

# PEACE IS A PLACE

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF  
*Neve Shalom*  FRIENDS OF  
*Wahat al-Salam*  
נווה שלום  واحه السلام  
O A S I S O F P E A C E



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2012-2013**

## ***Letter from the President***

Dear Friends:

Thank you for supporting the American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam. We are pleased to share with you this Annual Report, covering the fiscal year 2012, from September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013. Your continued generosity has been critical to our efforts to support and promote the important work of the "Oasis of Peace."

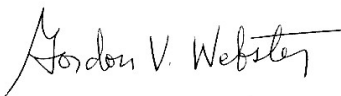
This fiscal year, we received gifts and grants totaling \$657,242, thanks to the generosity of friends around the United States. \$186,031 of that funding came from the final portion of a three-year grant by the United States Agency for International Development, administered by AFNSWAS, to support the Change Agents program at the School for Peace. Though government funding was reduced in the final year of this program, our overall contributions from foundations and individuals remained stable, in spite of the fact that the 2012-13 fiscal year was a time of transition for the office at AFNSWAS.

This year was also a time of transition for the Primary School at NSWAS, as the school moved from a private institution to a fully-recognized independent school under Israel's Ministry of Education. This move was made to ensure the long-term financial health of the school, but in the short term required a major upgrade of its physical facilities. The board approved a transfer of \$210,000 from our investments to secure the school's future as a vibrant and transformative institution.

The new school year has now begun, along with a new year at the office. Veteran staff member Abir Elzowidi remains as Director of Operations, and was joined in October 2013 by a new full-time Development Director, Sarah Burns, who is renewing our focus on external relationships and partnership opportunities, while working to expand our donor base as we continue to grow. With this small and focused team in place we continue to keep our overhead low, with 74% of our expenses going to direct grants to support the educational programs of the Oasis of Peace.

On behalf of the entire board of directors, I want to thank you for your ongoing support of the programs at NSWAS, which remain a beacon of hope for a lasting peace in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon V. Webster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

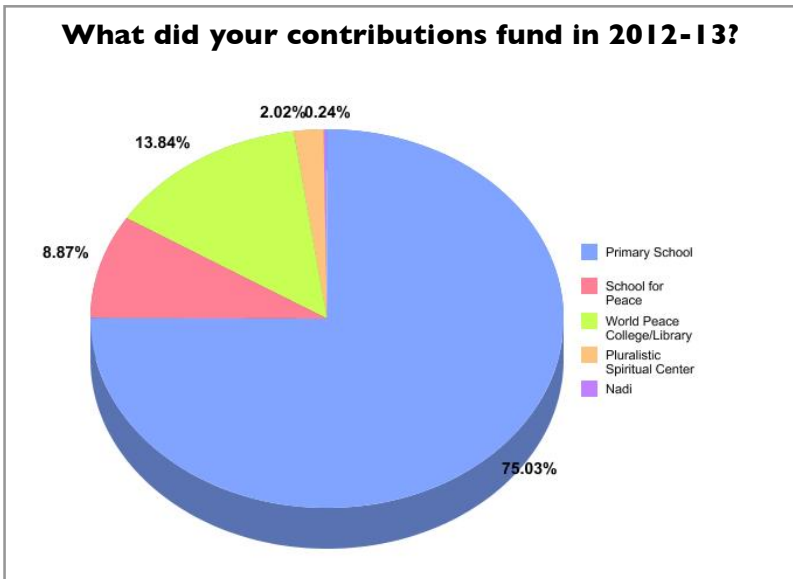
Rev. Gordon Webster, President  
American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

# THE AMERICAN FRIENDS of NEVE SHALOM/WAHAT AL-SALAM

AFNSWAS encourages, supports and publicizes the projects of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, the "Oasis of Peace." For more than thirty years, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam has been dedicated to dialogue, cooperation and a genuine and durable peace between Arabs and Jews, Palestinians and Israelis. Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel have chosen to live and work together as equals in this community to promote trust, understanding and respect well beyond its own borders.

At the village of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, the bilingual, binational, multicultural Primary School, the School for Peace, the Pluralistic Spiritual Center, the World Peace College and other projects serve the village and beyond, reaching thousands of Jewish and Palestinian youth and adults.

The American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam is a not-for-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code.



## **Primary School**

The village began offering bilingual, binational education to young children in the early 1980s. In 1984, the Primary School at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam (NSWAS) began to take shape. A binational, bilingual, and multicultural curriculum was developed and the Primary School started accepting children from outside the village, becoming the *first* school of its kind in Israel. Today there are other bilingual schools in Israel based on the NSWAS model, but the "Oasis of Peace" Primary School is the only such school located in a community where Arabs and Jews choose to live together with a commitment to peace and equality.

The school uses its unique pedagogy and binational environment to integrate children from different cultural and religious backgrounds. The children are taught mutual respect and knowledge of one another's culture, traditions and language, as well as principles of equality and peace. The Primary School is recognized for its excellence in education and attracts children from many communities in the region. Approximately 250 children were enrolled in the school this year, half Jewish and half Palestinian, with 90% of these students coming from the villages surrounding NSWAS

In the fiscal year 2012-13, the school took a critical step towards stabilizing its operating expenses by agreeing to become fully recognized as a specialized public school under Israel's Ministry of Education. While the Ministry will provide a new stable base of operating expenses, in the short term critical funds were needed to adapt the school to meet the Ministry's standards. AFNSWAS was able to contribute \$210,000 from its investments to support this initiative.

### **School for Peace**

Since its founding in 1979, the School for Peace (SFP) has been central to Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam's goal of spreading its message and having a sustained impact outside its borders. Its programs develop the participants' awareness of the nature of the regional conflict and of their role in it by exploring and constructing identity through interaction with the other. The SFP runs programs for youth, women, and professional groups. Since its establishment, more than 50,000 Israeli Jews and Palestinians have connected through the SFP programs.

Most of the programs are long-term processes focused on raising awareness, helping people to examine their identities and take responsibility for their roles in the conflict. In recent years, the SFP has evolved to further its reach into Israeli and Palestinian societies, targeting groups of people who will have a strong impact in their communities.

In 2012-13, the School for Peace wrapped up an extensive Change Agents course for up-and-coming politicians, journalists and environmentalists, funded through a grant from the United States Agency for International Development, and launched a new Change Agents courses for high school teachers and mental health professionals.

### **World Peace College**

The American Friends worked in partnership with NSWAS to establish a new Peace College in the village in 2010. The mission of the college is to prepare skilled peace-builders to integrate theoretical models and practical experiences of conflict-reduction and peace building in regions of conflict. In 2012-13 the village continued to lay the groundwork to launch a full teacher enrichment program as well as a research institute housed in the Fred Segal Friendship Library, which received an equipment upgrade this year thanks to the ongoing support of Mr. Segal.

## Pluralistic Spiritual Center

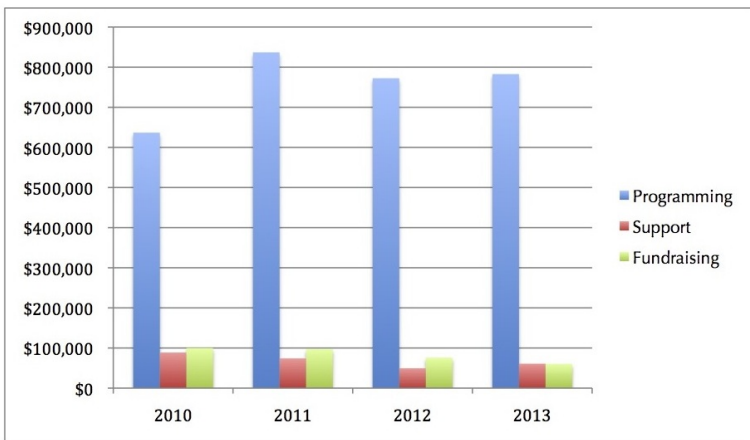
Operating since 2001, the Pluralistic Spiritual Center provides a framework for spiritual reflection on issues at the core of the Middle East conflict and the search for its resolution. Its programs focus on inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue, and the advancement of peace. The Pluralistic Spiritual Center implements several programs such as “Massa-Massar,” which takes young Israeli Jews and Palestinians to symbolic places in Israel to reflect on their common heritage and initiate desire for dialogue and peace among them.

This year, the PSC was host to numerous community events, speakers and special guests from across the region and around the world, including the Suhlna Peace Project and the Forgiveness Project.

## Youth Club – Nadi

Initiated by the young generation of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, the Nadi is a place where the youth who have graduated from the Primary School can continue to develop leadership skills by organizing and facilitating inter-group activities for younger children. Each year, the Nadi attracts a small team of committed young group leaders, who initiate activities and shape the structure and atmosphere of the center. The Nadi and its youth leaders also serve as hosts for a weeklong summer camp for Palestinian youth each summer.

AFNSWAS Expenses, 2010–2013



■ **PROGRAMMING:** Classes, workshops, and initiatives that involve Jewish and Palestinian groups and individuals engaged in NSWAS-directed dialogue, learning, and skill-building.

■ **SUPPORT:** All the resources and tools needed to make Programming happen: advertising, oversight, communications, etc.

■ **FUNDRAISING:** Strategies for garnering support, including NSWAS's social-media presence, mail, donor outreach, grant proposals, etc.

## Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets Years Ended August 31, 2013 and August 31, 2012

	<u>Year Ended August 31</u>	
	2013	2012
<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>		
Operating revenues and other support:		
Contributions	\$463,516	\$497,248
Federal grants	\$186,031	\$369,237
Interest and dividends, net of investment fees	\$7,203	\$11,455
Other operating revenue	\$492	\$5,603
Total revenues and other support	\$657,242	\$883,543
Operating expenses:		
Program services	\$782,692	\$772,355
Support	\$60,855	\$49,446
Fundraising	\$60,348	\$75,982
Total of operating expenses	\$903,895	\$897,783
Operating income (loss)	\$(246,653)	\$(14,240)
Other:		
Realized and unrealized gain on investments	\$41,678	\$12,284
Net assets released from restrictions	\$ -	\$35,000
Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	\$(204,975)	\$33,044
<b>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</b>		
Investment income from donor restricted investments	\$56,832	\$31,701
Net assets released from restrictions	\$ -	\$(35,000)
Increase (decrease) in temporarily restricted net assets	\$56,832	\$(3,299)
Change in net assets	\$(148,143)	\$29,745
Net assets at beginning of year	\$1,269,549	\$1,239,804
Net assets at end of year	\$1,121,406	\$1,269,549

*Copies of the complete financial statements and/or Form 990 are available upon request  
and on our website [www.oasisofpeace.org](http://www.oasisofpeace.org).*

## Statements of Financial Position August 31, 2013 and August 31, 2012

	<u>August 31</u>	
	2013	2012
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$343,387	\$328,027
Investments in marketable securities	\$71	\$747
Promises to give	\$12,183	\$5,183
Other receivables	\$ -	\$87,118
Inventory	\$ -	\$553
Total current assets	\$355,641	\$421,628
<b>ASSETS LIMITED AS TO USE</b>		
Board designated	\$313,172	\$473,974
Donor designated	\$484,450	\$427,618
<b>FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Furniture and equipment	\$2,012	\$2,012
Less accumulated depreciation	\$(1,562)	\$(1,327)
	\$450	\$685
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Security deposit	\$500	\$500
Total assets	\$1,154,213	\$1,324,405
<b><u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Grants payable	\$30,283	\$30,283
Accounts payable	\$2,524	\$2,087
Deferred revenue	\$ -	\$22,486
Total current liabilities	\$32,807	\$54,856
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	\$323,784	\$367,957
Board designated	\$313,172	\$473,974
Temporarily restricted	\$120,669	\$63,837
Permanently restricted	\$363,781	\$363,781
Total net assets	\$1,121,406	\$1,269,549
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,154,213	\$1,324,405

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and on our website [www.oasisofpeace.org](http://www.oasisofpeace.org).*

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## **Honorary Council**

Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski  
Sara Ehrman  
David Hitchcock  
Khalil Jahshan  
Hon. Samuel W. Lewis  
Hani Masri  
Hon. Richard Murphy  
Naomi Shihab Nye  
Shibley Telhami  
Elie Wiesel

## **Directors of the Board**

Rev. Gordon Webster, President  
Adeeb Fadil, Vice President  
Deborah First, Vice President  
Judith Steingieser Dubin, Secretary  
David Matz, Treasurer  
Christina Brodie, Strategic Planning  
Development Committee Chair  
Rima Mahmoud  
Susan Lurie  
Jessie Zel Lurie  
Gordie Fellman  
Richard Goodwin  
Roberta Gordon  
Dr. Kayed Sobhi Khalil  
Judith Tuller

## **National Staff**

Abir Elzowidi,  
Director of Operations

**American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam**

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