

# SPRING 2020

# PAMA ACTIVITY REPORT



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*"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."*-Coretta Scott King

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## Annual Kansas City & Chicago Fundraisers

**A huge thank you to our Kansas City and Chicago communities for supporting PAMA and attending our fundraisers in**



February! This was our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Kansas City fundraiser and our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual

Chicago fundraiser. **Our community raised over 220K** (doubling last year's total!) that will directly support PAMA's Dialysis and Psycho-Social Rehab programs. **Three of PAMA board member generously**



**matched donations made at the Kansas City dinner to purchase three more Hemodialysis machines.** These events are so special to us. We are so grateful to share an evening of food, dancing and laughter with our community and thank you personally for your support. Check out the festivities on **PAMA's Facebook page and YouTube channel.**

Due to the pandemic, PAMA had to postpone our Toledo, Sacramento, and Boca Raton fundraisers. We look forward to the time when we can meet our Ohio, California, and Florida communities.



**PAMA Youth member Faris Bdaire speaking at Chicago fundraiser.**



**Kansas City kids contributed to the evening with songs**



**Donated artwork for Kansas City fundraiser**

*“We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat.”- Unknown*

## COVID-19

### PAMA RESPONDS

There are very few places that have not felt the effects of COVID-19 at this point. The pandemic has touched all of our lives, but not equally. During this challenging time a strong community is vital as we support each other and look out for the most vulnerable.

When it became clear that COVID-19 was spreading globally, PAMA quickly created a forum for communication between the Palestinian and US medical communities to share information and updates. We were also in close communication with the Palestinian Ministry of Health as the number of cases in the West Bank grew and the virus made its way into Gaza. When we reached out to the PAMA community for support, you answered. **Thanks to your generous donations PAMA raised over \$75K and made three deliveries of personal protective equipment (PPE) to Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem** (It’s important to note, that the PPE PAMA delivers is obtained from local Palestinian markets).

Our fundraiser for COVID-19 will continue. Donations can be made through our website <https://palestinian-ama.networkforgood.com/.../96036-covid-19...> Check out PAMA’s Facebook page for updates. We pray for everyone during these uncertain times. Your generosity and commitment to the health and wellbeing of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank is inspiring and we at PAMA will continue to do everything we can to help the Palestinian medical community meet this challenge.



**Members of the medical team at European Hospital in Gaza receiving PPE**



### DID YOU KNOW...

Many PAMA members including PAMA president, Dr. Majdi Hamarshi, Rami Alahmad, PAMA’s Educational Committee Chair, board member Dr. Fadi Safi and Chicago’s PAMA chapter founder, DR Rania Saleh are on the frontline of the COVID-19 battle. They are sharing their experiences with colleagues in the US and Palestine through webinars available on PAMA’s Facebook page.



PAMA is also working locally to provide meals for fasting frontline healthcare workers during Ramadan. We pledged to match the first 500 meals donated to **On Call Halal in Kansas City**. Along with support from Saffron Road, over **\$10,000 was raised to support front line workers** at University of Kansas Medical Center, Children’s Mercy & HCA Midwest Health Research Medical Center. You can read about it here <https://www.kcur.org/arts-life/2020-04-25/on-call-halal-feeds-kansas-city-health-care-workers-during->

## Zakat Fundraiser for Medical Students in Palestine



PAMA's annual Zakat fundraiser for medical students in Palestine is underway. This scholarship program can make all the difference for economically disadvantaged medical students. The future of the Palestinian medical community are the young men and women studying now. Unfortunately, economic hardships can often force them to withdraw from their studies. This year, the economic ramifications of COVID-19 have made the need for support greater than usual. Last year PAMA provided \$1,000 scholarships to 100 students. With your help, we hope to help 100 more students on their way to becoming the future of Palestinian health care. You can donate through our Facebook fund raiser <https://www.facebook.com/donate/991490667913856/> or PAMA's website <https://palestinian-ama.networkforgood.com/.../98338-palestin...>

### Palestine's Dialysis Problem

Palestine is reaching a crisis for patients who rely on dialysis to survive. Currently there is a shortage of machines and clinics are resorting to extending their hours to accommodate patients needs. Even then, some patients are receiving fewer treatments than needed. Some patients are forced to travel at night, when public transport isn't available and private transportation is costly.

At one dialysis clinic in the West Bank they are short seven machines! Doctors and staff are working overtime to make sure their patients receive treatment.

Can you help dialysis patients in Palestine receive treatment? Donate now <https://palestinian-ama.networkforgood.com/projects/91075-providing-hemodialysis-machines-project>

### PAMA's Progress During COVID-19

COVID-19 has eclipsed, well, almost everything. As the world is focused on fighting a pandemic, Palestinians living in Gaza and the West Bank will see their healthcare system face a challenge that has overwhelmed areas in the US and Europe. That's why PAMA is still very focused on its mission to support healthcare and healthcare education in Palestine.

Our **Teleconferencing Program** for medical students **has already held eight conferences** this year and is scheduled to resume after Ramadan.

**The Subspecialty Training Program is ready to launch!** PAMA has secured funding for four doctors and is in the process of securing spots for them in an accredited subspecialty training program in Jordan.

Stay tuned for updates on PAMA's **Dialysis Program and Psycho-Social Rehab Program**. Your generosity at the annual fundraisers in Kansas City and Chicago will be supporting these programs.

PAMA's **Congenital Surgery Program** for children has already **completed 60 surgeries in 2020** and has **secured funding for 80 more surgeries**.

**PAMA Nurses** has launched and is calling for nurses who believe in our mission to join. For more info contact Safa Saleh, RN @ [saleh@palestinian-ama.org](mailto:saleh@palestinian-ama.org).

Through your loyal support, PAMA continues to bring healthcare to Palestinians in desperate need. PAMA remains committed to supporting healthcare and healthcare education in Gaza and the West Bank.

Visit PAMA's YouTube channel to see dialysis patients and doctors talk about the realities of dialysis treatment in Palestine.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgJLrOrDbHg>

## WELCOME RANA OTTALLAH

### FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE

PAMA is pleased to introduce you to Rana Ottallah, a recent addition to our team.

Rana is a community organizer and leader based in Louisiana. Originally from Al-Bireh. Rana began her work in the community as a disability rights advocate for students and a language access advocate for those in her community with limited English language skills. In 2014, Rana began using her skills as an advocate and organizer to help families in Gaza and Lebanon.

Haunted by the images of families in Gaza and Lebanon living in refugee camps, Rana wondered how she could help. When Gaza was bombarded in 2014, Rana was spurred into action. She sold black ribbons for \$1 to show solidarity with the families in Gaza and donated the money to those who had lost everything. From that point, Rana's efforts took off. In the following years she organized annual fundraisers with over 600 guests and recruited a team of volunteers to help raise money and awareness for people in Palestine and Lebanon.

Rana is a talented organizer and leader and she has honed her skills in community outreach and communications. As a fundraising and communications associate for PAMA, Rana will help manage and sustain the organization's growth and development. Welcome Rana!



## DONATE TODAY

**The majority of PAMA's support comes from individual donations. Every donation is meaningful. We thank our community for continuing to support our work promoting healthcare and healthcare education in Palestine.**

<https://www.facebook.com/PAMApalestinian/>

<https://palestinian-ama.org/donate/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PAMAYOUTH/>

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