

Community Projects, Music and More

Closing Ceremony of Sanad's Yearly Training Cycle

On 27 August 2016, around 250 people gathered at the Al-Qasemi College of Engineering and Science to celebrate the closing of 10 months of hard work. Since November 2015, a group of 36 university students and 96 school children worked together, as teams, to take a closer look into different issues that affect their communities and find a joint solution. In partnership with 6 local schools, Sanad provided students and children with theoretical and hands-on training as well as mentoring. Some of the issues they dealt with included:

1. Environment and public spaces (raise awareness about recycling; pollution in the riverbank of Wadi Abu Nar; promote reading by putting books in public spaces; revive the old city of Jatt)
2. Schools (positive feedback at schools; sports for girls at schools; promote reading, pluralism, diversity and inclusiveness at schools)
3. Pluralism and Inclusion (three projects work towards raising awareness about inclusion and improvement of quality of life of people with disabilities; promote inter-generational dialogue and understanding)
4. Personal development (time management)

As a result, twelve (12) community projects were implemented with outstanding results, including:

1. A path of 500 meters was asphalted and prepared for bicycles in the city of Baka, thus increasing safety for children at the streets and providing them with a place to play. The Municipality supported this project and committed to do more roads like this throughout Baka in the future.
2. Thanks to a booklet that provides creative ideas on how to encourage and support girls to actively participate in sport activities at school, there is greater awareness about the importance of offering suitable sport activities for girls at 6 different local schools.
3. Thanks to a short film, there is now greater acceptance and willingness to integrate people with disabilities in day-to-day life at two primary schools in Baka (Ibin Huldu and Alrazi) and elsewhere.
4. A more positive way of communicating with each other at class has been promoted at the Ibn Roshd primary school in Jatt, which resulted in less violence and bullying at class.



These significant results were presented on 27 August, 2016 to the community. During the event, representatives from the US Embassy, parents, school representatives, local leaders, civil society, community members and journalists witnessed the work of each of the teams through posters, a theater play, two short videos and the personal accounts of the young participants. In addition to the presentations and the keynote speeches of different personalities, the event was enriched by an innovative and creative musical presentation of the AlKendi Music Center. A group of 15 young musicians greeted participants as they entered the gallery. Saleh Gerra, Director of the Jatt High school, mentioned that he was deeply moved by the event "I went through a whole range of feelings during this event" and that he is ready to keep on supporting these initiatives.



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This initiative has been generously supported by US Embassy through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). Michele Kimpel Guzman, Cultural Attaché, and Manal Haddad, Program/Grants Specialist, participated at the event. Ms. Kimpel-Guzman talked during the event and mentioned that she is very impressed with the event and achievements and that these kind of projects should grow and expand in the future as to reach more members of the community.

The event had a wide media coverage:

<http://www.panet.co.il/article/1451102>

<http://loblab.com/pages/item.aspx?itemid=44798>

<http://www.elgzal.com/news-2,N-21898.html>

<http://www.shof.co.il/?mod=articles&ID=34494>

<http://bokra.net/Article-1348255>

<http://hasa.co.il/?p=504372>

