



IRAQI & AMERICAN RECONCILIATION PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The mission of the Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project is to promote reconciliation between the people of the United States and Iraq in response to the devastation that has affected Iraqi families, society, and culture.

IARP recognizes the common humanity of the people of Iraq and the people of the United States.

YEAR IN REVIEW

2014 saw the Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project (IARP) sprinkled throughout the local community and beyond. Through the attention and dedication of contract staff, volunteers, donors and supporters we helped 225 children write letters to children in Iraq. Children in Medtronic's preschool program, middle school children from St. Joan's Catholic Church, and students in New Hampshire and Pennsylvania were but some of the sites where children discussed the absence of clean water and sat down to write heartfelt letters to children in Iraq.

A curated show in late 2013, *Lands of Water* displayed around the two-ton Father of Waters statue in Minneapolis's City Hall, celebrated the Euphrates and the Mississippi, the major rivers running through the Sister Cities of Minneapolis, Minnesota and Najaf, Iraq.

Unforgetting Iraq: In Search of Recovery at the New Century Art Guild in Kimballton, Iowa was a show invited by veterans of the area. The pieces introduced the small town in southern Iowa to view and consider art shared with us by the artists of Iraq. This show stayed up for several months and was seen by approximately 1000 tourists and local people over the summer.

Over the course of 10 months in 2014 Nathan Fisher and eight local Iraqis studied, conceived of, wrote drafts, planned filming and created high quality documentary shorts that premiered at Macalester College in December of 2014. Three of the videos were voted "audience favorite" at Mizna's Arab Film Festival. The poignant personal stories of reluctant immigration are bravely shared by the Iraqi newcomers in hopes of introducing themselves to their new neighbors in Minnesota and beyond.

We hosted eight professional individuals from Najaf, Iraq as they connected with business people, academics, and many hosts in Twin Cities. On a warm summer night 75 of us shared a meal and cruised on the beautiful St. Croix River with an equal mix of Iraqis and longtime Minnesotans. We ended the evening at sunset dancing to oud music on the top deck of the boat.

Various IARP folks tabled, spoke, and presented workshops at 13 different venues throughout the year. Pilgrim Lutheran Church of St. Paul and St. Augustine's in Grand Rapids again conducted fundraisers to raise money for water filters. Generators and filters were provided for six additional schools in 2014. The installation of these filters is carried out by the Muslim Peacemaker Teams (MPT), our partners in Iraq.

Without the steady and sustaining generosity of our volunteers, donors and contract employees this broad reach would not be possible. It is through our partnership with all of you that we are able to, in a small way, support local Iraqis and educate ourselves and our neighbors about some of the realities for our brothers and sisters living in Iraq as well as those living in Minnesota.

Kathy McKay
Executive Director
IARP

IRAQI VOICES

6 short documentary films by Iraqi filmmakers
560 hours / 10 months (Iraqi filmmakers working in collaboration with Nathan Fisher)
300 people viewed live (200 at Macalester, 100 at Mizna)
56,000+ views online (Filmmaker Sarah Kanan's video went viral!)
Awards Mizna --"Audience Favorite"
Media Featured on MPR, Pioneer Press, Star Tribune, Channel 4, Channel 11

WATER FOR PEACE

6 schools received water filters
2400 students at schools with new water filters

LETTERS FOR PEACE

7 classrooms sent letters
225 letters sent

IRAQI ART PROJECT

1000 views of the exhibit in Kimballton
525+ views of Lands of Water in Minneapolis

SISTER CITY

8 visitors from Iraq
450 interactions with Americans
800 people celebrating Sister City connections with Najaf
13 community events with tabling and interaction with families

DIGITAL IMPACT

8000+ Facebook likes
New Facebook page Sister City Friends
2.495 million donated Google AdWords impressions
31,000 Google adwords clicks

OVERVIEW BY THE NUMBERS

2014 FINANCIALS

REVENUE

Individual Gifts	\$23,564
Foundations	\$12,384
Government Grants	\$51,665
Other	\$1187
Total	\$88,800

EXPENSES

Programming	\$65,297
Water/Muslim Peacemaker Teams	\$9444
Office/Administration	\$5707
Total	\$80,448

THANK YOU TO OUR SUSTAINING VOLUNTEERS!

Jamal Ali, Irene Gibson, Mary Hunt, Narmin Ralston and Deborah Schuster.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS AND DONORS.

Since the beginning, IARP has relied on the support of our community. We would like to extend a thank you to all the businesses, individuals and foundations that have generously contributed to our programs and events in the past year.

For a full list of IARP donors please visit: www.reconciliationproject.org

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