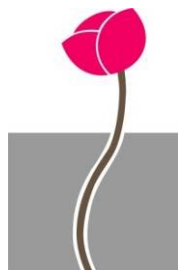


Tamer Institute for Community Education



Annual report 2008



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About Tamer...

Tamer Institute for Community Education is an educational non-governmental non-profit organization established in 1989 as a natural and necessary response to urgent needs in the Palestinian community during the first intifada (uprising). The most important of these is the need to acquire means to help people learn and become productive.

Focusing principally on the rights to education, identity, freedom of expression and access to information, Tamer works across the West Bank and Gaza Strip, primarily targeting children and young people, and developing alternatives and supplements to formal education. Our programs promote reading and writing on national and regional levels, development of children's literature, and creative self-expression and youth empowerment through advocacy and community development initiatives.

Since 1989, Tamer has successfully formed solid partnerships with international non-governmental organizations and institutions, regional organizations and local grassroots organizations across the West Bank and Gaza Strip. With the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in 1993, we have also worked closely with governmental institutions including the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education. In addition, we are member to a number of local, regional and international coalitions, and host local branches of several networks. Tamer regards such partnerships and coalitions as an asset that benefits the institute in implementing its programs and helps us reach a larger number of beneficiaries.

Our Vision

Our vision is of a Palestine where children and young people have reason to hope and dream, where they can attain their dreams by developing their skills and confidence in a supportive environment that understands and respects human rights and democracy. Our vision includes access to quality education for all, access to information and freedom of expression, where children and young people are listened to and feel valued and safe. Our vision is of a Palestine where children and young people can learn together, play together and develop together, sharing experiences and ideas and expressing themselves creatively through writing, dialogue and art.

Our Name

The name of the Institute is derived from the date fruit, which has an important standing in Arab and Palestinian culture and heritage. Dates come from the Palm tree and were historically a primary source of nutrition, helping people survive when other food was not available. Dates were seen as a symbol of spiritual food, nourishing understanding and encouraging sharing within the community and consideration towards others less fortunate, promoting spiritual growth. The Tamer (pronounced ta-amer) is the person who transports the date seeds from the male palm tree to the female palm tree, which produces the fruit. This process fertilizes the seed and improves the female tree's production. This work reflects the Institute's role in society, where it transfers knowledge and experiences from one person to another in order to develop capacity and skills for its beneficiaries at community level. In disseminating knowledge across the community, we help the community grow and learn from itself.

Our Logo

Our logo is a poppy breaking through rocky soil, reflecting the hope in the potential for change within society, which sometimes contains restrictive social structures and thought patterns that hinder development and waste potential. For the Tamer Institute, this hope is embodied in children and young people, who like the poppy breaking through these obstacles and contributing to the process of changing and developing society.

Message of the General Director

Unfavorably, Tamer's unprecedented success during 2008 was dampened by the Israeli war on Gaza strip. The aftermath of this war and its casualties among civilians and children, confirms the need to pursue policies and programs that even more strongly focus on education and community empowerment. Under such circumstances, the need to promote reading and provide safe and free spaces for expression is confirmed once again.

Tamer will be celebrating its twentieth anniversary next year. With this hopeful omen, we re-dedicate ourselves to continuing our work to achieve our vision, mission and goals. We will target our services to the neediest. Tamer will also continue to be part of Palestinian civil society that seeks to bring about positive social change. Over the past nineteen years, the institute has played a major role in leading community-based processes to promote reading, and in providing the best possible children's literature to many marginalized locations and groups. Tamer maintains an intimate relation with the community, and coordinates closely with the Ministries of Culture and Education. We are entrusted to furnish public and school libraries with our publications on a continuous basis.

During 2008, Tamer has printed over 80,000 copies of 11 of its titles with a 95% distribution rate. We have also responded to the challenge of getting our books to Gaza. The continuing closure of the Gaza Strip has made it impossible to physically transfer our books there. We were determined not to allow the occupation deny children the power of books, especially in this conflict area where children are in need of open horizons. So Tamer decided to print 10 of its publications inside the Gaza Strip itself, although materials are scarce and prices of printing are higher than in the West Bank.

Tamer places a great deal of hope in the energetic and promising base of adolescents, who share its mission across 38 community centers in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Those centers create spaces for adolescents to learn, discover and create a fertile medium for creativity. *Nakheel* (Palm Trees) youth teams, including *Yara'at* and *Voices*, have supported the mission of the institute in promoting reading through many impressive

literary meetings and cultural events. These were prepared for the 60 memory of the Palestinian Nakba, the passing of Mahmoud Darwesh, the poet they cherished, during the war on Gaza and in their participation in 'I donated a Book Campaign'. These activities represent their response to the atmosphere they endure, fully convinced that the impact of the knowledge of art and literature will achieve a better society for themselves.

The many activities of Tamer with the active and splendid support of formal and non-formal entities have created a participatory approach towards knowledge enrichment within the community.

Renad Qubbaj

General Director

Atmospheres for Expression

The National Reading Campaign (NRC)

The program team planned and worked on the following activities:

Month	Sub Theme
April	Reading Month & National Reading Week
May	Tales Month, Flying Kites
June	Discovery Month
July	Creative writing Month
August	Summer Camps Month
September	Cultural Nights
October	Movies & Documentations Months
November, December	"I donated a book" Month

The National Reading Week (NRW)

At the end of the National Reading Week of 2008, a central festival was organized at Al Khader International Stadium, and was attended by more than 1000 child from Bethlehem district (cities, villages and refugee camps). The festival included activities about reading, learning, folklore dancing, artistic dancing and clowns. Children experienced lots of joy and cheerfulness. At the end, children produced a huge paper board about their dreams and rights (each of them wrote a small part). Local organizations had the opportunity to exhibit their products of reading week and displayed children creative works.

- Total number of activities: **1652**
- Total number of partners: **417**
- Total number of beneficiaries: **52436**

Since 2008 represents the 60th anniversary of Nakba, Tamer has come up with “**One People, One Story**” as the theme for this year’s reading campaign. The idea is to reconnect children and young adults with the memoir of their ancestors. We intended to indulge children to the history of their relatives who have lived in this land for long time and witnessed the changes encountered. In addition, the purpose is to provide the Palestinian children, inside Palestine and in the Diaspora, with a platform of understanding where they can communicate with their heritage to develop one understanding of their identity.

Activities conducted during May

3 Flying Kites in Gaza, Haifa and Beriut:

Gaza: 4 workshops were conducted with children who, at the end produced 15 paper planes at Shati' refugee camp. On the 16th of May, 25 children have participated in releasing Kites at Gaza beach.

Jerusalem: A Kite producing workshop was conducted at Sirreya Center for Community Service.

Nablus: For two hours, many Kites were released in the air. Those Kites included writings about Nakba. At the same time, other traditional and folklore singing was taking place, and performed by all preparation committee members in Nablus.

Jericho: Children released balloons with names of Palestinian cities and villages in 1948 occupied land (including Jaffa) by 60 participating children.

3 Activities with Palestinians in 1948 Lands and Jolan Heights:

In cooperation with Tamer, a day for stories and poetry was organized at Fateh Almudarres for Culture and Arts. This activity that was volunteered by an expert on storytelling targeted Jolan Heights' children.

3 Activities in Jordan:

In cooperation with Al Balad Theater in Amman and Al Ruwwad organization in Jabal Eln Nathif, several activities were implemented, among them are "Mawwal Phalastini" film and "This is Not a Weapon" film, documentary films talking about Palestinians suffering in the 1948 lands, daily military aggression; demolishing their homes, killing them.

3 Activities in Syria:

An activity was conducted under the title "Khabbarani El Andaleeb", in which stories from the Palestinian history were told.

3 Activities in Lebanon:

"Our homes in Palestine" activity took place inside refugee camps.

In 2008 each month handled a theme with many activities implemented under it. May 2008 was a remarkable month as many activities were implemented locally and regionally.

Success Stories

In Nablus small depots were set up around the city at community centers, and books were destined for cancer and kidney patients at the Al-Wataini Hospital in the city center.

A child at the Jannet El Seghar library in Al Khader town (Bethlehem) was suffering from Autism and had a hard time dealing with his teachers. During an activity conducted by Center for Adolescents and the library for children with special needs, volunteers used face painting and folklore singing. The kid got attracted to participate in painting and singing, then became active participant in all activities.

Creating Friendly Spaces for a Achievements:

- ✓ Drama became the most learning. Adolescents performances addressing with parents, health topics, early marriage, school violence and smoking).
- ✓ Folklore and dancing competitions promoted adolescents' creativity and musical talents. They were able to collect many folklore items from around their neighborhoods.
- ✓ Painting (on paper, on walls, and others) gave adolescents room to express themselves, use imagination and acquire skills of using colors
- ✓ Sports activities allowed females and males to form teams and compete in a healthy way.
- ✓ Adolescents acquired PC skills (word, PowerPoint and excel)
- ✓ Field visits connected adolescents with their communities, industries, farms, water wells and historic places. They also learned skills of documentation and taking photos of visited places.



Tamer aims, in support with UNICEF, through this project to elevate the level of academic gain for those students, in fifteen schools in both west bank and Gaza, falling behind the literacy and numeracy levels of their grades, and those who have already dropped out of school.

Success Stories

A 14 years old dropout quit his work as a busboy and decided to attend workshops and started learning writing & reading (which he was not able to do before)

Hoosan Center: a very young girl showed talent in writing poetry and short stories. She has participated in cultural evenings and competitions in Bethlehem and Hebron

Protective sphere for children

Achievements:

✓ Producing policy document

The goal of this policy document is to help planners and decision-makers to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate the processes relating to protection of Palestinian children in their schools and communities. This policy document depends on the results of the participatory research conducted within the Protective Sphere Project; which aims at improving the protection of children in school and their communities.

✓ Creating drawings

The drawings were developed into three posters. The activities took place in the West Bank and Gaza during the month of September.

✓ Open Days in Schools

Compared to the beginning of the project in 2006, the relation between schools and the local community has improved and communication has been enhanced through the meetings.

Some teachers noted that violence among children themselves was also reduced.

Some school teachers admired the method of implementing the activities which were based on child to child approach and expressed the importance of generalizing this technique to all schools.



Goal

A Protective Sphere for Palestinian Children aims to provide Palestinian children living under military occupation with the protective sphere necessary to ensure their physical and emotional well-being.

The project focuses on developing alternatives to corporal punishment and child-child violence, improving the physical/protective environments of schools, and enhancing the participatory and decision-making skills of children who are often prevented from participating in decisions that affect them at the school level.

The project also advocates for different stakeholders (schools, communities, families, Palestinian Authority, and the international community) to take responsibility for the protection needs of children.

Right for Water

This third year of the project reflected the change that the youth started to achieve within their own circle where they started to form groups which interacted about environmental issues within their own circle. This change reflected the youth's comprehension about the needs in their societies.



Goal

This project aims to activate the Nakheel Youth Teams to advocate for water protection and preservation and empower them to mobilize communities to this end.

Success Stories

- ✓ Participants have improved their knowledge and networking skills through reading, conducting researches and discussions and coordinating with local organizations. They were also able to use their work with experts and specialized organizations.
- ✓ Community sectors showed interest and enthusiasm to participate in such a crucial issue. Journalists from south Gaza offered to do publications and writing about the project issues. Local organizations and libraries offered support and facilitation.

Oral History 2008

Activities

- ✓ Youth participated in workshops on how to make an interview, on creative writing and storytelling and on photography.
- ✓ A series of discussions on the notion of Identity and how influenced by the Israeli occupation and the social system.
- ✓ Information about Jerusalem was collected by youth and analyzed. They also analyzed the pictures taken for the city.
- ✓ The discussed the content and the title of the book.
- ✓ The historian helped the youth to develop a history book about the city of Jerusalem prepared by Youth.



This project uses a creative learning method with youth in Jerusalem, who document oral history by interviewing the local elderly in an effort to enhance their knowledge of Palestinian culture and stimulate their thinking.

Earlier Publications on Oral history:

- Ein Kenia
- Yallo
- Jericho: Journey of 1000 year.
- Palestinian on the Roal.
- Cities Telling their stories.

Spaces for Reading and Writing

Youth Teams

Yara'at & Voices Teams

Yara'at team has improved its writing, editing, coordinating and communication skills during the last year. This has resulted in more and better quality writings, better and cooperative team working and more active role in cultural events and activities. The editorial team has been working harder on discussing and evaluating youth's writings from all over Gaza and the West Bank. Reader of Yara'at issues can easily notice the quality of writing and publishing. They gained leadership skills. One of them became a coordinator of all Yara'at activities and management issues. Another became a coordinator for creative writings.

- Yara'at added a new column "This is how Yara'at Team lives the experience".
- Activating Yara'at forum: Gaza Yara'at team has established an electronic forum to include members' writings and related discussions and archive, in addition to their activities. The forum website is: www.tamerinst.org/vb
- Yara'at team visited Saffa village, Ein Kinia and Refugee Camps met with an elderly who told them stories.



- They participated in "Stead fastening & Struggle" camp in Jordan. 7 of them travelled to Jordan and met with other Palestinian youth refugees from Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to discuss Palestinian national ID related issues
- Voices and Yara'at team took part in Popular Committee to Support Gaza, from marching and lightning candles to collecting relief materials. Updated their newsletter with two issues: on The Apartheid Wall and on the War on Gaza.
- They actively participated in Mahmoud Darwesh honoring activities and events. Since Darwesh departure day, Yara'at has been participating in all related activities: memorial, cultural evenings, wearing shirts and writing about him.
- Exercises: Yara'at & Voices team have completed 8 training hours on creative writing Yara'at painting team has conducted 6 training workshops in painting.

Yara'at is part of a continuous learning process that allows youth to produce creative writings. The Editorial team of Yara'at group is responsible for producing bimonthly supplement (through Al Ayyam newspaper), in which youth participants discuss, analyze, criticize and exchange views of their own writings in an open minded and creative manner. Not only Yara'at team learns and acquires writing skills, but they learn and practice concepts of tolerance, accepting others within their community and accountability. Yara'at team includes youth females and males who are interested in creative writing, drawing and writing. Those groups have a wide circle of friends in all districts of Gaza and the West Bank.

Tales Clubs



Activities

- Four trainings conducted each in Gaza Strip and the West bank, with 20 animators in the area of storytelling
- The tales clubs have developed more than 10 young children who can express themselves amazingly with storytelling.
- 50 titles were supplied for 20 libraries and distributed by UNICEF.
- 6 tales are published in “My First Tale Book”.

800 children participated in storytelling and writing activities, the children are now able to tell stories, write and illustrate

Tamer aims through this project at activating children's libraries in the deprived areas of West Bank and Gaza Strip by providing activities promoting values of nonviolence, dialogue and self expression as well as helping them document or publish their productions. Aware of the need for reading, the institute has developed some of its publications: the reading passport and the reading note books; into new version: **“My Passport for Tales”** in order to urge children to read and listen to stories from elderly as well as the trainers and document them, then to write their own tales and share it with community. By publishing their Tales through the Publishing Unit in Tamer, the children will have their first Tales published. The institute intends to employ the new versions of its publications: **“My Passport for Tales”** and **“My First Tale”** to encourage children into attending libraries and express

Children's Literature

Tamer is hosting the program on developing Children's literature implemented on a regional level and aiming at:

- ✓ Empower and support children's literature infrastructure.
- ✓ Promote activities related to children and reading promotion.

Children's Resource Center

Activities

Children from different summer camps, such as

- Better Tomorrow Summer Camp.
- Les Petites Pats Summer Camp.
- The Latin Church Summer Camp.

All visited our library, performed different activities, and planned for future activities.

- ✓ At the time of 101 book fair (with Anna Lind foundation), groups of summer camps children participants came to the library and participated in storytelling and other crafts workshops conducted at the side of the fair.



■ The data entry program (Lybsis) has been updated. More than 1000 new books were classified, indexed and integrated in the system. There are 13600 books available in the library right now. New shelves were bought also and filled with books

■ 2235 books were borrowed from the library.

■ 146 members have been active participants in library activities

■ 1240 visitors have visited the library.

■ 2000 new titles were received as a donation from the Book Aid donation.

The Publishing Unit in 2008

The Friends (By Kazumi Uomoto and translated by Sulafa Hejjawi): In search for answers to questions about death, three Japanese boys learn about life and living in a beautifully unfolding novel. Kiyama, Kawabe and Yamashita are sixth grade friends who want to know what happens when someone dies, in that very moment of life's passing.

Al Alwan (by Lyana Bader), illustration of Hosni Radwan: the story talks about pretty young girl named Lana who get hit by a sunstroke that caused her not to get out of the house to play around with her friends. Instead, she sets in her room painting on her white paper. Though the story, Lana gets into the world of stories about colors and beauty of the nature

“ My First Tale” Tales book (2008) : 6 fairytales written by 6 children from the West Bank and Gaza strip after the completion of a six months project with The UNICEF and Tamer working on folkloric storytelling with Children in 20 libraries and as an outcome of the project there will be my first tale coming out.

Breeze: The story (written by Buthayna Hamdan and drawings by Mohammed Owies) talks about Israeli forcing people of Ennabah out of their village and homes in 1948. In the story, the writer tells stories of witnesses lived the experience.

My first book13: Since 1996, tamer has been organizing My First Book competition for children. This year competition was about “My grandfather and grandmother stories”

A dream “Children Poetry” (by Sulafa Hejjawi): It includes 5 to 7 poems addressing children.

“Bi-lingual” Folktales Book (2008) published in both Arabic and French , in cooperation with the French organization Cobiac and Riwaq Center in Bethlehem to Publish nine Palestinian folktales for children to be distributed in both Palestine and France .

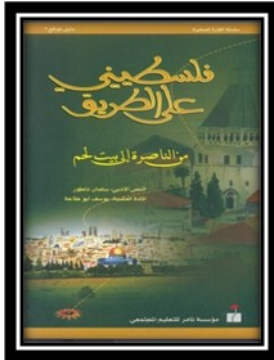
The Magic Iron: a young girl with a magical iron which transfers things from a three dimensional perspective into a one dimensional one.

Tayf: It is a Palestinian magazine on children's literature that includes subjects about writers, editors, artists and individuals interested in children literature.

In 1993 “the Publishing Unit” was established to provide high quality and interactive books for our children and youth. In addition, Tamer started developing children literature at all levels. More than 130 books were published to concentrate on creative education and aim to enhance national identity, diversity, equal opportunities, and children's rights.

Our publications tackle different subjects: translated stories, manuals for teachers and students, studies and researches, picture books and books for youth, and different publications documenting Tamer projects and activities as well as periodicals.

Awards



Palestinian on the Road By Salman Al Natur : A book that describes the historical path that connects the two cities: Nazareth and Bethlehem. It also describes the cities and areas placed on this path. This book won the honor list on the national level among 101 books for children from the Arab world. The book was reprinted for promoting its sale.

Astrid Lindgren Award Earlier in 2008, Tamer hosted two Jurors from Alma-Sweden. They accompanied Tamer's staff in a trip in different locations in the West Bank to follow up activities which are implemented by the Institute. Jurors couldn't visit our office in Gaza Strip due to restrictions caused by the Israeli occupation. Tamer did not receive the Award in 2008, but is still nominated for 2009.

IBBY's Honour List 2008: The Zapperdockel and the Wock for best translation. Sheep don't Eat Cat for best writing and illustration.

Cooperation with the Ministries

The Ministries of Education and the Ministry of Culture are active members of the Steering Committee for the children's literature program. Both ministries support the multiple activities implemented by the institute in the different locations, inside schools and on the community level. During our partnership with the Ministry of Education, many of our books have been requested for a reprint and distribution inside school and public libraries. 10,000 copies of the following titles were reprinted and distributed:

- a. Hedaidon.
- b. The Prince and the Wise Man.
- c. Kowajo.
- d. Traveler through Ages.
- e. Palestinian History for Young adults.
- f. Rasha's Window.



Emergency Kits in Gaza Strip

In February 2009, Tamer prepared an emergency kit containing notebooks, 5 of Tamer's publications, pencils and crayons. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, 4500 of those kits were distributed inside schools, and another 200 kits were distributed in shelters. Children enjoyed the contents of the kits, after losing their belongings during the war.



Libraries Animation

During 2008, Tamer has been working in the area of Nablus, where it provided 10 libraries in Nablus with the following:

- ✓ Quality books for Children's libraries.
- ✓ Training of Librarians; a total of 50 training hours for 2 librarians of each of the 10 libraries; 20 hours in classification and indexing and 30 hours in animation skills to animate a library through creative writing, story telling, music, songs, drama, and handcrafts, toys.
- ✓ Workshops for children: include but not limited to creative writing, story telling, drama, puppet show, illustrations... A total of 20 workshops a year in each of the 10 libraries – 2 workshops/ month-
- ✓ Workshops for mothers: a total of 10 workshops yearly – one/month. Those workshops focused on how mothers can encourage their children to read, importance of reading, story telling for the children and also how to deal with their violent children.



I donated a book Campaign

The campaign witnessed great enthusiasm and cooperation among volunteers themselves and within local communities. The following are remarks and success stories from the field:

The campaign was able to reach out so many people; they had to bring books after the campaign day.

Total number of books received: **14000** books.

In Nablus the books collected were provided to the hospital of Nablus to establish a library inside it.

Goal

Tamer aims through this project to improve Libraries and community based centers in 3 locations where each year work and training will be focused on one location.

Tamer and Libraries...

Libraries are considered an essential medium for the multiple activities that promote reading and strengthen the relation between children and books.

Tamer tends to implement activities inside libraries to build an independent and empowered entities that design local strategies to promote reading.

Development of Competencies

Tamer has taken the leading role in a program that includes five Arab countries and has worked in partnership with the Ministries of Culture and education, Diakonia and UNRWA on the evaluation and exhibition of the best 101 books in the Arab world.

In a national step, Tamer has organized a national conference to announce to the public **“the national plan on children’s literature”** in Palestine for the next three years. The plan is partially supported by Anna Lindh Foundation. Diakonia is also interested in searching support for this plan.

A seminar was organized in March to discuss and evaluate the survey made on children’s literature in Palestine.



Seminar on Children’s literature

The Seminar demonstrated the results on the research made in five countries of the region involved in the children’s literature development program (Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Palestine).

Believing in the potentials and capabilities of the children’s literature sector in Palestine, Tamer has promised to support this sector and has planned to develop children’s literature through the multiple activities it implements in West Bank and Gaza Strip. In the children’s literature program, led by the institute, and joining the different stakeholders, a vision on children’s literature was developed and the institute has adopted it.



Regional Networking on Children's Literature

Read Write Now

This initiative aims to promote reading and writing among Arab young adults. It aims to develop healthy civil societies in the Arab world by addressing the lack of quality Arabic books for young adults. Implemented in Alexandria and Cairo in Egypt, Toledo in Spain and the West Bank in Palestine, the project activities stimulate interest in reading (via literature festivals) and support the development of new literature (via authors' workshops and grants for books). Tamer hosted the project in Palestine.

Activities:

- Youth Literature Festival: to stimulate interest in reading amongst young people.
- Authors' Workshops: to stimulate interest in and the capability to write for young people.
- Book Production and Distribution: to stimulate the production of new Arabic books for young adults. Four books won a competition on writing and Tamer hosted the process of publishing them. Two authors are from Palestine, one from Egypt and one from Lebanon. Tamer supervised the process of editing, production supervision, printing and publicity of the books.

Arab & International Book Fairs

Tamer participates in several Arab and international book fairs and cooperated with some international publishing houses aiming at introducing international children literature to Palestinian and Arab readers. In addition to introduce Palestinian children's books to the world, concentrating on the importance of children literature in enhancing cultural exchange and understanding among peoples and peace building.

Literary Days in Gaza Strip

Tamer aims to develop children's literature in the Gaza Strip through the Literary Days initiative. Children in Gaza are in particular need of fun and safe spaces where they can learn together, express themselves and be creative. Literary Days contributes towards meeting this need by offering literary material that helps the children and young people in Gaza develop their reading skills and imaginations. Literary Days also helps to raise awareness of life outside the Gaza Strip for many children who are unable to leave.

The activity resulted in 8 novels prepared by youth. These novels were evaluated by an evaluation committee which focused on the literary level, the language used by youth, the content, and flaw of incidents. Only three of those novels will be edited by an editor who will help authors to develop their works and after that to get their novels published.



Tamer's Structure

General Assembly members:

Arham Al-Damen, Kamal Shamshum, Abla Nasser, Dinees Assad, Janet Micha'el, Ghassan Faramand, Violet Fasheh, Morris Baqleh, Sameh Abbooshi, Sammar Odeh, Eyad Marsooji, Bassem Khoury, Fayha' Abed Al Hadi, Faraj Ghenem, Muneer Qazaaz, Mary Fasheh, Ma'an Samara, Dima Sihweel, Laila Atshan, Mahmoud Shqair.

Board of Directors:

Elected by the General Assembly in June 10th, 2008:

Arham Al-Daman (President), Abla Nasser (member), Muneer Qazaaz (Treasurer), Kamal Shamshoom (Deputy), Mary Fash, Eyad Marsooji, Violet Fasheh, Sameh Abbooshi, Ghassan Faramand.

The Board of Directors met 9 times in 2008. Meetings covered:

- Developments in programs and projects
- Framework for implementation of office renovation
- Recruiting new members to the General Assembly
- Preparation for the General Assembly meeting.

The Board of Directors also participated in various activities organized by Tamer or its youth volunteer teams throughout the year.

Staff

- * General Director: Renad Qubbaj
- * Program staff: Abed Al Salam Nakhleh, Niveen Shaheen, Amani M'adi, Ruba Totah, Mahmoud Heresh, Mira Dabit.
- * Office manager in Gaza Strip: Mohammed Baloosheh
- * Finance staff: Shadi Al A'iseh, Ahlam Abed
- * Logistics: Nisreen Khalil
- * Office assistance: Fadi Al Atari
- * Librarian: Nawal Abu Hadeed
- * Yara'at Coordinator: Amani M'adi.
- * Field Coordinators: 40 coordinators.

Renovating an Old Building for Tamer's Use

Providing an old building for the use of Tamer institute in the old city of Ramallah has doubled importance since it both reactivates the old city, that is receiving minimal interest by residence and tourism, preserving the cultural identity through attracting children to build relationship with the place as they spend time inside it during activities, and support the effectiveness of the institute's activities in a wider space, reducing the enormous cost and effort of coordination to conduct those activities. The institute will resume its activities in this building in April 2009.

Acknowledgment

Tamer Institute would like to extend its acknowledgments to all local and international Partners. Also to Youth who volunteer for a better community...

- | | |
|---|---|
| * Diakonia – Sweden | * Arab Fund of Arts and Culture |
| * Anna Lindh Foundation | * Consulate General of Sweden / Sida |
| * Consulate General of Belgium-Jerusalem | * Riwaq center for Architectural conversation |
| * Belgian Technical Cooperation-Jerusalem | * Bologna Book Fair |
| * Book Aid International UK | * Movement for Peace MPDL |
| * British Council | * Spanish Agency for international development AECI |
| * CC NGO/EFA | * Save the Children UK |
| * Frankfurt Book Fair | * UNESCO |
| * French Consulate | * UNICEF |
| * French Cultural Center | * Children's Literature Committee. |
| * Goethe Institute | |
| * Heinrich Böll Foundation | |
| * IBBY | |
| * Welfare Association | |