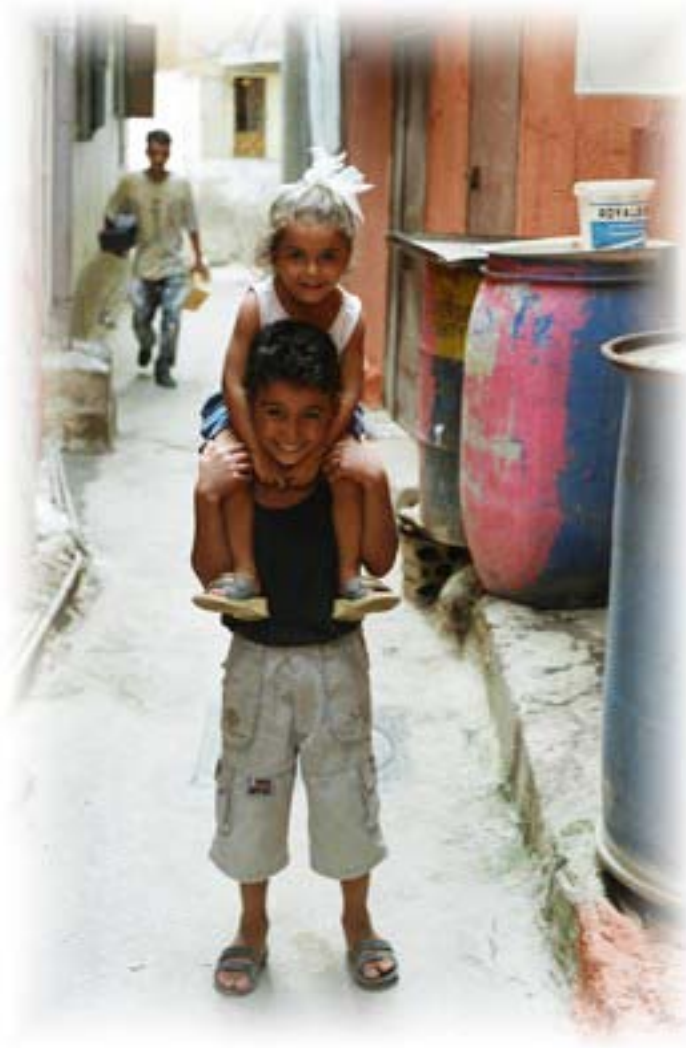


# **CEPAL: Canadian Palestinian Educational Exchange**



## **Taking Stock 2003**

**CEPAL's mission is to assist Palestinian refugees in the pursuit of their basic human rights through increasing their access to education, and raising awareness in Canada of their daily struggle.**

**CEPAL-3<sup>rd</sup> Floor 323 Chapel St Ottawa ON K1N 7Z2 Tel: 613-236-7825 Fax: 613-237-5969  
info@cepal.ca www.cepal.ca**

## Dear CEPAL supporter,

Thank you for your support of CEPAL's educational activities in the Palestinian refugee camps of Bourj el-Barajneh, Shatila and Wavel, for the summer of 2003. We are extremely pleased to report to you on a highly successful year marking CEPAL's 7<sup>th</sup> year of operation.

CEPAL works towards the enhancement of the lives of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon on a grassroots level. We lend non-governmental organizations in the camps the human resources to implement educational classes for their students during the summer. Canadians of different academic and professional backgrounds live and work with Palestinian refugee families, experiencing their daily lives firsthand. CEPAL volunteers then return to Canada with many stories to tell, and they give presentations in their respective communities, creating a ripple effect of awareness. The bi-product is something quite powerful: these exchanges build solid, long lasting bridges between the two communities, and create a strong sense of solidarity for a population that has long felt neglected and isolated.

Whether you supported the organization directly in its fundraising efforts, or sponsored Kathy, Laura, Samer, Sophie, Yasmine, Jordan or Lara, you helped make this exchange possible. We thank you for taking the time to listen and for believing that we can bring about change one student at a time.

Sincerely,

CEPAL Executive Team 2003

*(Pictured from left to right: Lara Di Tomasso, Jordan Topp, Gul Joya Jafri, Hala Al-Madi, Jeanette Caron)*

*(Cover photo: Mohammad and Noor from Bourj El-Barajneh Camp, Beirut)*



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### CEPAL's PARTNERS IN LEBANON

#### ASSOCIATION NAJDEH

Najdeh works primarily with women in low-income families and in the field of education. It provides social services and runs income-generating projects that help to support approximately 2,500 women and their families in the camps throughout Lebanon.

#### CHILDREN AND YOUTH CENTRE

The Children and Youth Centre was founded in the 1990s, to serve the Shatila community and to provide a place for children and youth to come together and learn. It is an organization that places a great deal of importance on community work and strives to make its members sensitive to social justice issues, by empowering them as youth with a variety of skills.

#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND SOCIAL SERVICES (NAVTSS)

The NAVTSS is an independent social and educational institution established in 1983. It works to combat illiteracy, poverty and disease, helping young men and women in their career choices by offering intensive vocational training based on current market demands in Lebanon.

#### UNITED NATIONS RELIEF & WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA)

UNRWA provides education, health and relief and social services to 3.8 million registered Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

#### WOMEN'S CENTRE

The Women's Centre is affiliated with UNRWA, though independent of it, and provides services particularly to women, although also accepts youth and men to its programs. It focuses extensively on practical training skills, as well as language and computer classes.

#### WOMEN'S HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION (WHO)

The Women's Humanitarian Organization was founded in 1993 to serve women and children living in Palestinian refugee camps. Its main areas of activities are: early childhood education (nursery); kindergarten (3-6 years old); vocational training; an elderly care program; a day-care program for the children of working mothers; an after-school tutorial program; a summer activities program for children and youth; physiotherapy; community disability project.

# Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon: 55 Years of Statelessness



*Tea with Basel's Family in Wavel Camp,  
by Laura Holmes-Saltzman, 2003.*

## *FACT*

PALESTINIAN REFUGEES CONSTITUTE THE LARGEST REFUGEE POPULATION IN THE WORLD...

## *FACT*

PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON ARE NOT CITIZENS OF ANY COUNTRY, HAVE NO CIVIL RIGHTS AND ARE PROHIBITED BY LAW FROM EMPLOYMENT IN OVER 70 PROFESSIONS...

## *FACT*

OVER 60% OF PALESTINIAN FAMILIES IN LEBANON LIVE "BELOW" THE UN-ESTABLISHED POVERTY-LINE...

## *FACT*

THERE IS CURRENTLY AN EDUCATIONAL CRISIS AMONG THE REFUGEES IN LEBANON...

## *FACT*

PALESTINIANS WITH GOOD LANGUAGE SKILLS HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF OBTAINING ENTRANCE TO UNIVERSITIES, AND OF SECURING BETTER PAYING JOBS

## CEPAL'S AREAS OF OPERATION:

### **BOURJ EL-BARAJNEH CAMP: Facts and Figures**

- There are 19,526 registered Palestine refugees.
- 529 families of 1638 persons are registered as special hardship cases.
- One UNRWA health centre with an average of 167 patients per day.
- Seven UNRWA elementary/preparatory schools for 2,897 enrolled pupils in 2001/2002.

### **SHATILA CAMP: Facts and Figures**

- There are 11,998 registered Palestine refugees in Shatila camp.
- 286 families of 924 persons are registered as special hardship cases.
- One UNRWA health centre with an average of 77 patients per day.
- Two UNRWA preparatory schools for 1128 enrolled pupils in 2001/2002.

### **WAVEL CAMP: Facts and Figures**

- There are 7,357 registered Palestine refugees.
- 200 families with 908 persons are registered as special hardship cases.
- One UNRWA health centre with an average of 68 patients per day.
- One UNRWA elementary school and one secondary school with 870 enrolled pupils in 2001/2002.
- One community managed women's program centre providing skills training to enable women to work and generate an income.

# Volunteers from the 2003 Summer Program

“These students have taught me more than I have taught them. I know they will grow into beautiful human beings.”

Lara di Tomasso



*Yasmine and Kathy in class.*

“A man told me today to tell you what I saw, to tell people about the struggle of the Palestinians... Living among them has been an important lesson in human values.”

Yasmine Lemzoudi



*Jordan, Sophie, Yasmine, Kathy, Lara and Samer.*

“The women that come to the Centre are shining examples of strength by choosing to learn and to imagine a more just future.”

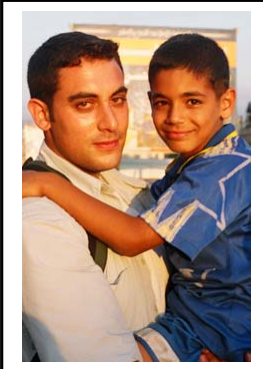
Laura Holmes-Saltzman



*Laura with students from Wavel.*

“These are girls with loads of hopes and dreams... Their resilience is astounding and I tell myself that if these girls haven't lost hope for their futures, I can never lose hope for them either.”

Kathy Ramsey



*Samer with a student.*

“In the refugee camps of Beirut, everyday was an adventure, with one day almost never like the next.”

Samer Abdel-Nour

*Yasmine and a young friend.*

Ce sont l'énergie et l'espoir des enfants, le courage et la travail des femmes, l'hospitalité des familles qui, malgré l'empreinte indélébile ... font du camp le plus bel endroit au monde.”

Sophie Dorais

“Our presence here thus helps to break the isolation and provides the community with a form of solidarity with the Canadian people”

Jordan Topp



*Sophie and Kathy in one of the alleyways of Bourj El Barajneh.*

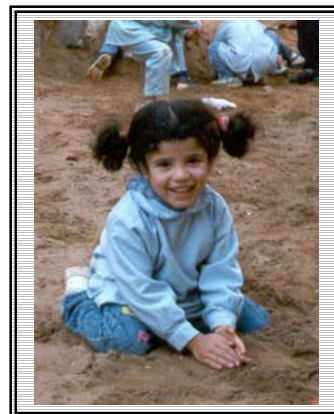


## Why I support CEPAL...

"I am a privileged woman, not rich but free, healthy, educated, with friends, children and a spouse.

My father has worked in the darkness of the mines. My mother, a very intelligent woman, has raised six children and regretted all her life not having been able to attend secondary school. Both believed strongly in the power of education for the choice it provided, the opening of the mind and the freedom it provided. Education could be transported anywhere in the world. Its richness was better than gold or diamonds, as it could never be stolen. Their conviction became mine.

CEPAL shares this belief and tries to provide education to those who have less than nothing, who have not only lost their lands, but also recognition by others. In this hopeless situation, CEPAL attempts to teach the joy of learning and even if it is only for a few months, may be there will be one Palestinian in these refugee camps that will get a little bit of this wealth that nobody can take away.



*Young girl in Shatila, 1999.  
By Chris Scoggins*

There are so many other people in the world who need support, education for their children, books, medicine, food, shelter. I choose to give to CEPAL, among all other organizations that would have welcomed my contribution, because Palestinians are the victims of the fight between brothers, including mine. And in these fights, it is the women that are the most forgotten and it is they who are picking up the pieces so that life continues.

My personal financial contribution will never suffice. Together, we may be able to provide the hope of a better life to one, two, ten children living in a camp."

*By Gilberte Fleischmann, Friend of CEPAL, Hull QC.*

## Financial Report 2003

<b>Income 2003</b>	
HRDC Internship	\$599.00
Friends of CEPAL	\$8,920.50
Sustaining Membership	\$8,680.00
General Membership contributions	\$2,697.46
Volunteer Sponsorship	\$14,558.00
Web Donations (Canada Helps)	\$574.32
Payroll Giving (United Way)	\$1,492.17
Events Sponsorship	\$600.00
Raffles	\$1,357.77
Silent Auctions	\$580.00
Book sales	\$240.00
T-shirt sales	\$110.00
Surplus from Summer Program Stipend	\$3,440.00
Miscellaneous	\$245.55
	<hr/>
	<b>\$44,094.77</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$44,094.77</b>

## Expenses 2003



*Board Member, Gul, takes the opportunity to raise awareness about CEPAL at a film festival held by World Interaction Mondiale.*

### Office

Rent	\$3,325.00
Postage and Copying	\$301.71
Printing and supplies (Annual Report and Posters)	\$564.78
Merchandise (CEPAL mugs)	\$343.36
Internet Services	\$529.66
Telephone	\$828.06
Legal Fees	\$364.31
Bank Fees	\$92.33
Board Travel	\$332.58
Deductions at Source (HRDC Intern)	\$405.36
Bookkeeping	\$1,200.00
	<b>\$8,287.15</b>

### Summer Program

Recruitment and Interview Costs	\$603.40
Copying	\$211.45
Postage	\$26.00
TESOL	\$1,950.00
Training	\$257.01
Airfare	\$10,887.00
Visas	\$305.85
Insurance	\$1,281.30
Overseas Stipends	\$14,000.00
Special Project Exhibition	\$96.44
Debriefing Costs	\$87.89
Newsletter- The Arch	\$654.35
Conferences/ Workshops	\$400.00
Fundraising surplus	\$2,268.00
	<b>\$33,028.69</b>



*Young boys in Bourj El-Barajneh Camp.*

### Special Events



*Professor Susan Akram at the UN Day of Solidarity 2003.*

#### Summer Program Launch

Venue, Travel and Accommodation of guest speaker	\$582.67
Printing/ Supplies	\$6.90
Book Distribution	\$1,271.16
	<b>\$1,860.73</b>

#### UN Day of Solidarity

Venue, Travel and accommodation of Speaker	\$1,330.06
Printing/Supplies	106.68
	<b>\$1,436.74</b>

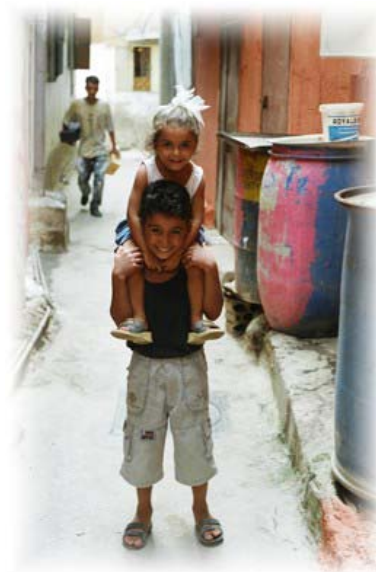
**Total expenses \$44,613.31**

## How You Can Help...

▪ Visit us at [www.cepal.ca](http://www.cepal.ca) to make an online donation. Please note that our web donation form provider, CanadaHelps, will issue an electronic tax receipt. Giving to CEPAL online helps us save on mailing costs, allows more of your gift to go towards the program, and allows our volunteers to devote more of their time to running the program. If you cannot give online, you may write a cheque to CEPAL and mail it to CEPAL, third floor, 323 Chapel St, Ottawa, ON, K1N 7Z2.

▪ You can give in the following ways:

- In memory of a loved one, or to commemorate a birthday, graduation, marriage or any other special occasion.
- Become a Friend of CEPAL or Sustaining Member.
- Make a monthly Commitment for 1 year! To donate to CEPAL on a monthly basis, you can mail us 12 post-dated cheques for monthly payments of \$10, \$15, \$25 or any amount you choose.
- Give to CEPAL through the United Way payroll deduction program. To donate to CEPAL through this campaign, list the name ("Canadian Palestinian Educational Exchange") and its charitable number "862761418 RR 0001" on the donation form.
- You can also help by donating the cost towards printing of posters, making CEPAL merchandise or donating items to be sold at auctions or placed in raffles.
- Volunteer a few hours! CEPAL is always in need of skilled and dedicated individuals to volunteer their time and expertise. Check out the volunteer section at [www.cepal.ca](http://www.cepal.ca) or call 613-236-7825 to find out more.



**Whatever you choose to do, please help CEPAL continue its vital work in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. Thank you for supporting CEPAL's mandate!**

***Please help us save on paper and mailing costs. If you have a particular preference on how you would like to be contacted, please return this coupon to us in the enclosed envelope.***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive CEPAL's bi-annual mailing, updating me on its programs.

I would like to receive CEPAL's updates only via e-mail.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 I only wish to be contacted once a year.       I do not wish to be contacted again.

**Visit us again at [www.cepal.ca](http://www.cepal.ca)!**