Healing Across the Divides
Peacebuilding Through Health for Palestinians and Israelis Since 2004

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Misery, accomplishments, challenges and hope mark our 2020 report. Human beings require direct human contact; most of us are miserable if we are unable to physically touch each other. The COVID pandemic has kept us apart and in response, Healing Across the Divides’ (HATD) grantees have adapted in many varied and creative ways. For example, ABBC and FDS helped the Palestinian Ministry of Health with contact tracing in the Nablus region. Some grantees were even able to accomplish more because of the pandemic! Teenagers seem to almost prefer communicating via virtual communications such as WhatsApp, and the Diabetes Palestine program fulfilled teenage wishes in spades as participants were unable to do much else during COVID lockdowns and social distancing.

Fortunately, our grantees leaders escaped dire consequences during the pandemic, but many marginalized Israelis and Palestinians have suffered during COVID. Just as in the United States, COVID has impacted the most marginalized Israelis and Palestinians. Virtually all Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are marginalized and thus have suffered terribly, physically, emotionally and/or economically during this pandemic. The YES drama therapy in the southern Hebron Hills of the West Bank has helped many Palestinians cope with this suffering. African refugee asylum seekers are possibly the most marginalized community in Israel and have suffered terribly. In 2020 we supported both Kuchinate and Jerusalem African Community Center with modest grants. Kuchinate in particular has effectively utilized story telling as a way of measuring the impact of their work.

Success for HATD exists at many levels. We are hopeful that the 2021 Study Tour happens—September 19-29, I already have my airline tickets. A few more openings remain. Sadly, the COVID pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2020 study tour with 21 participants.

We also hope to raise enough funds through donations to expand the number of grantees from 6 to 8. We are aiming to fund a cross-border initiative between Israel and the Palestinian Territories. The latter effort forms the basis of another hope—a successful application for funds from the US Agency for International Development.

During the previous administration, all funds to Palestinians were cut off. The Biden administration has restored funding to the Palestinian Territories. Though it is unlikely that we will be successful, just the very fact that USAID funds are available again together with renewed U.S. involvement in the Israeli/Palestinian relationship, and possibly the peace process gives us hope.

Lastly, in 2020 I submitted a booklength manuscript on the HATD “story” that Routledge Taylor Francis just published in 2021 in time for this annual report. I hope that the book will open new avenues of HATD support and engagement. You can buy it at your independent book store, online or get a free copy from me for a donation of $300.

While we are hopeful for the future, we are clear-eyed that a lot of work remains to be done. The board, and staff of HATD and I are up to the challenge in large measure because of support from people like yourselves.

Truly yours,

Norbert Goldfield, M.D.

HATD Founder and Executive Director

"Human beings require direct human contact; most of us are miserable if we are unable to physically touch each other."

Participants of Yes Theater drama therapy program for Palestinian women and youth with PTSD during a 2020 training session.

Image courtesy of Yes Theater

We don’t know how we would have made it through this year without the help of the [drama therapy] program.

M, MOTHER OF PARTICIPANT IN HATD-GRANTEE YES THEATER DRAMA THERAPY PROGRAM IN THE WEST BANK.
HATD LEADERSHIP DURING CRISIS
ENSURING SUPPORT FOR THE VULNERABLE DURING COVID

From Gaza to Tel Aviv, maintaining uninterrupted care for HATD beneficiaries throughout the pandemic was a priority for HATD. Chronic disease and limited access to healthcare rendered HATD beneficiaries especially susceptible to COVID-related complications, making continuity of care essential.

In the Gaza Strip, COVID exacerbated existing obstacles to care including shortages of electricity and medical supplies. Youth with juvenile Type 1 diabetes were nonetheless able to continue their care as a result of the hard work and flexibility of program staff who shifted to digital platforms. Battery operated generators allowed beneficiaries to recharge mobile devices during electrical outages.

STAYING CONNECTED | HATD'S COVID WEBINAR SERIES

Livestream events kept the HATD community connected throughout 2020 despite COVID obstacles. Health professionals, policy experts and activists from across the globe brought their expertise to our living rooms via Zoom, broadening the scope of engagement, awareness and support for Peace Through Health.

Some of the many featured guests in HATD's webinar series:

- Aziz Abu Sarah: Activist, journalist and social entrepreneur
- Dr. Delilah Scheindlin: Public opinion expert and political consultant
- Daniel Seidemann: Political analyst, activist and expert on Jerusalem
- Dr. Khalil Shikaki: Dir. of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research

Connecting via Zoom and providing digital alternatives to in-person training were integral parts of communication between grantees and support for homebound beneficiaries in 2020.

Left: Grantees from Gaza and the West Bank connected via Zoom to plan digital data-sharing platform.

Right: Digital message about diabetes care and prevention for beneficiaries of Al-Balad Al-Balad Club chronic disease program.

2020 COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES IN ACTION:
IMPROVING HEALTH, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR A BRIGHTER SHARED FUTURE

Since 2004, HATD’s support for community-based health initiatives has empowered marginalized Israeli and Palestinian communities by inspiring leadership and providing sustainable tools to improve wellbeing and live healthier lives.

SUPPORTING AFRICAN WOMEN ASYLUM SEEKERS AND SURVIVORS OF TORTURE: KUCHINATE

Kuchinate (Tigrinya for “crochet”) is an arts-based economic and psychosocial collective in Tel Aviv working to heal and empower one of Israel’s most vulnerable communities: African asylum-seeking women. Participants in the program, many of whom endured torture on route to Israel while fleeing their home countries, earn a fair wage by designing and creating crafts rooted in African culture, and hosting events, crochet workshops and traditional coffee ceremonies. HATD’s intervention helps women heal from trauma through art, community and therapy.

JEWISH-ARAB COMMUNITY-GARDEN FOR IMPROVED HEALTH AND COEXISTENCE: WHITE HILL FARM

The White Hill Farm garden program brings together Jewish and Bedouin Israelis to jointly tend a community garden while learning about health, nutrition, the environment and one another. Participants are Jewish families from the southern Israeli town of Yeruham and Bedouin families from the unrecognized Bedouin village of Ruhama. Families learn about nutrition and healthy living within a framework of cooperation and mutual responsibility for the land. Together, participants cultivate a traditional herb and vegetable garden and transform previously neglected municipal land into a productive green space that benefits both communities.

PREVENTING CHRONIC DISEASE AMONG PALESTINIAN WOMEN: FAMILY DEFENSE SOCIETY

Working with marginalized Palestinian women in the city of Nablus and the villages that surround it in the northern West Bank, the Family Defense Society helps program participants combat obesity, chronic disease and the physical and mental challenges that accompany them. With the help of nutritionists and exercise trainers, program leaders utilize the evidence-based Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management model to help women live healthier, more empowered lives by taking control of their physical wellbeing.

CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT AMONG PALESTINIAN WOMEN AND THE ELDERLY: AHLI BALATA AL-BALAD CLUB

Providing sustainable tools to maintain the health and wellbeing of Palestinian women and the elderly is at the heart of HATD’s initiative in the Palestinian refugee camp of Balata and the surrounding communities in the West Bank. HATD-grantee Ahli Balata Al-Balad Club uses the evidence-based Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management model to train local individuals in disease self-management so that they can act as agents of change in their own communities.

PTSD TREATMENT FOR AFRICAN WOMEN ASYLUM SEEKERS IN JERUSALEM: JERUSALEM AFRICAN COMMUNITY CENTER

The Jerusalem African Community Center provides psychosocial support and trauma therapy to refugee asylum seeker women, many of whom survived torture while fleeing their home countries through the Sinai desert. The initiative helps to empower and integrate this extremely vulnerable segment of the refugee community into mainstream Israeli society and to help forge local supportive networks on their behalf. In 2019, the Center established a support group for women who endured severe trauma. This served an especially important role as services for Jerusalem’s African community are extremely limited. The Center was nonetheless able to reach women in need through targeted outreach.

DRAMA THERAPY FOR PALESTINIAN WOMEN AND YOUTH: YES THEATER

This unique program provides drama therapy to Palestinian women and children who suffer from PTSD. Based in the Hebron Hills region of the West Bank, Yes Theater is led by local Palestinian experts in mental health in collaboration with Palestinian performing arts specialists with extensive experience in local community engagement efforts. Several hundred women and children have been enrolled in the program since its launch.
MEASURED RESULTS AND SHARED EXPERTISE
EVALUATION AS THE BASIS OF EFFECTIVE CAPACITY BUILDING

"HATD is always challenging us and helping us improve how we work so that we can save and improve more lives."  
FORMER HATD-GRAantee LEADER, GAUA ZIONOV

Helping community-based organizations develop and utilize effective evaluation tools is an integral part of HATD’s partnership with its grantees. Through analysis of measured results using improved tools, HATD helps maximize health outcomes for marginalized communities while promoting capacity building and sustainability for the groups that serve them.

In 2020, a unique tool that utilizes storytelling for evaluating program outcomes was developed by HATD-grantee, Yes Theater, a Palestinian organization using drama therapy to treat women and children with PTSD in the West Bank.

Due to the severity and ongoing nature of participants’ trauma along with social norms that at times impeded reporting, the tool proved far more effective than traditional methods for measuring outcomes.

The same storytelling tool developed in the West Bank was then adopted by HATD-grantee Kuchinate, an Israeli organization providing psychosocial support to African women refugees with PTSD in Tel Aviv. Like the beneficiaries of Yes Theater, participants of the Kuchinate program had suffered severe trauma that rendered traditional methods of evaluation less effective—many were survivors of human trafficking, torture and rape.

Thanks to their Palestinian counterparts and the HATD model using improved evaluation methods and shared expertise, Kuchinate has successfully adopted the new storytelling evaluation tool in their work with refugee asylum seekers.
OUR GENEROUS DONORS

2020 COMMUNITY OF HATD SUPPORTERS

$10,000 +
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Dr. Norbert Goldfield & Ms. Sandra Matthews

$5,000 TO $9,999
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Dr. Paul Hoffman
Ms. Andrew Hughes

“A neighbor saw that I needed help and told me about Kuchinate. Here, I feel that everyone is like family. This place gives me strength and patience. Here, I am not alone. I am with my sisters.”

ASHOK DENG LOAL AKWOK, REFUGEE FROM SOUTH SUDAN AND BENEFICIARY OF HATD-FUNDED KUCHINATE PROGRAM FOR AFRICAN ASYLUM-SEEKER WOMEN IN TEL AVIV

Scan the QR code to view a short video of your dollars at work to empower African refugee asylum seeker women in Tel Aviv, Ilse Amara

$250 TO $999 (CONT’d)
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Mr. Appropri & Ms. Martin Less-Uriel
Dr. Jeffrey Lerner & Prof. Nava Naveh
Ms. Aaron Levin

[continued on next page]
As a diabetic, I am so grateful to be part of the Diabetes Palestine program in Gaza. To everyone who helped make the program a reality, thank you.

MOHAMMED, PARTICIPANT AND YOUTH LEADER IN HAIRED-FUNDED PROGRAM FOR YOUTH WITH TYPE 1 JUVENILE DIABETES IN THE GAZA STRIP

Scan the QR code for a personal message from Mohammed.

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Rabbi Saul Perlmuter & Ms. Shoshana Zenderman
Mr. Robert Zuckier

"As a diabetic, I am so grateful to be part of the Diabetes Palestine program in Gaza. To everyone who helped make the program a reality, thank you."
FINANCES

INCOME AND EXPENSE DISTRIBUTION FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

INCOME: $308,305
EXPENSES: $286,155
PROGRAMS: $222,002 (78%)
MANAGEMENT: $64,153 (22%)

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSES ($286,155) FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

Allocation Category Percentage
- PROGRAMS 78%
- MANAGEMENT 22%
Total by Allocation Category 100%

HATD LEADERSHIP

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Norbert Goldfield, M.D.
Dr. Goldfield is a practicing internist at a community health center, with over 30 years of experience restructuring health care systems both at a national level and in community settings as well as extensive experience working with Israelis and Palestinians.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Sarah Basha, Co-founder and President of OneLife, a Washington DC based non-profit devoted to conflict resolution
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Benjamin Glitterman, M.D., Pediatrician with special interests in health care delivery for underserved children and children's environmental health
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Nicole Spring, Administrative Assistant

WELCOMING OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS IN 2020

Herb Gillette spent most of his career working with small consulting firms, overseeing major government contracts with various US agencies including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, the National Security Agency and the FAA. He holds a master’s degree in Public Administration from George Washington University and a bachelor’s degree in History from the University of Connecticut. He and his wife, Chery, live in Columbus, MD. They have three children and three grandchildren.

Husam Al-Qoulaq, J.D. is founding partner at a law firm in Los Angeles representing artists and other entrepreneurs in the entertainment and media industries. Born and raised in San Diego, Al-Qoulaq—a Palestinian-American—received his bachelor’s degree from UC Berkeley and graduated from Harvard Law School in 2016.
Join us!
There are many ways that you can help ensure health for marginalized Israelis and Palestinians and support Peacebuilding Through Health:

Donate
Make a secure online donation today at www.healingdivides.org/donate or by scanning the QR code.
You can also mail a check to:
Healing Across the Divides
POB 217 Hatfield, MA 01038

Get involved
Join a “Friends of Healing Across the Divides” chapter in your area or hold an HATD informational or fundraising parlor meeting with our help.

Travel with us
Join us for an unforgettable trip to Israel and the West Bank on an HATD study tour and experience Peacebuilding Through Health firsthand.

Volunteer
Volunteer your time and professional skills to support marginalized Israelis and Palestinians.

Sign up for our updates
Get updates from the field about important Peacebuilding Through Health news.

Let us know what you think
Your feedback is important to us. If you have a suggestion or comment or would like to propose a program that you feel warrants our support, write us at:

info@healingdivides.org
Healing Across the Divides
POB 217 Hatfield, MA 01038

Follow us on social media
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Thank you for making a difference!

Participants of the Joint Arab-Jewish community garden and wellness program (HATD-grantee White Hill Farm). Courtesy of White Hill Farm
Together, we are Healing Across the Divides. SINCE 2004

You can make a difference! Scan the QR code to make a secure online donation or visit: www.healingdivides.org/donate

LEARN MORE AT INFO@HEALINGDIVIDES.ORG