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FOUNDATION



RAWABI FOUNDATION

Rawabi Foundation is a Palestine and US 501(C) -3 registered tax-exempt non-profit founded to promote job creation, foster creativity and inspire innovation through a wide range of projects and programs. Our projects fall into four broad categories: education, environment, culture and community. Each one of our initiatives demonstrates strong commitment to gender equality, healthy lifestyles, protections for the environment and improving opportunities for the underprivileged. Projects are funded by donations from founders, friends and supporters of Rawabi.

Our current initiatives emphasize innovation, education and gender equality: the Entrepreneurs Fellowship Program for female entrepreneurs; Massarak, a work-study program for local and international university students; and the Innovation Museum for Children which promotes critical thinking and problem solving skills at the primary school level.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Rawabi Tech Hub

The mission of Rawabi's Tech Hub is to create an integrated economic cluster for fast-growing tech segments such as financial technologies, cyber security, augmented and virtual reality. Within the cluster, start-ups leverage a shared R&D infrastructure, access to credit, investment capital and training as well as expanded access to local and international ICT markets. The Tech Hub is built on a foundation designed to provide:

1. Training and capacity building
2. Support for innovation and entrepreneurship through CConnect and Bader – innovation space, seed fund and incubator.
3. Key incentives to attract local and international businesses.

Rawabi Fellowship Program for Current and Emerging Leaders from Palestine

The Rawabi Fellowship was created in cooperation with the Harvard Kennedy School of Government to provide expanded educational opportunity for emerging leaders from Palestine. The fellowship provides tuition, health insurance and stipends for Palestinian students enrolled in degree programs, as well as financial assistance packages for Palestinian participants in the school's executive education programs.

University Scholarship Program

The Foundation established an endowment to provide tuition-offsetting scholarships for high-achieving, underprivileged Palestinian students. Students from villages, towns, and refugee camps throughout the West Bank and Gaza who would not otherwise have the opportunity to complete their studies are now able to matriculate to accredited universities.



Massarak Program

The Foundation partners with Massar International on the Massarak program, a pioneering work-study initiative offering internships to local and international university students. The program allows students to apply theoretical knowledge in a hands-on working environment while learning valuable skills to advance future employment opportunities. Interns receive monthly stipends and are placed according to their field of study. The program places a strong emphasis on equal gender opportunities.

1. Massarak Local

Designed to serve Palestinian university students and recent graduates. These young employees bring energy and vitality to the workplace and in return are able to explore their chosen field under the guidance of seasoned professionals. Participating students also undertake specialized training courses to augment their learning experience. Since its inception, more than 550 students and graduates have participated in the program, 60% of whom are female. 70% of participants are subsequently hired for permanent positions at companies within the Massar group.

2. Massarak International

Places students pursuing advanced degrees from leading international universities within a Massar group company or affiliate for three months. The program is an opportunity for these companies to benefit from the assistance of highly qualified students specialized in various fields. Students enjoy the opportunity to work in a challenging, one-of-a-kind business environment while learning about the culture and history of Palestine and its people.

Since 2013, more than 120 graduate students have participated in this program, hailing from the world's top-ranked universities, including: Harvard Business School, Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government; Tufts University; Yale University; Georgetown University; Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business; Cornell University; the University of Oxford; the University of Cambridge; King's College London; and the London School of Economics. Massarak International provides international interns with comfortable accommodations, a monthly stipend and reimburses travel costs to and from Palestine.

3. Massarak Tech

Designed for ICT-related university students to support innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity and teamwork.

4. University Relationships and Case Study Development

Fostering strong, multi-faceted academic relationships with a number of the world's leading colleges and universities. We have received delegations of university presidents, deans, faculty members, administrators and students. A Harvard Business School case study is currently taught at HBS and Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business. Tuck students also worked with Rawabi sales teams to develop a comprehensive pricing strategy for residential units sold at Rawabi as well as on the e-Commerce model for the Q Center commercial hub. A third case study is under development focusing on the retail fashion industry in the city.

In 2016, five Tuck professors led the first mini-MBA program in Palestine, taught at Rawabi. Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy conducted field research to create a value proposition positioning Rawabi as a regional ICT hub and to increase the city's exposure to international ICT companies for potential partnership opportunities. Wake Forest University constructed a graduate level case study for its school of communications exploring the concept of a master narrative for the city of Rawabi. The study will be published in the forthcoming Handbook of Applied Communication Research. Wake Forest University has another case study under development examining the mission and vision of Rawabi.

Free Public Lectures

As part of our ongoing efforts to promote culture and knowledge-sharing, the Foundation hosts public lectures on trending topics, including: entrepreneurship, technology, marketing, social media, healing, arts, health, meditation, social justice, culture, music and science. Each session is led by a different speaker expert in topic. All lectures are free and open to the general public.

Active Living Initiative

The Active Living Initiative is structured to support healthy lifestyles and promote well-being for all ages. The Foundation installed outdoor exercise equipment throughout the city of Rawabi; all are safe, weatherproof and free for public use. Regular weekly exercise classes include Zumba, yoga, and Pilates, each conducted under the supervision of a certified trainer. Dabke, karate, and ballet classes are scheduled to be offered in the near future.

The Foundation is also working to establish a sports arena with a professionally constructed, regulation sized multi-purpose courts. The courts will be built to accommodate basketball, volleyball, hockey, tennis, soccer games, and other sports activities.

Grow for a Greener Palestine

As part of its support for conservation and protection of the environment, the Foundation launched “Grow for a Greener Palestine”, a tree-planting and community greening initiative. Designed to restore Palestine’s natural forests and protect natural habitat for indigenous wildlife, the program has planted more than 10,000 trees with the support of philanthropists, students and people from all over the world.

Rainwater Harvesting and Water Conservation Initiative

The Foundation and Qatra Water Resources Company are collaborating on an initiative to increase water conservation awareness and improve water access to schools in need. The project involves building rainwater harvesting cisterns at a school in Deir Sudan, a village suffering from serious water shortages which sometimes impede the school’s ability to operate.

As part of the project, the Foundation will work with Qatra to develop and run an educational curriculum on water conservation at the school in Deir Sudan and at Rawabi English Academy. Construction of a school garden in the village and a community garden in Rawabi, fed by surplus harvested rainwater, will contribute to the children’s education about the environment and the importance of conserving water.



UPCOMING PROJECTS

Entrepreneurs Fellowship Program

The Entrepreneurs Fellowship Program is designed to address the skills gap in the 30-18 age group who are looking to explore entrepreneurial opportunities, launch startups and expand businesses in Palestine. The program comprises two four-month fellowship cycles for 40 participants per cycle.

The first part of the program is a month of workshops and master classes teaching business skills and a range of subjects relating to entrepreneurship and the tech sector. The second component of the program is a three-month sponsored membership to CConnect. The purpose of this membership is to supplement and consolidate the training provided during the first month of the program. Fellows will be offered the opportunity to join a collaborative ecosystem of entrepreneurs and freelancers in a workspace fully equipped to support the development of new businesses.

Botanical Garden

The botanical garden will educate visitors about environmental conservation and will host a large collection of plants including rare species from around the world. The garden will also include a greenhouse. It will be a place for people to learn about plants, and a calming space for visitors to enjoy Rawabi's unique surroundings.

Petting Zoo

Rawabi's petting zoo will host a collection of animals for people to touch and feed. These animals will include goats, rabbits, lambs, ponies, peacocks, guinea pigs, and donkeys. The petting zoo aims to educate young children about different species of animals. Facilities include a fully-equipped veterinary clinic which will provide comprehensive care to the animals in the zoo and to the pets of residents and local communities.





Education Center

The Foundation will soon establish a technology-focused public education center in Rawabi that aims to increase IT literacy and encourage reading, writing and private study. The center will offer public access to computers equipped with the latest software, featuring educational courses for adults and children in a range of subjects including computer literacy and languages. The center will also host a public library allowing residents and visitors to Rawabi to read a wide range of Palestinian and international books for free. Many local and international libraries and centers have already begun donating books.

The Center will run after-school programs to support working mothers. Programs include a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) club that will further the learning of STEM subjects. There is a growing global demand for STEM expertise, reflected in an increase in support for STEM education from governments around the world. The STEM club will prepare young people for the changing labor market and in turn reduce the rate of unemployment. In addition to the STEM club, the center will also host book clubs, professional support programs and a weekly read-aloud story hour for children.

International partners



SUPPORT US


The Rawabi Foundation relies upon external funding. Our projects are made possible by the generous contributions we receive from friends and supporters. We are also working on building new partnerships for our upcoming projects.

Your donations will make our ambitious projects possible and will help us bring about a stronger Palestine.

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