



EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM WESTERN USA LIEUTENANCY



August 1, 2019

Subject: Holy Land Economic Development Fund (HLEDF) Update

Dear Fellow Members of the Order:

We are pleased to keep you up to date on the good works that are being accomplished through your support of the HLEDF! Your contributions to the fund are directly and positively impacting the lives of Christian families who need financial assistance to grow and maintain the small businesses they operate in the Holy Land. We recently have been able to provide funding for two new loans that have been approved by our Lieutenant H.E. Michael Feeley totaling \$23,000:

- The first loan for \$8,000 is to fund the purchase of new tools and machinery. The applicant is a married father of three living in their own house in Bethlehem surrounded on three sides by the separation wall at Rachel's Tomb area. The applicant has owned a mechanical garage to repair cars since 1995 and is very well known in Bethlehem. His spouse has a Christian souvenir shop at the ground floor of their house. An interesting note, one of the guarantors of this loan was a beneficiary of a successful business micro-loan from Caritas Jerusalem in 2004 that was fully repaid in 2007.
- The second loan is to an Executive Chef in Bethlehem for \$15,000 to fund the purchase of restaurant equipment needed to expand his catering business. He is a married father of two from Beit Sahour. He has had his own catering business since 2008, which is very well known and used for many events and engagements.

The total amount of loans funded to date by the HLEDF/Micro-loan program is \$89,000. Repaid funds and new funds are allocated to additional loans so that the money is constantly at work.

Thank you again for your commitment to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and for your support of the HLEDF program. This program is truly making a difference in the lives of Christian Palestinians.

We ask for your continued prayers and support of this program as we continue to move forward and undertake efforts to secure additional financial support from sources outside the Order. The growth of this program will enable us to increase the amount of loans that can be made to support Christian families and their small businesses in the Holy Land.

Thank you, again, for your continued dedication and support of our Church in the Holy Land!

Deus lo Vult!

Sincerely in Christ,

Sir Laurin and Lady Sophia Rose Dodd
Sir Pieter and Lady Teena Scholte
Councillors, Western Lieutenancy Justice and Peace Advisory Committee