

Holy Child Program

Annual Report for 2017-2018 School Year



This year we would like to share the Holy Child Program's accomplishments in relation to a recent article published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. It is entitled "Engaging Society to Reform Arab Education - From Schooling To Learning."

It is a lengthy article that sums up educational systems in the Middle East, the current deficiencies, and what initiatives are needed. The article baldly states;

"Arab societies collectively are failing to prepare coming generations for the challenges they will face...It is not simply that educational systems are not producing the expected number of skilled workers, but they are not producing good learners or good citizens" [Pg.21]

The authors identify that *"student[s] should become an agent[s] of change; continuous and reflective learner[s], innovative and critical thinker[s]; and promoter[s] of ethical social responsibility."* [Pg. 8]

In order to achieve these competencies, the article states that schools should provide; *"...holistic learning experiences that target the development of the child's cognitive, emotional, social and moral capacity."* [Pg.8] The article goes on to state that schools should develop strong partnerships not only with parents but the broader community, i.e. nongovernmental organizations and institutions of higher learning.

It is a compelling article and should be read in its entirety, but the take away message for all of us involved in the Holy Child Program is that these targets have been, and will continue to be, core components of our program! Our commitment is reflected by our accomplishments this year.

96%

OF OUR GRADUATES

Are enrolled in educational or vocational programs, or gainfully employed.

99%

OF OUR PARENTS

Rated the Incredible Years Parenting Groups as helpful or very helpful.

99%

OF OUR TEACHERS

Rated the Incredible Years Teacher Training as helpful or very helpful.

I swear to God, the days at the Holy Child Program were the best days of my life.

Quote from a 26 year old graduate of HCP

"I learned to be positive. To accept my son with his capabilities/abilities"

Quote from a mother who attends the Incredible Years Parent group

"The companionship, and the point of view from other mothers. We can learn so much from each other.

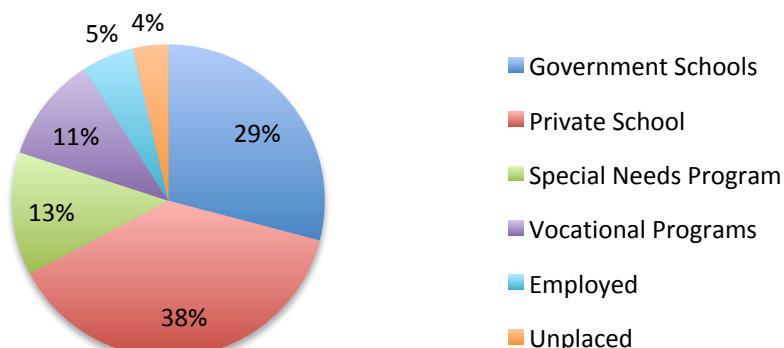
Quote from a mother on what she valued about the parenting groups

"This course must be taught in all of Palestine!"

Written by a mother graduating from Incredible Years Parenting Program on her final evaluation form.

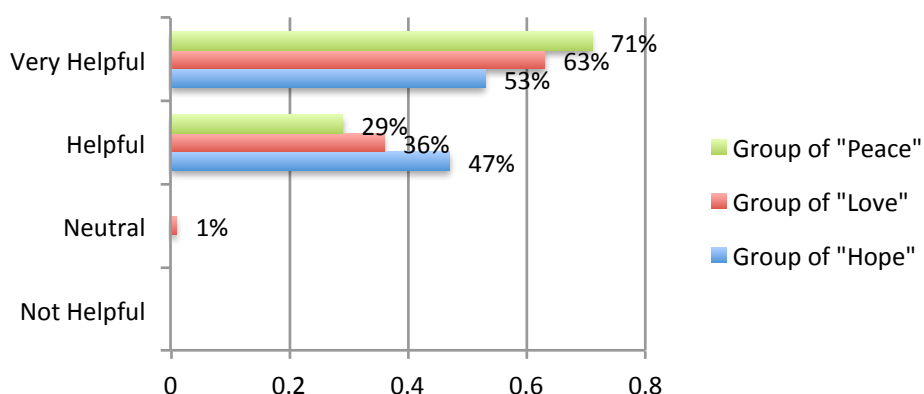
- **Our Graduates'** success rate is measured by whether they are engaged in meaningful activities such as an educational or vocational placement, a special need program or gainfully employed. The data for the last six years is shown in the chart below.
- For the most part, our graduates have continued their education, the largest amount going to private schools. Only 4% of our graduates are without any type of placement, despite our efforts and outreach to the families.
- Are we producing "good citizens, agents of change"? That is a difficult question, but we are producing citizens who are contributing members of their community; who continue to engage in learning opportunities, be it educational, vocational or business.
- Additionally, it should be noted that every graduate of HCP has learned and practiced social and emotional regulation as well as problem solving and critical thinking through the Incredible Years Classroom curriculum. Our graduates are at least equipped with the skills to become agents of change.

Graduate Placements for the years 2012-1018



- **Our Parents** are vital partners in all phases of their child's growth at HCP. As their children are learning prosocial skills to successfully navigate their environment, their parents are learning positive parenting skills. While we only have space for seven classrooms, (35 children) we open up the parenting groups at no cost to any parent, grandparent or member(s) of their extended family interested in attending. This greatly increases our outreach and the number of families we serve in the community. We have had five cohort groups in the Incredible years parenting program and three cohorts of parents in the Incredible Years Parenting Autistic children program.
- The impact of these groups is profound. At a recent graduation ceremony for one of the mothers' group, one mother shared that she had her hair and make-up professionally done just for graduation. She said "I have never graduated from anything in my life. This is a first for me." She went on to say she intended to post her Incredible Years certificate on Facebook for everyone to see!
- The mothers who have graduated continue to meet together in each others' homes and provide ongoing support. Additionally, they have become agents of change in their community. Several mothers have reported that neighbors who once criticized them about their children's behavior, were now asking for guidance! It is difficult to calculate how many families have been positively impacted through this ripple effect but it is creating positive change in the community and among neighbors!
- As part of the Incredible Years program, mothers are required to evaluate the group leaders on a weekly basis. The chart below is the cumulative data for the year. Results indicate a high level of satisfaction with the program.

**Evaluation of Parenting Program
by Group**



Services Provided to Families this Year

Screenings at no cost to all our students:
Dental
Vision
Hearing

6 consultations to families not enrolled at HCP at no cost

20 home visits to HCP families by school social worker

26 assessments for families seeking to enroll their children in HCP

34 Parent group sessions

- **Our Teachers** are the backbone of HCP, without whom we would not have a program. We have a dedicated team who are committed to providing *“holistic learning experiences that target the development of the child’s cognitive, emotional, social and moral capacity.”* Students’ cognitive, emotional and social growth is fostered through instruction of the Incredible Years Classroom program, provided four time a week by our teachers.
- Each student has an individualized treatment plan which engages their unique strengths and interests to cultivate critical thinking skills and academic engagement. Our teachers are constantly providing our students with innovative hands on learning experiences, through field trips, team presentations, games or multimedia technology.
- What makes HCP so different from every other program is the positive culture and environment our teachers and staff have created. Everyone who visits the program comments on this phenomena. We had groups from a university in Nablus, the Ministry of Education IT department from Ramallah, the National Bank of Palestine all comment they never knew “such a program existed in Palestine.”
- We had students from the University of Stavanger, Norway, as well as Bethlehem University intern with us . The University of Stavanger School of Social Work has been sending 2-3 interns per year to our program. Our teachers are gracious in welcoming these different guests in their classroom and generous in their collaboration with others. In fact, we have hired several of our interns to become full time teachers.
- In order to maintain these high standards and model the need for continuous learning, our teachers have weekly training sessions in the Incredible Years Teacher Training program. The chart below reflects the data collected from the teachers’ weekly evaluations of the program.

Evaluation of Teacher Training Program



“These are real teachers, the way they should be. They are positive, they are just.”

Quote from HCP student this year

“My husband and I were so excited about our child getting a certificate of excellence. My husband copied it and sent it to the extended family as an SMS with the text; Here is the proof that he can do it!!”

Quote from parents whose child started HCP this year

“He told us he didn’t want to be good or do his work because he was afraid to be sent back to regular school”

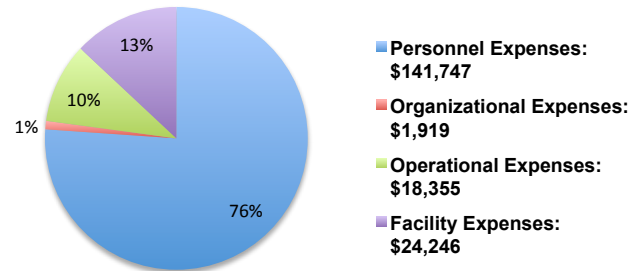
Quote from parents of a new student this year

**15
Teacher Training
group
sessions**

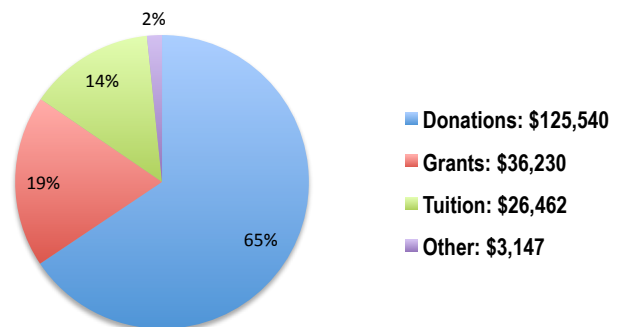
- **Our Financial** situation is unique. We are not financially subsidized, as the other Catholic Schools in the region are. We receive no government support. We have a small student population, which results in a small tuition base. Tuition only covers approximately 18% of personnel expenses. It should be added that no student has ever been turned away by HCP because of their inability to pay their tuition. Any student/family in need is assisted in obtaining a scholarship.
- As is apparent from the the Expense chart, personnel expenditures account for almost 80% of our budget. This includes healthcare benefits and payment of employee government taxes. Facility expenses include rent, electric, oil, water and other utilities. Operational expenses include student textbooks (which other schools charge for) as well as school and office supplies. A significant part of operational expenses is for field trips, the most expensive being the 3 day trip to Tabgha which includes transportation and food for 35 students and 11 staff. These field trips are critical in expanding our students horizons and teaching them “outside” of the classroom.
- What is immediately obvious from the charts is that 84% of our funds come from donors and grants. We exist because of our donors’ generosity.
- We receive grants and scholarship funds from several different international organizations, which we have to apply for annually.
- The 2% other category reflects income generated from selling products our students make, such as note cards, olive wood ornaments, etc. Included in the 2% are reimbursements collected from parent for medical supplies, or parent donations for field trips.
- The Holy Child Program is a service of the Bethlehem Holy Child Program corporation [BHCP]. This year BHCP received the GuideStar Bronze Seal of Transparency. GuideStar’s mission is *“to revolutionize philanthropy by providing information that advances transparency, enables users to make better decisions, and encourages charitable giving.”* * We are deeply gratified to have received our Bronze seal! *[Excerpted from Guidestar’s website: <https://learn.guidestar.org/about-us>]

A Brief Financial Picture:

Expenses For 2017-2018 School Year



Funds Received For 2017-2018 School Year



***Our largest expenditure is also our most precious,
our staff!***

To Our Donors:

- Because of you, we have been privileged to provide services for twenty-three years to a vulnerable and underserved population. Our graduates' success (both parents and children) is testimony to the difference you have made to hundreds of families in this region.
- Because of your generosity, we have been able to retain an outstanding team of committed professionals, most of whom have been with us for over 11 years!
- Because of you, we now have professionals in the region who are astounded not only that we exist, but by what we are doing.
- Because of you, we can continue to advocate and help implement the recommendations outlined in the article, *Engaging Society to Reform Arab Education - From Schooling To Learning*.
- Simply stated, you are amazing agents of change! Thank you for believing in the Holy Child Program and for your generous support.

1. *In the interest of transparency, there is a great deal of data behind the simple charts that we have shown in this report. If you are interested in examining this data more closely, please email diane@holychildbethlehem.org with a specific request for the data you require.*
2. *A complete copy of "Engaging Society to Reform Arab Education: From Schooling to Learning" published Oct. 11, 2018 by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace can be accessed through the link below:*

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2018/10/11/engaging-society-to-reform-arab-education-from-schooling-to-learning-pub-77454>

For More Information On Our Program:

- Visit Holy Child Program in Bethlehem – subject to schedule availability
- Visit our website; www.holychildbethlehem.org
- Read our quarterly reports, available on our website
- Subscribe to our newsletter (sign up on our website)
- Visit our Facebook page for regular photo updates [@HolyChildProgramBethlehem](https://www.facebook.com/HolyChildProgramBethlehem)

Ways To Help Support The Bethlehem HolyChild Program

- **Amazon Smile:** Designate the Bethlehem Holy Child Program as a charity you support and Amazon (at no cost to you) contributes a percentage of the selling price of your purchase to BHCP.
- **Matching Gift Programs and Benivity:** Many employers encourage employee donations and often match them through the Benivity program, which simplifies automated giving. If your employer participates in the Benivity program you may also nominate BHCP for a corporate grant.
- Donate online through PayPal or by check*. Make a one-time gift or give monthly through payroll giving programs or matching gifts.

The Bethlehem Holy Child Program is a Non-Profit Corporation chartered in the State of Washington and is designated as exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Tax-exempt EIN is 80-024009

*To donate by check mail to:

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c/o Francis Barillaro, Treasurer
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Meriden, CT 06450

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