



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
RAMALLAH
— PALESTINE —

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 - 26



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF
RAMALLAH
PALESTINE

Who We Are

Founded in 1952, the American Federation of Ramallah Palestine is the oldest and largest Palestinian American organization in the U.S., headquartered in Westland, Michigan. Our mission is to celebrate, strengthen, and advance the rich Palestinian heritage and values of the Ramallah family in the United States and in Palestine. Through signature programs and events—including our annual family reunion and convention—and through our bimonthly magazine, *Hathihe Ramallah*, we remain committed to preserving our culturally rich traditions and keeping our heritage alive. Our goal is to ensure that the story of our people continues to thrive today and for generations to come.

Our Goals

- To enhance, guide and support the educational and cultural initiatives of chapter Ramallah Clubs located in major metropolitan cities throughout the U.S.
- To instill and nurture the sense of pride and uniqueness of our Ramallah family history.
- To cultivate and preserve our great traditions, music, song, language and heritage among our youth and young adults.
- To educate the American public about our Christian Arab culture and heritage and to promote better understanding of the humanitarian aspirations of the Palestinians and the Arabs in general.

Our Team

Joy Batteh-Freiha, President
Bryan Zarou, Deputy President
Emeel Ajluni, ARFECF Chair
David Ghannam, Legal Advisor
Taisir Eadeh, General Fund Treasurer
Sonya Kassis, Education Fund Treasurer
Terry Ahwal, Education Fund Secretary
Tamara Azrak, Recording Secretary
Dillon Odeh, AFRP Program Director
Kathy Harb, AFRP Executive Administrator



On the Cover

AFRP Day of Action 2.0, May 2026

A Message from the Federation President

Joy Batteh-Freiha



My Dear Ramallah family,

As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with immense pride in the progress we have made together as a Federation. This has been a year defined by growth, innovation and a renewed commitment to strengthening our community from coast to coast.

It has been my honor to serve as your President and to witness firsthand the dedication, generosity and unity that make our Federation so extraordinary.

I started this path with a clear vision — to build a stronger, more modern Federation — one that honors our heritage while preparing for the future. I am proud to say that we not only met that challenge, we exceeded it.

We initiated new programs that expanded opportunities for our youth, our families and our professionals. We strengthened and broadened existing initiatives, ensuring they continue to serve our community with purpose. And we invested in systems and structures that will carry the Federation forward for years to come.

This year was also about elevating our presence and our voice. Through advocacy efforts, national partnerships, and community engagement, we ensured that the American Federation of Ramallah Palestine is seen, heard and respected. We showed that our Ramallah community is not only rooted in tradition, but also actively shaping the future.

None of this progress happens alone. It is the result of countless volunteers, leaders, and supporters who give their time, talent, and treasure to advance our mission.

I am deeply grateful for every person who stepped forward, who believed in our vision, and who worked tirelessly to bring it to life.

As I look ahead, I do so with confidence. Our Federation is in good hands, guided by capable leaders, energized by passionate members, and strengthened by the next generation who are ready to carry our legacy forward. The foundation we have built together is strong, and the future of our Federation is bright.

Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your unwavering love for our beloved Ramallah.

With pride and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joy Batteh-Freiha'.

Joy Batteh-Freiha

President, American Federation of Ramallah Palestine

A Message from the Deputy President

Bryan Zarou



Under the leadership of Joy Batteh-Freiha, the American Federation of Ramallah Palestine embarked on one of the most significant modernization efforts in its recent history. Over the past year, our organization has taken meaningful steps toward building a more efficient, sustainable, and forward-looking Federation that is better equipped to serve future generations of Ramallah families across the U.S. and abroad.

One of the most important accomplishments of this effort has been the operational enhancement of our financial systems. The Federation has successfully transitioned its accounting operations into QuickBooks, creating a more organized and transparent financial management structure. This transition allows for improved reporting, stronger oversight, and a more streamlined approach to managing the Federation's resources responsibly and efficiently.

At the same time, we have launched an active committee process dedicated to evaluating and improving the future of our Mid-Year Meetings and Annual Conventions. These gatherings have long served as the cornerstone of our Federation's social and cultural connection, and this effort is focused on ensuring they continue to evolve to meet the needs of current and future generations. Through planning, evaluation, and long-term recommendations, the Federation is

working to strengthen the convention experience while preserving the traditions that make our community unique.

Another major step forward has been our work to streamline and organize membership data in preparation for more strategic use of our CRM system. By improving the quality and organization of our data, the Federation will be able to better understand membership trends, strengthen communication, improve engagement, and make more informed decisions that benefit our community. This work lays the foundation for a more connected and responsive Federation moving forward.

In addition to operational improvements, the Federation has also begun undertaking transformational governance reforms designed to align AFRP with the realities and best practices of modern nonprofit organizations. Discussions surrounding the Board of Directors for restructuring and reducing the size of the Board are centered on improving efficiency, accountability, continuity, and long-term planning. These conversations reflect a shared understanding that strong governance structures are necessary to position the Federation for success in the decades ahead.

Perhaps most importantly, the Federation has continued discussions surrounding the future hiring of a full-time Executive Director to oversee day-to-day operations and

administration. The creation of a professional leadership structure represents a major milestone in the organization's evolution and reflects the Federation's commitment to continuity, stability, and institutional growth. As nonprofit organizations across the country continue to modernize their operations, the AFRP is positioning itself to meet those same standards while remaining deeply rooted in its mission and identity.

This modernization effort would not be possible without the dedication of volunteers, committee members, past leaders, and community members who continue to invest their time and energy into the future of the Federation. Change is never easy, particularly within organizations built on decades of tradition and service, but these efforts are rooted in a simple goal: ensuring that the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine remains strong, sustainable, and impactful for generations to come.

As we look ahead, the Federation remains committed to honoring its proud history while embracing the tools, structures, and strategies necessary for the future. The work underway today is not simply about modernization for its own sake, but more so about building an organization capable of preserving our heritage, strengthening our community, expanding our programs, and creating opportunities for future generations of Ramallah families throughout the diaspora.

Bryan Zarou
Deputy President, American
Federation of Ramallah Palestine

Where Our Voice and Stories Live...

Hathihe Ramallah magazine:

Hathihe Ramallah magazine is the voice and heartbeat of the American Federation of Ramallah Palestine — a living thread that connects our families, our stories, and our heritage across the U.S. More than a publication, it's the bridge that keeps our community close no matter the miles between us.

Published consecutively for more than 70 years, *Hathihe Ramallah* magazine is one of the longest-running community publications of its kind.

Through its pages, we celebrate the joys that define us including engagements and weddings that unite our families, the arrival of newborns who carry our legacy forward, and the achievements — big and small — that make our community proud. We also honor moments of sorrow, standing together in grief when we lose a loved one, ensuring that no family carries its sadness alone.

For more than seven decades, every issue preserves our history while documenting our present, weaving together Club news, national initiatives, cultural traditions and personal milestones. It's where our collective memory lives, our voices are amplified, and our unity as one family is strengthened.

Hathihe Ramallah is a testament to our resilience and our connection to one another.

Wherever we are in the U.S., *Hathihe Ramallah* magazine reminds us that we remain one family, rooted in Ramallah and connected by love, memory and belonging.

Executive Editor: Joy Batteh-Freiha
Arabic Editor: Manerva Zaibaq
Subscription Manager: Mary Warra
General Manager: Ken Harb



The Arabic Language Program

Cultural Identity Through Words

Language is more than words. It is a powerful tool of preservation, resistance and identity. Through language, we do not just communicate. We belong!

Launched in September 2024 in collaboration with Bethlehem Bible College, the AFRP Arabic Program has quickly grown from a pilot into a flagship initiative that reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.

Following the strong success of its pilot phase, the program has evolved into a structured, dual-track program offering multiple levels in both tracks; Traditional and Conversational Arabic, taught by experienced language instructors, delivered through small, live Zoom classes to ensure a personalized and engaging learning experience.

In addition, a dedicated committee of highly qualified AFRP members was established to ensure the program remains rigorous, relevant and aligned with our long-term vision. Their collective expertise continues to enhance the curriculum, elevate program quality, and guide its strategic growth.

This program is more than an educational offering. It's a strategic investment in cultural preservation and continuity, strengthening the bond between the diaspora and the homeland and helping to



ensure that our language remains a living expression of who we are.

إذا ضاعت اللغة ضاعت الأمة.

If the language is lost, the nation is lost.

Results

To date, the program has expanded to offer 5 consecutive levels in the Traditional Track and 4 levels in the Conversational Track. Nearly 200 students have participated, with many Ramallahites joining the AFRP as new members

through this initiative. These outcomes reflect the deepened sense of identity and engagement across our community.

Future plans

While the long-term vision includes the development of a children's program, the current focus remains on empowering adults in our community with the language skills and cultural foundation needed to support and guide future generations.

Student Testimonials:

"The AFRP's Arabic classes have added immeasurably to my life! I've always looked for an Arabic class where I could learn Palestinian Arabic! Not only have I felt pleased with what I learned, the teaching has been top-notch, and a wonderful benefit has been getting to know many Ramallahites across the U.S. who I would not have met otherwise. I'm so thankful for this opportunity." Level 3 Student



"I have been enrolled in Arabic Classes since the AFRP started offering them. When I started Level I, I could not read Arabic at all. Now, I can read and write paragraphs! Participating in the Arabic classes is one of the best things I did for myself. I've not only learned how to read and write, but I have also learned a lot about our Palestinian culture." Level 5 Student

Advancing Health, Dignity and Hope

The American Ramallah Federation Human Services Network (ARFHSN) remains a cornerstone of community-driven impact, transforming the generosity of the Ramallah community in the U.S. into meaningful improvements in health, dignity, and opportunity across Palestine.

The progress of the past year reflects the unwavering commitment of our community, whose support sustains every aspect of our work. With deep pride, we affirm that 100% of donations go directly to programs and beneficiaries on the ground. ARFHSN operates without administrative overhead, ensuring every dollar delivers maximum impact.

Over the past year, ARFHSN strengthened internal operations, improved coordination across programs, and enhanced monitoring and evaluation. These efforts increased accountability, optimized resources, and deepened the alignment between community contributions and measurable outcomes. Through a more structured and results oriented approach, ARFHSN is expanding its reach while strengthening the quality and sustainability of its interventions.

Women to Women

The Women to Women program continues to play a vital role in supporting Palestinian women and their families, addressing both immediate and long-term empowerment. Since its establishment in 2020, the initiative has raised approximately \$69,000 to support education, health services and economic opportunities for women in the Ramallah area.

Medical Mission

The Medical Mission, the flagship initiative of ARFHSN, has continued to expand both its scope and impact, delivering measurable improvements in healthcare access, quality and system capacity. This



The renovated kitchen at Palestine Medical Complex hospital was made possible by a donation from Mr. Shouky Shaheen.

progress reflects a deliberate shift from short-term interventions toward sustained investments in health-care infrastructure, service delivery, and workforce development.

With a generous contribution from Mr. Shouky Shaheen, the ARFHSN supported the establishment and expansion of critical service units at the Palestinian Medical Complex, including services in women's health, kidney dialysis, vascular surgery, and advanced pathology diagnostics. In just a few months, the Women's Health Center has provided cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services, DEXA scan services for osteoporosis screening, breast cancer diagnostic and biopsy services to more than 1,500 women, reflecting increased access to life-saving technologies and services.

The Advanced Pathology Laboratory has conducted approximately 9,000 diagnostic tests, significantly improving the timeliness and accuracy of critical diagnoses. The Vascular Surgery program has delivered specialized services to almost 4,200 patients, many of whom previously had to travel outside Palestine to access such care. In parallel, kidney dialysis services continue to provide treatment sessions to patients, offering life-sustaining care and improving long-term



Signing of the agreement for the prosthetics program with Medical Mission, Ramallah Municipality, the Governor of Ramallah and other healthcare leaders.

By investing in people, training, and sustainable programs, the Medical Mission is elevating the entire healthcare system in Ramallah, Palestine.

health outcomes.

In addition, the renovation of the kitchen at the Palestinian Medical Complex, also supported through donor contributions, has enhanced service delivery for patients and staff. The upgraded facility was completed in early May 2026, and included improved design and modern equipment, which has strengthened operational efficiency, food safety and overall quality of care.

The Medical Mission has also initiated preventive services, including **prostate cancer screening** and early detection, improving awareness and enabling earlier diagnosis among male populations. These efforts represent an important step toward more comprehensive, preventive healthcare delivery.

With a generous contribution from Mr. Nadim Zayed, ARFHSN launched an **innovative prosthetics and rehabilitation program** in partnership with the Palestinian Ministry of Health, Abu Raya Rehabilitation Center, and the Arab American University in Palestine. This collaborative initiative is restoring mobility and independence

for individuals affected by trauma, with 19 patients receiving prosthetic and rehabilitative services over the past seven months despite challenging political conditions and road closures.

The Medical Mission also established an **eye screening program** in collaboration with Annahda Women's Association in Ramallah. Over the past six months, the program has provided screening services to more than 350 patients in just three months and referred individuals for specialized ophthalmologic care, contributing to the prevention of avoidable vision loss.

Capacity building remains a central pillar of the HSN's work. The **Occupational Therapy Bridge Program** continues to demonstrate strong progress, with 18 diploma-holding practitioners advancing toward their bachelor's degrees in occupational therapy. While enrolled, these trainees are already delivering improved rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities in Gaza, addressing urgent and growing needs in a highly constrained environment.

Additional training initiatives have

strengthened clinical capacity in key areas, including **trauma and emergency care** and **stereotactic mammography**, a specialized, **minimally invasive procedure for breast biopsy**. This training, conducted in collaboration with Al Hussein Cancer Center in Jordan, is enabling the delivery of advanced diagnostic services within Palestine and reducing the need for patients to seek care abroad. The ARFHSN has also supported clinical training opportunities for Palestinian medical graduates through partnerships with institutions such as Larkin Health System in Miami. As a result, two physicians have been accepted into residency programs at Cleveland Clinic and in New Jersey, where they will specialize in internal medicine with further focus on nephrology and oncology, critical specialties needed in Palestine.

Beyond healthcare services, the HSN continues to invest in education as a long-term strategy for strengthening the health sector. With support from Dr. Nidal Harb, two **STEM laboratories** were established at Al Ahliyah School and St. Joseph School in Ramallah, enhancing science education and encouraging students to pursue careers in health and related fields.

Across all of its work, the Human Services Network remains guided by a commitment to excellence, accountability, and community partnership. The progress achieved this year reflects not only the scale of need but also the power of collective action. By strengthening operations, improving monitoring and evaluation, and focusing on measurable results, the HSN is ensuring that its programs continue to evolve, adapt, and deliver meaningful impact.

Women to Women

Empowering Palestinian Women Through Opportunity, Education and Sustainable Support

Women to Women, an initiative of the Human Services Network (ARFHSN), stands as a powerful testament to what collective compassion and strategic investment can achieve. Founded in 2020, the program is dedicated to uplifting and empowering women in Palestine by expanding access to education, skills training and sustainable economic opportunities. In just a few years, Women to Women has raised and distributed nearly \$69,000, funding that has directly supported women and their families in the Ramallah area.

At its core, Women to Women is built on a simple but transformative belief: when women have the tools, resources, and confidence to shape their own futures, entire communities thrive. Through targeted support and partnerships with local institutions, the initiative helps women become self-sufficient, economically independent, and active contributors to their families' wellbeing.

Impact in Action: Projects Supported in the Past Year

Over the past year, Women to Women has invested in several meaningful projects that strengthen health, education, and economic opportunity:

- **\$3,000 to Dunya Cancer Center** Supporting essential



services for women battling cancer and ensuring access to compassionate, specialized care.

The Zaytuna Palestinian Embroidery Project enables women to make traditional handicrafts through funding from the Women to Women Initiative.

- **\$3,000 to St. Joseph's Catholic School** Helping sustain teacher salaries and maintain a stable learning environment for students in the Ramallah community.
- **Tuition support for two college students** Opening doors for young Palestinian women to pursue higher education and build pathways to long-term success.
- **\$4,000 to the Zaytuna Palestinian Embroidery Project** Funding an initiative that transforms traditional handcraft skills into sustainable income-generating opportunities, empowering women both economically and socially.

A Growing Movement for Women's Empowerment

Women to Women continues to expand its reach, guided by a commitment to dignity, opportunity and long-term impact. Each contribution whether funding a student's tuition or supporting a community health program, helps build a stronger, more resilient future for Palestinian women and their families.

As the initiative grows, so does its vision, a Palestine where women have the resources, confidence, and support to lead, create, and thrive.

The Government Affairs Committee Amplifies Our Voice

Championing Our Community

Over the past year, the AFRP Government Affairs Committee continued mobilizing our community and advancing policy efforts for Palestine.

We organized virtual and in person advocacy events, held meetings with Members of Congress and federal agencies, strengthened coalitions with peer organizations, and expanded outreach into local communities.

In September 2025, the Committee welcomed Rev. Munther Isaac to Capitol Hill, where he urged lawmakers to support unrestricted humanitarian aid, ending the war in Gaza and atrocities in the West Bank, support the Block the Bombs Act (H.R. 3565), the Joint Resolutions of Disapproval (JRDs) on arms sales, and address rising settler violence and travel restrictions affecting Palestinian Americans.

During this period, Committee engagement produced promising outcomes, including:

- **Rep. Melanie Stansbury (DNM):** Agreed to sign the Block the Bombs Act
- **Rep. Chellie Pingree (DME):** Expressed strong support for UNRWA relief, Block the Bombs, and shared updates on an aidworker accountability bill
- **Former Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (RGA):** Open to



Members of the AFRP Government Affairs Committee coordinated a meeting with Rev. Munther Isaac and Rep. Darin LaHood (Rep. IL).

Ambassador Husam Zomlot (left), Palestinian Ambassador to the United Kingdom

continued dialogue before her resignation

To strengthen year round advocacy, the Committee launched local action committees within chapter Ramallah Clubs, enabling members to meet with federal, state, and local officials beyond the annual Day of Action. Early results include new Block the Bombs cosponsors —most notably **Rep. Maxine Waters (DCA)** — and coordinated advocacy for the West Bank Violence Prevention Act.

To improve tracking and follow-up, the Committee implemented an automated system that standardizes and logs congressional meeting data, reducing errors and enabling realtime updates.

The Committee also hosted AFRP Town Halls, including a February 2026 virtual briefing with **Ambassador Husam Zomlot** and an April session with the **Palestinian Land Authority and Ramallah Municipality** to help members navigate new land-related legal processes.

The AFRP further expanded coalition based advocacy through the **Coalition of Palestinian American Organizations (CPAO)**, focusing on settler violence and land confiscation. These efforts increased bipartisan engagement and prompted State Department inquiries into specific cases. A centralized website is being developed to document constituent stories and support ongoing congressional outreach.

Advocacy on the Move

Chapter Ramallah Clubs throughout the U.S. have expanded year-round advocacy by meeting with Members of Congress and state legislators outside the annual Day of Action.

Last fall, members from Maryland, Virginia, and DC held a full day of meetings on Capitol Hill, focusing on the West Bank Violence Prevention Act (H.R. 3045 / S. 2667). **Senators Chris Van Hollen** and **Jamie Raskin** expressed support for the bill, demonstrating the AFRP's growing ability to engage federal lawmakers throughout the year.

Ahead of the June primaries, the Ramallah Club of Los Angeles/Orange County, working with DSA-LA to support pro-Palestinian candidates, including **Marissa Roy** for City Attorney. AFRP Congressional



Members of the Maryland advocacy delegation

Coordinator **Farah Kandah** met with Roy and DSALA to discuss volunteer strategies such as phone banking. Notably, if elected as City Attorney, Roy would have the legal authority to block arms exports from Los Angeles ports to Israel by citing international and federal law, including the Leahy Law. Given that Los Angeles ports and LAX are utilized to ship weapons and weapons components, including guidance

systems, to Israel, this would represent a significant logistical and legal intervention.

To support all these expanding efforts, the AFRP developed an automated Congressional Meeting Tracker using Microsoft Forms, SharePoint, and Power Automate. The system standardizes data collection, eliminates manual entry, and enables realtime tracking, improving follow-up and long-term strategy. As more clubs adopt the tool, it will guide future advocacy and resource alignment.

Looking ahead, the AFRP aims to strengthen its local network in emerging states. In partnership with the Houston Ramallah Club, the AFRP plans to engage potential **Senator James Talarico** to explore collaboration at the state and federal levels — an important step in building AFRP's presence in Texas and supporting effective advocacy for Palestinian rights.



Palestinian Americans from Maryland, Virginia and DC met with Sen. Chris Van Hollen (Dem. Maryland) to discuss Palestinian rights.

Camp Ramallah

Where our Youth, Grow, Lead and Belong

The purpose of Camp Ramallah is to inspire our youth – ages 13 to 18 – to embrace and deepen their connection to their Ramallah and Palestinian heritage. Set in a beautiful natural environment, the camp blends cultural enrichment with challenge, adventure and personal growth, creating an experience that strengthens identity and builds lifelong bonds.

Camp Ramallah brings together teens from across the U.S. to immerse them in our Ramallah heritage, learn about our Palestinian history and lineage, and celebrate the richness of our culture, all while enjoying a dynamic and fun camp atmosphere. Through this unique blend of learning and adventure, campers leave with a stronger sense of pride, belonging and community.

The inaugural Camp Ramallah took place in 2018 in the beautiful Smoky Mountains of Tennessee and has been a yearly summer camp for Ramallah youth ever since.

In 2025, Camp Ramallah was held at Camp Kanuga in the mountains of North Carolina near Asheville, marking our largest session to date with 64 campers — an even balance of girls and boys — who came together for an unforgettable week, including four participants who traveled from Ramallah to be part of this enriching experience.

The cultural activities included learning about **izweh** — discovering the roots of our extended family/clans and our common lineage. They are told about the importance of belonging and social identity. Other cultural activities included how to dance the traditional **debkeh**, learning Arabic songs and how to do the **zefeh** chants, reciting the Lord's



Prayer in Arabic, and learning basic Arabic words and greetings. The educational activities included a variety of civic-minded classes as well.

The outdoor adventure activities included hiking, athletic competitions, swimming, canoeing, and archery under supervision by camp staff.

The youth that attend really enjoy all aspects of the camp while building a bond with their Ramallah family, friends and culture.

Camp Ramallah has a dedicated team of volunteer staff that work tirelessly to ensure camp is successful. Our volunteer staff consists of 14 adult committee members including a medical doctor, two additional adult volunteers in support roles, approximately 10 counselors and one head counselor.

Opening Doors to Opportunity

A Year of Scholarship Support

The American Federation of Ramallah Palestine is dedicated to supporting its members through various impactful initiatives, one of the most longstanding being the Scholarship Program.

Originally established to assist immigrant students from Ramallah with financial challenges, this program aims to create educational opportunities for deserving individuals. Since its inception, the AFRP has awarded more than **\$5 million** in scholarships, helping students worldwide pursue their academic goals.

In 2025, the AFRP Scholarship Committee allocated **\$113,000** in scholarships. In the U.S., **34 students** received scholarships totaling **\$64,000** for the academic school year, and in Ramallah, **24 students** benefited from scholarships amounting to **\$49,000**.

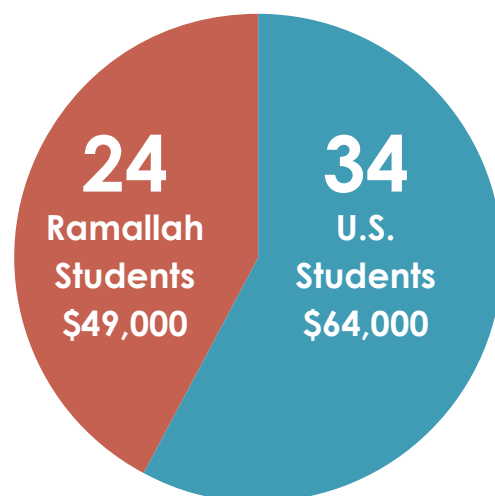
Outstanding High School Senior Award

The Outstanding High School Senior Award celebrates the exceptional achievements of high school students within the AFRP community. This program honors seniors who exemplify leadership, dedication to community service, and a strong commitment to civic engagement.

Each year, the AFRP selects students who have demonstrated these outstanding contributions to their schools and local communities. In 2025, the AFRP awarded four **\$500 Apple gift cards** — a total of **\$2,000** in awards for graduating seniors.

These programs reflect the AFRP's dedication to fostering educational success and honoring the leadership and efforts of young community members.

Distribution of Scholarships
\$113,000 Total



Rommie Jallad

For recipient Rommie Jallad, an undergraduate student at the Ohio State University, the scholarship has been vital in his pursuit of a college degree:

"I was honored to receive a scholarship from the American Federation of Ramallah...as this scholarship has been a tremendous help in supporting my education."



The AFRP Leads Day of Action on Capitol Hill

Being Seen, Being Heard

For the first time ever, the American Federation of Ramallah Palestine coordinated two trips to Washington, D.C. for its annual Day of Action on Capitol Hill.

In November 2025, the American Federation of Ramallah Palestine hosted its annual Day of Action in Washington, D.C., bringing 16 young advocates together from across the country to engage members of Congress on urgent issues impacting Palestinians both here and abroad.

Day of Action is an impactful opportunity for members of the Federation to gain a better understanding of Capitol Hill, learn from leading experts and practitioners, and make attempts at direct change through constructive dialogue. During the visit, these young advocates demonstrated their dedication through training and outreach to Congressional offices, helping schedule and prepare meaningful meetings on Capitol Hill.

The two-day event kicked off with conversations and policy briefings with leading organizations in Washington, D.C. such as the Arab American Institute (AAI), where we got the chance to speak with and learn from Maya Berry, the Executive Director, followed by a session with Ilan Goldberg from J Street and Hady Amr, formerly with



AFRP delegation with Mother Agapia at Day of Action 2.0



Day of Action 2.0 participants with Pulitzer Prize winning poet, Mosab Abu Toha

the Biden Administration and now with the Brookings Institution. Later that afternoon, we met with leaders at The Jerusalem Fund, where our advocates heard from the IMEU Policy Project and A New Policy to have deeper discussions about current legislation and specific member information.

The final day of our event took our advocates to Capitol Hill for meetings with several members of



Day of Action participants with Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA)

Congress and their staff to share perspectives, discuss key policy priorities, and build relationships. The group began the day with a visit to the office of Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, who spoke about the importance of continued advocacy, and shared words of encouragement and solidarity. Throughout the day, participants held meetings across both the House and Senate, raising urgent concerns and reinforcing the



AFRP leaders with Jennifer Dabis (second from left) of Juzoor in Ramallah

importance of Palestinian American voices in policy discussions. Later in the day, several advocates represented us at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, further expanding conversations around regional policy and diplomacy.

The second Day of Action trip took place in May 2026, and was a collaboration with Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP). This collaboration is not just strategic — it is transformative for Palestinian advocacy in the U.S.

CMEP mobilizes a broad coalition of Christian denominations committed to justice, human rights and peace in the Middle East. Panel speakers included Mother Agapia, Peter Beinart, Pulitzer Prize-winning Palestinian poet Mosab Abu Toha, Palestinian activist Mohsen Mahdawi, Rev. Khader El-Yateem, Josh Paul from A New Policy, Jennifer Dabis from Juzoor in Ramallah and many others.

By joining forces with CMEP, the AFRP’s lived experience and community-rooted advocacy were



Day of Action November 2025

elevated within a powerful, faith-based network that Congress takes seriously.

The annual Day of Action event emphasizes the strength and commitment of Palestinian American advocates working to ensure their concerns are heard on the Hill. Through continued relationship building and consistent outreach, the AFRP remains committed to continuing this work by supporting advocates from our community with opportunities for direct impact.



Participants from Day of Action November 2025

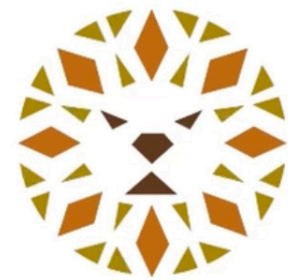


The Azeez and Shouky Shaheen Senior Citizens Center will be dedicated in late 2026.

A Legacy of Giving, A Future of Care

The Ramallah Foundation

Since 1943, the Ramallah Foundation, Inc. of New York, has stood as a source of hope, compassion and philanthropy. Founded by a close-knit group of Ramallah families, the Ramallah Foundation has remained unwavering in its mission to uplift the quality of life, health, education, and social wellbeing of the people of Ramallah and neighboring communities.



مؤسسة رام الله
Ramallah Foundation
المسجلة 1943. Inc.



The Azeez and Shouky Shaheen Senior Citizens Center will accommodate nearly 70 senior citizens.

Below: The facility's interior hallway showcases soft lighting and wide, accessible walkways created to enhance comfort and mobility for residents.



construction of this state-of-the-art senior citizens home, the largest endeavor since the building of the Ramallah Hospital in 1956.

Completed in 2026, the Azeez and Shouky Shaheen Senior Citizen Center is now working on the following:

- ✓ Furniture and fixtures are currently being procured for the facility
- ✓ Existing seniors will be moved into the new facility by the end of 2026
- ✓ An Executive Director and management positions will be filled before the grand opening

With an additional floor added, the new Center will now accommodate nearly 70 senior citizens, ensuring that our beloved elders can transition into this welcoming space.

This project is more than just bricks and mortar — it's a symbol of love and respect for our elders.

Every dollar raised fuels a vision of service, ensuring the benefit from its life-changing efforts. From building the first hospital in Ramallah — an ambitious dream realized by the collective strength of the Ramallah clans — to today's

monumental project, the **Azeez and Shouky Shaheen Senior Citizens Home**, the Ramallah Foundation, Inc. of New York continues its legacy of care with unwavering determination, making history once again with the

Leadership Ramallah

Building the Skills That Shape Our Future

At the Mid-Year Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, the AFRP hosted young adults from throughout the nation for professional development and skill-building for the annual Leadership Ramallah.

The gathering created a space for participants to reflect on the challenges and opportunities that come with navigating life as Palestinian American young adults while strengthening bonds within the next generation of community leaders.

The event started with AFRP President Joy Batteh-Freiha welcoming the participants and charging them to become more involved in the Federation and its programs.

The event was filled with several activities meant to challenge the group and encourage discussion about various topics. These activities included discussions focused on the unique perspective of living the Palestinian American experience and the types of misunderstandings or conflicts that can arise in professional, social, and public environments; a Women to Women demonstration led by Hanan Jaghab, which highlighted the vital role women play within Palestinian culture; a mental health discussion led by special



guest Dr. Jessie Hanna, an accomplished psychiatrist who brought both professional expertise and personal cultural understanding to a discussion with the participants.

Toward the end of the day, participants took part in a collaborative exercise that encouraged them to think about the future of the AFRP and how to increase engagement among young adults. Working in teams, they presented ideas focused on strengthening involvement within the Ramallah

community both locally and nationally. The energy, creativity, and dedication our Leadership Ramallah participants continue to play an important role in shaping the future of the Ramallah community.

The weekend was a reminder that being able to support one another, reflect together, and grow as a community is truly special, and in that sense, gatherings like our conventions and programs such as Leadership Ramallah are truly blessings for all of us.

New Narratives Engage Communities

The AFRP Educational & Cultural Exchange Fellowship

In 2025, the Educational and Cultural Exchange Mission's Palestine Fellowship — awarded to **Jennifer Mogannam, Ph.D.** and **Nadine Foty** — became a powerful testament to how AFRP's support is shaping the way new generations understand and engage with the Palestinian story.

The Fellowship is a competitive \$5,000 grant to help foster educational and cultural exchange through interactive engagement. It's an initiative of the AFRP Educational and Cultural Exchange Mission with the objective to support our community's thought leaders whose projects and ideas are positioned for growth and community engagement with Fellowship support.

Author, professor, oral historian, ethnographer and cultural critic, Dr. Jennifer Mogannam, devoted her Fellowship to "Villages in Exile" a Palestinian oral history collection and training project for families from Ramallah and Birzeit in central California. With Fellowship support, Dr. Mogannam interviewed community members and held oral history workshops about her project and training efforts at the San Francisco Ramallah Club in April 2025 and at the 2025 AFRP Convention in nearby Burlingame. Her website, which she says is a work in progress, documents her efforts at www.villagesinexile.com (password Ramallah). Plans are to continue with oral history collection to preserve histories for future generations and potentially expand the methodology to other communities. Dr. Mogannam, an assistant professor in the Department of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies and a faculty affiliate



Teacher Nadine Foty and her father, Fuad, teach Palestinian music to pre-K students.

at the Center for the Middle East and North Africa at University of California, Santa Cruz, said the Fellowship "is a gesture to young people in our community. . . that there is a place for them here. I truly believe this Fellowship can reach and energize a new demographic of our community. I am excited to see that happen and I am grateful for the opportunity."

Nadine Foty is an actor, musician, author and public elementary school teacher in Washington, D.C. She used her Fellowship to develop Palestinian and social justice themed activities and lessons for elementary school children.

Her "Palestine in Our Schools (PIOS) videos inform, inspire and support educators who teach young students about Palestinian culture. To Nadine, the Fellowship support was essential to expanding her program and outreach. Already, she has reached thousands of views online, and counting. "The videos serve as evidence of the effective nature of teaching kids core values of empathy, love, and tolerance through discussing Palestine alongside other social justice issues," she said. Her YouTube videos can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/@burnoutteachers6567/videos>

Also in 2025, AFCEM awarded a \$10,000 grant for a 10-day solidarity visit to Palestine led by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The delegation of 13 bishops, pastors and lay people from Latin America and the U.S. travelled in November 2025. The visit sought to amplify and centralize the Palestinian Christian struggle for justice.

The 2026 Palestine Fellowship awardees have also been selected and they are artist **Samar Hussaini** of West Orange, New Jersey and fashion designer **Rami Kashou** of Los Angeles, California. The duo, with roots in Ramallah, are collaborating in a mixed media and design exhibition to be held in 2027 at the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, titled "Threads that Bind Us."



Samar Hussaini



Rami Kashou

Ramallah Preservation Project

Preserving our Story, Safeguarding our Heritage

In 2025, the Ramallah Preservation Project (RPP) Committee remained dedicated to strengthening our bonds to Ramallah through the Palestinian American diaspora's photographs and documents.



The Committee's primary focus was to promote our work through social media (Facebook and Instagram), restart the project website, represent the community and our committee members' work through San Francisco's convention display, digitally preserve decades of AFRP historical documents and photos currently being stored in headquarters office, and facilitate chapter involvement through Photos/Documents Scan Days.

This year, the AFRP was awarded a significant grant dedicated to preserving our convention ad books and other historical documents — materials that tell the story of who we are, how we have grown, and the generations who built this Federation with love, sacrifice and an unwavering commitment.

This grant allows us to professionally digitize, archive, and safeguard decades of irreplaceable records including ad books, photographs, correspondence, programs, and community publications. These are not just documents; they are the living memory of our Clubs, our



families, and our journey as Palestinian Americans.

Through this grant, AFRP is building a permanent, accessible historical archive that reflects our pride, resilience, and our identity. It's one of the most meaningful investments we can make in our story.

In addition, we implemented a process of recruiting knowledgeable and interested members, developing workflows for uploading online, and establishing systems for backup of user submissions and find solutions for digital preservation. These efforts were instrumental in modernizing our approach to digitally preserving Palestinian culture and social life. We helped coordinate Scan Days through our committee and chapter leaders in three states: Florida, New Jersey,



and Tennessee.

The work of the Committee resulted in nearly 200 Facebook and Instagram posts, a backup of over 400 photographs and documents, five new Committee volunteers and intentional designs toward a user-friendly website archive for our project.

This success provides a strong foundation as we transition into next year, where we plan to prioritize finishing the details on the plan for the website and relaunching. ww

Strengthening our Future,

One Investment at a Time

This year marked a defining chapter in our commitment to securing the longterm vitality of the American Federation of Ramallah Palestine.

The AFRP Endowment Fund continues to grow as a cornerstone of stability, ensuring that our mission endures with strength, purpose and accountability.

Through the generosity of our community and the disciplined stewardship of the Endowment Committee, we are building a perpetual source of support for our existing programs and developing new programs that will help shape our future — scholarships that open doors for our youth, cultural initiatives that preserve our heritage, and humanitarian efforts that uplift the most vulnerable.

Each contribution strengthens our ability to plan boldly, respond to emerging needs, and invest in initiatives that reflect our values and aspirations.

This fund is more than a financial instrument, it's a living legacy — one that honors the sacrifices of those who came before us and empowers the next generation to lead with confidence and pride.

As we continue to expand the Endowment, we reaffirm our commitment to transparency, responsible governance and long-term impact.

To date, we have raised \$600,200.00 in pledges. We extend our deepest gratitude to every donor, partner, and advocate who believes in this vision.

Together, we are safeguarding the future of our Federation and ensuring that the spirit of Ramallah thrives for generations to come.

Our Fundraising Goal:

The **AFRP Endowment Campaign** is a historic effort to raise **\$5 million** that will ensure the long-term strength and stability of our Federation. Your generosity today will define tomorrow. Together, we can build an enduring legacy of hope, opportunity, and connection for the next generation of Ramallah families.

Our Purpose:

The **AFRP Endowment Campaign** is a bold step toward securing the long-term strength of our community. As we grow, so must our ability to sustain the programs that preserve our heritage, uplift our most vulnerable, and empower future leaders. This perpetual fund ensures lasting support for core initiatives such as scholarships, cultural preservation, our healthcare and senior services, while giving us the ability to meet emerging needs.

OUR GOAL
\$5,000,000

\$4,500,000

\$4,000,000

\$3,500,000

\$3,000,000

\$2,500,000

\$2,000,000

\$1,500,000

\$1,000,000

\$ 500,000

\$0



Scan the QR code to invest in the long-term strength and stability of our Federation.

Received as of
May 20, 2026

Pledged
\$600,200

Collected
\$153,800

Ramallah Clubs

Local Heartbeats that Keep our Federation Alive

The Ramallah Club chapters are the heartbeat of the Federation, ensuring that our culture, identity, and sense of belonging remain vibrant across generations.

Each of the 19 chapters serves as a local anchor where families gather, traditions are celebrated, and the stories of our heritage are passed forward in meaningful, everyday ways. Through their events, programs and community engagement, the chapter Clubs create spaces where Ramallah communities across the country can stay connected to one another and to Ramallah, no matter how far they may be from home.

This year, the AFRP has also played a vital role in strengthening this network of community anchors. We were instrumental in reviving the Ramallah Club of San Diego, California and the Ramallah Club of Birmingham, Alabama, two chapters whose renewed energy and leadership now contribute meaningfully to the unity and vitality of our national community. Their resurgence reflects the Federation's commitment to supporting every chapter and ensuring that no community stands alone.

Each of the chapter clubs' work keeps our community engaged and alive — from cultural celebrations and youth activities to charitable initiatives and national Federation programs. These



Birmingham, Alabama
Phoenix, Arizona
Los Angeles, California
San Diego, California
San Francisco, California
San Jose, California
Jacksonville, Florida
West Palm Beach, Florida
Chicago, Illinois
Louisville, Kentucky

Lexington, Kentucky
Detroit, Michigan
Plainfield, New Jersey
Levittown, New York
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Cleveland, Ohio
Knoxville, Tennessee
Houston, Texas
Washington, D.C.

chapters strengthen the threads that tie our people together, fostering unity, pride, and continuity. Without the active participation and energy of the Ramallah Clubs, the Federation

would lose its most essential connection to the people it serves. Together, they ensure that our culture is not only preserved but lived and carried forward with purpose and joy.



Our Deepest Gratitude To Our Donors

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