MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

For all of us, 2021 had many bright moments - when we could exit out of COVID imposed isolation. Yet we inevitably returned to our unnatural COVID inflected state of not engaging with our fellow human beings. But I never give up and there are dramatic highs with Healing Across the Divides culminating with the approval of several new grantees.

But first to give you a 2021 flavor, in addition to being executive director of HATD, I am a practicing internist. I’ve kept what I call a COVID diary since 2020. These were two entries from the beginning and end of 2021:

January 2021: The surge has become a veritable flood. At least half of my patients these days have a COVID related symptom and/or are living with the after-effects of this new disease.

December 2021: An unvaccinated husband and wife that I treat were hospitalized with pneumonia, survived, and were discharged. Two other patients tested positive and I’ve arranged for them to receive monoclonal antibodies.

As I write these words, I balance several thoughts simultaneously. I deeply appreciate family time. This pandemic has impacted us all – board, staff, and our grantees. For the second year in a row, we could not run our study tour. And yet, when it comes to health, the leadership of the community-based groups we work with are full of life within the framework of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

This long running conflict took a dark turn in spring 2021 with the Israeli Invasion of Gaza. It directly impacted the work of all our grantees and most significantly of course, our Diabetes Palestine program in Gaza. With your generosity, we were able to raise additional funds in support of the life-saving work of the health professionals working with young type 1 diabetics in Gaza. One of our Board members, Husein Al-Qubati, tragically lost 22 members of his family in an Israeli airstrike.

Yes Theater, based in Hebron, utilizes drama therapy as an intervention working with Palestinians in Hebron and the South Hebron Hills, West Bank – an area of constant tension with Israeli settlers. Board member Lewis Kazis provided capacity-building training to the Theater, enabling it to significantly improve its impact evaluation process.

Also in 2021, Nabulus-based Ahli Balatah El-Balad Club in the West Bank completed three years of Chronic Disease Self-Management programming. A significant success of this third and last year was to engage with the Palestinian Ministry of Health that then began using the self-management program in its clinics.

Additionally, Ahli-Balata developed a mobile application to help beneficiaries manage their health more efficiently.

On the Israeli side, Beterem, the organization that works to reduce childhood injuries, working in the town of Um El Fahm, set up a steering committee with the municipality and launched a kindergarten teacher safety training with 34 participants.

The White Hill Farm, a joint effort of the Jews of Yeroham and the Bedouins of Rahme, started many new farm activities in cooperation with the new Rahme elementary school.

At Kuchinate, everything that they do, is aimed at building resilience and contributing to the rehabilitation of the women they serve, be it courses for product development, digital literacy, public speaking, talking to teachers about the journey of asylum seekers, serving in a shop, crocheting a basket – with the underlying goal of building resiliency of asylum seeking women.

The most exciting news of all I would like to share with you, our supporters, are the new programs that we began funding as our year closed in 2021. Both programs exemplify the type of initiative we engage with. Lodoot is launching an initiative entitled Your Body, Your Rights – Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Rights Among Women in East Jerusalem, a joint effort between Jewish women in West Jerusalem and Palestinian women in East Jerusalem. Palestine Sports for Life based in Ramallah has begun an effort to improve nutrition in Palestinian refugee camps near Ramallah.

HATD is all about individuals. The following is one story: F. has been a part of Kuchinate since its inception. She lives with polio and is a most vulnerable woman. Throughout the past year, staff witnessed a decline in her mental health and physical wellbeing. A Kuchinate manager is her neighbor and brings her food and helps her with her grocery shopping. As F. continued to decline, the social worker took her on as an emergency case, meeting with her; encouraging her; and tracking her progress. She comes to Kuchinate four out of five days a week, in order to sustain herself financially and to feel a part of the community again. This has resulted in a huge change in F’s mental and physical well-being.

While we will continue to live with pandemics, it is the human condition to adjust, to develop resilience, to search for ways, in the case of HATD, to promote peace building through health. It is you, our supporters who are providing the fuel for new programs that gives me the strength to continue this challenging but impactful work. I look forward to see many of you personally face to face in the coming year.

Norbert Goldfield, M.D.
HATD Founder and Executive Director
2021 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING
Along with empowerment and program sustainability, building resilience among vulnerable communities is a core component of HATD community initiatives.

SUPPORTING GAZAN YOUTH WITH JUVENILE DIABETES
DIABETES PALESTINE GAZA STRIP

Diabetes Palestine, Healing Across the Divides’ first grantee program in the Gaza Strip, provides critical health tools for Gaza teens suffering from juvenile Type 1 Diabetes. The program, launched in December 2019, has already had proven success in transforming the way diabetic teens and their families manage this disease—a task that is all the more challenging under the harsh conditions caused by the ongoing blockade of Gaza. Working with diabetes experts at the local level in Gaza and the West Bank, participants learn to significantly improve how they approach diabetic self-care utilizing nutrition, exercise, stress-reduction, and proper management of their insulin levels.

EMPOWERING AFRICAN WOMEN
ASYLUM SEEKERS KUCHINATE TEL AVIV
Kuchinate (Tigrinya for “crocheter”) is an arts-based collective, working to provide psychological healing and empowerment to African asylum-seeking women, many of whom endured torture while fleeing their home countries. This is one of Israel’s most vulnerable communities. The women earn a fair wage by designing and creating crafts rooted in African culture, hosting events, crochet workshops and traditional coffee ceremonies, while receiving psychological support from Kuchinate. HATD’s intervention helps women heal from trauma through art, community and therapy.

INNOVATIVE TREATMENT MODELS TO HEAL AND EMPOWER

Kuchinate combines resilience building with the therapeutic effect of art and creative handwork in a supportive, therapeutic setting.

COMBATTING MALNUTRITION AMONG YOUTH IN REFUGEE CAMPS
PALESTINE SPORTS FOR LIFE GALILANDIA AND AL-ARAB REFUGEE CAMPS, WEST BANK

Palestine Sports for Life addresses high rates of malnutrition in the West Bank refugee camps of Galilanda and Al-Arabs. The intervention promotes nutrient-rich diets and exercise programs for students and their mothers. Initially targeting 500 girls ages 10-14 and their mothers, the intervention will then expand to include male students and ultimately, additional camps. In cooperation with the Palestinian Ministries of Health and Education, the intervention utilizes local pediatric and adolescent nutrition professionals and sports trainers to address this growing problem. This is the first program of its kind in the West Bank.

The 2021 Gaza war was one of the greatest unexpected challenges of the year along with the ongoing pandemic. It left massive destruction and trauma in its wake, most significantly, in the Gaza Strip. As with all wars, civilians on both sides paid the heaviest costs. Caught in the middle were hundreds of juvenile diabetic participants of the HATD-funded “Diabetes Palestine” diabetes intervention. Many lost friends and close relatives.

HATD launched an emergency campaign to provide insulin and other critical medical supplies to young diabetics caught in the violence.
2021 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (CONTINUED)

Drama Therapy for Palestinian Women and Youth: Yes Theater, South Hebron Hills, West Bank

This unique program provides drama therapy to Palestinian women and children who suffer from PTSD. Based in the South Hebron Hills region of the West Bank, Yes Theater is led by local Palestinian mental health professionals 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.

Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health for Palestinian Women: Lada’a at Choose, West Jerusalem

Lada’a promotes healthy sexuality and reproductive rights among Palestinian women in East Jerusalem through specially trained, peer-based counselors working with medical and psychosocial professionals. Since 1967, Lada’a has provided community-based family counseling and educational services to help women achieve full self-determination in decisions related to reproduction and sexuality. These women informed and empowered to make and implement conscious, healthy and safe choices regarding their own sexuality and reproductive health. Lada’a is the only organization of its kind in Jerusalem and thanks to HATD, this is the first time that Lada’a has been able to provide this critical service in Arabic to the East Jerusalem women’s community.

Jewish and Arab Grandmothers Promoting Child Safety: Beterem Umm El-fahem, Northern Israel

This award-winning child safety intervention designed to protect children from domestic accidents and fatalities was set up in the town of Umm El-Fahem in northern Israel. The program teaches community members to serve as social change agents who teach mothers how to avoid preventable accidents. Umm El-Fahem is an underserved community where child accidents and fatalities occur at exponentially higher rates than Israel’s general (non-Orthodox) Jewish population. The program is not only addressing this tragic problem successfully, it also serves to empower women and facilitate participation in the civic lives of their communities. By helping to shape attitudes and policies, women who are traditionally excluded from the public sphere gain status as social change agents. This innovative model has been so successful, in the past, that it has gained recognition from the Israeli Knesset, Israel’s US Embassy and Safe Kids International.

Jewish and Arab Community-Garden for Health and Coexistence: White Hill Farm, Southern Israel

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 Rahme. 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.

Chronic Disease Management for Palestinian Women and the Elderly: Ahlu Balata Al-Balad Club

Balata City and Refugee Camp, West Bank

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’s grantee Ahlu Balata Al-Balad Club uses the evidence-based Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management program to train local individuals in disease self-management so that they can act as agents of change in their own communities.
Community-based models for maximum impact on individual and community health

“...the best way to address health challenges caused by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is to use bottom-up, community-based interventions that operate within a peacebuilding through health context.” —Dr. Norbert Goldfield

130 juvenile diabetics in Gaza measurably improved control of their diabetes and reported significantly improved quality of life with less physical pain and emotional distress

288 diabetic participants of HATD’s disease management program in the Nablus area experienced improved health

261 women and youth in the Hebron region received drama therapy treatment and experienced reduced anxiety and improved ability to deal with challenges

450+ refugee asylum seeking women from Africa received individual and group counseling

800+ Arab and Jewish Israelis participated in joint farm activities including growing fruits and vegetables, group meals, and nutritional awareness training sessions

2,000+ East Jerusalem women reached on a monthly basis with critical reproductive information via social media and a 24/7 Arabic-language hotline

83 pre-K and kindergarten educators trained in life-saving child-safety models
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HEALING ACROSS THE DIVIDES

8

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FINANCES

INCOME AND EXPENSE DISTRIBUTION FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021

INCOME: $560,526
EXPENSES: $263,387
PROGRAMS: $201,952 (77%)
MANAGEMENT & FUNDRAISING: $61,435 (23%)

FINANCES

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.

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Yohanna Barth-Rogers, M.D., Dr. Barth-Rogers has a background in ethics, grant writing, and vast medical knowledge as a family physician. She is currently the Chief Medical Officer of the University Muslin Medical Association (UMMA) Community Clinic in South Los Angeles.

Ellen Katee, Much of Ellen’s work has been based on the concept of community organization, and Ellen holds a Master’s Degree in Social Work. She co-founded the Berkeley Free Health Clinic, a battered women’s shelter in 1979, the New Jersey Women and AIDS Network in 1987 and is the founder of Easthampton City Arts in 2005.
Peacebuilding Through Health. Join us!
How you can help
There are multiple ways you can help ensure health for marginalized Israelis and Palestinians including:

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Make a secure online donation today at: www.healingdivides.org/donate or by scanning the QR code.

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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.

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