



Quarterly Newsletter

July - September 2025

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In this edition, we turn the spotlight on our humanitarian work. At a time when war and displacement have left so many families without safety or basic services, responding to urgent needs has become vital to our mission.

To bring this work to life, we share updates from one Israeli and one Palestinian grantee, each responding to humanitarian needs in different ways. [Physicians for Human Rights Israel](#) is a longstanding humanitarian actor, while [Zimam](#)—primarily a youth empowerment movement—has stepped into humanitarian response through an emergency project for displaced Gazan families in Cairo. Together, their work reflects both the depth and flexibility of grassroots action in times of crisis, with a special focus on humanitarian efforts that save lives, restore dignity, bring healing, and offer hope to families living under the weight of war.

The ongoing reality of war also means that lives continue to be lost. Our community was deeply shaken by two such losses in recent months. We pause to honor Awdah and Haya, whose memories call us to persevere in supporting those working to prevent further loss and to heal the wounds this war has inflicted.

Their legacy reminds us why B8 of Hope often wears two hats—combining humanization with humanitarian response. Some initiatives build understanding and empower communities: dialogue spaces, joint nonviolent co-resistance, protests calling for an end to the war and the suffering of Gazan civilians alongside demands for the immediate release of all Israeli hostages, as well as cross-border bridge-building through music, technology, entrepreneurship, language support, and women's empowerment. Others address urgent needs: healthcare, food distribution, trauma relief, and assistance for vulnerable Palestinian communities in the West Bank.

This newsletter turns to that second hat, focusing on the humanitarian work of our grantees.

B8 of Hope Activities in Switzerland and Beyond

Our work in Geneva is a small contribution to B8 of Hope's mission—a way to amplify our grantees' voices, foster connection, and build understanding far beyond the region.

If you'd like to see what's been keeping us busy on the ground, please visit our [Activities page](#).



◆ Honoring Awdah and Haya

This summer, our community of peacebuilders suffered two painful losses.



We mourn **Awdah Hathaleen**, a nonviolent activist, father, and community leader from Umm al-Khair in the South Hebron Hills. He was shot and killed at close range by a known violent settler while defending his home. Awdah leaves behind his wife and three young children. His lifelong commitment to nonviolence and his leadership in the face of repeated demolitions made him a pillar of his community.

We also mourn **Haya**, a young girl from Gaza whose story was first shared with us at the *Uniting for a Shared Future* conference in Berlin. Her death is a painful reminder that Gazans are not a faceless collective. No child should be remembered in mourning—they should be allowed to live in peace.



Both Awdah and Haya are now honored on our Wall of Mourning, alongside Ayat, Tamam, Sarah, Oded, and Vivian—activists and loved ones from our ecosystem of peace and nonviolence whom we have lost. Their memories strengthen our resolve to continue.

◆ Our Humanitarian Focus

Since the fall of 2023, B8 of Hope has placed a growing emphasis on humanitarian action. Meeting basic needs is urgent relief, but it also restores dignity and helps families sustain hope. Thanks to your generosity, more of our resources now support grassroots humanitarian initiatives alongside our peacebuilding efforts.

Today, our support reaches families in Bethlehem, Tulkarem, the Jordan Valley, Beit Umar, and the South Hebron Hills (Massafer Yatta) in the West Bank, as well as displaced Gazans in Bethlehem and Cairo. Together with our grantees, we are ensuring that urgent needs are met while also strengthening long-term resilience.



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What Your Support Makes Possible

- ⇒ Protecting vulnerable communities with 24/7 presence in high-risk areas and legal tools to document and deter settler violence.
- ⇒ Funding hospital treatment for Palestinian children, arranging transportation from the West Bank to Israeli hospitals, and supporting mobile clinics in underserved communities.
- ⇒ Providing food packages during Ramadan, supplies for displaced families in Tulkarem, and care packages for Gazan families (when access was possible).
- ⇒ Supporting alternative livelihoods, water delivery, livestock feed, and direct economic assistance to families in need.
- ⇒ Assisting Gazan orphans displaced to Bethlehem and offering trauma-informed workshops and first aid training for communities exposed to violence.
- ⇒ Helping Palestinian farmers maintain their land, with Jewish volunteers working alongside them in coordination with Palestinian landowners near Bethlehem.
- ⇒ Extending support beyond borders to Gazan refugee communities in Cairo, funding programs that help mothers care for their children and access health and education services.

Our humanitarian commitment comes to life in the stories below, where we profile Physicians for Human Rights Israel, a longstanding humanitarian grantee, and spotlight an emergency project led by Zimam, a Palestinian youth movement that stepped into humanitarian response for displaced Gazan families in Cairo.

◆ Grantee Profile: Physicians for Human Rights Israel

For nearly forty years, [Physicians for Human Rights Israel \(PHRI\)](#) has upheld a simple but powerful principle: healthcare is a human right. Founded in 1988 by Israeli physician Dr. Ruchama Marton during the First Intifada, PHRI brings together Israeli and Palestinian medical professionals and volunteers to ensure that people who are most excluded from care can access it with dignity. Over the decades, their

work has expanded to reach a wide spectrum of underserved communities under Israel's responsibility: Palestinians living under occupation, migrants and refugees, prisoners and detainees, and marginalized residents of Israel itself.



© PHRI

B8 of Hope is proud to support their **mobile clinics in the West Bank**, which have become a lifeline for families with little or no access to healthcare. Several times each month, volunteer doctors, nurses, and pharmacists travel to remote towns and villages, providing care that residents cannot otherwise reach. For many, these

clinics are not one option among many—they are the only source of medical attention available. In the first half of 2025 alone, PHRI's clinics provided more than 18,500 patient visits across 46 outings, with women and children making up the majority.

PHRI also invests in those who provide urgent care on the ground. This year, they launched workshops for Palestinian first responders—ambulance drivers, paramedics, and local medics—who face daily risks and trauma. Led by trauma specialists, these trainings offered both practical emergency tools and psychological support.

PHRI has also long worked in Gaza. Before October 7, 2023, their teams operated inside the Strip, providing care and facilitating evacuations for patients needing advanced treatment elsewhere. After the war began, they played an instrumental role in arranging medical evacuations for critically ill and injured Gazans. Today, those channels are almost entirely closed, leaving more than 12,000 patients on waiting lists. PHRI continues to advocate for access and document the devastating health consequences of these restrictions.



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Behind the statistics are personal stories. One woman, S, from Beit Ummar in the West Bank, had suffered chronic pain for years but could not reach hospitals because of road closures and fear of settler attacks. PHRI arranged referrals, covered her costs, and secured appointments in East Jerusalem. For the first time in years, she received a clear diagnosis and the prospect of surgery that could transform her quality of life.

We are grateful to support PHRI's dedicated teams as they keep this lifeline of medical care open.

◆ *Project Spotlight: Zimam in Cairo*

Zimam, whose name means “reins” or “taking initiative” in Arabic, is a pioneering Palestinian youth movement working across the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. Grounded in democracy, pluralism, and nonviolence, they empower young leaders to shape a more engaged and peaceful society.

Though humanitarian work is not their usual focus, the urgency of the war pushed Zimam to find ways to respond to immediate needs outside their regular programs. In the early months of the war, they worked with colleagues on the ground in Gaza to distribute food and hygiene care packages. When that

door closed due to the deteriorating situation inside Gaza, they sought another way to respond—creating a safe space in Cairo for displaced Gazan children. Zimam reached out to B8 of Hope with an urgent request to support this initiative, and we immediately recognized its value.

For Gazan families who fled to Egypt, life has been marked by trauma and uncertainty. They escaped horrific conditions only to become undocumented refugees, unable to access schooling, health care, or government services. Parents face daily struggles to provide for their children, while many children have now been out of school for nearly two years.

In response, Zimam and its partner [Rise Alliance of Children](#) established a **safe learning and play space in central Cairo**. Every morning, more than sixty preschool-aged children gather there for trauma-informed, play-based programs. The demand is overwhelming: the waitlist now exceeds 1,700 children, with enrollment rotating every two to three months to include as many as possible.

The space has quickly grown beyond schooling. In the afternoons, it hosts Zimam's youth empowerment programs, continuing their civic leadership work in exile. Mothers accompanying their children also take part in **economic empowerment workshops**, gaining skills to support their families. And through connections made in B8 of Hope's grantee community, Zimam has begun working with partners working in Egypt to explore **post-traumatic growth workshops** for teachers, parents, and educators.



This initiative responds to urgent needs while staying true to Zimam's vision: empowering the next generation to lead with resilience, dignity, and hope—even in displacement.

Thank you

Your generosity has already brought real relief—food on tables, medicine to those who couldn't reach a hospital, protection for vulnerable families, and safe spaces for children far from home. We could not do this without you.

Should you wish to add your support this year, even the smallest gesture helps us remain present for families and communities in need. From all of us at B8 of Hope, thank you for being part of this work.

♦ Community Updates



Call for Applications!

We are happy to announce the fourth edition of *Let's Talk About Peace*, a collaborative workshop by Philanthropic Adventures and B8 of Hope. Philanthropic Adventures is a Swiss nonprofit association for young people to find information, inspiration, and support to take action for social and environmental issues. *Let's Talk About Peace* is an educational workshop designed by Philanthropic Adventures, featuring B8 of Hope's focus on peacebuilding and peace philanthropy. This one-day-in person workshop is aimed for participants in Geneva and region, aged 15 to 18.

More details in the flier! Candidates can sign up by emailing hello@philanthropicadventures.com

★ What is Peace
Peace isn't just people holding hands and smiling.
Peace can be loud!
It can be messy!
It can mean standing up, speaking out, showing **EMPATHY**!
It's not about being perfect.
It's about being **BRAVE**!

👉 Join us for a powerful one-day workshop with B8 of Hope — to learn about peace philanthropy in support of Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders working hand in hand and paving a path for a better future.

📌 Be prepared to:

- Hear stories that will inspire you
- Learn tools to make an impact in your own world
- Take action to support Peace

Workshop
LET'S TALK
ABOUT PEACE
October 11th
at 11:00 AM

👉 JOIN US!

🕒 When? Saturday October 11th, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM
📍 Where? B8 of Hope workspace, Rte de Chêne 63
🏷️ Philanthropic Adventures Fee: 70 CHF per student
🍽️ Lunch included!
📌 Workshop designed by Philanthropic Adventures (with ❤️)
📧 Sign up: hello@philanthropicadventures.com

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B8fully Yours,
The B8 of Hope Team



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