



IRAQI & AMERICAN RECONCILIATION PROJECT

● ANNUAL REPORT ●

2015

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 ●

Dear Supporters,

2015 has been a year of exciting growth and recommitment for the Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project (IARP). With the support and hard work of staff, volunteers, board members, and donors we have filled our year with Iraqi-made films, community events, water maintenance projects, and new faces. We thank you for your support of our work in both Minnesota and Iraq.

IARP works to present Iraqi and American voices to counter negative stereotypes and Islamophobia and to provide a platform for dialogue, which is more critical now than ever before. One of the ways IARP counters negative stereotypes and connects Americans to the life of Iraqis is through Iraqi Voices, a collaborative video initiative that transforms stories of Iraqi-Minnesotans into short documentaries. This year, IARP premiered three new documentaries that focus on events occurring back home in Iraq. They highlight the anti-corruption protests and demands for basic services occurring weekly in cities across Iraq, along with the dangers that middle-class Iraqi professionals continue to face as they attempt to rebuild their shattered country. The films also highlight what we do not hear on the news, stories of hope and of Iraqis investing in their country.

We embarked on our largest fundraising campaign ever, Growing Reconciliation, in order to support our recommitment to reconciliation. Our goal of \$20,000 was met at the end of 2015 with \$21,580 raised. We look forward to updating you on our activities and exciting new ventures in the coming months as a result of this campaign.

The Muslim Peacemaker Teams (MPT) has carried out the maintenance of water filters in 15 Najaf schools this past year. The Water for Peace program has been so successful in the past ten years that most schools in Najaf now have water filters. MPT is now managing the monthly maintenance of these water filters in order to keep schools supplied with clean water. Medtronic Preschool and Pilgrim Lutheran Church both hosted fundraisers for Water for Peace.

Various IARP supporters, board members, and staff have tabled and spoken at 11 community events this past year. Other highlights include a community potluck, the premiere of Hamuraby by Beatrice Ohanessian, an Iraqi-Armenian composer, and our first Iraqi cooking class. Our hope in organizing these events is to facilitate person-to-person reconciliation and to promote dialogue between Americans and Iraqis. Over the years many of these initial conversations have led to deeper friendships and greater understanding between Iraqis and Americans.

Our work is possible through the generosity, time, and support of our volunteers, board, staff, donors and supporters. We will continue to connect Iraqis and Americans in the hopes of building bridges of understanding and peace between the two. Please do not hesitate to contact IARP with any questions regarding our programs or activities. Thank you for joining us in this important work.

Sincerely,

Kathy McKay
Executive Director

Jessica Belt
Deputy Director

IRAQI VOICES

- 3 new films written and directed by Iraqi filmmakers
- 200 people at 2015 premiere
- 6 films screened at Mizna Arab Film Festival
- 3 community screenings and discussions with filmmakers



WATER FOR PEACE

- 15 schools in Najaf receiving monthly maintenance of water filters by MPT



LETTERS FOR PEACE

- 3 writing workshops
- 179 letters exchanged between Iraqis and Americans

SISTER CITY

- 900 visitors learning about Najaf at Sister City Day
- 11 community events with tabling and info about Najaf and Iraq
- 1st year at the Festival of Nations, with award for Best Exhibit



IRAQI ART PROJECT

Honoring the founders of the Iraqi Art Project at the **Suitcase Art Show**

Celebrating **10 Years of Iraqi Art** at the Susan Hensel Gallery

- 1st public performance of Hamuraby, composed by Iraqi-Armenian Beatrice Ohanessian

DIGITAL IMPACT

- \$41,690.87 cost of donated Google ads
- 2 million donated Google AdWord impressions
- 27,414 clicks to website
- 4,915 Facebook likes from Iraq

GROWING RECONCILIATION

- \$21,580 raised
- 2 new board members
- 1 new deputy director

● OVERVIEW BY THE NUMBERS ●

●2015 FINANCIALS●

REVENUE

Individual Gifts	\$21,290
Foundations	\$6,890
Government Grants	\$76,063
Other	\$3,460
Total	\$107,703

EXPENSES

Programming	\$48,744
Water/Muslim Peacemaker Teams	\$4,183
Office/Administration	\$18,822
Total	\$71,749

THANK YOU TO OUR SUSTAINING VOLUNTEERS!

Mary Hunt, Deborah Schuster, and Narmin Ralston

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS AND DONORS.

Another year has passed and as always we finish the year with gratitude to the individuals, organizations, foundations, and businesses that have supported our programs and events in 2015. Thank you for your generosity and encouragement.

For a full list of IARP donors please visit:

<http://reconciliationproject.org/2012/thank-you-to-our-2015-donors>

●IARP BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015●

Kathy Adam, *Educator and Peace Activist*

Steve Clemens, *Peace and Justice Advocate*

Erin Hart, *Foreign Service Officer*

Sarah Kanan, *Supply Chain Analyst, Medtronic, PLC*

Kathy McKay, *Executive Director, IARP*

Salam Murtada, *Hydrologist, Department of Natural Resources, State of Minnesota*

Alan R. Nettles, *Attorney at Law*

Paul Perkal, *Mathematics Tutor and Peace Activist*

Rev. David Smith, *Professor Emeritus of Theology, University of St. Thomas*

Luke Wilcox, *MBA, Associate, McKinsey & Company*

●IARP STAFF●

Kathy McKay, *Executive Director*

Jessica Belt, *Deputy Director*



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