

PEACE IS A PLACE



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Please note our new address!

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PEACE IS A PLACE

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF
 Neve Shalom  Wahat al-Salam
 נווה שלום  واحة السلام
 OASIS OF PEACE



American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that believes in a genuine and durable peace between Arabs and Jews, Palestinians and Israelis. We believe the best way to achieve such a peace is to develop support for and publicize the life-changing projects of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, a community of Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel who have chosen to live and work together as equals.

With more than 30 years of experience and a growing global community, Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam continuously works to create peaceful dialogue on social, cultural, and political issues, dedicating its efforts to promoting trust, understanding, and respect well beyond its own borders.

Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam's institutions -- the bilingual/binational/multicultural Primary School, the School for Peace, the Pluralistic Spiritual Community Center, the Peace College, and the Nadi Youth Center -- work to serve the village and beyond, reaching thousands of Jewish and Palestinian youth and adults each year.

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

Despite the escalating conflict and difficult year for our close friends at the village of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, I am proud to say the actions taken by the village have begun to create ripples that bring the change we all seek.

Programs developed by the institutions at NSWAS change perceptions of the conflict and arm those in leadership positions with the right tools and support to create a peaceful and cooperative movement for a better tomorrow. Recently, Israel's Supreme Court ruled that the illegal Amona settlement outpost located in the West Bank be evacuated and demolished within two years. Programs such as the School for Peace's newly developed Strategic Planning Committee for Israel's progressive parties and partners in Palestine, and the Primary School's bilingual, binational pedagogical approach to education that helps inoculate Israel's future leaders against racism and build a resistance to intolerance, are two stellar examples of organized and peaceful programs that ensure sustainable and long-term success.

This has been an eventful year for all the institutions at NSWAS. Carmella Ferber joined the Primary School staff as the new principal, bringing new ideas and plans for the future. The School for Peace has developed new partnerships and is expanding its reach through the Ahmad Hijazi World Peace College scheduled to open this coming September. Hard at work, the Pluralistic Spiritual Community Center is organizing the Peace Museum and Gallery for visitors of the village. Finally, the youth of the NADI center are beginning to take leadership roles and voicing their opinions on the programs developed for the youth in the village.

This fiscal year, gifts and grants totaled \$472,427, thanks to the generosity of supporters and friends around the United States. In order to keep you well informed, the Board of Directors wanted to address the temporary spending increase in fundraising and program support. As a result of growing requests for NSWAS programs of bilingual education and conflict transformation as well as increasing educational requests from domestic (U.S.) supporters regarding NSWAS projects, we decided to direct sufficient resources toward increased fundraising and outreach to meet our capacity-building goals within the next 2-5 years. With your dedicated support, the village continues to change the outlook of those involved in the conflict, bringing hope, and giving a peaceful and just future a chance.

On behalf of the entire board of directors, I want to thank you for your ongoing support and for sharing our vision of dialogue, cooperation, and peace in the region. Because of your continued commitment, NSWAS remains a beacon of hope for a lasting peace in the region.

All the best,

Judith Steingard Rubin

Judith Dubin, President

American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam



Statement of Financial Position August 31, 2013 and August 31, 2014

	<u>August 31,</u>	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 269,497	\$ 343,387
Investments - other	74	71
Promises to give	2,500	12,183
Total current assets	272,071	355,641
BOARD DESIGNATED ASSETS		
Investments - board designated	345,976	313,172
DONOR RESTRICTED ASSETS		
Investments held for endowment purposes	533,684	484,450
FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT		
Furniture and equipment	2,012	2,012
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,797)	(1,562)
	215	450
OTHER ASSETS		
Security deposits	500	500
Total assets	\$ 1,152,446	\$ 1,154,213
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Grants payable	\$ 20,283	\$ 30,283
Accounts payable	857	2,524
Accrued payroll	6,394	-
Total current liabilities	27,534	32,807
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated	245,252	323,784
Board designated	345,976	313,172
Temporarily restricted	169,903	120,669
Permanently restricted	363,781	363,781
Total net assets	1,124,912	1,121,406
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 1,152,446	\$ 1,154,213

Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Years Ended August 31, 2013 and August 31, 2014

	Year Ended August 31,	
	2014	2013
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Operating revenues and other support:		
Contributions	\$ 472,427	\$ 463,516
Federal grants	11,508	186,031
Interest and dividends, net of investment fees	4,267	7,203
Other operating revenue	402	492
Total operating revenues and other support	488,604	657,242
Operating expenses:		
Program services	442,188	782,692
Support	34,709	60,855
Fundraising	115,907	60,348
Total operating expenses	592,804	903,895
Operating loss	(104,200)	(246,653)
Other:		
Realized and unrealized gains on investments	28,472	41,678
Net assets released from restrictions	30,000	-
Decrease in unrestricted net assets	(45,728)	(204,975)
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Investment income from donor restricted investments	79,234	56,832
Net assets released from restrictions	(30,000)	-
Increase (decrease) in temporarily restricted net assets	49,234	56,832
Change in net assets	3,506	(148,143)
Net assets at beginning of year	1,121,406	1,269,549
Net assets at end of year	\$ 1,124,912	\$ 1,121,406

Copies of the complete financial statements and/or Form 990 are available upon request and on our website www.oasisofpeace.org.

Primary School

Thirty- one years ago, the community created Israel's first bilingual and bicultural Primary School, and just like the village, welcomed equal numbers of Israeli Jewish and Palestinian children from more than 20 Jewish and Palestinian villages in the region. In two languages and two narratives, the academic subjects, current events and religious celebrations integrate the children's and families' divergent life experiences.



The Primary School's commitment to equality and mutual respect meant that Hebrew and Arabic-speaking teachers would teach together in the same classroom, so both languages and cultures would be seen as equal. Carmella Ferber, the new principal who has come with more than 20 years of teaching and administrative experience, brought the most recent research to the school family, indicating that single-language immersion in each classroom would deepen each child's language acquisition. The school is experimenting with this strategy, making sure that during the day, all children are having multiple experiences learning from both Arabic and Hebrew-speaking teachers. The principal has initiated a long-term language acquisition evaluation project, while at the same time is monitoring the children's growth in the school's core values of equality and mutual respect.

A multi-year, planned-growth proposal focuses on deepening the impact of the Primary School's programs on several communities which sends students, and a revitalized Adopt-a-Class Program connects supporters with the specific classroom where they are making a significant difference. The "Oasis of Peace" Primary School is proud of being the example that made possible the new bilingual schools in Israel that are modeled on the Primary School. As the only bilingual school located in the only binational, bicultural community in Israel where Palestinians and Jews choose to live together with a commitment to peace and equality, the Primary School sets a powerful example for the nurturing of new ideas.



Carmella Ferber, Principal

School for Peace

Since its founding in 1989, 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 the village's borders. Its programs develop the participants' awareness of the regional conflict and their role in it by exploring and constructing identity through interaction with the other. The SFP continues to run programs for youth, women, and professional groups; since its establishment, more than 65,000 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 have strong impact in their communities.

In 2013-14, the School for Peace has increased the number of courses at Ben Gurion University in the Negev and with the Arab Student Union. In addition, the SFP continues to teach at the Arava Institute of Environmental Studies and is proud to announce that this is the 24th year running a joint university course with Tel Aviv University. As a result of the most recent conflict, the SFP has been looking to develop and expand its partnerships in order to create a larger impact. The SFP is excited to announce new partnerships with The Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation (AJEEC), The Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development, The Arab Center for Alternative Planning in the Galilee (ACAP), and INMAA Palestinian Center.

The School for Peace has also developed a "Strategic Committee to Promote Peace and Human Rights," an organizing and planning committee comprised of Israel's progressive parties and their partners in Palestine, and is currently hosting meetings and planning on-the-ground activities. The first meeting resulted in a very successful demonstration in the Arab town of Tira, which hundreds of Jews and Arabs attended.

Pluralistic Spiritual Community Center

Providing a framework for spiritual reflection on issues at the core of the Middle East conflict since 2001, the Pluralistic Spiritual Community Center (PSCC) focuses its programs on inter-religious, inter-cultural dialogue and the advancement of peace. The PSCC implements several programs, such as "Breaking Down Borders: Youth Self Discovery," which takes young Israeli Jews and Palestinians on a cultural tour across the country aided by activities that address identity, diversity, recognizing each other's humanity, and empowering the young participants to meet and develop trusting relationships with each other.



This year, the PSCC continued its partnership with "Open House Ramle," creating a series of 12 weekly encounters and one two-day encounter – for the 10th grade of the Jewish Givat Brener High School and the Arab Orthodox School in Ramle. In the near future, and in collaboration with "Open House Ramle" and the Kehilat Birkat Shalom Congregation, the PSCC is planning a four-month-long program for 16-20 women in the area of Ramle-Lydda with the goal of creating lasting bridges between women.

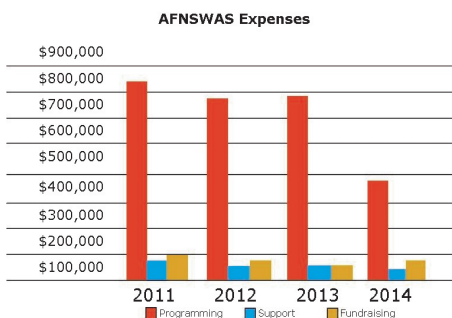
Nadi Youth Center

After graduating from the Primary School, NSWAS children are able to attend a regional high school that accepts Israeli-Palestinian students only from Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam. There, often for the first time, and much to their surprise, they encounter a new world, where intolerance and racism are accepted. But at the Nadi, all of the village students can work together with a facilitator, and with one another, to develop pro-active, bridge-building skills for dealing pro-actively with the now culturally-acceptable expressions of intolerance. The Nadi is both a place and a program where students become facilitators of the change they want to see.

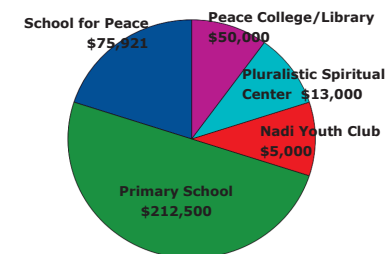


Students at the Nadi have begun work with the High School Principal on reducing the racism and the sense of conflict. They are developing a plan for the Primary School to prepare the students for the unexpected social barriers they will meet and they are working with individual teachers to develop classroom strategies for addressing racism when it occurs.

The Nadi hosts local events to raise funds for their programs and for a special activities facilitator. These Israeli Jewish and Palestinian students come together daily and weekly to support one another, to participate in Youth Leadership programs, to study, to be normal teenagers together in a region that wants them to be separate. They know that students and teachers at their high school are watching them, learning from them and slowly changing their minds about many of their prejudices.



What did your contributions fund in 2013-14



*We are rebuilding our fundraising infrastructure.

World Peace College

Scheduled to open at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam in September 2015, the School for Peace is developing the World Peace College in collaboration with the University of Massachusetts, Boston. The initial Master's degree program will be "Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Peace & Conflict."

Focusing on cross-cultural encounters and experiential approaches at NSWAS, the World Peace College will have a research-based multidisciplinary curriculum which draws from political science, history, social psychology, anthropology, cultural and gender studies, economics, philosophy, and sociology. Students are challenged to integrate these theoretical studies with practical, real-life experiences from the surrounding region and at Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam.

The World Peace College is a natural outgrowth of the School for Peace, the first educational institution in Israel to promote broad-scale change towards peace and more humane, egalitarian, and just relations between Palestinians and Jews. With more than 30 years of experience, the School for Peace has created a world-renowned approach to working with groups in conflict.