



Social and Economic Action for Lebanon

SEAL: 2010 AT A GLANCE

SEAL's mission is to assist low-income individuals in Lebanon to increase their income 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 background, religion, political affiliation or geographic location
- > Full transparency
- > Tax deductibility for donations
- > 100% of contributions used directly to sponsor projects

SEAL just ended another exciting year! For that, we wish to sincerely thank our donors and volunteers, as their support was invaluable. In 2010, SEAL maintained a strong focus on land irrigation, distribution of tree samplings, and the fishermen community. The feedback obtained from similar projects that were undertaken in the past showed that such endeavors were desperately needed, and that the impact on beneficiaries was both significant and almost instantaneous.



One of 2010's major initiatives involved building water pipes between Bkerkasha and Bazoon, in Bsharre (North Lebanon). The goal was to use water from the "El Bhiss" spring in Bkerkasha and bring it all the way to Bazoon through the installation of 2.8 km of pipes. Over 150 families benefited from

this endeavor, which allowed proper irrigation of the land and more efficient distribution of the water. Production also increased due to an increase in the size of the land being cultivated.



Another similar project was funded in Baskenta (El-Metn). In that case, the main goals included preventing the waste of large quantities of water; expanding the capacity of the surrounding agricultural land; drastically reducing the water blockages caused by storms and mud slides; ensuring

that the water was distributed equally; and shortening the time that it took for the water to get to the land that needs irrigation. This second initiative was divided into two parts: a first one designed to use water from the "Al Assi" spring, through the construction of 6" pipes over a distance of 400 meters; and a second part designed to benefit from water from the "El Jouayzet" spring. In the second part, 4" pipes were built over 450 meters, along with 150 meters of cement canals. In total 33 families benefited from over 200,000 square meters of agricultural land getting properly irrigated.

SEAL also funded the second part of an endeavor that it had started the previous year in Kfarhabou, in the Dennyeh region. Back in 2009, 700 meters of water pipelines were built. This past year, in order to allow proper irrigation into the North East side of the village which focuses on agriculture, 200 more meters of cement canals were added. Over thirty families benefited from these pipelines, which spanned an area estimated at 120,000 square meters.



Following the success of its apple tree root projects in North Lebanon, the Chouf and Jezzine, SEAL sponsored the distribution of tree roots to farmers in the Tarshish, Zahle area. As the farming and sale of apples most often represent the farmers' single source of income, SEAL distributed 7,740 red and yellow apple trees to 516 families.



As mentioned in past newsletters, Lebanon's fishermen are among the country's most impoverished communities (mainly due to an increased number of fishermen, ecological disasters, and little government regulation). SEAL purchased a total of 4,000 nets to 400 Fishermen of Tyre, South Lebanon, in partnership with Tyre's Fishermen Union, the Development for People and Nature Association/DPNA and the municipality of Tyre. The distribution of 10 nets to each fisherman significantly helps them in providing for their families.

Worth mentioning is the fact that the housing project for Tyre's fishermen that SEAL co-funded back in 2006 was featured at the Museum of Modern Arts in New York City, as part of the MoMA's exhibit on architecture and social engagement. In addition, the SEAL-sponsored APEAL (which stands for Association for the Promotion and the Exhibition of the Arts in Lebanon) exhibit that took place in Washington D.C. last spring was a big success. Entitled "Convergence: New Art from Lebanon", this exhibit of post-war Lebanese contemporary art was the first of its kind. Additional details about SEAL's projects, including photographs and contact information, can be found on our website.

I will keep fond memories of SEAL's fundraising dinner and the Big Apple. Many thanks to SEAL and its supporters for the great community work that is done, and for the precious time that they dedicate towards serving our country. In the words of Gibran: "It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." Maxime Chaya



MAXIME CHAYA INSPIRED US ALL

On October 1st, SEAL held its annual fundraising dinner and this year the honoree was Mr. Maxime Chaya, Lebanon's foremost sportsman, explorer and mountaineer. Maxime's adult life was spent competing in sporting events all over the world and in spring 2006, one of the deadliest climbing seasons on record, he became the first Lebanese to raise the country's flag atop Mount Everest. Prior to that day, and in preparation for it, he had virtually been on a permanent expedition, taking on the Seven Summits challenge and climbing the highest peak on each continent. Maxime inspired us all with a moving speech and film on growing up in Lebanon, the impact of the war on his athletic career, and the personal aspirations behind his accomplishments. The evening was highly successful and allowed SEAL to showcase its work, and share its goals for the upcoming year.

HELEN THOMAS REFLECTED ON HER EXTRAORDINARY CAREER

On April 26, SEAL hosted a cocktail and book signing with Ms. Helen Thomas, who worked for United Press International for 57 years, and covered every President of the United States from the late years of the Eisenhower administration until the Obama administration. As the first female officer of the National Press Club and the first female member and president of the White House Correspondents' Association, the now 90-year old lady was a true pioneer. She and co-author Craig Crawford autographed copies of their book entitled "Listen Up, Mr. President"

Reaching out to a wider audience:

In an effort to reach a wider audience, four young professionals -- Nabil Abou-Charaf, Roy Baladi, Irene Cordahi and Majd Maksad – organized a "Friends of SEAL" cocktail back in September that over 80 people attended. After a presentation that one of our Directors gave on what SEAL is all about and which projects are in our pipeline, the attendees mingled with our team and showed much-appreciated enthusiasm, with many of them volunteering their time and energy.

Worthy projects in our pipeline

In 2011, we intend to keep meeting pressing needs all across Lebanon, and already have a long list of worthy projects in our pipeline. One of such projects involves the purchase of a refrigerated pick-up truck to transport milk in North Lebanon. This will help in fighting unemployment and benefit over 200 farmers in total, enabling them to sell their high-quality, properly refrigerated milk at very competitive prices. Another initiative involves the reconstruction of a milk collection facility in Aytaroun (South Lebanon). Restoring this facility which was destroyed during the 2006 war will allow over thirty families to use the milk that they produce and encourage additional milk production. More examples of the many projects in our pipeline include the construction of cement canals for water irrigation, the funding of a water-pumping station, and what has now become SEAL's annual distribution of tree roots to farmers.

We would like to end this newsletter by sending you our best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful new year. The SEAL Team

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** In Memory of Sarkis P. Bakalian*

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- **CONTRIBUTIONS & FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES** used entirely towards funding SEAL projects