

**Dalia Association  
Annual Report 2006\***

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\* Pending official approval of the Board of Directors.

## **Dalia Association – Annual Report 2006**

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## **Dalia Association – Annual Report 2006**

### **Message from the President of the Board of Directors**

It is often said that Palestinians have few alternatives to dependence on international aid. Is it true that the Palestinian economy is simply too weak to support local fundraising? Is there not a strong tradition among Palestinians of helping one another? Of pooling resources for collective use? Of stewarding resources—olive trees, mosques, public land, etc.—for the benefit of current and future generations? Isn't that, in fact, how Palestinians have survived as a people through decades and decades of occupation, dispossession, expulsion, and indignity? While international governmental aid may be an inescapable part of the Palestinian landscape for the foreseeable future, Palestinians cannot let it define or control them. It is time to remind ourselves that Palestinian society is rich; we have a bounty of resources waiting for us to leverage them, protect them, and share them.

As an endowed community foundation, Dalia\* will provide an independent, sustainable source of funds with transparent and accountable mechanisms for local control and a vibrant community organization in which Palestinians can themselves be donors and implementers of their own social change and sustainable development agenda. Further, by humanizing and empowering Palestinians in the development process and respecting them as authors of their own lives, it will fundamentally shift power relations between the Palestinian grassroots and NGOs and between Palestinian society and the aid sector. In other words, through Dalia, we hope to help shape a dynamic and relevant civil society that is accountable to the people.

We also hope to develop new traditions of secular philanthropy and social responsibility alongside Islamic and Christian giving. We hope to re-inspire volunteerism not driven by factional politics. We hope to inspire people's hope and trust in self-initiative. We plan to do this through creative grantmaking that gives communities control over resources, creative fundraising with a strong local focus, strategic initiatives on behalf of the NGO sector, and modeling our values in all our work, especially by involving many different kinds of people in Dalia's governance, demonstrating how diverse community participation (especially by marginalized groups) improves everybody's outcomes.

Although we've only begun this effort, and while we face many obstacles and challenges, we commit ourselves with enthusiasm and resolve. Please join us in this new Palestinian initiative to support Palestinian-led social change and sustainable development.

Sincerely,

Nora Lester Murad, PhD  
Jerusalem

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\* "Dalia" means "grapevine" and symbolizes the potential of a small seed of hope and innovation to grow into a flourishing community initiative that provides sustenance, shelter and beauty to those who nurture it.

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### **Dalia's Inception**

In 2006, three independent developments converged making a Palestinian community foundation an obvious and strategic way to make a permanent, structural improvement in Palestinian lives. First, the January legislative elections that brought the Hamas movement to power in the Palestinian Authority led almost immediately to a near-total cut-off of budgetary support and severe reductions and restrictions in support to civil society. Overnight, the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza—who had been the largest per capital recipients of international aid in the world—plummeted even further into poverty, and became even more vulnerable to the violence of the Israeli occupation. “Emergency aid” channeled through multilateral organizations and INGOs, has not compensated for the loss of earned income, and in fact, has deepened the sense of indignity and hopelessness that has pervaded the lives of generations of Palestinians. Second, after 150 meetings in 2004 and 2005 with Palestinian civil society actors in the occupied Palestinian territories and Israel, a core group of Palestinians became convinced that an endowed community foundation—as idealistic as it seemed—was worth pursuing. A working group of dedicated volunteers formed, adding the community foundation to their long list of community activities. This energy fed on itself and even persisted through the very difficult period of the war against Lebanon and Gaza incursions. Thirdly, a series of well-time encounters with leaders in international philanthropy (including a paid invitation to participate in the Grantmakers without Borders conference) led to a wellspring of support, jumpstarting our development.

### **About Dalia Association**

We are a community-based organization of and for the Palestinians throughout historic Palestine that aims to empower the community to be in control over resources needed to pursue local social justice and sustainable development initiatives. We do this through community-driven means including securing alternative and local financing, mobilizing community philanthropy and volunteerism, facilitating broad community participation in governance, dignified grant-making, enabling capacity building, advocating for new aid systems, and partnering with others both locally and internationally.

Dalia Association is the first and only Palestinian community foundation. We work from a new, empowering, indigenous paradigm that opens possibilities for social change and sustainable development that don't currently exist. We:

- serve Palestinians in the West Bank including Jerusalem, Gaza Strip and the 1948 areas as one community plus involve the Diaspora. This will unify and rebuild the fragmented community making it stronger from within.
- perceive the community as abundant in resources and abilities not needy and incapable. Focusing on what we have to give as well as what we need opens new ways to solve problems using existing community resources.
- believe that people know their own needs and how best to address them in the most direct, dignified and cost-effective ways.

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- refocus attention and energy away from traditional development activities and outcomes to customizable processes that let communities control their own development agendas.
- create opportunities for community participation that enable diverse groups to work across differences thus enhancing democratic practice and nonviolent social change.
- build on the cutting edge of philanthropy, social change and development by learning from the experiences of other third world community foundations and international best practices.
- use a permanent endowment as a core strategy to ensure sustainable income for generations, thus reducing dependence on international aid.

### Report of Activities -- 2006

- *Establishment of Dalia Association* - A retreat with working group members was held in Jericho on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2006 which was funded by Birzeit University's Continuing Education Department. The decision to hold it in Jericho was made to ensure that the majority of working group members could attend, given the logistical obstacles relating to the Israeli permit system that is imposed on Palestinians which makes movement extremely difficult and sometimes impossible (for example, Gaza residents cannot get out, nor can anyone else enter). A further meeting was held in Ramallah on 6<sup>th</sup> October to complete the participatory process, which began in Jericho. Retreat accomplishments were: Founding Board of Directors convened; mission statement, strategies and vision decided; organizational name chosen; and governance structure established; and committees formed.



Jericho Retreat, September 2006

- *Registration of Dalia Association as a legal entity* - After many logistical obstacles, such as: the Palestinian Authority officially halting new NGO registrations; legislators being held in Israeli jails; and near shut-down due to lack of governmental funds - the Founding Board decided to register in Belgium and we enlisted lawyer Bradley Gallop. The decision to register in Belgium was assisted greatly by technical assistance from the Arab Human Rights Fund and Welfare Association, particularly their provision of three international studies comparing possible countries for registration. Dalia Association was registered as a legal

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entity on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2007 after intensive Board discussion to reach consensus of the content of our *Articles of Incorporation*. The legal fees for registration were raised by contributions from the Founding Board members.

- *Successful grant application* - Dalia has been successful in securing a small grant (\$9,000 US) from Sparkplug Foundation in NY, and now that we are legally registered we are in the process of opening a bank account with HSBC so that we can receive these funds. This process has been delayed due to the need for approval from several offices of the PA, which has been difficult due to the extended labor strike. We have several other grant applications under consideration.
- *Regular Board meetings* - Regular bi-monthly board meetings have been held, in Jerusalem and Ramallah which have been very successful and productive. As much as possible, meetings have been held in community-based organizations for mutual networking and solidarity. These include the Newafeth Youth Forum in Biddu village, the Jerusalem Association for the Elderly, the Ramallah Friends School, and Birzeit Univeristy. Each meeting has been a challenge for Board members to attend, and our Gaza member has not been able to be physically present at any meeting. Additionally, other members have had to travel long distances and face continued hardship because of restrictions on movement by the occupation forces. Morale is kept high mainly because of the consistent commitment of Board members and enthusiasm about the potential of Dalia.



Board meeting hosted by the Jerusalem Association for the Elderly, December 2006

- *Local Contributions and Volunteerism* – We have been successful in mobilizing various kinds of support and assistance. Most recently, the Quaker International Service has provided (at no cost) indefinite use of a furnished office with computer and internet access inside their beautiful building in Augusta Victoria hospital on the Mount of Olives. Birzeit University's Continuing Education Center fully funded our founding retreat, including hotel, food, travel, and a facilitator (worth nearly \$2,000). We have the ongoing volunteer support of Osama Daher, accountant at PriceWaterhouse Coopers; Ihab Samaan, a highly respected lawyer; Maram Mansour, accountant, Baransi and Company; and IT support from Jamal Najib. Local artists and photographers have also been generous with their support. Two of our board members volunteer 3-5 full days per week for Dalia.

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Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives, Site of Dalia's Office inside the Quaker International Service Building

### Founding Board of Directors

*Juliette Abu-Iyun*, a resident of Jaffa, has a Master's Degree in Legal Studies from Aix-en-Provence, and has been member of the Israeli Bar since 1996. She has expertise in human rights, international law and international humanitarian law; specialization in refugee issues. Juliette currently works as a consultant to NGOs and multilateral agencies, including UNRWA. She has extensive experience planning and leading innovative research, advocacy and other politically-sensitive interventions in Palestine, Israel, Brussels, France and the United States. She worked as a researcher for Human Rights Watch in New York and Brussels and in Brussels for the Center for European Policy Studies. She completed a one year fellowship for professional training in community organizing and social change in Chicago and NY. Recently she ran a two-year IDRC-funded participatory research project with refugees in Jalazon Camp, which she describes in the September 2006 issue of Forced Migration Review. She is fluent in Arabic, Hebrew, French and English.

*Hamada Abed H. Al-Bayari* is humanitarian affairs assistant for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Gaza Strip. He was previously involved with development and public relations at El-Wafa Medical Rehabilitation Hospital and did field research and coordination for B'Tselem: The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, Civic Forum Institute, and National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. He has worked as a physiotherapy assistant and Arabic interpreter/translator for the French media. Hamada has a BSc from the Islamic University in Gaza City.

*Sam Bahour* is a Palestinian-American businessman and activist based in Al-Bireh/Ramallah. He is Managing Partner of Applied Information Management, a management consulting firm specializing in business development and with a niche focus on the information technology sector. Sam was instrumental in the establishment of PALTEL and the PLAZA Shopping Center and currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees at Birzeit University in the role of treasurer. He is also a Director at the Arab Islamic Bank. Sam writes frequently on Palestinian

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affairs and has been widely published. He is co-editor of HOMELAND: Oral History of Palestine and Palestinians.

*Hiba I. Husseini*, managing partner of the law firm Husseini and Husseini in Ramallah, is a senior attorney with extensive experience in the practice of corporate law and business-related legal development in Palestine. She has provided strategy advice and legal drafting services to various agencies of the Palestinian Authority and local and foreign businesses. She served as the Vice Chairman of the Palestine Securities Exchange from 1998 to May 2005 and as legal advisor to the Palestinian Negotiations Team in the Oslo, Stockholm and Camp David processes. Ms. Husseini is the Chairman of Al-Mustakbal Foundation, the first think tank in Palestine to deal with public-private sector issues and policy formulation and advocacy work. She serves on the Board of Trustees of both Al-Najah University and the Palestine Consultancy Group and on the boards of the Palestinian Historical Sites Association, International Water Academy, International Water Association, Palestinian Hydrology Group, Pyalara (Youth Outreach), Almamal Art Foundation, and is a member of the Advisory Board of the Palestinian-American Research Center. Ms. Husseini holds a Juris Doctorate in law from Georgetown University, an MSc in Corporate Finance from the University of Sorbonne, an MA in International Relations from George Washington University and a BA in Political Science from the University of Tennessee. She has lectured and written widely on economic and commercial law reform, telecommunications policies, corporate governance, rule of law, and water/environmental issues in Palestine. Ms. Husseini practiced law in the US before returning to Palestine and maintains her US license. She is also licensed as a legal translator and arbitrator.

*Basel Mansour*, a resident of Biddu village in the West Bank, has worked for various NGOs doing community development and research. Recently, Basel led field research in the villages and refugee camps in the Nablus area for an AusAid project and ran a capacity building project for a youth center in al-Amari refugee camp funded by the EU. He is a graduate in Economics from Birzeit University and will pursue an M.A. in International Cooperation and Economic integration in Italy. Basel is a founding member and chairman of a Nawafeth Youth Forum.

*Nora Lester Murad*, originally from the US, is an independent researcher/consultant living in East Jerusalem. She works with Palestinian NGOs, INGOs, and multilateral organizations doing participatory research, strategic planning, community development, organizational change, donor communications, CBO capacity assessments, impact evaluations, fundraising, and other projects. Her research interests are issues of dependence on international aid, participatory processes, and patriarchy. Nora has a PhD from Fielding Graduate Institute focused on social change and structural inequality; an MA in Intercultural Relations from Lesley University, with an emphasis in conflict management and training; and a BA in Middle East Studies from UCLA during which she studied at the American University in Cairo (1983-4) and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (1984-5). Before moving to Palestine, she was assistant professor of cross-cultural understanding at Bentley College in Massachusetts, and she had a thriving consulting practice serving community groups, hospitals, grant-makers, government agencies and corporations. During the first Intifada, she was the US coordinator of the Cambridge-Ramallah/El-Bireh Sister City Campaign.



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*Issam Nassar* is assistant professor of history at Illinois State University specializing in the cultural history of the Middle East. He is also a researcher at the Institute of Jerusalem Studies in Jerusalem where he is associate editor of *Jerusalem Quarterly* (Arabic: *Hawliyat al-Quds*). He was Visiting Professor at the University of California at Berkeley in 2006. Born in Ramallah, Palestine, he completed his B.A. at Birzeit University, his M.A. at University of Cincinnati, and his doctorate at Illinois State University. His publications include: *European Portrayals of Jerusalem: Religious Fascinations and Colonialist Imaginations* (2006); *Different Snapshots: Early Photography in Palestine: 1850-1948* (in Arabic, 2005); *Photographing Jerusalem* (1997). He is the co-editor of several books including: *Pilgrims, Lepers and Stuffed Cabbage: Essays on Jerusalem's Cultural History* (2005); *Ottoman Jerusalem in the Jawharieh Memoirs: Volume One of the Memoirs of the Musician Wasif Jawharieh, 1904-1917* (2003).

*Ghada Rabah* is manager of Palestine's Right to Play program based in Ramallah. She was the project manager for the Women's Legal Aid and Counseling Center and was a human rights field researcher for Al-Haq and Save the Children. She was childhood program officer and middle area program officer at the Welfare Association, and was the grants consultant for the Canada Fund. Ms Rabah worked at American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) doing monitoring and evaluation as well as serving as coordinating special education, training, and women's development. She earned her B.A. in sociology at Birzeit University and holds a certificate in governance and civil society from University of the Middle East, Boston. She attended a course in women's rural development at Reading University, UK. Ms. Rabah has extensive experience with community issues, and has volunteered in grassroots community organizations focusing on rehabilitation, culture, women, youth, children and other social service activities. She was also a founding member of the Palestinian Counseling Center, Community Development Association for the Hearing Impaired, Women's Loan Fund, El-Urmawi Cultural Group, and others.

*Mohammad A. M. Shaheen* is the Dean of Public Health and Director of the Center for Development in Primary Health Care at Al-Quds University, where he has taught various subjects for over 20 years. He has a PhD in Health Services Administration with a focus on health economics and policy research from the University of Pittsburgh, a Masters in Community Health from Purdue University and a BSc in Medical and Nursing Sciences from the University of Jordan. He is one of the pioneers in the country for enforcing, advocating the role of the community as a partner in development and incorporating community participation model in his public health at the community level. Also he is a founding member of the Palestinian Health Policy Forum that advocates policies responsive to the needs of the Palestinian people. He is a long-time board member and current vice president of Childwatch International. He has extensive experience doing collaborative research with researchers around the world, and has led or contributed to scores of evaluation, capacity building projects, and developmental interventions with multilateral agencies, INGOs, and NGOs.

*Trees Zbidat-Kosterman* has worked for nearly 10 years as the resource development and public relations officer at Al Zahraa Arab Women Organization in Sakhnin, a Palestinian village in northern Israel. In her native country, Holland, she worked as a social worker in a shelter for abused women specializing with Moroccan and Turkish immigrants and with immigrant youth and political asylum seekers. Trees is a member of the Advisory Council of the Global Fund for Women. She won an award for her case study about the situation of Palestinian women inside

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Israel, which she presented at the Awid Conference in Bangkok in 2005. She has just been awarded an international fellowship for 2007 by the Ford Motor Company.

### **Donors--2006**

- Juliette Abu-Iyun
- Hamada Al-Bayari (pledge not yet received)
- Faisal Awartani
- Sam Bahour
- Birzeit University, Continuing Education Center
- Osama Daher (in-kind)
- Hiba Hussein
- Basel Mansour
- Maram Mansour (in-kind)
- Nora Lester Murad and Hani Murad
- Jamal Najib
- Issam Nassar (pledge not yet received)
- Ghada Rabah
- Ihab Samaan (in-kind)
- Mohammad Shaheen (pledge not yet received)
- Sparkplug Foundation (awarded, not yet received)

### **Financial Statement**

See attached.

**Dalia Association**  
**Financial Statements**  
**For the 3 Months Period ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006**

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**Dalia Association**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006**

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2006</u> <u>USD</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u><u>-</u></u>
 <b>Current Liabilities -</b>		
Loans		<u>2585</u> 2585
		-----
Total Liabilities		2585 <u>-----</u>
 <b>Net Assets -</b>		
Unrestricted Net Assets -		
For Operations		<u>(2585)</u>
Total Net Assets		(2585) <u>-----</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		<u><u>-</u></u>

*- Notes to the Financial Statements Form an Integral Part Thereof.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Dalia Association**  
**Statement of Activities**  
For the 3 Months Period Ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2006</u> <u>USD</u>
<b>Support and Revenue -</b>		
General Donations		3307 -----
Operational Expenses	- (2)	<u>1857</u> -----
<b>Net Revenues before General and Administrative Expenses</b>		1450 -----
General and Administrative Expenses -	(3)	4035 -----
<b>Net Revenues/ (Loss) before Finance Expenses</b>		(2585) -----
<b>Excess/ (Deficit) of Support and Revenues Over Expenses for the 3 Months Period -</b>		(2585)
Fund at the Beginning of the Period		----- -
Fund at the End of the Year		<u><u>(2585)</u></u>

*- Notes to the Financial Statements Form an Integral Part Thereof.*

**Dalia Association**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the 3 Months Period Ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006**

**Note (1) - Accounting Policies -**

**Fund Accounting -**

The above mentioned financial statements are stated according to the fund accounting standards to represent the limitations of the use of the funds received.

The accompanying financial statements represent the financial status and the results of operations of Dalia.

**Fixed Assets -**

Fixed assets are stated at cost and are depreciated using the straight- line method, with depreciation rates are considered to be adequate to write-off the cost of the assets during their useful economic life.

**Inflation and Currency Differentials -**

The financial statements are stated in USD at nominal value. No adjustments have been made therein to reflect the changes of the purchase power of the reporting currency.

Transaction in other currencies were translated to USD using the official average exchange rate for the 3 months period ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006 at 4.28 NIS per USD.

**Note (2) – Operational Expenses -**

Details	<u>2006</u> <u>USD</u>
Workshops and Seminars (Jericho retreat)	1106
Facilitation and Preparation (Jericho retreat)	500
Office Supplies (Jericho retreat)	30
Photography (Jericho retreat)	51
Travel (Jericho retreat)	<u>170</u>
	<u><b>1857</b></u>

**Note (3) - General and Administrative Expenses -**

Details-	<u>2006</u> <u>USD</u>
Registration Fees	<u>4035</u>
	<u><b>4035</b></u>