



Youth Activism Beyond Global Youth Service Week

Partnerships between RI-SOL and local NGOs extended beyond the Global Youth Service Day implemented back in April. On July 4-10, the students of Alawda ILC (Bethlehem Secondary Girls' School), in coordination with the On-Site Monitor and the local community, organized a workshop for 12 children from the SOS Association, the main caretaker of orphan and homeless children in Bethlehem. The contact between the Bethlehem ILC and the SOS was first established in April during the Global Youth Service Day when the students visited the orphanage with a reading contest and fun activities. During the summer workshop organized at the ILC, the young children had an opportunity to leave the SOS house, to strengthen their new friendships, and to have some fun – all while gaining new technology skills. This one-week "educational vacation"



We find our family with RI-SOL

culminated in an open presentation to the community during which youth from SOS talked about themselves and demonstrated the new technology skills. When asked what they liked the most, the youth from SOS responded they liked the change of the environment, spending more time with new friends, and being exposed to computers.

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Kids from SOS association entertain with us and learning on computer programs

Address

Relief International - Schools Online
Ramallah-Palestine
Al Masyoun Street
Tarifi Building-4th floor
Tel : 00970 2 2953798
Fax : 00970 2 2953798
www.schoolsonline.org
www.ri.org
www.connect-middleeast.org



Empowering young girls through their Mothers

Active mothers, or Student Mothers Committee, from Ein Yabrod village reached out to the Internet Learning Center at the girls' school in Ramallah to ask for computer literacy training. Ein Yabrod, a small town placed 15 kilometers away from Ramallah, has successfully equipped its girls' school with a computer lab solely thanks to the active attitude and financial support from the local women. On July 16th, all active members of Ein Yabrod's Student Mother Committee started their training led by RI-SOL's On-Site Monitor to gain basic IT skills, hardware and software maintenance and troubleshooting skills, and the management skills of the Internet Learning Center.



Computer not for youth only Ain Ybrod women said that



Real discussion between the participants to get best result

The training continued to take place each Saturday for 6 weeks. After the training, most women agreed to provide continuous financial support to the school lab. To supplement the skills of the SMC, RI-SOL opened its Ramallah ILC where the women can learn about the Internet. This training will continue in the upcoming months. The success of the training for women from Ein Yabrod spread across the area with a speed of light. Starting on August 17th, fourteen women from Al-Bireh (a district neighboring with Ramallah) asked for a similar training.

Hebronites get ready for ICDL

Getting the International Computer Driving License (ICDL) is a dream of most Palestinian youth and teachers. Those who possess ICDL improve their chances for finding a good job and a higher salary scale. However, the rates of those passing the international test are very low – either the courses don't do justice in preparation, or the test-takers need to study a little harder. Hebron ILC decided to reach out to the community by offering a course teaching the content of the ICDL program. With help from 5 student volunteers (those who previously participated in our online activities), thirty-five community members and five students from a neighboring school were able to attend the course. During the 42 hours, the total of 40 participants learned basics of Microsoft Office (word, excel, PowerPoint). The course ended with a joyful graduation party during which certificates were distributed.



We pass the local exam and we are ready to get the International one



ICT Training enhances summer camps

To further strengthen the relationship with the local community, the Khawlah ILC (Ramallah) collaborated with the organizers of two summer camps for the youngest Palestinians: Girls Scouts and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture. Both organizations used Khawlah Secondary Girls School (same school that hosts RI-SOL's ILC) to organize educational games, fun activities, and rehabilitation activities for young girls and youth. Khawlah ILC offered computer literacy training to both groups as an enhancement of the already well-designed summer camp. A total of thirty (30) girl scouts has attended the one-week training to learn about email. They have practiced signing in, writing emails, deleting messages, filing their messages, and signing out. At the end, all the girls have created email accounts and have promised each other to stay in touch after the camp through e-mail.



The second half of July was devoted in a large part to the young boys and girls with psychological disorders caused by the harsh conditions of life and the ongoing conflict in the West Bank. A total of 65 children had a

chance to work on computers during their rehabilitation camp. The youngest participants have learned how to turn the computer on, how to open an application, how to play educational games, and how to paste pictures. The older children have asked to be trained in the power point, Internet, and e-mail. All the participants



Boys from rehabilitation of victim torture



Girls from rehabilitation of victim torture

were running to the ILC each day for their one-hour training sessions. They expected to have fun during the camp, but they didn't expect to work with computers every single day. As in most cases, collaboration between Khawlah ILC and the Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture will continue in the upcoming scholastic year.

The third part of enhancing summer camp, held training to 21 student which they are in a summer camp with right to play program supported from UNDP, on 10th of July we gave them training on computer in our ILC at Alawda school around 4 hours, the training was about ms word, and they drew nice things on paint program, it was like entertainment and training for them.



Right to play camp members enjoying their time with RI-SOL

Girls from Wedad Naser Aldeen ILC excel in IT skills

Girls from Wedad Naser Aldeen ILC are known all around Hebron for having high computer skills. In July, seven best female students were given a chance to further enhance their computer literacy by attending a special 20-hour course at the Al-waha Center for Computer Education. The trainer, Ms. Najah Altamimi, taught the young women about Macromedia Flash MX program, Photoshop, the art of short-movie making (including the sound), and usage of frames.



The girls from Hebron decided to learn animations

New trend taking place in Bethlehem's ILC

Alawda Secondary Girls' School put as its mission over the summer months to invite as many community groups and members as possible to use the center. But, it came as a big surprise to the ILC staff to see four men from the community who one day showed up at the center and asked for a course on basic computer skills. It was the first time in the history of Bethlehem that men attended a training course in a girls' school (usually men attend training courses at boys' schools). They have gained basic Microsoft office skills during a 14-hour training distributed over seven days. The school principal and the On-Site Monitor were very excited and hope that this incident will set a precedent for the rest of the community to see the ILC as a resource that exists to serve them.



Men from Bethlehem training at Alawda secondary girls school

Students from Huda school join the other students

On July students from Huda Abed Alnabi school start working on syllabus interaction like the student at Wedad NAser Aldeen school and other school, they were 6 girls from other schools and this is the first participating for them, The student from Alawda school started working in the same project and also student from Khawlah Bent Alazwar school.

Collaborative Project

A similar cooperation continued with the Palestinian Youth Union in Ramallah. During the Global Youth Service Day, the PYU helped youth from the Alhashemya ILC paint and clean their school and to plant trees and plants in the school entrance. This summer, boys and the On-Site Monitor from the Alhashemya ILC wanted to do something in return for the youth from PYU. They agreed to work with the young members of the PYU to give them computer literacy skills, inclusive of browsing the net and using e-mail. Most of the PYU members had very limited or no computer skills, but within the several-day training course, they have learned to work in word, excel, and power point. Since the PYU's center currently lacks Internet connection, youth came to the Alhashemya ILC (Ramallah) to learn to navigate through the Internet. At the Alhashemya ILC, members of the YPU learned about the Global Connections and Exchange Program and immediately wanted to join the project - specifically My Community project. Divided into two groups, the youth collected information about the Aboud Village. They met with managers of the rural council, with doctors, school administrators, and shopkeepers. As a result, they prepared spectacular report and a website showcasing their work



PYU groups in interview with the head of council to get information about Aboud

Women training

On 6th of July we started with 4 ladies from local community training course at Alawda school, the course about the MS word to write about the training and them brief description about internet they use Google to search for different subjects like: Furniture and some decoration ideas, about e-mail and internet.

Two girls visitor from Canada came to school on 23rd of July and attend training on Yahoo mail how to sign in new user and how to use the e-mail the period was 6 hours in three days.

Cooperation with Local educational sectors:

Two Trainees (Maysoon Hamodeh, Rasha Wadi) from "Ramallah Women Training Center"-RWTC who study computer programming in their first year joined us at Khawlah School on 2/7/2005, they show interest in working and help us in all activities performed at the lab, they worked with us an other month as a volunteers because they like our work and activities, one trainee from Jordan university join us at Alhashemya school.



Turning Old into New

Summer time in Hebron peaks with student creativity. In July, three most active students of the Wedad Naser Alden ILC (Hebron) came up with the idea of creating art and home items using old and seemingly useless materials such as newspapers, carton, crayons, or plastic cups. The main message they wanted to get through to the audience was to re-use and re-cycle old things. The students felt that by showing the multiple and creative uses of objects, they will be able to motivate others to use



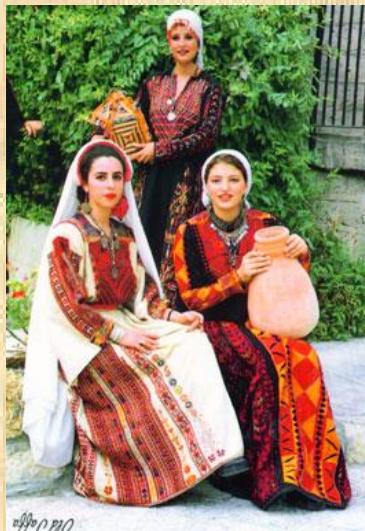
Wedad Naser Alden school students planning in groups to start work

"old" things to make new items rather than turning into buying a new item every single time. Through their own connections, students approached few University students from the Art Department to help them design the new objects. Twenty female students from the ILC gathered in the ILC to create vases, flower vases, and greeting cards.

Besides teaching students some practicality, this activity was a great channel to let students' fantasy and creativity go free. In the upcoming months, there will be more similar sessions which will end with a large exhibition of student work.



We can do more



Working with girls in lab

This summer saw the Ramallah ILC become a true center for community trainings. Over twenty girls from area schools such as the AIEspaniah, Khalil Alrhman, Albereh, Sameha Khalil schools in Ramallah share us and register as new user in our ILC at Khawlah Bent Alazwar school, we work with them in different project, and train them on computer programs through working on project, the first project was on Human Body systems, they start collecting data from internet and ministry books, and from library, then they documented data on FrontPage and PowerPoint, the second project was on solar cell and planet group, in the same way they worked in this project, and they done a good work. And as a more relaxing finale they designed a series of invitations on Microsoft Publisher.



This summer holiday is the best with RI-SOL

