**A report from the Aida Youth Center on how our donation has helped thei work**

**Support Education program**

The UNRWA school of Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem serves the students from two-refugee camps. The children do not have equal opportunities to learn because of the crowded classes, which sometimes have more than fifty students in the same classroom. In addition, many of those students have learning difficulties and cannot receive additional help due to the US administration cutting all of the aid to UNRWA, and forcing them to discontinue the support education program within their schools. However, Aida Youth Center is working to fill that gap by implementing an education program to support those students, by using informal education and new methods of ‘teaching by play’ to support the students and to enhance their skills. Moreover, the aim of the program is to make the right to education meaningful and seek to enable quality education where children can learn and develop. We introduce children to the power of artistic expression — drawing, painting, music, drama, dance and more— to help them heal, learn, and do better in school. The center believes that education is the cornerstone of open societies; it lays the groundwork for the future direction of people’s lives and the societies they live in.

The project objectives are to enhance the self-confidence of the children in order to facilitate the discovery of their abilities in the right way. Additionally, the project aims to improve the children’s abilities in expressing themselves and developing a creative and innovative thought process. The main activities of the organization include: a football club, scout team, support education project, music education program, etc. These programs are expected to benefit the Aida Refugee Camp Children. An average of 50 children will be the beneficiaries of the program. All of these children are from the UNRWA school, as they do not have any extracurricular activities or support education programs. UNRWA is only able to support the most basic form of education, pertaining to their budget. The recent funding cuts to UNRWA have drastically impacted the right to education of Aida’s refugee camp schools. The Aida Youth Center is the only additional educational service available to Aida camp’s children. Arts programs and educational learning through activities are important in contributing to the quality of education children need to receive.

The Kennington-Bethlehem twining network was able to offer Aida Youth Center a grant of Euro (1,600). The center used this funding to cover some of the expenses of the support education project:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| items | Expenses (Euro) |
| Stationery | 500 Euro |
| Trip to Palestine Museum for natural history (40 children) | 300 Euro |
| Books | 200 |
| Salaries | 600 |

November 2019