



## Financial Report to Donors

January 2023

Dear Seraj Friends:

Seraj Library Project has had a remarkable year. We thank you for your on-going generosity and commitment to us. To date, we have sent more than **\$1.3 Million Dollars** to Palestine for libraries and library programs in twelve West Bank communities. A significant marker!

At each calendar year-end we provide a brief financial overview of how we are managing your generous gifts. In addition to this brief summary, you can read about our recent accomplishments in our **2022 Report to Donors** on our temporary website at [www.benefit.serajlibraries.org](http://www.benefit.serajlibraries.org).

### Another Strong Fiscal Year - 2022 (July 2021 through June 2022 )

**Donations & Benefit Net - \$196,058** A strong response in a second pandemic year!

- 198 persons and organizations contributed to this total,
- including 67 new donors who had not given in previous years.
- Organizational expense was a remarkable 4%; we have no paid US staff. Almost all of your gifts to Seraj go directly to our libraries and programs!

### First 2 Quarters, Fiscal 2023 (July through December 2022)

- ◆ **Our First Ever Seraj Tour** saw 18 travelers from the US spend 10 days exploring Palestine from the perspective of Seraj and its partner communities. The tour got rave reviews from the participants, and our Palestinian staff took great pleasure helping the travelers encounter Palestinian communities and their history and culture.
- ◆ **2022 Benefit, “Seraj is Flourishing,”** occurred in November at Reza’s Restaurant in Oak Brook (after the Seraj Tour). The Palestinian comedian Amer Zahr informed and entertained us, after a delicious Mediterranean meal. See our Benefit report at: [www.benefit.serajlibraries.org](http://www.benefit.serajlibraries.org). We appreciate the generous participation of so many; our donations and pledges combined to **\$52,238**.
- ◆ **Emphases for fiscal year 2023.**
  1. Our two cultural centers, the **Palestinian Storytelling Center** in Kufor Aqab and the **Cultural Hub** in Birzeit, are up and running. We have begun offering programs for children, families and seniors. After two years of planning and construction, it is gratifying to see the results.
  2. After months of pandemic program quiet, and Cultural Center development, Seraj Palestine is laboring to consolidate its programming and library network. We have built a remarkable infrastructure; our current challenge is helping it live with activities and resources in support of Palestinian health and vitality.

We are delighted to be in partnership with you. There is much more to be done!

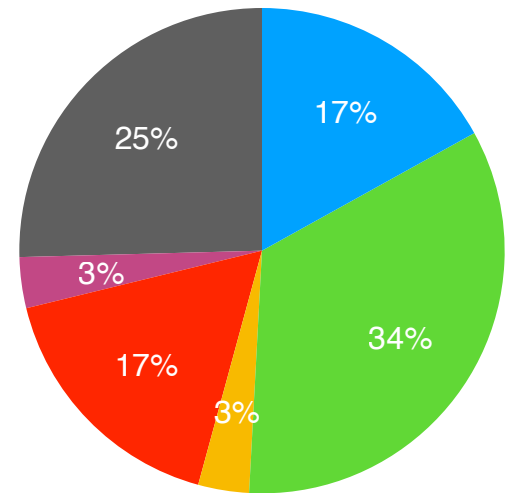
**John J. Cassel**, Seraj Treasurer, [johnjcassel@gmail.com](mailto:johnjcassel@gmail.com)

*See more financial reporting on the reverse.*

## 2023 Budget - Palestine

|  | fy 2023          |
|--|------------------|
| Kufor Aquab & Storytelling Center                            | \$30,000         |
| Birzeit Library, Science & Cultural Hub                      | \$55,000         |
| Library Upgrades/maintenance                                 | \$20,000         |
| Library Programs & Activities                                | \$50,000         |
| Fellows Scholarship Program                                  | \$10,000         |
| Human Resources & Operations                                 | \$80,000         |
| <b>2022 Palestine Budget Total</b>                           | <b>\$295,000</b> |
| The budget is crafted in shekels and converted to US dollars |                  |

## Seraj in Palestine Budget



In these numbers you can see tangible evidence of the evolving, and now thriving, Seraj story. In 2020 Seraj Palestine, under full lockdown, spent only \$23,708. Palestine is now emerging from the pandemic and Seraj is working with some excellent contractors to build out our **Storytelling Center and Birzeit Hub**. The programs of both Centers began this past spring and summer. Stories will come to life, children will engage the larger world, students will be supported and challenged. The strong support provided by recent US giving to Seraj make all this possible. Our unending thanks to our donors — you!

*Seraj Library Projects are designed and implemented by Palestinians, on behalf of Palestinians.*

### **Board Leadership - US & Palestine**

Since its inception in 2009, **Seraj US** has been led by a diverse Board of committed supporters. With no paid staff, US Seraj Board members have also carried the day-to-day responsibilities for the work. In recent years the Board has participated in a Board development effort, and has solidified its ability to provide wise guidance to the organization.

**Seraj Palestine** has established itself as a recognized NGO under the Palestinian Authority and has recruited a remarkable governing Board to provide direction and vision. The two governing Boards are in regular communication and collaboration.



***Thanks for your generous support!***