American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

Fall 2009

You have an opportunity to help build peace in the

Middle East!

Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, the "Oasis of Peace," has been at the forefront of

peacebuilding for the last 30 years and has reached thousands of people with its

innovative educational programs.

in the region. We need your help to sustain the impact the village has in creating peaceful change

Make a donation today!

12925 Riverside Dr., 3rd fl. - Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. Co online at www.oasisotpeace.org/donate or send your contribution to

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AMERICAN FRIENDS OF

American Friends of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam

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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.

Our organization is diligent with your donations. We are proud to be a "Valued Partner" with GuideStar and to receive high ratings from Charity Navigator.

Thank you for your support of the "Oasis of Peace!"



Oasis of Peace Support the

Voices of the Oasis of Peace

Reem Nashef, Palestinian teacher at the Primary School



"Being a teacher is not easy in an ordinary school, and here, it demands double the effort. Teaching students of two peoples, in two languages is a challenge. This role calls for a personal and sensible attitude toward each student in particular, as well as toward each bilingual and binational social group.

"At the same time, one must take into account humanitarian values, national values, social and religious values, that are of two peoples... In my opinion, it consists of receiving these two peoples with all of one's heart, as well as an open mind. Being ready to expect everything from our students and from the events of the country, and always be ready to search for the right response at the right moment. Also, being ready to take a few steps ahead of the children.

"To teach the children to be the future advocates of reconciliation, in our village, that is the vision of peace that exemplifies our school."

Yair Auron, Jewish resident of Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam



"For five years my family and I have lived at NSWAS. We came to NSWAS because we searched for a way that would give us an opportunity to participate, within our modest means, to the connection between two peoples and the advancement of peace.

"NSWAS is truly a unique and original test. The evidence of the unfinished success of our village lies in the fact that it is the only one to exist based on the principles of equality and mutual respect.

"There are days when we are angry at each other – when we find that we do not do enough to help, and we think that it is possible to do more; yet at the same time, there are also days where you tell yourself that this place still exists, and that it is developing and growing.

"We are, at NSWAS, people like everyone else, with good and bad sides, like individuals and like society."



Featured News

School for Peace's Change Advocates program reached its end

"Sometimes the sentiment that you are right can make you blind. You are so sure you're right that you cannot walk with the shoes of your enemy. I suddenly understood that different people understand the same reality differently and we do not always have to determine who is right." - Michel Sfard, after participating in the Change Advocates program.

120 Jewish and Palestinian mental health experts, attorneys and civil engineers from Israel and the West Bank have been trained to become agents of change during 22 months.

Advocates for Change: Israelis and Palestinians in Dialogue and Action, was made possible with the generous support of USAID and the American people in cooperation with Hewar Center for Peace and the School for Peace.



Massa-Massar: the Pluralistic Spiritual Center takes on a new journey

This summer, 30 young Jewish, Muslim and Christian Israelis, aged 15 to 17 years old, went on a journey of discovery around the country, learning about their national, religious and spiritual identity and the land they share.







