



**SEAL's mission is to assist low-income individuals in Lebanon to increase their incomes and develop successful businesses, thereby creating jobs and lifting the standard of living for themselves, their families, and their communities.**

#### **Quick Facts:**

- Non-profit organization, founded in NY by a group of Lebanese-Americans interested in taking action against the severe social and economic problems facing post-war Lebanon
- Assistance provided to people, irrespective of their background, religion, political affiliation or geographic location
- Full transparency
- Tax deductibility for donations
- 100% of contributions used directly to sponsor SEAL projects

## **Social and Economic Action for Lebanon**

# **2007: the year in review**

### **SEAL completed another successful year, with over \$240,000 raised in 2007.**

We wish to thank our donors for their generous contributions, as well as our volunteers for their persistent efforts. A lot happened in the past year! After spending the second half of 2006 contributing to the humanitarian relief efforts made necessary by the July/August war, SEAL went back to its original mission in 2007 and focused on social and economic initiatives. Only one project, back in January, was part of what we call our 2006 humanitarian drive: we partnered with the Lady of Grace school in Kfarshima to provide scholarships to 250 children whose families, affected by the economic consequences of the war, could no longer afford tuition expenses.

### **As mentioned above, the rest of our projects were socio-economic initiatives, and included:**

- The purchase of 12,000 apple roots that were distributed to 400 farmers in the Tannourine region (in partnership with the municipalities of Tannourine). In 2006, SEAL had funded a similar project in the Bsharre region; thanks to the huge success of that first project, and keeping in mind that apple farms constitute the main – if not only – source of income for many farmers, SEAL was approached by the mayor of Tannourine in order to replicate the initiative.
- The sponsorship of “Forum 2007: Cooperation to Generate Opportunities” – a taskforce looking to equip Lebanon's future workforce with the skills, knowledge and experience required to obtain fulfilling jobs (in partnership with [Injaz Lebanon](#)).
- The funding of equipment for a porcelain-painting workshop in Dora, administered and operated by persons with disabilities. Production includes dishes, mugs, platters, and bowls and revenues are generated from direct sales to restaurants and private parties, as well as orders made at Arc-en-Ciel's eight centers across Lebanon (in partnership with [Association Arc-en-Ciel](#)).

In 2007, we hired our first employee in Lebanon, Mr. Nassif Wakim, who has been critical in following up on funded projects, and sourcing new ones. We are proud to report the successful and timely completion of all of the projects that we sponsored, including:

- The funding of trade fairs across Lebanon enabling female entrepreneurs to sell their products (in partnership with [Al-Majmoua](#));
- The endorsement of career-orientation workshops aimed at encouraging teenagers from lower-income backgrounds to pursue their education (in partnership with [Assabil](#));
- The funding of a “Rural Bus”, manned by agricultural engineers and responsible for training farmers and helping them sell their products, which reached over forty villages (in partnership with the [American University of Beirut](#)).

Additional details about SEAL's projects, including photographs and contact information, can be found on our website.

Other highlights of 2007 include our annual fundraising dinner held on September 25 at the University Club and featuring Senator George Mitchell. Senator Mitchell won a loud round of applause after a moving speech, during which he drew a parallel between the situation in Lebanon and the road to peace in Northern Ireland, underlined the importance of economic development, mentioned how critical social and economic action is, and also spoke about his own Lebanese heritage.

In November, SEAL also initiated the first of a series of more intimate evenings, in the context of its "Middle East Lecture and Dinner" series. The success of our first event, which featured Professor Bernard Haykel, a reknown professor of Near East studies at Princeton University, encouraged us to organize more of these dinners in 2008.

For 2008, we have a large number of initiatives under way, including tree root distribution in the Chouf and Hermel regions, olive oil production in Akkar, expansion of the "Rural Bus" project to reach many more villages etc. We would like to reiterate the significant impact that your financial contributions have made on the lives of the people involved, their families and their communities and urge you to continue supporting our efforts going forward, as funds continue to be sorely needed in Lebanon.

**On behalf of everyone at SEAL, I would like to send you our best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.**

**Adla Massoud, President**

**Website:** [www.seal-usa.org](http://www.seal-usa.org)

**Email/Donations:** [info@seal-usa.org](mailto:info@seal-usa.org)

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\* in memory of Ms. Reema Samaha, Virginia Tech victim.