



**Equestrian Order
of the
Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem**
Western Lieutenancy

**Holy Land
Small Business Grants**

The Western Lieutenancy, through its ongoing partnership with Caritas Jerusalem, has begun funding a new Holy Land Small Business Grant program (also known as Micro-Business Grants) that will help *poor* and *disadvantaged* Christian families develop small family businesses that will enable and help them to become self-reliant and put food on their table through work instead of charity.

For each beneficiary of the program, the program will provide a grant, not a loan, of up to \$3,000 worth of tools, equipment, materials, and supplies needed to start a new or help an existing small business.

Caritas Jerusalem will also provide start-up assistance, training, support, and counsel to program beneficiaries for the first twelve months as they utilize the grant to start or improve their business operations.

CJ will continue to monitor, assist, and provide needed support to the beneficiaries for up to five years.

The program was funded with an initial grant from the Western Lieutenancy in 2022 with the goal of helping up to thirteen Christian families who will be identified with the aid of local parish priests in the respective parishes of the villages and towns in Palestine where the program will be implemented.

Program Goals

- The project aims to ensure that the participants can secure a sustainable livelihood for themselves *for the long term*, living with dignity and not relying on charity.
- Final selection of beneficiaries will be made based on the application, the applicant's social status and only following a detailed feasibility study including a site visit.
- Beneficiaries will commit to the project by signing an agreement outlining the roles and responsibilities of both the participants and Caritas Jerusalem.
- Participants will make a cash contribution *from their own funds* toward the cost of establishing or improving the micro-business to ensure their commitment to the project.

Selection Criteria

- **Social** selection criteria will prioritize families:
 - where women are the head of the family.
 - with children with disabilities.
 - whose bread winner is unemployed.
 - who are living below the poverty line.
 - who lost their income due to Covid-19.
 - who did not receive grants from charity organizations over the last three years.
- **Technical** selection criteria of families will include:
 - An applicant with a project/business that already exists.
 - A start-up activity which has been identified to ensure income generation and sustainability.
 - Families with experience and knowledge with the proposed project and market needs.
 - Families who have a place for the installation of the project.



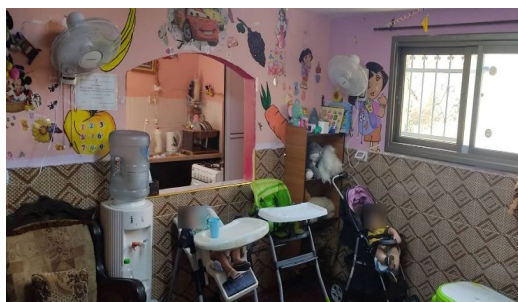
The First Beneficiaries

The program is being initially rolled out in the village of Zababdeh, near Jenin, in the northern region of the West Bank. The village is in a poor, under-developed, and often overlooked region of Palestine. Zababdeh is a “Christian” village; 75% of its resident population, or 1,875 people, are Christians. Many refugees from Gaza have fled to Zababdeh and the people of Zababdeh are often forced to leave their homes to pursue better life opportunities elsewhere.



In June 2022, Caritas Jerusalem began working with the parish priests from Our Lady of the Visitation Church in the parish of Zababdeh.

The applications were submitted and assessed, and the initial beneficiaries were identified.



- A 40-year-old widow with three children. Most of her income is spent on education, so very little is left for the basic necessities of

- life. She operates a children’s nursery but the place needs renovation and furniture so she can take care of more children and make the place safer for them.



- A 47-year-old widower with four school-age children. He has accumulated debts and needs to renovate his tailor shop and purchase a new sewing machine and steam iron. He used to work in Jenin in the city but had to close his place due to the pandemic.
- A 36-year-old married woman whose husband is unemployed, and they have 4-children. She works as a part-time cleaner at the Latin Monastery and cooks at home for her neighbors and friends. She wants to expand her services but needs a refrigerator and deep freezer so she can improve her income.
- A 37-year-old woman with five children in school. She has opened a used furniture shop where her main clients are students from the American Arab University. She needs some renovations and more secondhand furniture and electrical appliances to develop her business and have more income.

Please consider donating to support the Holy Land Small Business Grants program. This program directly helps Christian Palestinian families become self-reliant, maintain their dignity through the hardships of living in Palestine, and gives them reasons to stay and raise their families in the Holy Land.



Please send donations to:

EOHSJ

Western Lieutenancy

555 W. Temple Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

www.eohsjwesternusa.org

**Please make checks payable to: EOHSJ
note in the check memo line:**

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