

PEACE IS A PLACE

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



ANNUAL REPORT
2011-2012

Letter from the President

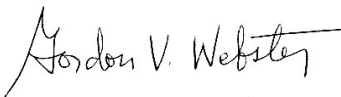
Dear Friends:

Thank you for supporting the American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam. This Annual Report covers the fiscal year 2011, from September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012. This was a year of great challenge and loss for NSWAS, the ripple effects of which are still being felt. In March 2012, the village suffered the death of Abdessalam Najjar, head of the Pluralistic Spiritual Center, one of the village's founders and most influential members. In June of 2012, the village experienced an attack by anti-Arab vandals, who defaced cars and sprayed graffiti on the walls of the Primary School. Then in August of 2012, long-time member and former mayor Ahmad Hijazi, Director of the School for Peace, was killed in a car accident along with his son Adam, while on vacation in Zanzibar.

Through such times as these, I remind you how important your support of this organization remains. In a year of unprecedented challenges to the village's work, AFNSWAS was able to send \$565,943, to support the educational programs at NSWAS. A large portion of this funding came from a grant by the United States Agency for International Development, administered by AFNSWAS, to support the Change Agents program at the School for Peace. We also continued to support the programs of the Primary School, the Pluralistic Spiritual Center, the Nadi Youth Club, and the development of the new Peace College program.

The months since the end of the 2011-12 fiscal year have been a period of transition for the office at AFNSWAS, from three full-time staff in fiscal year 2011-12 to the present one full-time staff member with two part-time communications and foundations experts, and a dedicated volunteer board of directors. We are now ready to search for a Development Director to lead a renewed focus on external relationships and partnership opportunities. With this small and focused team, we will be able to keep overhead as low as possible, while also strengthening our work in education and outreach to the wider community.

We have been emerging from this challenging period as a stronger and more flexible organization with renewed confidence in our mission. As supporters of AFNSWAS we know that you share our vision for dialogue, cooperation, and peace in the region. We hope that you will continue to look to our organization as your key partner in realizing that vision.



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

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS of NEVE SHALOM/WAHAT AL-SALAM

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 Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, the bilingual, binational, multicultural Primary School, the School for Peace, the Pluralistic Spiritual Center, the 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. The curriculum has been enriched with extra-curricular programs, providing a powerful and informal learning

experience for the children. The Zoo Lab, the Archaeology Project, Music and Recycling classes are beloved parts of the children's life at school.

In the fiscal year 2011-12, approximately 220 children were enrolled in the school, half Jewish and half Palestinian, with 90% of these students coming from the villages surrounding NSWAS. The school remains very attractive to families in the area, and a model for other schools around the region. This year AFNSWAS gave direct support to the school's first graders through our "Adopt a Class" program, setting a goal to raise \$42,650 to cover the costs of the class after tuition and state support. We were able to raise approximately 75% of these funds, and are committed to fundraising for this group each year, and following the class through to their graduation in the 6th grade.

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 programs and focus on raising awareness, helping people crystallize their identities, and take responsibility for their role in the conflict. In recent years, the SFP has evolved to further its impact in the Israeli and Palestinian societies, targeting groups of people who will have a strong impact in their communities: lawyers, politicians, environmentalists, mental health professionals, or teachers. In addition, the SFP has become a platform where activists can communicate and work together.

In 2011-12, the School for Peace ran 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. While the SFP faced setbacks after the loss of its leader, Ahmed Hijazi, one of the school's co-founders, Nava Sonnenschein, soon took over the helm, allowing the school to finish out Change Agents and to launch new programming as well.

Peace College

The American Friends worked in partnership with NSWAS to establish a new Peace College in the village in 2010, housed in the Fred Segal Friendship Library. 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 2011-12, the College conducted several training programs, and began developing a Master's Degree program in Conflict Reduction, designed to train professionals using the experience and the time-tested methods of the "Oasis of Peace."

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.

Following the death of Abdessalam Najjar, leadership at the PSC was taken over by Dafna Karta-Schwartz, who continues to develop integrated short and long-term discovery, study, and experiential opportunities for all ages. She has also expanded the way the PSC facilities are organized, so that they may be used as a community and conference center by other like-minded groups.



Youth Club – Nadi

In the past few years, the young generation of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, with support from the adults, started the Nadi, a place where in the unique environment of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, youth of the village who have graduated from the Primary School can develop leadership skills, organizing and facilitating inter-group activities for younger children. Last year, the Nadi attracted and sustained a small team of experienced, committed and young group leaders. New steps have been taken by the youth themselves and the supervising committee, to strengthen the youth's ownership and initiation of the activities; the older teenagers in particular have taken a central place in shaping the structure and atmosphere of the center.

Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Years Ended August 31, 2012 and August 31, 2011

	<u>Year Ended August 31</u>	
	2012	2011
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Operating revenues and other support:		
Contributions	\$497,248	\$548,809
Federal grants	\$369,237	\$409,876
Interest and dividends, net of investment fees	\$11,455	\$5,373
Other operating revenue	\$5,603	\$937
Total revenues and other support	\$883,543	\$964,995
Operating expenses:		
Program services	\$772,355	\$836,789
Support	\$49,446	\$74,008
Fundraising	\$75,982	\$96,969
Total of operating expenses	\$897,783	\$1,007,766
Operating income (loss)	\$(14,240)	\$(42,771)
Other:		
Realized and unrealized gain on investments	\$12,284	\$45,550
Net assets released from restrictions	\$35,000	\$ -
Increase in unrestricted net assets	\$33,044	\$2,779
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Investment income from donor restricted investments	\$31,701	\$48,516
Net assets released from restrictions	\$(35,000)	\$ -
Increase (decrease) in temporarily restricted net assets	\$(3,299)	\$48,516
Change in net assets	\$29,745	\$51,295
Net assets at beginning of year	\$1,239,804	\$1,188,509
Net assets at end of year	\$1,269,549	\$1,239,804

Copies of the complete financial statements and/or Form 990 are available upon request.

Statements of Financial Position

August 31, 2012 and August 31, 2011

	<u>August 31</u>	
	2012	2011
<u>ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$328,027	\$139,076
Investments in marketable securities	\$747	\$717
Grants receivable – USAID	\$ -	\$140,214
Promises to give	\$5,183	\$10,366
Other receivables	\$87,118	\$ -
Inventory	\$553	\$ -
Prepaid expenses	\$ -	\$500
Total current assets	\$421,628	\$290,873
ASSETS LIMITED AS TO USE		
Board designated	\$473,974	\$595,866
Donor designated	\$427,618	\$430,917
FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT		
Furniture and equipment	\$2,012	\$2,513
Less accumulated depreciation	\$(1,327)	\$(2,513)
	\$685	\$ -
OTHER ASSETS		
Security deposit	\$500	\$500
Total assets	\$1,324,405	\$1,318,156
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Grants payable	\$30,283	\$77,485
Accounts payable	\$2,087	\$867
Deferred revenue	\$22,486	\$ -
Total current liabilities	\$54,856	\$78,352
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	\$367,957	\$213,021
Board designated	\$473,974	\$595,866
Temporarily restricted	\$63,837	\$67,136
Permanently restricted	\$363,781	\$363,781
Total net assets	\$1,269,549	\$1,239,804
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,324,405	\$1,318,156

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Honorary Council

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

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Jeanine Shama, Vice President
Judith Tuller, Secretary
David Matz, Treasurer
Deborah First, Strategic Planning &
Development Committee Chair
Judith Steingieser Dubin
George Ewing
Adeeb Fadil
Gordie Fellman
Richard Goodwin
Roberta Gordon
Rola Karam
Dr. Kayed Sobhi Khalil
Jesse Zel Lurie
Steve Olweean
Frank Rubenfeld

National Staff

Perrine Vallant,
Executive Director
Deanna Armbruster,
Director of Special Initiatives
Abir Elzowidi,
Office Manager/Bookkeeper

American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

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