

Project Description:

I will be spending 10 weeks in the West Bank city of Nablus working with a non-profit, non-governmental, politically independent organization called the Palestinian House of Friendship (PHF). The PHF works to improve the lives of people living in Nablus, through programming such as a youth summer camp, work with local female artisans, and civil society education classes. I will be serving with the PHF in the capacity as a Peace Fellow with the Advocacy Project. The Advocacy Project is a Washington D.C. based NGO that works to help marginalized populations claim their rights across the globe. They partner students with community-based organizations worldwide to serve as Peace Fellows and work with those organizations on capacity-building. I will be working with the PHF on a variety of programming and training, focusing on the project of creating an advocacy quilt. As a medium for healing and remembering, an advocacy quilt offers a creative outlet for individuals who have experienced trauma to cope with and understand their experiences. I will network with local artisans to help create the quilt and give the PHF the tools to implement this type of program in the future. In addition to working on the quilt, I will be providing a variety of “5x10 services,” including NGO management and fundraising. These services are identified by the community organization as areas where they need help expanding. The PHF has identified grant proposal writing, creating a new website, and NGO management as their three highest priorities. Overall, my goal while in Palestine is to strengthen the network of the PHF and give them the tools to continue the wonderful programs that they provide to the citizens of Nablus.