

LATIN PATRIARCHATE
OF JERUSALEM

PROJECT PROPOSAL

HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY RELIEF AID FUND

PALESTINE AND JORDAN

GA 054/16



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
APRIL 2016

“Help One Another.

This is What Jesus Teaches Us.

This Is What I Do. And I Do It With My Heart.”

(H.H. Pope Francis)

THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (LPJ) was restored in 1847; its main goal is to promote the best interest of the local communities it serves in. Today, the Patriarchal Diocese oversees about 90,000 faithful in four countries, including the Galilee, The Palestinian Authority, Jordan and Cyprus, covering a rich tapestry of cultures, languages, religions and traditions. Serving all with special emphasis on the support and care of indigenous Holy Land Christians remains the enduring mission of the Mother Church, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

INTRODUCTION

Year by year the need of humanitarian aid increases due to the bad economic and political situation that the area endures, which has a negative impact on Christian families living in the Holy Land. The economic situation is deteriorating due to the latest round of unrest and continued clashes. The Christian minority in the Holy Land bear the brunt and struggle to make ends meet. The LPJ wants to help everyone and the need is truly great but unfortunately the resources are very limited and we can only assist the neediest of the needy.

Additionally, the cost of living in Jerusalem is very high, rents are very expensive and Christian families have no choice but to send their children to private schools which are very costly. Unemployment is on the rise, cost of living increases from year to year and many rely on the Latin Patriarchate, which itself is underfunded, to support them with humanitarian aid. The Latin Patriarchate serves the Christian communities from East Jerusalem, the West Bank, The Gaza Strip and Jordan.

BENEFICIARIES

Below are listed the conditions determining eligibility to receive aid:

- Families whose income is insufficient to answer to the basic needs of their members.
- Families whose breadwinner is ill or recently deceased.
- Families that cannot afford medical expenses for a critically ill member.
- Families that do not have health insurance.
- Elderly people including those with chronic diseases and with no source of income.
- Breadwinners who are unskilled laborers or whose opportunities to find work are limited due to lack of opportunity in their area.

BENEFICIARIES

The social intervention of the Latin Patriarchate is divided into four main categories:

- Schools and University Support;
- Family Support;
- Medical Support;
- Medicines program.

Three social workers are engaged in the following areas:

- One social worker in the Bethlehem governorate is responsible for Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Beit Jala, Gaza Strip and some cases in Jordan and Galilee.
- Two social workers in Jerusalem are responsible for East Jerusalem, Ramallah, Birzeit, Taybeh, Aboud, Jifna, Jericho, Zababdeh, Jenin, Nablus and some cases in Galilee.

1. Schools and University Support

Through this program, the LPJ supports students with university/school tuition fees. It is an essential intervention for it empowers the future generation to become more productive members of the society. In 2015, the LPJ was able to support 130 students in universities, colleges and schools. The main beneficiaries are families who have three or more students in the family.

The criteria to obtain university tuition support:

- GPA of 2.5 or above.
- The student/family covers 40% of tuition fees.

Requirements by the LPJ for each university student to apply for tuition support:

- Photocopy of the personal ID
- University print of the total fees for the tuition
- GPA of previous semester

SAMPLES OF BENEFICIARIES

- G. N. is a 21 year old young man from Bethlehem, enrolled in Hotel Management at Bethlehem University, and lives with his parents and younger sister. His mother is unemployed. His father, the only breadwinner in the family, works as a laborer and earns NIS 3000 monthly. The father has a loan from the bank and pays NIS1000 from his salary to cover the loan. His sister attends a private school. The family lives in their own house. Due to their bad economic situation, the LPJ helped G.N to cover the tuition fees for the last three semesters at the university, enabling him to continue his studies and assist his family financially in the near future.

- F. K. is a 21 year old young girl from Beit Sahour and a third year student at Bethlehem University. Each semester costs JD 500; through the scholarship fund, the Latin Patriarchate has helped her cover the tuition fees for the last three semesters. She lives with her mother and three siblings in their own unhealthy house in Beit Jala. Her mother works as a cleaner with a monthly income of NIS 1700, which is the only source of income. The parents are separated, her father lives abroad. Due to their bad economic situation, the LPJ helped F.K to cover tuition fees at the university, and so enabled her to continue her studies and assist her family financially.
- F. S. is a 23 year old young woman from the Gaza Strip, who lives with her husband and 3 year old baby. The family lives in their own house. F is a third year student enrolled in the Accountant Department in Al Quds Open University. The total amount of her tuition per semester is 500 JDs. The family has paid part of it and the rest was covered by the Latin Patriarchate. Her husband is the only provider for the family; he works as an employee with a meager monthly salary of NIS 1500.

2. Family support

It is an essential program for the neediest but this year the LPJ was not able to give much assistance due to lack of fund for this special program. Through this program the LPJ used to cover rents, overdue debts, utility bills (electricity and water), land tax (Arnona) and emergency financial aid to families from Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

SAMPLES OF BENEFICIARIES

- A. S. is a 67 year old married man who lives with his wife in Shou'fat in a rented house which costs \$900 per month. He has two children, one married lives in his own home; the second son lives abroad. Anton earns NIS 4,000 from the national insurance and it is the only source of income of the family. They are in a very bad financial situation and through the Latin Patriarchate, he was able to pay electricity and water bills. In the meantime the family has accumulated debts for the electric and water bills from previous months amounting to 2000 NIS for water bill and 1200 NIS for electric bill. Through the fund, the LPJ was able to help him with NIS 1000 to cover part of his debts.
- R. Z. is a 56 year old married woman. She lives with her husband and one girl in a rented house paying \$700 per month. Her husband used to work but lost his job due to health issues. R. is working as a teacher in a private school with a monthly salary of NIS 2800. The family is living in a very poor economic situation with a very small income. They have accumulated debts through rent, electricity and water bills. The landlord has sent them a warning to evacuate if they don't pay the rent. The Latin Patriarchate was able to cover part of the rent.

3. Medical Support

This program assists individuals suffering from chronic diseases or need an urgent medical intervention such as (heart problems, kidney failure, cancer etc.) In some cases, the cost is very high and the LPJ coordinates with some other local NGOs in order to cover the expenses. This year the LPJ was able to reach 44 beneficiaries. The main beneficiaries are needy patients from the West Bank.

SAMPLES OF BENEFICIARIES

- I. E. is a 36 year old married man from Beit Sahour. He has two children who attend private schools. The family lives in a small rented house paying \$350 per month. The mother is a housewife. Issa works as an employee with a salary of NIS 3000 which is the only source of income of the family. Recently Issa was diagnosed with cancer and he is a case study in Hadassah Hospital, Ein Karem, and his medication cost monthly NIS 20,000. In cooperation with the Latin Patriarchate,

the Ministry of Health, Friends of the Holy Land, Caritas Baby Hospital and Caritas Jerusalem, the LPJ was able to cover the cost of the medication for the last two months. The family is left with a huge debt due to the treatment.

- L. R. is a 57 year old married woman from Beit Jala. She lives with her husband in their own house. She works from home and what she earns is insufficient to cover the basic needs of her family. She has four children all are married. Her husband is unemployed. L. fell and broke her pelvis; she underwent an operation in the Arab Rehabilitation Center. The total cost of the operation was NIS 18,000. In cooperation with the Latin Patriarchate, Caritas Baby Hospital and the family, the LPJ was able to cover the cost of the operation.
- N. T. is a 57 year old divorced woman from the Gaza Strip. She lives with her 18 year old daughter. The family has no source of income whatsoever and completely depends on charity. N. suffered from internal eye bleeding and underwent an operation which cost NIS 5000. The Latin Patriarchate fund helped her with NIS 2000.

4. Medicine Program

The medication support program is another service that the LPJ provides needy and marginalized Christian families. Unfortunately, this year we were unable to cover medicines for our patients through the parishes, due to lack of funds. The LPJ was able to support only few cases. The beneficiaries of the program are the patients who need urgent costly medicines that are not included in the medical insurance basket of the Palestinian Ministry of Health Through this fund the LPJ was able to assist 232 patients from the West Bank (Ramallah and Bethlehem governorate) for the first five months of the year 2015:

- 26 Patients from Birzeit
- 10 Patients from Ain Arik
- 15 Patients from Jericho
- 6 Patients Beit Jala
- 13 Patients from Ramallah
- 12 Patients from Taybeh
- 18 Patients from Aboud
- 12 Patients Nablus
- 2 Patients Zababdeh
- 22 Patients Beit Sahour
- 4 Patients Bethlehem
- 58 Patients from the Ramallah Day Care Centre for the elderly
- 5 Patients from the Abu Dis Elderly Centre
- 1 Patient from Jifna

Unfortunately, the LPJ was not able to continue the medicine program due to lack of funding, and from June to December 2015, only the neediest of the needy patients from the same areas were supported by the LPJ. The details of the 20 patients: none from Bethlehem area, 2 patients from Birzeit, 5 patients from Abu Dis, 5 Ramallah, the Elderly Centre, and 7 patients from Taybeh, and one 1 from Jifna. The patients receive their medicines after home visit to the patient and it must be determined that the patient is truly needy. Every six months all the patients from the West Bank must update their medications, medical reports and prescriptions.

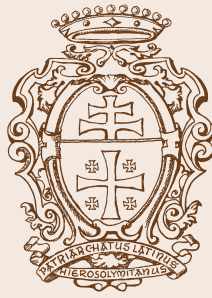
The medicine program serves patients from different areas in Ramallah: The Holy Family Church, Ramallah Elderly Day Care Center, Ain Arik, Jericho, Birzeit, Taybeh, Notre Dame Des Douleurs, Aboud, Zababdeh, Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour and one case in Jerusalem. The social workers cooperate with the pharmacies; they get medicines from the pharmacy, check the medicine and hand it to the patient. Each patient signs when receiving the medicine. Expensive medications were given to patients every month particularly for those patients with chronic illnesses and for those who have had the disease for a long time.

SAMPLES OF BENEFICIARIES

- J. S. is a 75 year old widow from Jericho. She lives alone in her own house; her son with his wife and three small children live beside her. J.S. has five children, all are married. Her son is working as an employee with a monthly salary of NIS 2800, which is the only source of income of his family and his mother. J. S. suffers from high blood pressure, severe diabetes and Parkinson's and requires regular monthly medicines. Through this fund, the LPJ was able to cover her monthly medicines for one time.
- R. K. is a 40 year-old widow, lives with her three daughters in their own house in Taybeh. Her husband passed away one year ago. R. suffers from Leukemia and has undergone chemotherapy treatment for one and a half year. Presently, her medical situation is stable but requires treatment and medications. R. has Israeli ID but lost her insurance. She must purchase expensive medications every month. Through the Latin Patriarchate, we have been able to cover all of her medication costs. The three daughters are studying in Taybeh in the Latin School, and Fr. Raed helped them in covering tuition fees.
- L. N. is a 75 year old man who has lived at the Abu Dis Centre for more than 15 years. His brother and sister passed away 10 years ago. He is alone, and with no one to support him; the LPJ was able to cover his monthly medications for the whole year.
- S. S. is a 38 year old married man from Birzeit, who lives with his wife and 3 children in his own unhealthy house. He is unemployed due to his health situation (kidney failure) and his wife doesn't work either. S. undergoes kidney dialysis three times a week and he requires many medications. In addition, he underwent by-pass heart procedures one year ago. Currently his medications are very costly, and due to the family's difficult economic situation, he has been unable to buy them. His only source of income is an allowance of 700 NIS from the Ministry of Social Affairs every three months. The Latin Patriarchate has covered the total cost of his medication for a few months.
- Y. H. 80 years old widow from Ramallah who lives with her unmarried daughter and married son with his family (wife, two children). This family is one of the severe social cases in Ramallah for the last 5 years since the wife is the only breadwinner working in one of the private schools as a cleaner and earns a monthly salary of 1,500 NIS. What she earns is not enough to cover the daily basic needs of the family. Y. is suffering from heart problems and she underwent an open heart surgery before one year her health situation is not good. Through the Latin Patriarchate, she was able to cover the total cost of her medication for a few months.

NEEDS

Your generous support to any of the above-mentioned programs will ensure the continuity of the Humanitarian and Emergency Relief Aid Fund, helping the mission of the Mother Church, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, in serving the needy and most vulnerable Christian minorities in the Holy Land.



LATIN PATRIARCHATE
OF JERUSALEM

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