

In a 2024 report to Bethesda Friends Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, the *Ad Hoc Committee on the Disposition of a Gift to Help Palestinians* considered and approved the following organizations as deserving of our donations.

If you have other organizations that you would like to recommend, please contact the Peace and Justice Committee (<https://www.bethesdafriends.org/Contact-Us>).

Palestine Children's Relief Fund (www.pcrf.neth) founded in 1991 by concerned humanitarians, provides free medical care to thousands of injured and ill children yearly who lack local access to care within the local health care system. Over the years, we've sent over 2,000 affected children abroad for free medical care, sent thousands of international doctors and nurses to provide tens of thousands of children free medical care in local hospitals, and provided tens of thousands of children humanitarian aid and support they otherwise would not get. PCRf's impact also includes establishing two pediatric cancer departments in Palestine, a new PICU and pediatric cardiology department in Ramallah, and many more critical projects to sustainably bolster the region's healthcare system. Our foundation relies on grassroots efforts, supported by a worldwide network of thousands of volunteers, to fulfill our humanitarian mission.

World Central Kitchen (www.wck.org) founded in 2010 by Chef José Andrés, is a nonprofit organization that is one of the first responding organizations in times of crisis, providing fresh meals to those in need. Since its founding, WCK has served more than 350 million nourishing meals around the world. It is now active in Gaza and Rafah with a network of food trucks and emergency kitchens, distributing meals directly to families in dire need.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) (www.palestinercs.org/en) is an officially recognized independent Palestinian National Society. It is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Society, which operates in Palestine and the diaspora, is guided by the Geneva Conventions and the Movement's Fundamental Principles, i.e. Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality. Its essential mission is to provide humanitarian assistance as well as health and social services to Palestinians whenever and wherever needed. It works towards preventing and allaying human suffering, protecting life and health, ensuring the respect of human dignity, preventing disease, and promoting health, social care and volunteering both in times of peace and war as well as during emergencies, crises and disasters. In the 2023-2024 crisis, the PRCS played an essential coordinating role in distributing aid to the people of Gaza.

Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

(www.doctorswithoutborders.org) offers medical humanitarian assistance to people based solely on need, irrespective of race, religion, gender, or political affiliation. Its teams of doctors, nurses, logisticians, and other frontline workers are often among the first on the scene when peoples' lives are upended by conflict, disease outbreaks, or natural or human-made disasters. MSF staff have been working in extremely dangerous conditions in Gaza's hospitals and clinics throughout conflicts, providing a range of essential medical services including: surgical care, wound and burn care, post-partum care, physiotherapy, mental health support, vaccination, and outpatient consultations.

America Near East Refugee Aid (Anera) (www.anera.org). Anera is a 501(c)(3) non-governmental organization providing humanitarian and development aid to the Middle East, specifically the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Jordan. It has a physical presence in Gaza and works through its local partners, including local community organizations, healthcare centers, co-operatives and schools. Their assistance covers a wide range of humanitarian needs, including among other things medicines and medical supplies, shelter, food, water, and hygiene items. BFM Attender Najla Drooby recommends this organization and supports it financially.

The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories (B'Tselem) (<https://www.btselem.org/>). B'Tselem is an independent, non-partisan organization, based in Jerusalem and dedicated to working towards a future in which human rights, liberty and equality are guaranteed to all people, Palestinian and Jewish alike, living between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. It specifically opposes and targets the Israeli occupation and apartheid regime in its various forms: attacks on civilians, torture, administrative detention, home demolitions, the separation barrier, settler violence, and routine disruption of Palestinian lives and livelihoods. BFM Member Ann Proctor recommends this organization and supports it financially.

Breaking the Silence (<https://www.breakingthesilence.org.il/>). Breaking the Silence is an Israeli non-governmental organization established in 2004 by veterans of the Israel Defense Forces. It is intended to give serving and discharged Israeli personnel and reservists a means confidentially to recount their experiences in the Occupied Territories. The organization's essential position is that "the mission of occupation carried out by the IDF for just over five decades, is inherently immoral. As such, any attempt to fulfil this mission necessarily compels the IDF to carry out immoral actions. As we see it, military rule enforced over another nation necessarily violates basic rights of the civilian population and is impossible without the use of constant

violence. That is why our goal at Breaking the Silence is to end the occupation, not to improve it or make it more humane.” BFM Member Ann Proctor recommends this organization and supports it financially.

We are Not Numbers (WANN) (<https://wearenotnumbers.org/>).

Mentoring young word artists and assuring that their stories and other expressions reach an international audience, WANN offers the real-world prospect of challenging the denatured and dehumanizing narratives surrounding the Palestinian cause. In addition to supporting WANN financially, BFM hopes that Friends will read and share the stories published by WANN.