

Code: ME047/IPYL059/ 2010

Date: 23/07/2010 – 05/08/2010

Place: Nablus City

Hosting Organization: IPYL + Nablus Association for Social and Community Development (Darna)

Work type: Rehabilitation / Painting & renovation

Number of Volunteers: 30 Internationals

Participation Fee: 200 Euros

Introduction:

The peace in the Middle East remains one of the major challenges to be solved for the international community today. After years of intifadah, peace agreements and ongoing occupation, young people are the part of the population most affected by the stalemate. International voluntary service is a way to express solidarity and transmit hope, energy and creativity for young people to construct their citizenship under difficult circumstances through day-by-day cooperation among people of different backgrounds. We are therefore happy to host you for two weeks in Nablus City, where you will have the possibility to make a change!

Today almost half a million Palestinian refugees are living in overcrowded refugee camps in the West Bank. Most of the families left their homes in today's Israel during the *Nakba* in 1948 and has since then never had the opportunity to return to their property. While the Israelis call this the war of independents, the Palestinians talk about the disaster, which is also the meaning of the word *Nakba* in Arabic. For more than 60 years these families have been living under harsh conditions in refugee camps all over the region.

International Palestinian Youth League (IPYL)

IPYL aims to empower Palestinian youth through non-formal educational programs, intercultural learning, training, media literacy and youth leadership activities. Since its inception, IPYL has implemented hundreds of activities, including international voluntary Workcamps, exchanges, cross-cultural study trips, leadership seminars, think tank groups and community meetings. By undertaking these activities, IPYL has developed strong alliances with a wide network of individuals and organizations.

For more information about IPYL, please visit www.ipyl.org

Nablus Association for Social and Community Development and its project “Darna”

The Association is considered as a house of civil institutions, and the foster of youth talents and skills and innovations. The Association was able through its project “Darna”, to build a strong relationship between Nablus associations and institutions through the cultural and social services to the community, also the association used to be the partner of Zajel Youth Exchange program for the last five years.

Some of its services are to provide training rooms, fax services, projectors and LCD’s to more than 86 associations in Nablus without distinction to race, sex or religious believes.

Project Description:

There are a number of different forms of work that volunteers can participate in, which will be based in the New Askar refugee camp and in the city of Nablus. The work program has been designed to best suit the needs of the people living in such hard places, as well as to effectively utilise the talents we anticipate volunteers will bring from abroad. The work will be divided into different sessions such as:

- **Farming**
- **Painting**
- **Art**
- **Working with the Disabled**
- **Music**
- **Sport**

Cultural Activities:

The afternoon will be used to give volunteers an inter-cultural learning experience, with a focus on showing the international volunteers Palestinian culture within the context of the occupation and hopes for the future. This will involve visits to refugee camps in Bethlehem, visiting the associations in the city, tours of place of interest, lectures, and most importantly interaction with the local people. The volunteers will be able to visit the different associations and centers where they can watch Documentaries, about the situation in Palestine and the Middle East. They will also have the opportunity to speak with the Palestinian politicians and Authors to open the space for them to find the answers for all the questions they want to ask.

The volunteers will also have the opportunity to visit other cities in the west bank, Ramallah, Hebron etc..

p.s. more detailed program will be sent one month before the camp starts.

***This work camp is organized and implemented by IPYL
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