Healing Across the Divides
Since 2004

Peacebuilding Through Measurably Improved Health for Palestinians and Israelis
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In 2017...

92% of all donations were distributed to grantees

8,500 Israelis and Palestinians benefitted from HATD funded services

105 health workers trained by HATD are now serving communities across Israel and the West Bank

A Message From Our Executive Director

Dear Friends:

With our Palestinian and Israeli representatives Nohad Fattah and Patrick Levy leading the way, Healing Across the Divides (HATD) continued in 2017 to measurably improve the lives of marginalized Israelis and Palestinians. What keeps us going in the face of all the turbulence going on in the world, not just in the Middle East? Very simply, it is seeing community leaders, like Ms. Aasef Alkhateeb, smiling and instructing groups of women from Nablus in the West Bank in an exercise class. It is knowing that Ms. Alkhateeb, together with the other community leaders in Israel and the West Bank, are implementing scientifically-based health interventions. And it is being gratified by donors like you who recognize our track record and are placing confidence in our ability to make a difference right now in the health of both Israelis and Palestinians.

Three major developments occurred in 2017 which together reinforce my conviction that Healing Across the Divides is achieving its mission in a cost-effective manner. We began funding three new grantees. One is a partnership to start an “urban garden” on land between an Israeli unrecognized Bedouin village (i.e. there are no government services available, such as electricity) and an Israeli Jewish town, Yeruham in the Negev desert in Southern Israel. In the West Bank, we are very excited to work with the Ahl Balahat El-Balad Club (ABBC), an organization based in Nablus focused on interventions to prevent the complications of diabetes, for the large number of marginalized Palestinian adults with this illness. The third new grantee, Open Door, is working with Ethiopian Jewish teens in Ramle, Israel, on communication around sexuality.

Under volunteer leadership, most notably Sara Weinberger, our annual Healing Across the Divides Study Tour in March 2017 was very successful. Twenty people from around the country came and learned about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through a dual narrative lens and through the hopeful eyes of grantees while appreciating the natural beauty in both Israel and the West Bank.

For the first time in our history, Patrick and Nohad, on their own initiative, brought our Israeli and Palestinian grantees together. The grantees met twice in 2017 and discussed problems and approaches to their populations. We do not advertise the fact of these meetings, preferring to remain, for now, “under the radar”, but we are pleased that the leadership of Israeli and Palestinian community groups are meeting in the same room and sharing best practices.

We have positively impacted the lives of thousands of marginalized Israelis and Palestinians in the past year. We accomplish this through the dedicated efforts of our small, part-time staff. I would like to welcome our two new staff members – Jane Newman Kessler in development and Jomarie Ramirez in administration. I wish to thank all staff – Jane, Jomarie, Nohad, Patrick, and Tova. We expect that 2018 will be a challenging year – both in the world and for Healing Across the Divides, but with your continued support, I am confident that HATD will continue to achieve its mission and contribute to a more peaceful, healthier world.

Sincerely,

Norbert Goldfield, M.D.
Executive Director
Promoting Family Health and Wellness

HATD’s vision of Peacebuilding Through Health for Israelis and Palestinians is well highlighted in the Family Health and Wellness programs that HATD funded in 2017. HATD funded Al-Maqdesse, “Unplugged”, a program in East Jerusalem committed to raising awareness among students and their families about various forms of addiction, while promoting healthier lifestyles. Professor Richard Rawson of UCLA helped transition the program to be an evidence-based approach to drug abuse prevention in teens. Unplugged has been validated in many countries, including Arabic speaking populations. Thanks to HATD funding, Unplugged launched in several schools and is now serving several hundred students, teachers and parents.

A new HATD initiative, Earth’s Promise, located in Yeruham and Rachme in Southern Israel, brought together Jewish Israelis and Bedouin Arabs to jointly tend a community garden while learning about health, nutrition, the environment and one another.

HATD also funded several Palestinian organizations to build on the idea that, together with the family and community, a self-empowered individual can best manage his or her own chronic illness. Caritas, Family Defense Society and, as of December 2017, Ahli Balata Al-Balad Club (ABBC) are implementing the scientifically validated Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management program in different parts of the West Bank including Nablus, the Balata refugee camp, and the village of Abboud, near Ramallah. Dr. Goldfield, a master trainer in this program, conducted a three-day refresher course of leaders in each of these organizations in 2017. In turn, these trained leaders trained “village health activators.”

Abu Saleh, a 60-year-old from Al Leban village, has diabetes with osteoarthritis. Since enrolling in HATD funded program, he began receiving physical therapy for the first time in his life. He started to engage in simple range of motion exercises... walking first at home, and now venturing out of the house for walks with friends. “My stiffness is gone and I feel good about myself for the first time in years.”

Helping African Refugees in Israel

The refugee crisis affects the entire world but especially the refugees themselves. Since 2006, some 70,000 Eritrean and Sudanese men, women and children, fleeing persecution made the trek through deserts to arrive in Israel. Many of them were told that the only way they could enter was by signing statements that they were not refugees, but rather were seeking work in Israel; this way the authorities could circumvent the treaties related to asylum-seekers to which Israel is a signatory.

From 2006 to today while some 25,000 asylum seekers have left Israel, the remaining Eritreans and Sudanese have found housing in various cities. Many live in southern Tel Aviv, though the lack of civic planning and concern for their plight have created frictions, between their community and other poor residents of this part of Tel Aviv.

Among the myriad of problems that African refugees face, is that asylum seekers represent more than one quarter of those diagnosed as HIV carriers in Israel. During the past three years, HATD has successfully funded collaborative efforts between the Israel AIDS Task Force (IATF) and the Association for Asylum Seekers in Israel (ASSAF). The two organizations have worked together to ensure treatment for as many HIV positive refugees and asylum seekers as possible.

The impact of HATD funding is exemplified in the story of Seniat. A 53-year-old refugee asylum seeker from Eritrea who is HIV positive, Seniat was fired when she showed her visa to her employer. She then found out that the clerk at the Interior Ministry had written across her visa, in large bold print, using a dark marker, “AIDS patient.” Her doctor referred her to the IATF. An IATF attorney intervened and the Eritrean woman was able to get her job back. The IATF attorney then turned to the Ministry of Interior to have a clean visa issued. Without this impactful HATD funded collaboration between ASSAF and the IATF, Seniat would have lost her job and would have had her private medical history broadcast for all to see, and she could have easily faced many other devastating repercussions.

Ending Domestic Violence Against Women and Girls

Bedouin women in Israel suffer significant domestic violence at the hands of the existing patriarchal dominated society. For the past three years, HATD has been focused on providing vitally needed free advocacy services and emotional support to Bedouin women who urgently need help with issues of physical, sexual and psychological abuse. Through HATD funded initiatives, there has been increased awareness about the needs and capabilities of Arab Bedouin women and a sustainable movement of local women to lead the process for positive change.

HATD is currently funding the Ma’an program (meaning “together” in Arabic) in the southern Negev in Israel to address domestic violence committed against Bedouin women. The organization is structured as a forum whereby members (activists and representatives of different women’s organizations) shape policies and organizational structure. Together, HATD and Ma’an implement projects for the advancement of women’s equality and rights.

With funding from HATD, Ma’an is able to offer Bedouin women vitally needed advocacy services and emotional support, which is freely available for women who urgently need help regarding issues of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. Through HATD funded initiatives, there has been increased social awareness, of the needs and capabilities of Arab Bedouin women and a sustainable movement for leadership of local women to lead the process for social change has been created.

After engaging in a yearlong program, Sawsan, Zeinab and Safia* are now working as volunteers in the Ma’an hotline program. According to Sawsan the support group had enabled the women throughout the community to protect themselves and their children from violence and to begin to train a new generation of women and girls about their legal rights and ability to live free of domestic violence.

*Names were changed to protect confidentiality.
In the Field: A conversation with HATD’s Israeli and Palestinian regional staff on the importance of their work and friendship

HATD: How long have you worked at Healing Across the Divides?
FL: I’ve known Yousef for more than 10 years and have worked at HATD for the last 9 years.

HATD: What makes your day at Healing Across the Divides?
FL: When meeting with my colleague from the West Bank, I can’t cross the border (between Israel and the West Bank), knowing full well that she lives ten minutes from our meeting place... and it takes her over an hour to reach me because of all the checkpoints.

HATD: Tell us about some of the experiences you’ve had as the joint Israeli-Palestinian grantee meetings.
FL: The joint meetings that we have every 4 to 6 months are priceless. Palestinian grantees meeting with Israeli grantees (and vice versa) is not to be taken for granted in today’s reality. Every time, some grantees come back to us saying that for a day they forgot what divides exist between us as they work on the same issues, as they have similar challenges. On this day one can feel the walls between us, Palestinians and Israelis, slowly becoming more fragile.

HATD: Tell us a bit about your working relationship that the two of you have developed.
FL: Nehad has become one of my best friends. We share ideas, develop professional tools, give hope and strength one to the other, raise everyday issues and comment on what happens around us. Each time we communicate I feel that we complete one another and produce great energy. I also believe that we can serve together as a platform and an experience of friendship beyond the divides that hopefully grantees and other partners can relate to.

HATD: Anything else you would like us to know about yourself, your working relationship, your hopes for the future?
FL: Thirty years ago, I got involved by “mistake” in civil society work when I discovered that I was HIV positive. Through the years, I have seen how individuals and the community can bring about real change in the world and improve lives; change can’t be imposed from above; it must involve the community. Unfortunately, the region reality is getting darker by the day, but when I look at our grantees, women and men all over the country and the regional reality, I feel blessed to know such heroes and ministers that changes come from the bottom up.

Patrick Lorry has been the Israeli representative of Healing Across the Divides since 2006. In addition to his work with HATD, Patrick founded Alumni-Adults with Disabilities for Social Change in Israel, and consults for human rights groups and other non-profit organizations such as the Joint Distribution Committee, the New Israel Fund and the United Nations on organizational strategy, peer education and fundraising.

Prior to joining HATD, Patrick worked throughout the eighties as a teacher in Israel, in Jewish schools in France and the United Kingdom, and in the nineties, he served as an executive director of Israeli and international nonprofit organizations dealing with HIV/AIDS.

Patrick has advised mayors in Israel, businesses, foundations and private donors both in the Jewish and Arab communities in Israel and the world.

Nehad Fattah has been the West Bank representative for Healing Across the Divides since 2016. She has over 10 years’ experience working with donor funded projects in the Middle East. She has master’s degree in counseling psychology and is licensed in the West Bank to practice. Nehad has worked in the past with the Palestinian Counseling Center, the Palestinian Medical Relief Society and the Casa De Las Madres Women Shelter and San Francisco’s Suicide Prevention Center. Her expertise includes counseling, project management, program reporting and monitoring and evaluation/Impact reporting.

After moving to the West Bank from San Francisco in 2005 she became involved with numerous non-profit and local organizations. She received training and gained experience working with Palestinian and Israeli counterparts in various sectors. This experience has given her the knowledge needed to better understand the political situation of the region. She is well known in the community and is always ready to serve those in need.

The work I do with HATD gives me hope that one day Palestinians and Israelis will live together in peace and harmony.

I have seen how individuals and the community at large can bring about real change in the world.

The work I do with HATD gives me hope that one day Palestinians and Israelis will live together in peace and harmony.

Nehad with her three sons

HATD: How long have you worked at Healing Across the Divides?
NF: Two and a half years.

HATD: What makes your day at Healing Across the Divides?
NF: Knowing that I’m improving the health of women and youth living in Palestine makes my day. As the West Bank representative for HATD, I am proud of the impact HATD has made to help meet the needs of marginalized populations throughout the West Bank.

HATD: What is the most unusual experience you’ve had at HATD?
NF: It’s not an unusual experience but since I began working with HATD I have met some amazing people. People from all walks of life and people who are eager to learn the truth of Palestine and its people.

HATD: Tell us about some of the experiences you’ve had in the joint Israeli-Palestinian grantee meetings.
NF: The joint meetings have given both Palestinian and Israelis a chance to learn about each other. The grantees discover that there are many similarities between each other; they also learn that groups on both sides are working towards one goal: helping marginalized people live better, healthier lives.

HATD: Tell us a bit about your working relationship the two of you have developed.
NF: I have worked with Patrick for 2.5 years and our relationship has blossomed since our meeting. Patrick is not only my co-worker but a real friend. He is a person who believes all lives matter, especially Palestinian lives. Even though we have very different backgrounds, this has not impeded our relationship; it is our differences that have brought us closer together.

HATD: Anything else you would like us to know about yourself, your working relationship, your hopes for the future?
NF: My hope for the future is to end the occupation of Palestine and to have my Palestinian brothers and sisters living a life of dignity and grace.

The work I do with HATD gives me hope that one day Palestinian and Israelis will live together in peace and harmony.
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CHERLY & HERB GILLETTE

Healing Across the Divides supports Cheryl and Herb Gillette, of Columbia, MD, first learned about HATD’s Peacebuilding Through Health work in 2013 in an article published in CJ Magazine (Voices of Conservative/Masorti Judaism).

Moved by HATD’s commitment to improve health for both Israelis and Palestinians, a goal that resonated with their own passion for Jewish values of justice and community engagement in Israel, the Gillettes have been generously supporting HATD’s initiatives ever since.

“There is so much work to do in the region” says Cheryl, sensitive to both the incredible need of marginalized communities as well as the power of caring individuals to make a difference. “Any support can be thought of as a drop in the bucket. But knowing that we can actually improving people’s lives is all that matters, and with HATD, you can see the impact of your gift on the lives of Israelis and Palestinians.”

Together, we are Healing Across the Divides

"...With HATD you can see the impact of your gift on the lives of Israelis and Palestinians. "

2027 COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN
OUR IMPACT

Over 2 million US dollars invested in health throughout Israel and the West Bank since HATD’s launching in 2004.

Funded and supported 35 community-run health programs serving more than 100,000 beneficiaries since 2004.

Developed innovative programs addressing chronic disease, HIV/AIDS, women’s health, domestic violence, mental health and health rights for the disabled.

Created health programs successfully absorbed and replicated by both the Israeli and Palestinian ministries of health.

Provided training and technical support valued at over $500,000 to community groups.

Funded the first program for African refugees with HIV/AIDS in Israel.

FINANCIALS

2017 Grantees

IATF | Israel AIDS Task Force HIV prevention and support for African refugees and asylum seekers in Israel

Ahli Balata El-Baladi Club Preventing chronic disease in Palestine

ASSAF | Association of Asylum Seekers in Israel Psychosocial support for HIV-positive African refugees in Israel

Beterem Preventing domestic accidents among children via cooperation of Arab and Jewish grandmothers

Palestinian Working Women’s Society for Development Supporting Palestinian women and children suffering from PTSD

Ma’an Combating domestic violence against Arab Bedouin Israeli women

Kayan Feminist Organization Health through civic engagement for Arab women in Israel

Al Maqdesi Unplugged Drug abuse prevention in East Jerusalem schools

Caritas Community-based chronic disease self-management in Palestine

Family Defense Society Decreasing obesity in Palestinian refugee camps and the Palestinian city of Nablus

Earth’s Promise Joint Bedouin-Jewish community garden for wellness in Israel

Open Door Serving Ethiopian mothers and women in Israel

HATD COMMUNITY OF GRANTEES: STRENGTH THROUGH COLLABORATION

CURRENT AND FORMER GRANTEES SUPPORTED BY HEALING ACROSS THE DIVIDES

Exchange of expertise among our grantees is an integral part of HATD’s program model for capacity-building and promoting understanding across ethnic and religious boundaries.
Welcoming New Board Members to Our Board of Directors

Sarah Basha is co-founder and President of OneBlue, a Washington DC based non-profit devoted to conflict resolution, routinely designing simulation based training workshops for clients such as the Department of State, the US Army and various media and academic institutions. She also heads a for-profit Women Owned Small Business that assists the Department of Homeland Security’s Transportation Security Administration in team-building and problem solving.

Sarah obtained three undergraduate degrees simultaneously from Southern Methodist University in Economics, Political Science and International Studies. She also holds a Master’s degree in Conflict Resolution from Georgetown University and is a Certified Mediator in the state of Virginia. Her professional career includes the political arena, where she worked on campaigns and led statewide civic engagement and PAC activities for a national organization focused on empowering the American Muslim community. She has also served as a Communications and Policy Director in the nation’s capital for a US foreign policy think tank centered around affairs of the Middle East and South Asia.

Sarah currently serves on the Board of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, helping to ensure underserved communities retain their rights and access to key statewide services. She has also served on the Board of The Women’s Center (2007-2009) the largest provider of mental health counseling, support and education for women and families in the Washington DC metropolitan area. Sarah is fluent in Urdu, Hindi and intermediate Arabic and has a rich and extensive multicultural background that has contributed to both her personal development and professional career goals.

“Joining the Board of HATD provides an opportunity to impact the every day lives of people facing health challenges in one of the most outpaced and heartbreaking conflicts of our time. As a conflict resolution practitioner, I have witnessed time and again that nothing brings people together like recognizing our common humanity, which includes the provision of vital health services for every society. The team at HATD works across the board for Palestinians and Israelis alike, indistinguishably identifying and providing the most important services to all communities. For me, this organization is a priceless effort because it helps lay the foundation upon which healthy, resilient and cohesive populations can live and thrive together in hope.”

Cathy Levine is the former Executive Director of Universal Health Care Action Network in Ohio, serving for over two decades as an advocate for consumers in health care. Cathy led various statewide coalitions in expanding access to affordable, quality coverage for vulnerable populations and represented consumers in statewide initiatives to improve quality and reduce costs. She also participated in statewide public health planning initiatives and promoted use of evidence-based public health strategies in the Medicaid program and in local health improvement.

For over 15 years, Cathy has served on the board of Congregation Tifereth Israel, a Conservative Jewish congregation and co-chairs a variety of committees. She is also on the board of Building Responsibility, Equality and Dignity (BREAD), a coalition of 40 diverse Franklin County religious congregations that build power to address serious community problems. She is the corresponding secretary of BREAD and co-chairs the jobs committee, which seeks to increase living-wage job opportunities for people with criminal records and bring wealth building to marginalized communities. She also represents Tifereth Israel on the Civil Discourse Project of the Columbus Jewish Federation, an initiative to facilitate civil discourse among Jews who disagree over matters related to Israel and other divisive political issues.

Cathy grew up on Long Island, received her BA from New York University, an MA in feminist studies from Goddard College, and her JD from New England School of Law. Cathy practiced law for 15 years before switching careers. She is married to Dr. Jon Graner, a pediatric surgeon specializing in tumors and burn care. They live in Westley with 3 elderly dogs and occasional visits from 2 grandchildren.

“When it comes to Israel, I feel we are the out. Healing Across The Divides has given me a mechanism to explore and relate my love for Israel, warts and all—while recognizing grave injustices and being able to support Palestinians who were kicked out of their land and are living in occupation. HATD allows those of us Jews who are uncomfortable with the occupation to support Jews and Palestinians at the same time in meaningful ways. It provides glimmers of hope.”
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Join us for an unforgettable visit to Israel and the West Bank on our Annual Study Tour.
For more information or to register, visit: www.mejditours.com/open-tour/healingdivides

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We can always benefit from the professional expertise of others or just use a hand with day to day operations.

Learn more about HATD!
Learn more about our work or to suggest a program you feel warrants our support.

“... You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make.”

--- Jane Goodall, Humanitarian and Conservationist

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Together, we are Healing Across the Divides

To learn more about our work and to get involved with our mission, or to suggest a program you feel warrants our support, visit us on the web or write to us at: info@healingdivides.org

Images courtesy of Dr. Jonathan Gruber and Earth's Promise.