Center:

- Created after-school and summer programs for children of all ages and interests. Offerings included a hip-hop breakdancing workshop, weekly art classes, trips to local amusement parks and soccer tournaments, a summer theater camp, and an end-of-summer pool party.
- Sent nine high-achieving teens to the U.S. to take part in the Science Internship Program at the University of California, Santa Cruz.
- Provided therapeutic activities for children and teens feeling anxiety about the war, helping them open up about their fears.



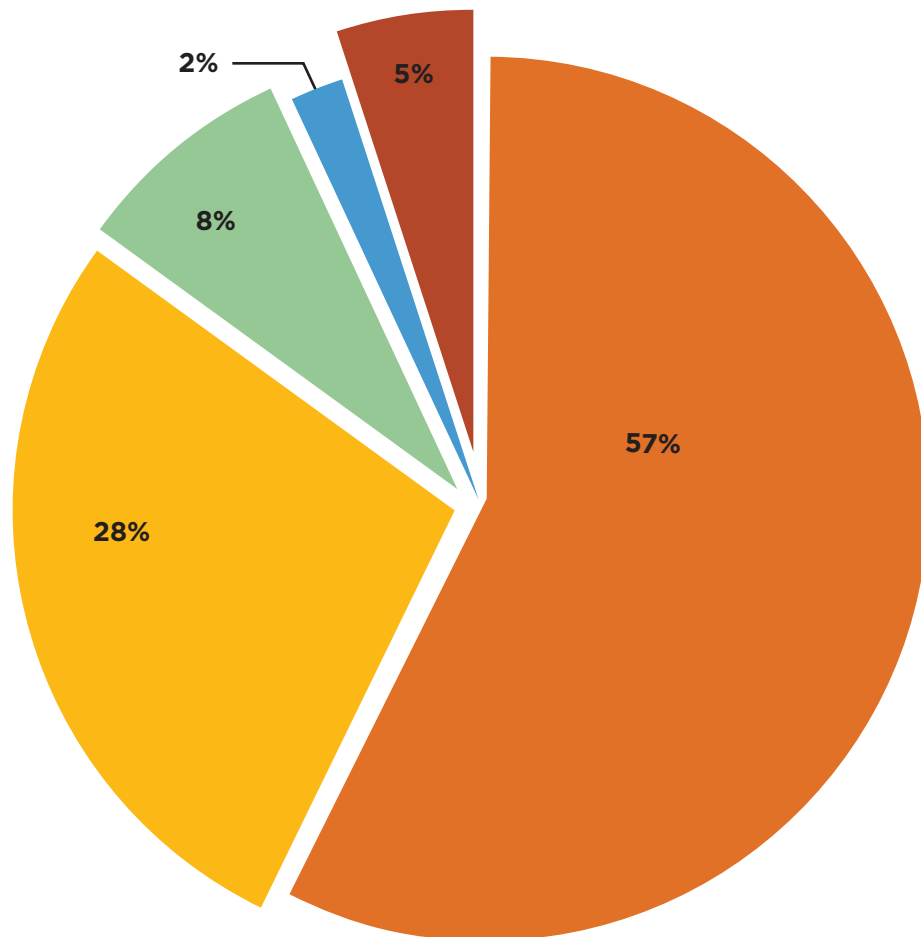
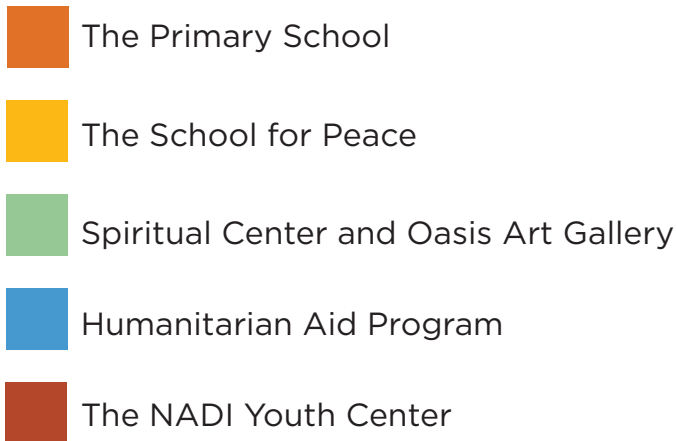
In 2022-23, American Friends of NSWAS provided \$12,000 to the NADI Youth Center.

This year was about making the NADI a place where kids want to come and be with one another.

—Nur Najjar Elhuda,
NADI Youth Center Director

The American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam directly impacts daily life in Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam by supporting education and youth programs, arts initiatives, humanitarian aid work, and more. In doing so, we stand in solidarity with this inspiring community and shine a light for the world on an achievable, sustainable model for peace.

Total Grants 2022-23



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF NEVE SHALOM/WAHAT AL-SALAM, INC.
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	<u>August 31,</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 195,288	\$ 317,589
BOARD DESIGNATED ASSETS		
Investments - board designated	489,193	265,743
DONOR RESTRICTED ASSETS		
Investments held for endowment purposes	546,323	523,038
OTHER ASSETS		
Security deposits	800	800
Total assets	\$ 1,231,604	\$ 1,107,170
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accrued retirement contribution	\$ 1,980	\$ 1,197
Accrued compensated absences	7,248	6,902
Total current liabilities	9,228	8,099
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	186,860	310,290
Board designated	489,193	265,743
With donor restrictions	546,323	523,038
Total net assets	1,222,376	1,099,071
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 1,231,604	\$ 1,107,170

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

**AMERICAN FRIENDS OF NEVE SHALOM/WAHAT AL-SALAM, INC.
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

	Year Ended August 31,	
	2023	2022
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS:		
Operating revenues and other support:		
Contributions	\$ 786,734	\$ 693,914
Interest and dividends	14,965	12,515
Total operating revenues and other support	801,699	706,429
Operating expenses:		
Program services	636,089	641,659
Support	40,981	38,281
Fundraising	60,024	60,326
Total operating expenses	737,094	740,266
Operating income (loss)	64,605	(33,837)
Other :		
Loan forgiveness - SBA/Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) loan	-	19,200
Realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments	8,486	(40,207)
Net assets released from restrictions	26,929	31,804
Increase (decrease) in net assets without donor restrictions	100,020	(23,040)
NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS:		
Investment income from donor restricted investments	50,214	(94,074)
Net assets released from restrictions	(26,929)	(31,804)
Increase (decrease) in net assets with donor restrictions	23,285	(125,878)
Change in net assets	123,305	(148,918)
Net assets at beginning of year	1,099,071	1,247,989
Net assets at end of year	\$ 1,222,376	\$ 1,099,071

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.



Oasis of Peace

American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

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www.oasisofpeace.org

<https://www.facebook.com/oasisofpeaceNeveShalom>

You can find our newsletters and activity reports on our website:
www.oasisofpeace.org/newsletters



“ In these discouraging days, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam determinedly forges ahead with its mission of peace, and of peaceful coexistence. More than ever before, the villagers need, and surely deserve, our maximum support. ”

— Samuel W. Lewis,
Former U.S. Ambassador to Israel

“ It is not a week’s program, or a weekend’s experiment. It is Arabs and Jews living their ordinary lives together, sharing the same school, the same town, the same problems. Their experience teaches us much about the challenges of coexistence in environments of conflict. ”

— Shibley Telhami,
Professor for Peace and Development,
U. of Maryland

“ A peaceful solution will never be achieved by violence or imposed by outsiders. Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam has persevered when so many others have faltered in maintaining its vision of peace and instilling it where it counts most, among the young. ”

— Richard Murphy, Senior Fellow,
U.S. Council on Foreign Relations

The American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam is a not-for-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Service Code. We do not sell, trade, rent or otherwise disclose donor information. Our donor privacy policy is available on our website or by mail.

AFNSWAS Financial Management: AFNSWAS a 501(c) (3) organization in good standing, fully compliant with provisions required under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and is independently audited, annually, by James Vanstrom & Company of Falconer, NY which has consistently reported satisfactory results. Internal controls are implemented through an internal Audit Committee. The Board of Directors exercises full discretion and control over all grants to Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam through a multi-stage process that begins when the Board and the AFNSWAS staff meet with NSWAS representatives. The Board decides, from a list of potential projects, what it should solicit funding for and then, after a careful consideration of the formal grant proposals submitted to AFNSWAS by NSWAS, determines which grants, and how much, will get funded. The Board, through on-site visits by individual directors and through extensive reporting by NSWAS, ensures that the funds have been used as intended.