



Oasis of Peace

American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

ANNUAL REPORT 21/22





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*Director of the
American Friends/NSWAS
National office*

Dear Friends,

On September 21, 2022, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, like many other communities and organizations across the globe, participated in International Peace Day. Villagers and local community members gathered in the Garden of Rescuers to celebrate those who have given their lives in the fight against genocide and crimes against humanity. The Village's Garden of Rescuers is just one of a network of similar gardens scattered around the world, all of which have been planted to ensure we never forget those who have made incredible sacrifices to secure the safety and wellbeing of others.

The Garden of Rescuers reminds us that the Village is part of a larger movement for peace, and that what we, as the American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, help make happen there has effects in Israel, in the Middle East, and around the globe. It also reminds us that we all have the responsibility to be rescuers—we all have roles to play, big and small, in the struggle for a more peaceful world. When we give money to the Humanitarian Aid Project, the School for Peace, or the Primary School, we aren't just having an impact the lives of those who directly need our help. Our giving reverberates beyond that—to the overworked medical staff in Gaza feeling a renewed sense of hope, to the government official in Lebanon sharing tools for de-escalating conflict, to the audience in London inspired by a new documentary about the Village to learn more. When we support the Village, we are holding it up as an example to the entire world and proclaiming that peace is possible.

As we enter 2023, we face many challenges to international peace: an ongoing pandemic, the war in Ukraine and an unfolding climate crisis. At the same time, it has never been more important to show the world that there is hope, that it is possible to bridge deep divides and solve our problems together. Your support of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam does just that, and we are, as always, so grateful for your generosity and commitment to this incredible community.

Sincerely,

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

The Primary School



“I can tell you, a lot of people try to make peace, but they do it the wrong way. You can’t use force to make peace; you have to be sensitive and ask first.”

—Ya’ara Zer, Primary School Student, Grade 3

2022 HIGHLIGHTS OF GIVING: Your Impact on the Village

During the 2022–23 school year, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam’s Primary School served 138 Arab children and 83 Jewish children. The school attracts students beyond the Village, with the majority coming from 21 different communities in the area. In bilingual classrooms led by Arab and Jewish teachers, these children learn to celebrate their cultural identities and traditions while bridging differences and forging lasting friendships. Lessons are carried through lifetimes and passed down through generations—they are where a more peaceful world begins.

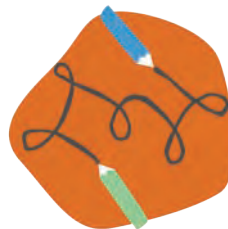
In 2022, your donations to the Primary School helped:

- Hire additional teachers committed to the school’s groundbreaking model of bilingual, cross-cultural learning.
- Establish a Language Center, a new multimodal learning space dedicated exploring new ways of integrating communication within the everyday curriculum.
- Launch the annual Festival of Hope, an end-of-the-school-year celebration that honors the ways students have listened to and learned from each other. Established during a time of year when many Jews and Arabs are participating in events that remind them of freedom, but also of

subjugation, occupation, and cultural and religious differences, the Festival of Hope brings a new frame to these narratives, emphasizing the togetherness that is possible and the hope for peace and a better future.

“I loved the story of Yoni and Yaara, students at the Primary School at NSWAS, who are also best friends. They are living proof that peace is possible- the Perfect antidote to reading grim election news! Thank you for all that you do to promote peace and create friendship and joy”

—Judy Livingston, friend since 2002



In 2021-2022, AFNSWAS provided \$243,000 to the Primary School.

The School for Peace

“What we teach our graduates is: Never give up.”

—Nava Sonnenschein, Director, School for Peace



Rising from the flames of the destructive and demoralizing arson attacks of 2021, the School for Peace (SFP) has had one of their strongest years ever. American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam helped secure many successes and firsts, expanding the school’s impact and further solidifying its reputation as a leader in developing conflict facilitation and resolution practices.

Thanks to your generosity, the SFP was able to:

- Rebuild and repair arson-damaged sections of SFP buildings
- Bring its methods and curricula to six different colleges and universities in the region—the most that the SFP has ever served! Expanding the school’s reach continues to open incredible opportunities for dialogue between Palestinian and Jewish students who study together, but rarely speak honestly about their shared political reality.
- Launch two new, first-of-their-kind Change Agents courses—one for professionals in the performing arts, and the other for tour guides. A signature SFP offering, Change Agent courses focus on combating racism, promoting equality and human rights, and initiating shared projects involving Jews and Palestinians within specific professional fields.
- Inaugurate the Dr. Nava Sonnenschein Prize to support initiatives that advance the SFP’s mission. This monetary prize will be awarded annually to projects that promote social and political change, equality between Jews and Palestinians, a just solution to the national conflict, and contribute towards ending occupation and the oppression.
- Expand graduate programming and support, including establishing an annual alumni conference, which brought graduates from around the world back to the Village for two days of inspiring lectures, work shops, and skills sharing.



In 2021-2022, AFNSWAS provided \$220,000 to the School for Peace.

Spiritual Center, Peace Museum, and Oasis Art Gallery



Art, culture, and spirituality are a vibrant and essential part of life at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, and the programs organized under the auspices of the Pluralistic Community Spiritual Center serve nearby communities as well. In 2022, your generosity enabled the center to continue hosting thoughtful, high-quality offerings and events that promoted dialogue, understanding, and empathy.



“I envision a cultural center that will be part of a larger, international network...bringing artists to Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam and creating a space to export our ideas and forming new connections with the art world.”

—Einat Bezalel, Director, Pluralistic Community Spiritual Center

Last year, your generous donations ensured the Village could:

- Hire a new director for the Pluralistic Community Spiritual Center
- Host the The Global Climate Scream exhibition at the Oasis Art Gallery. This group exhibition focused on the global effects of climate change and our individual and collective roles in solving the crisis. Two of the participating artists were able to travel to the Village for lectures, and the gallery also hosted area students for interactive artmaking sessions.
- Create the Studio, a new space in the Oasis Art Gallery that hosts collective artmaking and teaching sessions. Here, Village residents and local community members can find creative outlets for expression and share their perspectives with each other through their work.



In 2021-2022, AFNSWAS provided \$20,000 to the Spiritual Center, Peace Museum, and Oasis Art Gallery.

Humanitarian Aid Program



Gaza's health system, weakened by shortages and restrictions on movement as well as an energy crisis and a worsening economy, is struggling to serve patients in need. Your contributions are a lifeline to thousands of people who live in the region. This past year, your generosity enabled American Friends of Neve Shalom/ Wahat al-Salam to contribute towards desperately needed medical supplies in Gaza through the Village's Humanitarian Aid Program. The program delivered medical equipment, medicine, and services worth more than one million shekels. It also helped fund three new medical centers as well as surgery and treatment for more than 5,000 patients in Gaza.



In 2021-2022, AFNSWAS provided \$30,000 to the Humanitarian Aid Program.



Every cent of your donations made to the Humanitarian Aid Program go directly to patient needs, overseen by medical professionals. Supplies and equipment are purchased locally or in the West Bank before transportation to Gaza hospitals and clinics.

The Nadi Youth Center



Creating spaces for Arab and Jewish youth to connect is essential to building the trust and understanding needed to achieve peace in the region. Your donations to the Nadi Youth Club fund enriching programs and activities that help teens discover and grow new skills and talents while learning to support each other and work together.

In 2022, your funding helped:

- Renovate the Nadi clubhouse.
- Fund the Nadi Youth Leadership Program, which trains teens to be emissaries of the Village to the larger world through volunteering and other opportunities.
- Sustain after-school programs for youth from the Village and surrounding communities.
- Support the Nadi's signature Theater Program, in which teens learn to mine and share lived experiences through writing, role playing, and other theater arts activities.

“In the hours after we’ve said goodbye to our friends in high school, we get a bit of time in the NADI. These afternoons are the most significant in our day. This is where we get to talk, to get up to date, sometimes to play games and sometimes to do things in the community. The main thing is that we are together as much as possible.”

—Adam Egbariya, 15 years old



In 2021-2022, AFNSWAS provided \$10,000 to the Nadi.

Creating Change Makers Across the Region



“The strongest moments involve conflict, disagreement, the failure of language. Coming to know each other, and changing, are products of friction.”

—Einat Weizman, Artist and School for Peace Change Agent Course Facilitator

For decades, the SFP has brought a diverse range of professionals—lawyers and jurists, planners and

architects, mental health professionals, politicians, and journalists—together to think about how bring a lens of justice and equality to their fields. These agents of change are advocating for peace in different ways, large and small, and finding ways to initiate and sustain difficult conversations that ultimately yield understanding and empathy. Here are just a few examples of how your donations to the SFP have resulted in innovative and impactful approaches to peacemaking across the region:

- Tova Buksbaum, a clinical psychologist based in Galilee, and a group of like-minded mental-health professionals founded PsychoActive, a space to talk about the mentalhealth toll that conflict inflicts on both sides and how to address it.
- Jaffa Horizon was founded to identify social issues affecting the city and to support and coordinate local activism.
- Michael Sfard and Shaked Morag recently appeared before the Israeli Supreme Court in support of Palestinians cut off from their agricultural land and from nearby Beit Lehem (Bethlehem) by an expansion of the Efrat settlement. Michael Sfard is a prominent Human Rights lawyer, and Shaked Morag is leader of Peace Now.
- Filmmaker Bilal Yosef screened his documentary *Living in the Shadow of Death*, which looks at the toll of gun violence in Israel, at the Jerusalem Film Festival.



Innovating a Pedagogy of Peace

Although there has been growing interest in the Primary School's bilingual, binational approach to the education of young children, the model is still considered an outlier in the Israeli school system. In spring 2022, your generous support of the Primary School enabled representatives from Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam to speak to the Israeli legislature about the relationship between early childhood learning and the elimination of racism, bias, and intolerance.

The delegation traced the school's history as the first in Israel where children learn together in Hebrew and Arabic and presented on the its unique curricula and teacher training programs.

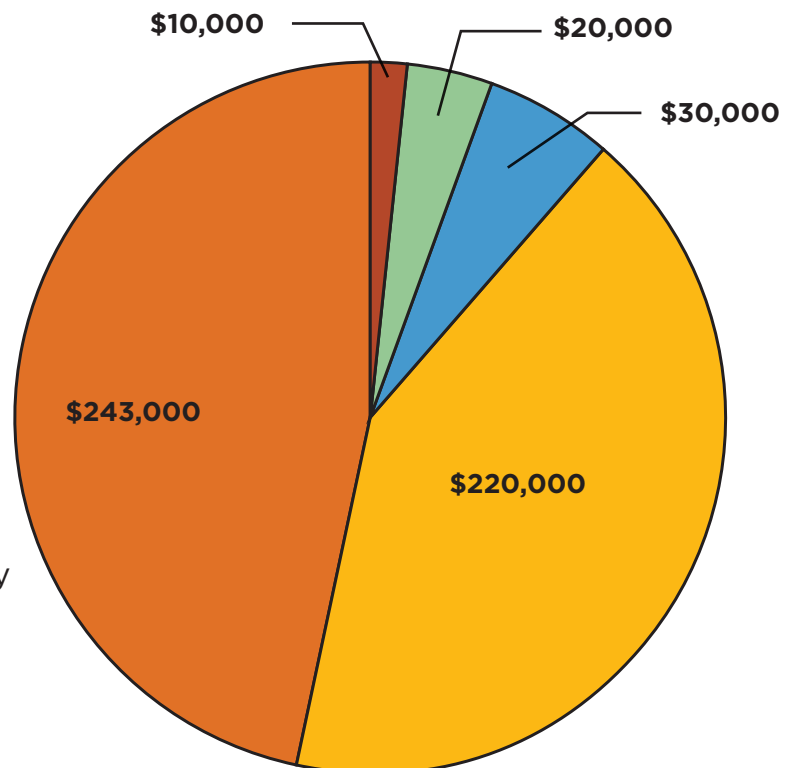
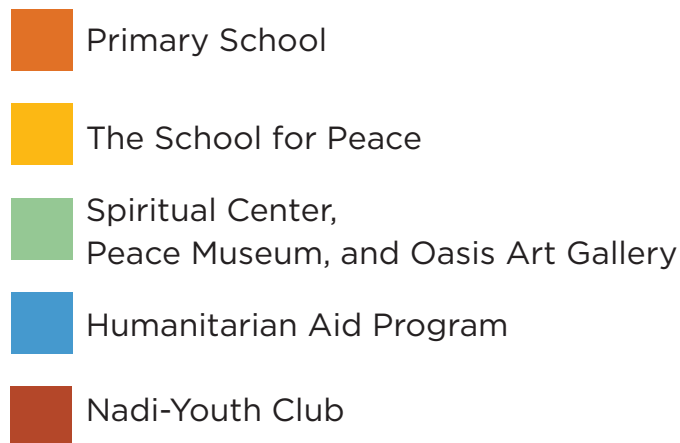


“You could create a mixed kindergarten, today, in every city. There is a demand for it.”

— Samah Salaime, Director of Development and Communications, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

Village representatives also advocated for more government support for bilingual, binational classrooms across the region. Schools in the Galilee, Jerusalem, and Jaffa have drawn significantly on the Primary School's teaching methodology, and numerous institutions now use its specialized curriculum materials, which have been translated into several languages.

**Total Grants
2020-2021:
\$523,000**



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

	August 31,	
	2022	2021
<u>ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 317,589	\$ 332,160
BOARD DESIGNATED ASSETS		
Investments - board designated	265,743	293,435
DONOR RESTRICTED ASSETS		
Investments held for endowment purposes	523,038	648,916
OTHER ASSETS		
Security deposits	800	800
Total assets	\$ 1,107,170	\$ 1,275,311
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accrued retirement contribution	\$ 1,197	\$ 1,420
Accrued compensated absences	6,902	6,702
Small Business Administration, PPP loan	-	19,200
Total current liabilities	8,099	27,322
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	310,290	305,638
Board designated	265,743	293,435
With donor restrictions	523,038	648,916
Total net assets	1,099,071	1,247,989
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 1,107,170	\$ 1,275,311

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,	
	2022	2021
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS:		
Operating revenues and other support:		
Contributions	\$ 693,914	\$ 753,406
Interest and dividends	12,515	9,813
Other operating revenue	-	40
Total operating revenues and other support	706,429	763,259
Operating expenses:		
Program services	641,659	574,713
Support	38,281	58,978
Fundraising	60,326	57,237
Total operating expenses	740,266	690,928
Operating income (loss)	(33,837)	72,331
Other :		
Loan forgiveness - SBA/Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) loan	19,200	19,200
Realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments	(40,207)	30,835
Net assets released from restrictions	31,804	22,245
Increase (decrease) in net assets without donor restrictions	(23,040)	144,611
NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS:		
Investment income from donor restricted investments	(94,074)	114,063
Net assets released from restrictions	(31,804)	(22,245)
Increase (decrease) in net assets with donor restrictions	(125,878)	91,818
Change in net assets	(148,918)	236,429
Net assets at beginning of year	1,247,989	1,011,560
Net assets at end of year	\$ 1,099,071	\$ 1,247,989

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

“Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam is not a bubble in some ‘real world’—it is reality. In Israel, you can live in a homogenous place or neighborhood and never meet people who are not just like you. Here, you interact daily with the ‘others,’ and for better or worse, that creates a complex situation. By moving here, I am imposing on my children a life that is not so simple. I am asking myself what kind of people I want them to grow up to be.”

—Maayan Schwartz, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam Resident and Filmmaker



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

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.