

The Rachel Corrie Youth Center Library in Rafah NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Dear Friend of MRSCP,

The Madison-Rafah Sister City Project has for many years placed a priority on helping the children of the Gaza Strip, who have lived their whole lives under occupation, siege, and all too frequently direct military attack.

Last November, MRSCP members Tsela Barr and Michele Bahl were able to visit Gaza on a delegation organized by Interfaith Peace Builders. There they witnessed firsthand the difficulties Palestinians face daily as well as the start of Operation Pillar of Cloud, the most recent in a long string of massive and destructive military incursions into Gaza. They gained a new appreciation for how hard it is for a society to raise children under a state of perpetual war.

Tsela and Michele returned to Madison with a new sense of urgency about the needs of the people they met in Gaza, and with a proposal for an exciting new project: a new library for the **Rachel Corrie Cultural Center for Children and Youth in Rafah**.

Founded and operated by the **Union of Health Work Committees (UHWC)** the center is currently undergoing renovations to make it better able to provide educational and recreational activities for Rafah's children.

Anees Mansour, a young man who works with children at the center, took Tsela and Michele on a tour pointing out where books and bookshelves, tables and chairs, and computer equipment could go in the largely empty rooms -- if only the funds were available.

The UHWC has asked if MRSCP would provide funds to furnish the library with these things (see items listed below). We agreed to raise the \$3990 needed. To jump-start this project, we have designated \$320 of our funds to pay for the printer. This leaves only \$3670 to go!

Part of MRSCP's mission is to help the people of Rafah meet their own goals. We want to emphasize that the impetus for this project comes from people in Rafah. Your donation will help them provide their children with what they feel is important to survive and grow in the harsh conditions in which they are forced to live.

Last March MRSCP completed fundraising for our third water filter for schools in Rafah. That project was initiated when school children said that what they wanted most for their school was clean water. We are very grateful that people like you made this possible. We hope you will consider a contribution to make this new project a reality as well.

Thanks,



Anees Mansour with children at the Rachel Corrie Center

" - because somehow even though you are born in a cage and you have never lived without shooting all night, you are still able to play."

—Rachel Corrie on the children of Rafah, January 29, 2003

Yes! I want to help furnish the library at the Rachel Corrie Cultural Center for Children and Youth in Rafah!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

I wish to contribute the following (please check appropriate boxes).*

- \$20 for one student chair (need 20)
- \$70 for one computer table
- \$100 for one reading table (need 4)
- \$100 for one office desk
- \$100 for one office chair
- \$100 for one bookshelf (need 20)
- ~~\$320 for one computer printer~~ **DONE!**
- \$600 for one computer

_____ to be used as needed

Please make checks payable to **MRSCP** and write **LIBRARY** on the memo line.

Mail to:
**MRSCP, PO Box 55371
Madison, WI 53705**

**Donations will be pooled so that all the listed equipment can be purchased.*

MRSCP is a 501(3)c exempt organization. Your gift is tax-deductible as a charitable contribution.

You will receive a receipt at the end of the year for tax records.