



## SHAREK Newsletter 2008 : Issue 3

### *Sharek Overview*

*Sharek Youth Forum, a leading Palestinian organization run by youth and for youth, works to enhance Palestinian society through youth empowerment.*

*There are three core programs that Sharek implements in the field. The first one, "Bridges", focuses on establishing services in remote areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip for child development. "Partners" is our second program which is devoted to the capacity building of youth organizations and to the support of youth initiatives. Lastly there is the "A Step Forward" program, which aims to empower youth through facilitating their entry into the labour market. In addition, the "Youth Business Support Unit" [YBSU], has been launched under the "A Step Forward" program to foster entrepreneurship and business incubation. Lastly, Sharek Youth Forum has also launched an "Advocacy Unit" to campaign, both locally and internationally, for better youth rights in Palestine.*

### *Sharek's Latest News*

#### **A group from the office of financial supervision and management visits Sharek Youth Forum**

Ramallah- March 4, 2008

Sharek Youth Forum's finance department and management had agreed on organizing an initiative to activate the role of the Palestinian youth on the controlling process on the general and the national performance in Palestine.

The agreement came during the visit of a group from the Diwan which was lead by the principle of Diwan, Dr.Mahamoud abu el Rub, to the public administration building and the recreation of Sharek Youth Forum.

The group was welcomed by the executive directive of Sharek Youth Forum, Bader Zamarah , who gave them a tour of the facility

of the center and informed them of the many programs and projects implemented by Sharek in all of its branches in west bank and Gaza.



### *A Step Forward Program*

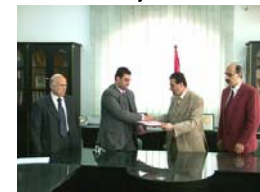
#### **Sharek, Portland Trust, and the Small Enterprise Centre launch Training Program**

An intensive business-startup training program was launched in March in support of entrepreneurs in the West Bank. The training, which was initiated in Ramallah, and will carry over to other localities including Hebron, Nablus, Jenin, Salfet, and Bethlehem, will provide entrepreneurs with an opportunity to develop their business ideas into viable business plans and present them in front of financing institutions. It is anticipated that by the end of April over 120 entrepreneurs are trained and ready to launch their businesses.



#### **Al-Azhar University in Gaza and Sharek Youth Forum sign an agreement to establish a Career Unit and Model Court**

Wednesday, March 19, 2008



Al-Azhar University and Sharek Youth Forum came to an agreement to establish a career unit and model court, and work together to serve the students. Sharek committed to lend a helping hand in accomplishing two very important projects that will have a huge impact on the students. The first project is establishing a career centre/unit that will help the students in the training process, qualification, and job placement. The second project is to establish a Model Court that will allow the students to gain hands-on experience and apply what they have learned in the classroom to real life.

#### **National Career Day in Al-Quds Open University/ Tul Karem**

National Career day was a day full of activities in the northern areas of the west bank which took



place in membership with Expert Company for Public Relations and Training, co-sponsored by Al-Wataniya Mobile and partnered by Sharek Youth Forum. This event took place on Al-Quds Open University grounds in the area of Tul Kareem and consisted of activities such as company interviews with graduates and expected graduates of Al-Quds Open University, Al-Najah University, and The Arab American University in Jenin. Approximately 1500 students were participants in this event, organized and partnered by Sharek Youth Forum, which also included training on CV/Resume Writing and Job Interview preparations.

### **Career Awareness Program: The Training continues...**

**March 18, 2008-** Sharek Youth Forum, in membership with Karetas- The old city counselling centre-set up a series of training sessions within it's "A Step Forward" program in participation with 450 students (male and female) to provide training in the fields of Communication, Public Relations, and Leadership.

### **Al-Rafah Bank supporting the cause...**

March 25, 2008 Sharek Youth Forum conducted a meeting in its head quarters in Ramallah, regarding the special banking services provided by Al-Rafah Society Bank for minor projects, college students and fresh graduates being the main participants. The Bank's Marketing Manager, Sameeh Jaradat, emphasized the banks interest in providing its services to support selected minor projects and provide daily banking services as well.

### **Sharek conducts a series of field visits to partner organizations and companies**

As part of the Career awareness project- A step Forward Program-Sharek Youth Forum conducted a series of visits for the beneficiaries of the program to partner Palestinian organizations and companies. The groups visited organizations and companies such as tortured victims treatment and rehab center, Palestine Bank, Al-Mashriq Insurance, Al-Wataniya Insurance, and Jawwal Telecommunications. Through these visits,



Sharek has gained about 100 participants of different educational backgrounds to join it's "A Step Forward" program.

### **A Group of Al-Najah University students visit Sharek Youth Forum in Ramallah**

About 70 students (male and female) from Al-Najah University in Nablus visited Sharek Youth Forum in Ramallah and were introduced to the different programs and goals of the forum. They were given a tour of the facility where they met the Executive Director Bader Zamareh who answered the students' questions regarding how things work at Sharek as well as how they are able to become volunteers and in return benefit a great deal from Sharek's programs and projects.



### ***Bridges Program***

### **Training Workshop**

A 50 hour training workshop was held for more than 70 youth volunteers in the Gaza Strip introducing and allowing hands on experience in the fields of: dealing with children, activities planning, reporting and other managerial skills.

### **Planning for the Future...**

A meeting for more than 20 Gaza partner organizations in Bridges took place to discuss the updates of the program and to involve them in the process of planning for the program in the future as a steering community.

### **Sharek celebrates Mother's day**

On mother's day, nearly all the partner organizations celebrated this day by formulating festivals for mothers and children whom benefit from Bridges program.

### **Sharek establishes new computer centres**

Two computer centres were established by Sharek Youth Forum; One in the old city of Hebron, in partnership with Hebron Municipality, and the second in the city of Halhoul.