



EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM WESTERN USA LIEUTENANCY



July 1, 2020

Subject: Holy Land Economic Development Fund (HLEDF) Update

Dear Knights and Dames and HLEDF Donors:

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. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted Bethlehem and the West Bank. The businesses are just now starting to reopen with most dependent on pilgrimage/tourism, either directly or indirectly. The good news is that the HLEDF loan beneficiaries were given 90-day repayment moratorium and 9 out of 10 loans are current/rescheduled. We recently have been able to provide funding for three new loans that have been approved by our Lieutenant, H.E. Dame Margaret Romano, totaling \$32,870, two of which were approved prior to the pandemic shutdown with the funds being unable to be distributed because of the shutdown.

- The first loan for \$15,000 was used to expand the inventory for a men's clothing store to include the new fashions. The Christian owner is married with two children living in their own home in the Bethlehem area. His business is very well known and providing a particularly good income.
- The second loan for \$15,000 was used to expand the inventory at a mobile phone and accessories and maintenance business. The Christian owner is a young man who plans to get married this summer.
- The third new loan for \$2,870 was used to buy new equipment for a plumbing service company. The Christian owner is single and living with his family in Bethlehem.

The total amount of loans funded to date by the HLEDF/Micro-loan program is \$151,870. 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. 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. If you have any questions, please contact us at the office at office@eohsjwesternusa.org.

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