



The First National Bank

Corporate Social Responsibility 2013

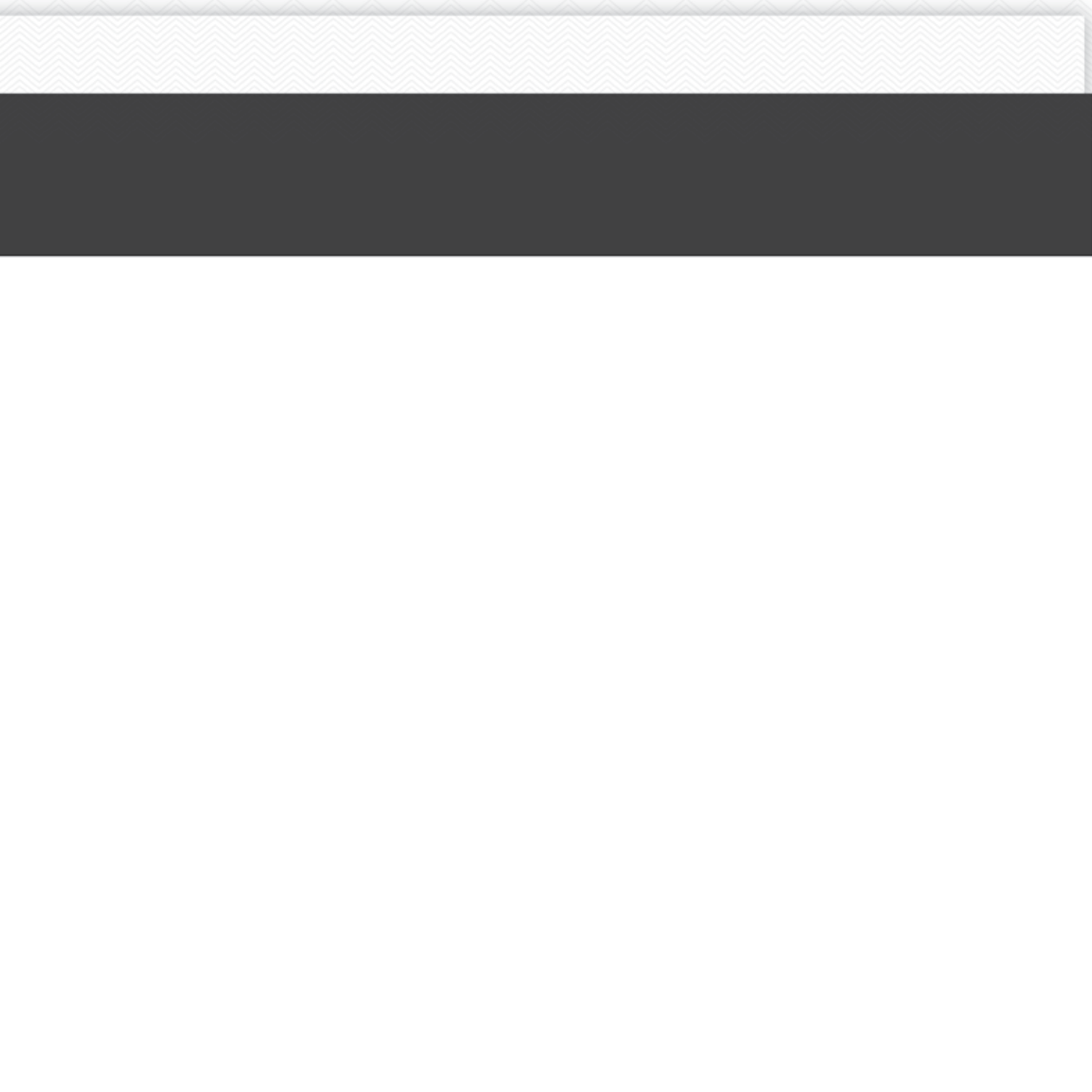
Our responsibility... is to serve our community





{ Our Commitment

To be with our customers every step of the way and
to be a driver of economic and community development. }





Our responsibility is to serve our community

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Hashim Shawa

Chairman of the Board and
General Manager

2013 ... Unceasing Delivery

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address you through this corporate social responsibility annual report that captures Bank of Palestine's humanitarian and development activities in 2013. This contribution surpasses business transactions; it manifests the Bank's dedicated efforts to meet the needs of the community which go beyond the mere provision of financial services to support activities, events and programs that combat poverty, bring joy to children, invigorate the nation's economy and achieve sustainable development.

During the past few years, Bank of Palestine channeled its Corporate Social Responsibility towards servicing to our people, thus dedicating around 5 percent of net profits to community support. Different sectors the Bank supports include, health and environment, youth, innovation, sports, arts and culture, social and economic development, diaspora affairs, humanitarian aid and women empowerment.

Bank of Palestine encourages its staff to become involved in voluntary work through the engagement in projects initiated by partner organizations and humanitarian causes. Due to the exceptional circumstances that have prevailed in Palestine in 2013, Bank of Palestine has resolved to raise the percentage of its contribution to corporate social responsibility up to 6.4 percent of its net profit in 2013 reaching a total of USD 2,536,806. Bank of Palestine made donations to a family relief project and the renovation of homes in the Gaza Strip that have been affected by the snowstorm that swamped Palestine last December. As an act towards health development, Bank of Palestine, in concert with partner organizations launched the «Gaza is in our Hearts» project.

The Bank's development projects have had strong impact on social development. For example, the Al-Bayyara project provides children with a safe place to engage in recreational and educational activities. These playgrounds will constitute a major junction in the life of children, providing them with a space to grow and play.

In the field of education, Bank of Palestine has celebrated with its partners the inauguration of «Zamala Fellowship Program,» which provides fellowships to professors from Palestinian universities to further their education and research at overseas institutions. Professors specialize in different subjects such as medicine, ICT, economics, environment, agriculture, law, science, and financial and banking services. The Bank has also sponsored different projects and activities with a goal of creating sustainable projects and encouraging organizations and individuals to adopt environmentally friendly approaches in their daily lives.

The activities carried out by Bank of Palestine as part of its corporate social responsibility have boosted the confidence of the public and clients in the services it provides. We are glad we have been able to make substantial contributions towards the betterment of our society, culture, and national identity. We shall continue to work tirelessly towards a better bank, a stronger community, and an institution that strives for the empowerment of social and economic growth here in Palestine.

Sincerely,



Development, Economic & Diaspora Affairs

Bank of Palestine has devoted efforts to the economic and social growth and development of the Palestinian people and community. It has carried out several infrastructure development projects and sponsored activities, drawing up meticulous plans in all areas and attracting Palestinian investors from outside Palestine. The Bank's efforts are geared toward bringing about a qualitative development leap in all areas.



Al-Bayyara Playgrounds Project

One of the sustainable projects that aim to provide safe recreational space for Palestinian children and increase green areas throughout Palestine, Al-Bayyara Playgrounds Project was launched by Bank of Palestine in 2012. The project is being carried out in partnership with a group of Palestinian institutions and individuals locally and internationally, including Welfare Association, ANERA, Muna and Basem Hishmeh Foundation, George and Rhonda Salem Family Foundation.

In addition, Bank of Palestine has organized several activities aiming to incentivize Palestinians in the diaspora to support and contribute to the establishment of new playgrounds for children and expand Al-Bayyara project to all Palestinian villages where children can play safely and peacefully.

Playgrounds Completed in 2013

- Jenin Playground – Jenin Governorate
- Al-Obaidiyya Playground – Bethlehem Governorate
- Abu Falah Village Playground – Ramallah & Al-Bireh Governorate
- Ras Karkar Village Playground – Ramallah & Al-Bireh Governorate
- Jabalia Playground – Gaza Strip

Contribution to Establish Public Park in Ni'lin Village

Bank of Palestine contributed funds to establish a public park in Ni'lin village west of Ramallah Governorate as a contribution to the infrastructure development and provision of recreational picnic areas for the villagers.

Donation to Establish Midhat Children Playground

As part of Al-Bayyara Project, Bank of Palestine donated funds towards the construction of a playground for children in Beit Ur Al-Tahta village in commemoration of the late Midhat Sleiman Al-Ouri for his achievements and work in bank of Palestine for thirty years.



Second Marketing Agriculture Exhibition

The Directorate of Agriculture in Dura, Hebron, organized the Second Marketing Agricultural Exhibition sponsored by Bank of Palestine which aimed to improve the mechanisms for marketing Palestinian agricultural products.

National Products Exhibition in the Islamic University

Under the sponsorship of Bank of Palestine, the Faculty of Commerce at the Islamic University in Gaza inaugurated the Fourth Palestinian National Products Exhibition in the Conference Center with to promote Palestinian products.

Mustaqbal (Future of Palestine) Conference

Falastin Al-Mustaqbal (The Future of Palestine) is a youth initiative that explores new steps, ideas and methods to combat the challenges of Palestinian youth in different scientific and life related areas through organizing them by NewPal Organization. The activities of the organization include an annual conference titled Falastin Al-Mustaqbal and other workshops that focus in particular on the younger generation.

Horizons of Agricultural Development Conference

Bank of Palestine sponsored a conference on Horizons for Agricultural Development in a fertile plain. Al-Bikai'a, is the third largest plain in Palestine with an area of 30,000 dunums. Agricultural experts in botany and husbandry from Palestine, Arab and European countries participated in the conference.

Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF) Conference

HCEF concluded its annual conference held in Washington DC with a sponsorship from Bank of Palestine. The conference is one of the largest and most prominent activities advocating Palestine. The activities of the three-day conference encompassed workshops and lectures given to more than 400 political, economical, religious and academic figures as well as to a young audience. The conference addressed methods of achieving peace and justice for Palestine.

Institute for Palestinian Studies

Bank of Palestine continues to support the Institute for Palestine Studies for research and analysis of Palestinian affairs. The Institute was founded in Beirut in 1963 with offices in Washington, Ramallah and Paris.

Palestinian Economists Association

Bank of Palestine made a financial donation to the Palestinian Economists Association, which is considered the first scientific and professional association that unites Palestinian's together.



N.B.: Information in this paragraph is adapted from UNRWA sources.



Donation for the UNRWA Palestinian Archive

In cooperation with UNRWA, a number of Palestinian institutions and European governments, Bank of Palestine provided support to a project that archives all aspects of the life and history of Palestinian refugees. The project encompasses more than 430,000 photographs, 10,000 printed pictures, 85,000 slides, 75 films and 730 videos. In 2009, the UNRWA archive was listed in the UNESCO as part of global memory. the archive contains iconic photographs of Palestinian refugees forced to leave their homes in 1948. The photographs were shot by UNRWA photographers during the second half of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century.



Sponsoring Christmas Celebrations

Bank of Palestine sponsored Christmas celebrations and associated cultural, recreational social and religious activities. In addition to taking part in lighting the Christmas tree, representatives from the Bank also took part in the midnight mass in Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour.

American Friends of UNRWA Gaza Solidarity Marathon

American Friends of UNRWA organized their annual fundraising charity marathon to support activities in the Gaza Strip. Young Palestinians, Arabs and Americans took part in the marathon with the support of Bank of Palestine.



Sponsorship of Ramallah Convention in the USA

Bank of Palestine has sponsored the 55th Ramallah Convention organized by the American federation of Ramallah and Palestinian community in Detroit, USA. The convention aimed to enhance means of communication, cultural and social exchange between Palestinian diaspora in the USA and their homeland, as well as involve them in the building and development process in Palestine.

Al-Shyoukh Municipality

Based on its vision to build modern, civilized and beautiful cities and towns in Palestine, Bank of Palestine has made donations to construct a modern entrance to Al-Shyoukh town south of Hebron Governorate.

Charity Event in Chile

Bank of Palestine sponsored a fundraising event held in Santiago, Chile for developing projects in Palestine. The event was attended by the diaspora community.

Know Thy Heritage 2013

As part of its contribution to community development, Bank of Palestine sponsored “Know Thy Heritage” Project in cooperation with several institutions in Palestine and the USA. The purpose of the project was to strengthen social and cultural interactions and deepen relationships between Palestinians inside and outside Palestine. The Bank accommodated diaspora youth at the General Management headquarters in Ramallah to provide them with a presentation on the history of Bank of Palestine.

Ramallah Shopping Festival


Held in Palestine for the first time, Ramallah Shopping Festival aimed to provide Palestinians with shopping opportunities at low prices due to the difficult economic conditions. The festival intended to recover the commercial and economic activity in Ramallah city as the Palestinian market should be a shopping destination for all Palestinians. The activities of Ramallah Shopping Festival for 2013, included cultural and art events, and were launched during the first week of August.

Other Sponsorships and Donations

- Donation to bar Association
- Donation to Balaa Municipality
- Donation to the Retired Employees Association
- Donation to renovate the ceiling of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem

Arts and Culture

Arts and culture are the historical inheritance of the Palestinian national identity preserved and cherished by our grandfathers and great grandfathers. They are linked to our daily life practices, including customs, traditions, songs and popular food. As part of its corporate social responsibility and in line with its vision to support culture, Bank of Palestine sponsored cultural activities and festivals embodying our Palestinian identity, including exhibitions that stimulate our historical memory and honor Palestinian innovators, writers and thinkers.

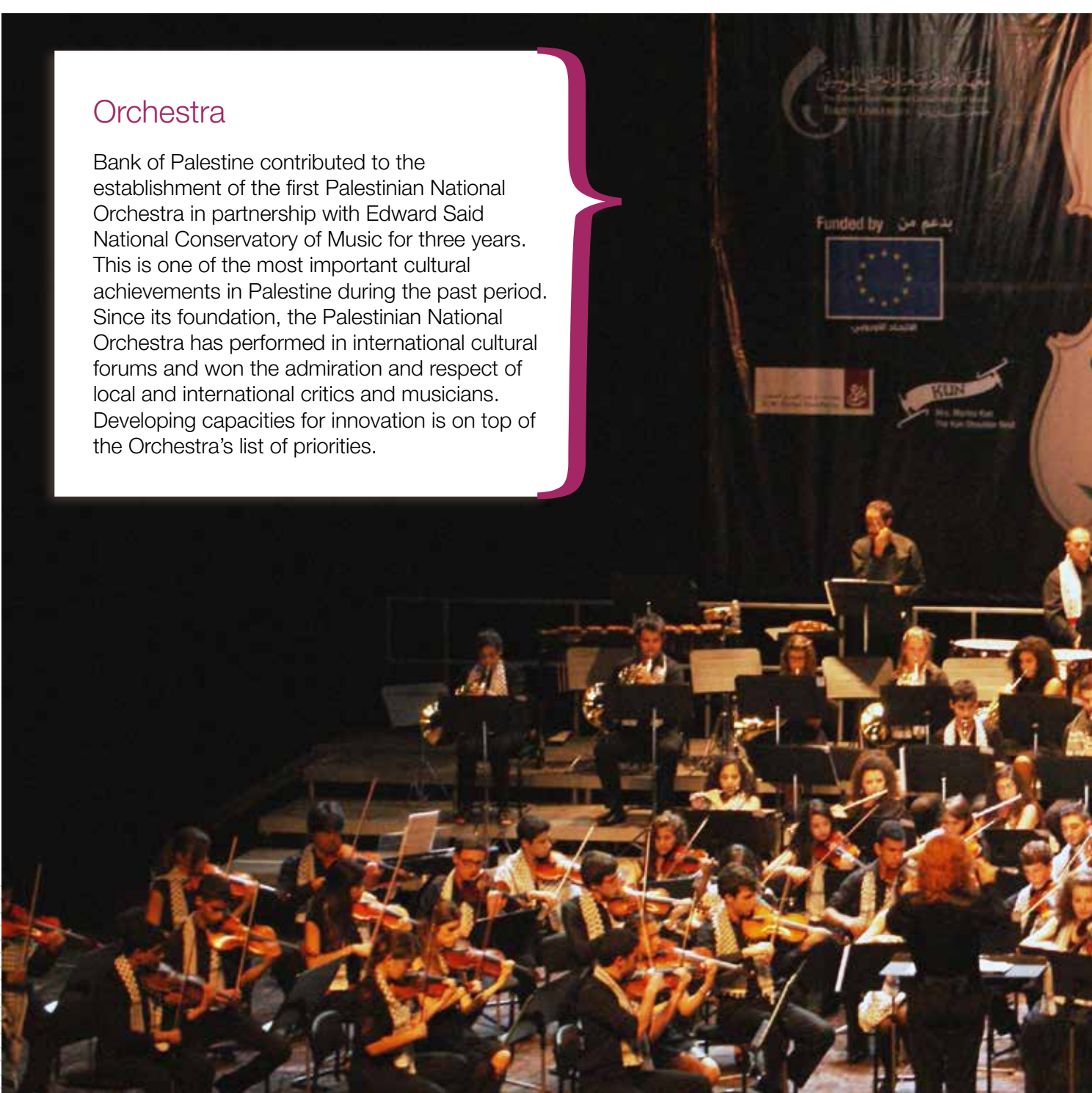


Renovation of Sbat Al-Alami House

Bank of Palestine has made donations to support the renovation of Sbat Al-Alami House in Gaza city. The renovations works have been completed under the supervision of Iwan – Center of Architectural heritage in Gaza. Sbat Al-Alami House is historically significant, having its roots date back to more than 430 years. It was built during the Ottoman era and is regarded as a cultural inheritance that Al-Alami family seeks to preserve.

Orchestra

Bank of Palestine contributed to the establishment of the first Palestinian National Orchestra in partnership with Edward Said National Conservatory of Music for three years. This is one of the most important cultural achievements in Palestine during the past period. Since its foundation, the Palestinian National Orchestra has performed in international cultural forums and won the admiration and respect of local and international critics and musicians. Developing capacities for innovation is on top of the Orchestra's list of priorities.



اوركسترا فلسطين للشباب
The Palestine Youth Orchestra

الراعي الدائم
The Permanent Sponsor



Art Camp for Dar Al-Kalima University College of Art & Culture

As part of its contribution to enhance and upgrade the level of Palestinian culture, Dar Al-Kalima University college of Art & Culture has held a training camp to learn from the expertise of art schools in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Music Festivities – Riwaq Center for Architecture

Riwaq Center for Architecture exerts tremendous efforts to preserve and protect cultural, architectural and natural properties in Palestine through cooperation and partnership with local organizations. Riwaq Center organized a number of music festivals in several Palestinian districts.

Rekindling Cultural Heritage

Bank of Palestine has continued to sponsor cultural and artistic activities in Palestine to enhancing national identity, revive and consolidate Palestinian heritage, customs and norms, and empower Palestinian culture through sponsoring cultural and heritage activities, Bank of Palestine ensures smooth transition of the Palestinian culture to future generations.

Jerusalem (Al-Quds) Festival

Yabous Cultural Center organized the Jerusalem festival in the garden of the National Music Institute. “Jerusalem is the Luminous City of Culture,” featured Palestinian and international musical groups from Palestine, the occupied Golan, Brazil, Spain and Algeria. The opening evening of the festival featured Palestinian artist Reem Al-Banna and her Spanish group performing her new work titled “Manifestations of Unity and Revolution.”







Birzeit Sixth Heritage Week

Rozana Association for Architectural Development in Birzeit initiated the Sixth Birzeit Heritage Week Festival for 2013 with the sponsorship of Bank of Palestine. The five-day festival took place in the streets of the old city of Birzeit and included economic, social and cultural activities, as well as the 'craftsmen arcade' displaying pottery and glass work, sand drawings and weaving, and the 'embroidery arcade' showcasing accessories and other designs.





“Ayyam Jifnawiyya” Festival

“Ayyam Jifnawiyya” (Jifna Days) festival in Jifna featured artistic and heritage activities and homemade food products exhibitions. The festival also included theatrical performances embodying the life of Palestinians in villages and rural areas. The festival also featured an apricot marketing exhibition which the village is famous for.





Solomon's Pools Festival at the Convention Palace

The Convention Palace hosted a group of prominent Arab and local artists to hold Solomon's Pools Night Festival. The festival included interesting national literary, artistic and cultural activities as well one of the largest products exhibition in Palestine.

Beit Jala International Peace Festival

Beit Jala International Peace Festival was launched in the new Municipality Building in Bethlehem Governorate to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and advocate their legitimate right to an independent free state and a dignified life. The festival aimed to improve the economic condition of the Palestinian people and strengthen their steadfastness. The festival intended to enhance means of cross-cultural interaction and communication between the local and international communities and activate tourism through introducing tourist sites in Beit Jala and Bethlehem.

Lady of the Annunciation Church in Beit Jala Celebrates 160th Jubilee

The community of the Lady of the Annunciation Church in Beit Jala “Al- Bishara Church” came together in celebration of the 160 years of its establishment. The celebration was attended by local inhabitants, parishioners and officials. The Lady of the Annunciation Church is one of the earliest churches of the Latin Patriarchate in Palestine, Jordan and the Galilee.

Jerusalem Shopping Festival

Bank of Palestine sponsored the Fourth Jerusalem Shopping Festival to revive and recover the economy and purchase activity in Salah Edin Street in the city centre. The festival also introduced the public to Jerusalem products especially embroidery work, traditional weaving and homemade food made by Palestinian women in the holy city in hopes to raise the living standards of Jerusalem families.

Palestine International Festival

International, Arab and Palestinian musical and dance groups participated in the Fifteenth Palestine International Dance and Music Festival. Some artists included were Boney M, Murad Bouriki, Farid Ghannam and Dar Qandil Group. Festival activities were performed in Ramallah, Jenin, Tulkarem, Jerusalem and Nablus.

Birzeit Nights Festival

The third Birzeit Nights Festival took place in Birzeit University campus with the participation of three Palestinian dance and musical groups performing folklore dance and songs: Naqsh Group, Juzoor Group and Asayel for Popular Art. The festival went on for two days.

Wadi Al-Sha'eer Festival

Wadi Al-Sha'eer Festival in Tulkarem constitutes a distinguished cultural and national demonstration. In addition to the large public attendance, the activities of the festival included a cultural contest titled "Abdel Rahim Mahmoud Annual Creativity Award 'The Young Poet' in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Culture.

Wein A Ramallah Festival

Ramallah Municipality organized the Fifth “Wein A Ramallah” Festival for 2013. The eight-day festival hosted artistic Palestinian groups and included theatrical performances and poetry recitalwas and someSome guests included Bisan Children Choir, poet Ahmad Dahbour, Victor Ghannam, Jaco Mueller from the USA, Kamilia Jubran from France. The festival was closed with a special performance by Hanin Group from Palestine.





Palestine Grapes Festival

Bank of Palestine sponsored the Grapes Festival that took place in Halhul Municipality Square for three days. The city of Halhul is famous for its annual yield of high-quality grapes. Different kinds of grapes and their manufactured products were on display during the festival, which also included popular art and recreational activities.

The Figs Festival

The Figs Festival was held in the village of Tel south of Nablus. Sponsored by Bank of Palestine, the agricultural, economic and cultural festival included poetry recital and dabka folklore dance performed by Nazareth Group for Popular Arts. Tel village is one of the largest exporting sources of figs in Palestine. It produces six types of figs yielded by trees that are 100 years and more old.

The Guava Festival

In support of national products, Bank of Palestine sponsored the Guava Festival that took place in the city of Qalqilya. The festival organized by the Chamber of Commerce and industry in Qalqilya Governorate, aimed to shed light on the agricultural situation in the city, and encourage support farmers.

Fifth Jerusalem Summer Nights Festival

The Cultural Forum Centre in the village of Beit Anan in East Jerusalem launched the events of the Summer Nights Festival sponsored by Bank of Palestine. The festival aimed to preserve and strengthen the national identity and heritage of Jerusalem, and provide a space for hope and joy.

First Rabi' Al-Ramadin Festival

The First Rabi' Al-Ramadin Festival was inaugurated in Hebron with the aim to support the Al-Ramadin bedouin population that is threatened with loss of identity. The festival introduced the public to the Bedouin heritage and life. Bedouin embroidery, traditional clothes and crafts were on display during the festival, including an exhibition of ancient tools and traditional Bedouin food.

Bethlehem Life Festival

Bethlehem Life Festival aimed at bringing life back to Bethlehem city centre which has been the pilgrimage road to the Church of the Nativity for hundreds of years. The festival was launched during a field tour in Nijmeh Street by about 50 young men and women from Bethlehem along with international volunteers. A briefing was also provided on the importance and value of religious and cultural heritage in Bethlehem.

The Pomegranates Festival

The Annual Pomegranates Festival took place in the town of Ein Areek in order to promote the cultivation of pomegranates. Ein Areek is famous for pomegranates and has about 10,000 trees. The festival focused on means to care for pomegranate trees, highlighting their cultural folkloric and artistic significance. The festival also included artistic performances and special recreational and cultural activities for children.

Jericho Dates Festival

The Fourth Dates Festival was organized in Jericho Municipality Auditorium with the aim of supporting the cultivation of dates and palm trees in Palestine. There are around 130,000 palm trees planted on 13,000 dunums in Jericho and the Jordan valley, and two canning and packaging factories employing more than 1,000 labourers.





Sports

Sport is a common language shared by everyone. The sports sector has a very positive impact on the image of modern Palestine. It is a self-confidence boosting activity. Believing in the significance of sport, BOP contributed support and sponsorship to sport clubs, competitions and tournaments including women's sport, equestrian sport, and international matches of Palestinian national teams, and others.



BOP Football Championship for Children – Al Baraem

BOP has launched the first football championship for children aged 10-14 with the hopes of discovering young talents and preparing a Palestinian national football team that can represent Palestine regionally and internationally, including the World Cup Championship. The championship presents a long-term strategy toward building a capable national football team that can compete in the 2022 World Cup Championship expected to be held in Qatar. In addition, Bank of Palestine signed an MoU with the Palestinian Football Federation and the Ministry of Education whereby the Bank has sponsored the Football Championship for Children. Involving basic schools associated with the Ministry of Education Directorate in the West Bank as well as sport clubs in Gaza Strip, the championship constituted a starting point to train talented children in football.



Progress of the Championship

The championship proceeded as planned in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. About 3,000 male and female children took part in it and the referees were selected from among the most outstanding male and female players. The championship project went on for more than six months in 2013.



Outcome of the Championship Project

The first outcome of the championship project was the formation of the first women national team in Palestine consisting of promising young girls who participated in several international matches and defeated the national teams of the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain in the second round of the West Asian Cup qualification ranking second in the championship.

Palestine Central Bicycle Race

Bank of Palestine sponsored the Palestine Central Bicycle race as part of the Palestinian Sports Youth League (PYSL) carried by Sharek Youth Forum in Jericho. The race was also supported by the UNDP and India, Brazil and South Africa in cooperation with the Palestine Association for Children's Encouragement of Sports (PACES). The race was a culmination of a series of eight bicycle races held in eight Palestinian governorates.





Fourth Palestine Horseracing Championship

Bank of Palestine sponsored the Fourth Palestine Horseracing Championship organized by the Palestinian Equestrian Club in Gaza. Dozens of horse racers took part in the tournament from different governorates in Gaza Strip.

Bank of Palestine Supports First Female Formula 3 Racer in Palestine

Bank of Palestine continued to sponsor Noor Daoud, a Palestinian female draft car racer, with the view of supporting Palestinian sportswomen. Noor competed in local, Arab and international formula drift car racing competitions including Queen of Europe and other tournaments in the UAE and Jordan, achieving advances ranks. Noor has a strong presence during the race as she is the first Arab Palestinian woman that takes part in drift races.



Hosting Women's Asian Football Cup Tournament

Bank of Palestine sponsored the matches of the fourth group of national teams competing for qualifying in the Women's Asian Football Championship. The competing teams included China, Taipei, India, Myanmar, and Palestine. The first round of the championship was hosted in Palestine and the winning team will qualify to play in the finals in 2014.

Other Donations and Sponsorships in the Field of Sport

- Donation for Ya'bod Sports Club
- Donation for Al-Ahli Club in Hebron
- Sponsorship of Hebron Youth Sports Club
- Donation for Gaza Sports Club
- Donation for Khan Younis Municipal Club

Health and Environment

Bank of Palestine has been keen to support the health and environment sector in order to preserve natural resources from contamination resulting from human and behavioral factors that lead to the evolution of incurable diseases. The Bank has sponsored sustainable programs and projects with the aim of supporting and improving the health sector in Palestine.



“Gaza is in our Hearts” Campaign

Bank of Palestine has continued to sponsor and support the health sector in the Gaza Strip. The Bank has earmarked USD 500,000 to “Gaza Is in Our Hearts” Campaign which will be dedicated to the purchase of dialysis equipment, which is an urgent need in Gaza hospitals. Moreover, Bank of Palestine has delivered shipments of medicine and emergency aid to Gaza hospitals in partnership with Welfare Association. The emergency aid included donations from Bank of Palestine, clients, shareholders, employees, investors and diaspora clients. As part of the first phase of this campaign, Bank of Palestine has delivered 8 dialysis devices to Shifa hospital in the city of Gaza and Nasser Hospital in the city of Khan Younis. The cost of the apparatuses was estimated at USD 250,000.

Mustaqbali (My Future) Project

Bank of Palestine has continued to sponsor Mustaqbali Program for the third consecutive year. The project targets orphan children in the Gaza Strip seeking to improve their lives in terms of education, health, and career developments up till 22 years of age. The project is being carried out in partnership with Welfare Association. Since the launching of the project, Bank of Palestine has been providing health care for about 1823 children who were orphaned during the 2008/2009 offensive in Gaza.

Mustaqbali Project provides support and humanitarian relief to orphaned children and creates for them better educational, vocational and health care opportunities. Bank of Palestine has first sponsored the program in 2011 with a total contribution of more than USD 600,000.





Donation for the Children Cancer Unit in Beit Jala Hospital

Bank of Palestine donated funds for the establishment of the first and only cancer unit in Beit Jala Hospital for the treatment of children. The project was launched two years ago by the Palestine Children's Relief Fund.

Named Huda Al-Masri Unit, the cancer unit for children is an important section that provides children suffering from cancer with necessary medical needs, recreational means and psychological support and counseling. The unit houses 14 rooms and is furnished with medical equipment needed by children.

Donation of an Automated Ticket Queue Machine

With the view of upgrading the level of medical services in the health sector, Bank of Palestine donated an automated ticket queue machine to the Health Directorate south of Hebron. The Health Directorate south of Hebron is important in that it receives a huge number of patients daily coming from the southern part of Palestine.

Recreational Area for Children Suffering from Cancer in August Victoria Hospital

Bank of Palestine donated USD 50,000 to construct a recreational area for children suffering from cancer in Augusta Victoria Hospital on Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem. The donation is part of the Bank's corporate social responsibility to support the health sector and hospitals in a city that is passing through difficult times.

Donations for Jerusalem Hospitals

In light of the harsh political and economic condition that the city of Jerusalem and its hospitals are passing through as well as their need for material and moral assistance, Bank of Palestine made donations to equip and furnish some of the units in the hospitals, including St. John Hospital and Bait Al-Maqdis Hospital in Bir Nibala. It must be mentioned that these hospitals provide medical assistance and care to hundreds of patients daily due to lack of medical clinics.

Education, Youth and Innovation

Bank of Palestine has allocated large space for education and youth, consistently supporting young people to engage in creative works and encouraging them to innovate, think critically and work on their personal development. Bank of Palestine opened stimulating educational horizons before Palestinian youth so that they can keep abreast of the latest developments and changes in all walks of life, and push forward the wheel of development through new creations and tools.



Zamala Fellowship Program

Zamala Fellowship Project is one of the most significant pilot projects launched by Bank of Palestine with the aim of raising the caliber of education in Palestinian universities. By granting university professors scholarships to renowned financial and economic institutions or to science and research centers, they can upgrade their skills and capabilities. Zamala scholarships include studies in financial and banking sciences, economy, ICT, health and medicine, environment and agriculture, engineering, law, life sciences and others. Professors from Palestinian universities are awarded scholarships to visit renowned higher educational institutions for one semester or one academic year where they can polish up their practical experiences. Upon their return home the professors will train and educate university students to contribute to the process of production and growth, and become rapidly involved in the labor market and meet its need for competent human resources.

Partner Universities in Zamala Fellowship Program

- » Al-Azhar University – Gaza
- » Al-Aqsa University – Gaza
- » The Islamic University – Gaza
- » Palestine Polytechnic University – Hebron
- » Bethlehem University – Bethlehem
- » Birzeit university – Ramallah
- » Hebron University – Hebron
- » The Arab American University – Jenin
- » Palestine Technical University “Khadoori” – Tulkarem
- » Al-Quds University – Abu Dis
- » An-Najah National University – Nablus

Until now about 20 professors from different Palestinian universities have been awarded Zamala scholarships to the USA, Germany, Britain, India and Spain. The areas of study included medicine, liver transplant, isolation of pluripotent cells from fat, cancer, training on the use of modern technology in cancer studies, advanced research, and studies on how to make the services sector in Palestine more productive in order to contribute to Palestinian economic growth. The scholarships also included studies on how to use aerial frequencies in the wider internet scope in the rural areas in Palestine.

Donation to Equip the Computer Lab at Al-Azhar College of Intermediate Studies

In order to enhance and upgrade the level of education at Al-Azhar University in Gaza and develop the scientific skills of students, Bank of Palestine made a generous donation to equip the computer lab at Al-Azhar College for Intermediate Studies.

Kursi wa Kitab (Chair & Book) Program

Bank of Palestine has contributed to the support of the education program Kursi & Kitab, which is regarded a unique and exemplary educational model based on the principle of experience and continuing education. The project aims to help children overcome learning difficulties and become self-reliant and independent learners.

The Late Hani Al-Shawa Hall in Al-Azhar University

Bank of Palestine sponsored and financed the renovation and furnishing of the late engineer Dr. Hani Hashim Al-Shawa Hall aiming to support and upgrade the educational sector, balance between work and study, and meet the needs of student in all stages.



Scholarships to Students from the Arab American University

Bank of Palestine has made financial contributions to a number of students in need from the Arab American University in Jenin to help them continue their university education.

Donation for the Palestinian Student Fund

Bank of Palestine has contributed to support the Palestinian Student Fund in the UAE in order to provide need Palestinian students continue their university education.

Support for Production of a Collection of Stories for Children

In order to promote reading among children and enhance their cognitive knowledge, Bank of Palestine has contributed to a project carried out by Tamer Institute for Community Education concerning the production of a collection of stories for children.

Awarding a HESPAL Scholarship

For the third consecutive year and in cooperation with the British Council, Bank of Palestine has awarded a new academic scholarship through HESPAL to a female student to pursue her graduate studies in the UK. HESPAL Program has been designed to provide outstanding students with academic scholarships to pursue their graduate studies in Britain.

Bank of Palestine Awards Winners of Green Buildings Logo Design

At Bank of Palestine Headquarter in Ramallah and in cooperation with the Palestinian Green Building Council, Bank of Palestine awarded the winners of the Palestinian Green Buildings logo design. The competition was organized by bank of Palestine with the aim of selecting a logo for the Council. Twenty-seven students from local universities took part in the competition and the winning logos were selected by an awarding committee.

Participation in “A Branch of Hope ... A Tree of Life”

Bank of Palestine partook in a campaign to support and provide for a group of orphaned girls through solidarity with “A Branch of Hope ... A tree of Life” Campaign that aims to assist orphaned girls at Dar-Al-Tifl Al-Arabi organization in Jerusalem.

The idea of the tree of life is that each person who provides for and supports an orphaned girl will have his name written on a tree made of pottery and which will be erected in the yard of the Palestinian Heritage Museum.

Palestine for a New Beginning

Bank of Palestine has made an annual contribution to Palestine for a New Beginning, an alliance of public and private sector institutions and individuals that aims to leverage resources and experience by investing new projects and building on existing successful initiatives. A particular focus is placed on women and youth as beneficiaries of its projects. Palestine for a New Beginning keeps up with the rapid developments worldwide, innovates and brings them to the Palestinian market. The Global Entrepreneurship Week is an activity organized by Palestine for a New Beginning.

Bank of Palestine Sponsors Al-Azhar University Employees Syndicate Ceremony

Bank of Palestine sponsored the Employees Syndicate ceremony at Al-Azhar University which was attended by all the employees of the university. The ceremony included several cultural activities.

Honoring Secondary School Outstanding Students

Bank of Palestine sponsored several ceremonies in different Palestinian governorates honoring secondary school outstanding students.

Startup Weekend Competition

Bank of Palestine continued to support and sponsor Startup Weekend high-tech competition in 2013 which has been launched at wide intervals in Ramallah and Gaza. Startup Weekend is an annual competition where developers, programmers, designers, marketers, product managers, technicians and startup enthusiasts come together to share ideas, form teams, build products and display their initiatives before an ad hoc arbitration committee and large Palestinian companies. Aiming to enhance high-tech environment, Startup Weekend is a global event that takes place in more than 150 countries.



Sponsoring Career Day at Bethlehem University

Bank of Palestine sponsored the activities of the Career Day that took place in Bethlehem University. The Career day aims to help graduating students find job opportunities and reduce the rate of unemployment in Palestine.

Mental Intelligence Competition

Bank of Palestine honored the winner of the mental intelligence competition held in Kuala Lumpur. Winner of the competition Areej Al-Madhoun, a young girl from Palestine, ranked first on the global level. Bank of Palestine awarded her a laptop.

Appreciation Gift to Palestinian Documentary Film Director Imad Bernat

Bank of Palestine presented a video camera as a gift for the Palestinian documentary film director Emad Bernat, for his film “5 Broken Cameras” which was nominated for an Oscar’s award in Los Angeles.

Sponsorship of Open Day at the Evangelical School in Ramallah

Bank of Palestine sponsored the open day held at the Evangelical School in Ramallah. The activities of the day included cultural, sport and art activities and contests for children.

Two Outstanding Students Join Edward Said National Conservatory of Music

For the fourth year in a row, Bank of Palestine has sponsored the education of Ahmad Al-Kharouf and Khalil Khoury who won the first prize of Star Kids Competition, Ahmad and Khalil were awarded a four-year scholarship.



Celebration on Innovation 2013

Palestine for a New Beginning initiative has launched the Celebration of Innovation for the third consecutive year with support from Bank of Palestine. During the celebration, 10 projects were presented before an arbitration team consisting of local and international experts. Celebration of Innovation aims to enhance the culture of innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship, and business development among the Palestinian youth and put Palestine on the global map.

Palestine ranked first as a host country of the Global Entrepreneurship Week which was organized by Palestine for a New Beginning on 18-25 November 2013. This was officially announced in a conference that took place in Moscow last April 19 and which was attended by pioneering individuals and organizations from all over the world. The Global Entrepreneurship Week is hosted by 140 around the world.



Go Palestine

Bank of Palestine sponsored a summer camp for children in Friends Schools in Ramallah. The camp included cultural, sport and recreational activities. In addition, Bank of Palestine hosted a group of young men who took part in the summer camp and briefed them on the history of the bank and the Palestinian banking sector.



مدرسة الأصدقاء
THE FRIENDS SCHOOL
RAMALLAH - EL-BIREH

Women Empowerment

Bank of Palestine has always been keen to advocate the role of Palestinian women in the economic and social life, and to empower them in the professional and business life. The Bank believes that the role played by women will reflect positively on the family and community. Bank of Palestine is increasing interest in women empowerment stems also from the fact that the rate of unemployment among women is quite high. The Bank develops new services and programs for self-development in order to help women overcome difficulties.

Awareness Campaign for Early Diagnosis of Breast Cancer

Bank of Palestine in cooperation with Dunya Women Cancer Centre in Ramallah, and Aid & Hope Program (AHP) For Cancer Patients Care in Gaza launched a significant campaign for early detection of breast cancer. This campaign came along with the annual Global Campaign for fighting against Breast Cancer. The campaign included media coverage, posters, and the streets of Palestine were adorned with Pink (The Global Campaign Logo).

In this context, Bank of Palestine has covered the expenses of 200 examinations divided on social cases from governorates in the West Bank and Gaza, in cooperation with the above mentioned organizations. Besides that, the Bank has organized events and awareness activities for its female employees for an early detection of the disease, since early detection can raise the recovery rate to %98.



لإجراء الفحص الرجاء زيارة مركز دنيا لاورام النساء



الكشف المبكر لسرطان الثدي .. يساعد في الشفاء بنسبة 98%.

100 فحص مجاني للمصابات الإحصائية (بعضها) ابتداءً من تاريخ 10/1/2013

جمعية برنامج
العون والأمل لرعاية مرضى السرطان



لإجراء الفحص الرجاء زيارة
جمعية برنامج العون والأمل لرعاية مرضى السرطان



Conclusion of Partnership Agreement with Women's Affairs Technical Committee

With the aim to enhance the role of Palestinian women and help them engage in economic, social and cultural community development, Bank of Palestine has concluded carrying out the partnership and cooperation agreement with the Women's Affairs Technical Committee for the year 2013.

Ceremony Honoring Jerusalem Women

On the occasions of the International Women Day on March 8 and Mother's day on March 21, Al-Murtaqa Foundation in Jerusalem organized a special ceremony honoring the women of Jerusalem for their active contribution to community development. During the ceremony, Dr. Nufouz Maslamani, Director of Dunya Women Cancer Centre, was chosen as the person of 2013.

Music Summer Camp for Women for Life Society

Women for Life Society organized a music summer camp for children in Salfit Governorate. At the end of the camp certificates were distributed to distinguished children.

Business Women Forum participates in Global Entrepreneurship Week

The Business Women Forum has participated in the Global Entrepreneurship Week organized by Business Development Center in Amman, Jordan, under the sponsorship of Bank of Palestine. The Business Women Forum delegation comprised 9 female entrepreneurs who are involved in economic and technological enterprises and who received special training on how to present projects before investors and attract required funding for them. A pitching event took place during which the delegation presented their enterprises before 20 investors from Palestine and Jordan.

Donation of Sewing Machines for Al-Najda Social Association

Bank of Palestine donated sewing machines to Al-Najda Social Association in Tulkarem Governorate in order to empower working men in the governorate depend on themselves and achieve self-sufficiency. Moreover, the bank sponsored training sessions for women to prepare them for entering the labor market.

Workshop on Breast Cancer in Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce

Under the sponsorship of Bank of Palestine, the Chamber of Commerce in Bethlehem organized an awareness workshop for a group of women on the necessity to conduct early diagnosis of breast cancer.

Humanitarian Affairs

Bank of Palestine has contributed to the containment of humanitarian crises inside and outside Palestine, and has adopted programs and projects to support orphaned children and charitable societies. The bank has also provided aid and care for the homeless affected by natural disasters.

Relief campaign to help families affected by the snowstorm and flooding in Gaza

In cooperation with UNICEF, Bank of Palestine's humanitarian aid campaign relieved families affected by the snowstorm that hit Gaza last December by providing in-kind and relief needs to families that took refuge in schools. Food parcels were also distributed and plans to renovate homes damaged by the storm are being set forth with The Welfare Association.



Summer Camp for Diabetic Children

For the second consecutive year, Bank of Palestine contributed to a recreational trip for children suffering from cancer in Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate. Volunteer physicians from Palestine Medical Compound took part in the trip.

Aiding Children of the Philippines Affected by Typhoon Haiyan

As part of its contribution to humanitarian endeavors and in cooperation with WFP, Bank of Palestine helped alleviate the humanitarian crisis in the Philippines caused by Typhoon Haiyan which also caused the death of thousands of people.

Other Donations and Sponsorships

- Donation to adopt two children, Sujood and Rahf Al-Masri, who suffer from hyperactivity ADHD syndrome.
- Donation to Mrs. Hala Abu Sido for cornea transplant.



We adopt a holistic strategy in our quest for

Sustainability



Corporate Social Responsibility 2013

We are at your service

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