Our mission is to build upon King Hussein's lifelong commitment to human security, social equity and peace in Jordan, the Middle East and beyond through programs that promote education and leadership, sustainable development, participatory decision making and cross-cultural exchange.

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Issue 13, June 2011 – September 2011
Welcome to the Thirteenth issue of the King Hussein Foundation quarterly e-newsletter.
Please feel free to forward to a friend or colleague who might also be interested.

Birthday Greetings to Her Majesty Queen Noor from the King Hussein Foundation

Welcome to the 13th edition of the King Hussein Foundation newsletter. We are devoting this quarter’s newsletter to Her Majesty Queen Noor in celebration of three decades of public service with a focus on Jordan on the occasion of her 60th birthday.

After marrying His Majesty King Hussein in 1978, Queen Noor pioneered new initiatives in the Kingdom in the areas of education, conservation, sustainable development, and cross cultural understanding.

Her work in the area of innovative and quality education is most evident in the founding of the Jubilee Institute which includes the Jubilee School and the Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education (JCEE). In this issue you’ll read more about the 15th graduating class from the Jubilee School and the new and creative ways the JCEE is helping students become much more engaged in math, science and technology, particularly young women.

As Jubilee Institute director Suha Jouaneh explains, "Her Majesty Queen Noor brings to Jubilee the heart of giving and the spirit of achievement. She inspires and motivates us to sustain and build on King Hussein’s vision towards the development of Jordan’s young people."

Queen Noor’s commitment to the rights of women and children continues through the work of the KHFs Information and Research Center (IRC). The IRC is providing critical research and information to policy makers and development advocates by disseminating research findings and creating interactive websites, specifically on issues related to youth and women’s rights.

IRC Director Nermeen Murad remarks, "Her Majesty Queen Noor had the vision and commitment over a decade ago to establish the Information and Research Center in Jordan. There have been times when that vision was challenged or its viability questioned but Her Majesty supported us through those times and continues to give us her full support. We would not be here today if it were not for her personal interest in our success."

Queen Noor’s appreciation for the role of culture and the arts in the formation of individual and national identity is reflected in a wide range of national and international initiatives including the National Handicrafts Project, the National Music Conservatory (NMC), and the National Center
The Foundation also introduced the use of the performing arts as a medium for social development and cross-cultural exchange. In this issue you'll learn more about the NCCA's first-ever Summer Performing Arts Camp, including workshops on hip hop and rap music.

NCCA Director Lina Attel writes, "Her Majesty's continual guidance and personal involvement have inspired us to find creative means to address vital issues that have affected thousands of lives, extending our reach beyond borders."

As an example in November, the Arab Children’s Congress will be hosted in Abu Dhabi. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting development.

Queen Noor founded the National Music Conservatory (NMC), which is training up the next generation of Jordan's professional musicians. The NMC has also introduced the use of music therapy in the rehabilitation of traumatized children and their families.

NMC director Dr. Kifah Fakhouri notes, "Her Majesty Queen Noor has always remained a major source of strength, belonging, and responsibility. The credibility of this unique educational and cultural music institution has always been reinforced by Her Majesty's blessing and support."

The KHF also encompasses the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), which facilitates sustainable social and economic change across Jordan and the region. As you'll read in this issue, NHF's microfinance institution Tamweelcom opened its 20th branch in East Amman, and continues to offer social services to its clients and members of the community as part of its social responsibility pledge.

Tamweelcom CEO Ziad Al Refai writes, "Her Majesty Queen Noor has always provided us with creative ideas and feedback that have really made a difference in our mission and in our performance in the world of microfinance. She has always been one to think outside of the box; to come up with ways of doing things differently which has led Tamweelcom to expand its outreach to those in need."

The Foundation's emphasis on individual and community economic empowerment and participatory decision making has accomplished a lot through the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Community Development Program (CDP).

You can read more in this issue about the NHF's partnership with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) in targeting poverty pockets in Jordan.

This year Queen Noor is overseeing the process by which all 15-year old revolving loan funds initiated by the NHF will be turned over to local community based organizations to assume legal ownership and management responsibilities.

CDP Manager Muhammad Al Zoubi writes, "Her Majesty Queen Noor's commitment to the Foundation's vision and mission continues to inspire us in our work as we seek to achieve success and overcome the challenges facing local communities."

Queen Noor has made environmental priorities an essential component of her work to promote human security and conflict resolution nationally and internationally.

The latest program in Jordan is the Foundation's sustainable development program in the northeastern Badia.

Project Manager Musa Al Saifi notes that "Her Majesty's vision for environmental conservation and sustainable development have always been ahead of her time. She inspired us to implement
several programs, including this one in the northeastern Badia."

This spring Queen Noor facilitated the expansion of family health services offered at the NHF's center in Al Hashimi in East Amman to serve Jordanian as well as Iraqi families. Now the Institute for Family Health (IFH) through its centers in Sweileh and Al Hashimi provide comprehensive physical and psycho-social health services.

IFH Director Dr. Manal Tahtamouni remarks, "Her Majesty's support and personal commitment to IFH's work is a powerful vote of confidence in the Institute's mission to provide exceptional innovative services reaching out to the most vulnerable in our community."

In addition to all of this, last year we embarked on another milestone; in 2010 the Foundation signed a strategic partnership agreement with the Family Development Foundation in Abu Dhabi to replicate some of KHF's pioneering programs. This move will help fulfill in a very modest way King Hussein's vision of Jordan's role in making the world a better place.

We're proud of our achievements, and the credit goes to Her Majesty Queen Noor’s involvement and the commitment of the governing body and all of the staff at the KHF.

On behalf of the King Hussein Foundation family, we want to wish Her Majesty Queen Noor a very Happy Birthday.

Best regards,

Hana Mitri Shahin
Executive Director
King Hussein Foundation

IN THIS ISSUE

Jubilee Graduates Celebrate
On Tuesday, July 19, 64 students graduated from the Jubilee School. The commencement ceremony, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Hamzah bin al Hussein, marked the 15th graduating class from the Jubilee School since the school first opened its doors to students in 1993. Click here to read more.

Learning Continues at 5th Annual Digital Kids Scientific Summer Camp
87 students from Amman had the chance to extend their brain power after the official academic school year came to end in June thanks to the 5th Annual Digital Kids Scientific Summer Camp. The 3-week summer camp held from June 19 until July 7, 2011 at the King Hussein Foundation's Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education (JCEE) allowed students from 6 to 16 years of age to enroll in classes including electronics, design and technology, robotics, and the "Math and Chess" program. Click here to read more.

The Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education helps SciGirls Excel in Math, Science and Technology
In July the Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education (JCEE) helped to host an intensive two-week science camp for girls at the Jubilee Institute in Amman. The camp, organized and funded through the efforts of 17-year old founder Yara Sifri, who lives in Massachusetts, in collaboration with the Ruwwad NGO, provided 44 teenage girls who earned high marks in science from the underserved neighborhood of Jabal Al Natheef in East Amman with an opportunity to realize their academic potential. Click here to read more.
Tamweelcom Launches Charity Convoys

On the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, the Jordan Micro Credit Company (Tamweelcom) launched its "Charity Packages" campaign throughout the Kingdom's governorates. The campaign, which was launched on August 16, gave away 1000 packages to families in local communities in Tamweelcom's coverage area, and to Tamweelcom clients. Packages distributed to each household contained food staples like sugar, cans of tomatoes and peas, powdered juice and cooking oil. Click here to read more.

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Around 165 clients of the Jordan Micro Credit Company (Tamweelcom) left Jordan on July 24 to perform Umra, marking the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. The clients were selected according to several standards related to the special point system of the Loyalty Card. Each year Tamweelcom awards an all-expense paid trip to its most loyal clients on the basis of the number of points they have accrued. Clients accumulate points based on their loan amount, the loan cycle, repayment commitment, and participation in the Souk Ayyadi. Click here to read more.

Tamweelcom, MEDGULF, and Institute for Family Health Organize Third Medical Day in Sweileh

For the third consecutive year, the Jordan Micro Credit Company (Tamweelcom), the Mediterranean and Gulf Insurance Company (MEDGULF), and the Institute for Family Health (IFH) organized a "Free Medical Day" in Sweileh at the IFH on July 14, 2011. 330 patients received medical examinations and medications were distributed no charge. 13 doctors joined with nurses in volunteering their time for the event. Click here to read more.

Tamweelcom Inaugurates its 20th Branch in Jabal Al-Nasar Area

The Jordan Micro Credit Company (Tamweelcom) inaugurated its 20th branch on July 10, 2011 in the Jabal Al-Nasar area. The event was held under the patronage of Marka District Director Mr. Mufid Ananbeh. The launch of the newest branch is part of Tamweelcom's expansion plan which aims at providing its comprehensive financial and non-financial services to its clients in the eastern part of the capital city of Amman. Click here to read more.

Revolving Loan Fund Handover Agreement

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) signed an agreement with the Al Azraq Multi-Purpose Community Cooperative on July 18, 2011 to transfer the management and operation of its revolving loan fund to the local community. The revolving loan fund was established by NHF in 2007 in the Al Azraq area, as one of the initiatives of the "Poverty Pockets Program" funded by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC). Click here to read more.

More Revolving Loan Funds Turned Over to Local Community

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) recently turned over four revolving loan funds to four different community based organizations (CBO’s). The agreements signed on August 16, 2011 included the following: The Middle Badia Development Association for Women in Jizah, the Badia Association for Special Needs in Muqar, the Cooperative for Northern Al Mazaar, and the Northern Yarmouk Cooperative in Northern Ghor. These agreements stipulate that the CBO’s assume full ownership and the responsibility of running these revolving loan funds. Click here to read more.

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) has been actively engaged in establishing income-generating projects throughout Jordan with funding from the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) through the “Poverty Pockets Program” over the last four years. One of these income-generating projects is another commercial center which serves the Al Jizah and the Al Muqar communities. Click here to read more.
NHF Turns over Management of Commercial Center in Moath Ben Jabal to Private Sector
The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) on Monday, August 15 signed an agreement with the Obeidat International Marketing Company and with the Municipality of Moath Ben Jabal in northern Ghor to generate income for the stakeholders. The agreement will allow the private sector to partner with the local community in running a new commercial center comprised of 9 shops, and large halls that provide the public with meeting space to rent.  Click here to read more.

Self Discovery through the Performing Arts
32 young people between the ages of 7 and 16 sang, danced and rapped their way across the stage of the King Hussein Foundation's National Centre for Culture and Arts (NCCA) during the closing performance of the first-ever Summer Performing Arts Camp. For three weeks in July aspiring young performers and artists escaped the brutal summer heat by attending daily acting classes. NCCA Director Lina Attel says they decided to be adventurous by adding courses in hip hop and break dancing and rap music, drawing on the expertise of renowned Jordanian rapper/instructor Ostaz Samm.  Click here to read more.

There's No Business Like Show Business
160 Jordanian youth between the ages of 10 and 25 had the chance to get a little taste of the lights on Broadway in July, singing and dancing parts from famous Broadway musicals before an audience at the Palace of Culture in Amman on July 5, 2011. They were joined onstage by 150 members of a youth orchestra, mainly comprised of NMC students and 30 musicians from the Jordanian Armed Forces Orchestra. The groups played selections from a variety of traditional, classical and contemporary music composers.  Click here to read more.

National Music Conservatory Celebrates 8th Graduation
On Tuesday, July 26 the National Music Conservatory celebrated its College Commencement at the Al Hussein Cultural Center, under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. Four of the six graduates performed solos with the Amman Symphony Orchestra, including Abdul Rahim Al-Khatib on viola, Abdul Halim Al-Khatib on qanun, and Tarek Al Jundi on cello. Vocalist Haifa Kamal performed a solo.  Click here to read more.

ASO Performs at Jerash Festival
The National Music Conservatory’s Amman Symphony Orchestra (ASO) performed at the Jerash Festival 2011, holding an outdoor concert at the Northern Amphitheatre among the famous Roman ruins of Jerash on the evening of Monday, July 25. The concert, entitled ”An Evening of Unforgettable Arabic and Western Songs” featured Jordanian vocalist Haifa Kamal, a recent graduate of the National Music Conservatory (NMC), singing Arabic songs and Jordanian soprano Zeina Barhoum performing western music. Both vocalists were accompanied by the ASO conducted by Maestro Mohammed Othman Sidiq, the head of higher education at the NMC.  Click here to read more.

IFH hosts Mental Health Campaign During Ramadan
The Institute for Family Health (IFH) offered two free mental health workshops during Ramadan for Iraqi families living in North and in East Amman. The workshops entitled, "Ramadan and its Healing Value" were held at the IFH in Sweileh on August 8th and at the Al Hashimi Center in East Amman on August 9th. The workshops provided Iraqi families and their children with an opportunity to socialize, participate in educational games, share success stories, and enjoy an Iftar meal with other families.  Click here to read more.
On Tuesday, July 19, 64 students graduated from the Jubilee School.

The commencement ceremony, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Hamzah bin al Hussein, marked the 15th graduating class since the Jubilee School first opened its doors to students in 1993.

HRH Prince Hamzah congratulates graduate Anas Hosseh
87 students from Amman had the chance to extend their brain power after the official academic school year came to end in June thanks to the 5th Annual Digital Kids Scientific Summer Camp.

The 3-week summer camp held from June 19 until July 7, 2011 at the King Hussein Foundation's Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education (JCEE) allowed students ages 6 to 16 to enroll in classes including electronics, design and technology, robotics, and the "Math and Chess" program.

JCEE Public Relations Manager Ruba Abu Younes explains how the scientific summer camp differs from the traditional academic experience:

"Children learn best when they can see, hear, or touch. Multi-sensory learning is an important part of our camp."

However not all of the courses focused solely on brain power. Students had the chance to exercise during the week by participating in swim classes and playing soccer. They also put their creative skills to the test by taking art and cooking classes.

In addition to the Sunday through Thursday class schedule, students participated in two Saturday field trips; one trip involved a visit to the Noor Club which provided the younger students with the chance to sharpen their outdoor skills while the older students played paintball at another location.

The following Saturday the younger students visited the Humane Center for Animal Welfare where they learned to care for animals including dogs, cats, rabbits and donkeys. The older kids visited Adventure Village in Amman where they focused on endurance training and team work by performing a series of trail hikes and rope climbing activities.

Families who enrolled more than one child received tuition discounts, and this year's camp fees were waived for the two students who placed first in the JCEE's "Math and Chess" competition in May.

Students who attended the camp came from both public and private schools in Amman and the teaching staff was comprised of teachers from the Jubilee School as well as from other private schools in Amman.
In July the **Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education (JCEE)** hosted an intensive two-week science camp for girls at the **Jubilee Institute** in Amman.

The camp, organized and funded through the efforts of 17-year old founder Yara Sifri, who lives in Massachusetts, in collaboration with the Ruwwad NGO, provided 44 teenage girls who earned high marks in science from the underserved neighborhood of Jabal Al Natheef in East Amman with an opportunity to realize their academic potential.

The girls, ages 12 through 16, were bused in to attend class six days a week at the **Jubilee Institute**. Sifri, a Palestinian Canadian whose parents grew up in Jordan, travels to Amman every summer to visit her grandparents.

According to her website, the SciGirls camp in Amman is designed to be an interactive program, providing the girls with hands-on experience in the **Jubilee Institute's** robotics, basic electronics, and "Math and Chess" classes.

Soccer, swimming, and painting classes rounded out the SciGirls experience.

"The ultimate objective is to empower participating girls to pursue their education and future careers in the fields of science," Sifri writes on her website. "I personally believe that it is crucial for every girl to have the opportunity to explore a field of knowledge which tends to be male dominated, in this part of the world."

Teachers and mentors from the **JCEE** coached the academic workshops. The **Jubilee Institute** also provided participants with access to fully equipped robotics and technology labs, a cafeteria, and an indoor/outdoor sports complex.

**JCEE** public relations manager Ruba Abu Younes explains why the **JCEE** wanted to host the camp for girls.

"**JCEE** wanted to provide the girls who earned high marks in science with an opportunity to pursue the study of robotics and electronics," remarked Younes. "Our vision is to spread the latest learning in science and technology to students from all sectors of society. We believe science is not restricted to a specific category of learners. We also wanted to use this camp as a way to promote leadership and social responsibility through the use of advanced technology and to provide the girls with a way to integrate math and science."

Younes says the **JCEE** plans to assist in hosting the SciGirls camp again next summer. Participants will be selected from a different area in Amman.
Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Taba’a attended the closing ceremony on July 16 at the Jubilee Institute, passing out medals and certificates to the graduates and plaques to the sponsors.

The JCEE also honored HRH Princess Alia Al Taba’a by presenting her with a commemorative plaque.

Local sponsors for the camp included: the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, Tala Bay, the Al-Mahmoudia Group, Umniah, and Arab International Wings.

Individual sponsors included Mr. Ali Kolaghassi and Mrs. Taima Khoury-Kawar.

On the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, the Jordan Micro Credit Company (Tamweelcom) launched its "Charity Packages" campaign throughout the Kingdom’s governorates. The campaign, which was officially launched on August 16, gave away 1000 packages to families in local communities in Tamweelcom’s coverage area, and to Tamweelcom clients.

The packages distributed to each household contained food staples like sugar, cans of tomatoes and peas, powdered juice and cooking oil.

Beneficiaries of the campaign were selected in accordance with specific principles and standards, including the number of employed members per family, location in poverty pockets, and the average monthly income of the beneficiary.
This campaign demonstrates Tamweelcom’s effort to raise the standards of the local community at all levels, and stems from the Company’s commitment to its social responsibility pledge to clients and local communities.

Tamweelcom’s CEO, Mr. Ziad Al-Refai noted, "The idea of launching the charity convoys stems from Tamweelcom’s concern for low-income families and its attempt to improve their economic and social standard of living, as well as its continuous work to fight poverty and unemployment in poverty pockets."

Tamweelcom is a non-profit microfinance company in Jordan that endeavors to fight poverty and unemployment. It is fully owned by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. Since its inception in 1999, Tamweelcom has provided loans for more than 115,000 clients, 93% of whom are women.

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**Tamweelcom Organizes Four Buses to the Holy Land for Umra**

Around 165 clients of the Jordan Micro Credit Company (Tamweelcom) left Jordan on July 24 to perform Umra, marking the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. The clients were selected according to several standards related to the special point system of the Loyalty Card. Each year Tamweelcom awards an all-expense paid trip to its most loyal clients on the basis of the number of points they have accrued. Clients accumulate points based on their loan amount, the loan cycle, repayment commitment, and participation in the Souk Ayyadi.

Tamweelcom’s CEO Mr. Ziad Al-Refai remarked:

"In addition to the financial services Tamweelcom is already providing to its clients, it wants to provide non-financial services free-of-charge which meet the needs of the men and women who are already working to improve their standard of living through micro-enterprise."

This is the fourth consecutive year Tamweelcom has offered the Umra trip to its beneficiaries. The majority of trip participants were women.

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**Tamweelcom, MEDGULF, and Institute for Family Health Organize Third Medical Day in Sweileh**
For the third consecutive year, the Jordan Micro Credit Company (Tamweelcom), the Mediterranean and Gulf Insurance Company (MEDGULF), and the Institute for Family Health (IFH) organized a "Free Medical Day" in Sweileh at the IFH on July 14, 2011. 330 patients received medical examinations and medications were distributed no charge. 13 doctors joined with nurses in volunteering their time for the event.

IFH Director Dr. Manal Al Tahtamoni remarked that, "the Institute was proud to participate in the ‘Free Medical Day’ event which provided members of the community with the expertise of the clinic’s doctors and nurses at no charge."

Al Tahtmaoni added: “Our partnership with Tamweelcom over the past three years has proven to be a success and we will continue to cooperate to provide the best medical services to those in need through this unique initiative."

"Free Medical Day" was also a success according to Sweileh resident Mrs. Ayat Alda'aja:

"Tamweelcom provided me with medical treatment and the medication for free, and I wish there were more free medical days like this one."

Mrs. Abeer Ahmad added, "I was able to treat my three children and receive the necessary medication. I thank MEDGULF for providing the medicines."

Ali Faraj, a resident of Al-Bayader area noted, "There were many doctors, and we thank God and the Institute for Family Health for that."

Tamweelcom CEO Ziad Al Refai commented: "The free Medical Day is one of the important types of the comprehensive and varied non-financial services that Tamweelcom provides to its clients and others in the local community. This day is a fulfillment of the Company's commitment to social responsibility towards members of the community."

Al-Refai expressed appreciation for the sponsors of the "Free Medical Day", including Asia MedLabs, Delta Store, Ibn Hayyan Medical Store, Apet Company for Food Products, and the Jordanian Program for Breast Cancer.

Tamweelcom also wishes to express it thanks to the doctors and nurses who made the "Free Medical Day" in Sweileh a success this year.

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Tamweelcom Inaugurates its 20th Branch in Jabal Al-Nasr Area

The Jordan Micro Credit Company (Tamweelcom) inaugurated its 20th branch on July 10, 2011 in the Jabal Al-Nasr area. The event was held under the patronage of Marka District Director Mr. Mufid Ananbeh. The launch of the newest branch is part of Tamweelcom's expansion plan which aims at providing its comprehensive financial and non-financial services to its clients in the eastern part of the capital city of Amman.

Through the new branch, Tamweelcom will enable individuals and families to establish new income-generating projects that will raise their standard of living.
Tamweelcom's CEO, Mr. Ziad Al-Refai remarked:

"Expanding Tamweelcom’s reach by opening more branches will enable us to serve more clients in locations throughout the Kingdom."

Tamweelcom is a non-profit pioneering microfinance company in Jordan that endeavors to fight poverty and unemployment. It was founded in 1999 and is owned by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. Since its establishment, Tamweelcom has provided loans for more than 115,000 clients, 93% of whom are women.

The Noor Al-Hussein Foundation (NHF) signed an agreement with the Al Azraq Multi Purpose Community Cooperative on July 18, 2011 to transfer the management and operation of its revolving loan fund to the local community.

The revolving loan fund was established by NHF back in 2007 in the Al Azraq area, as one of the initiatives of the "Poverty Pockets Program" funded by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC).

The program was designed to improve socio-economic conditions and assist in alleviating poverty through community capacity building and empowerment.

One of the major components of the program was to promote entrepreneurship and improve access to loans in the Al Azraq district.

Before the handover, NHF offered community members and the Al Azraq Multi Purpose Community Cooperative revolving loan fund management training.

Program Manager Muhammad Al Zoubi remarked that the agreement ensures that the "Al Azraq Multi Purpose Community Cooperative is able to take full legal ownership and manage the revolving loan fund after completing a comprehensive program of capacity building and gaining hands on experience over the past two years."

So far the Al Azraq revolving loan fund has disbursed 153 loans totaling around 76 thousand JDs, with an initial capital of JD20,000 funded by MOPIC. Examples of micro-enterprises include breeding birds, beekeeping, glassworks, and a clothing retailer, either home based or in commercial spaces. More than 75% of loan recipients are women. The revolving loan fund has resulted in more than 75 job opportunities.
The **Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF)** recently turned over four revolving loan funds to four different community based organizations (CBO’s).

The agreements signed on August 16, 2011 included the following:

The Middle Badia Development Association for Women in Jizah, the Badia Association for Special Needs in Muqar,

The Cooperative for Northern Al Mazaar, and the Northern Yarmouk Cooperative in Northern Ghor.

These agreements stipulate that the CBO’s assume full ownership and the responsibility of running these revolving loan funds.

These particular revolving funds were launched by **NHF** back in 2009, as one of the main components of the Poverty Pockets II Program with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) for promoting entrepreneurship and facilitating access to micro funding.

Program Manager Muhammed Al Zoubi remarked:

"Today the associations and cooperatives have been enabled to become legally responsible to manage the revolving loan funds after they received training, and gained practical experience managing the revolving fund over the past two years."

Examples of micro-enterprise services that have benefitted from the revolving loan funds include:

Raising birds, managing clothing stores, developing farm irrigation and photography.

Additional home based and commercial enterprises which got their start thanks to the revolving loan funds have provided members of the community with 85 full time jobs, helping them gain financial independence.
The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) has been actively engaged in establishing income-generating projects throughout Jordan with funding from the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) through the “Poverty Pockets Program” over the last four years.

One of these income-generating projects is another commercial center which serves the Al Jizah and the Al Muqar communities.

In mid-August, the Middle Badia Development Association for Women disbursed financial aid to 50 orphans from poor families in Al Jizah and in Al Muqar.

This was made possible through the revenues generated from the commercial center funded by MOPIC’s Poverty Pockets II Program.

The head of the Middle Badia Development Association for Women, Muzna Khraishah remarked:

"This initiative flows out of a collective decision making process among community leaders."
The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) on Monday, August 15 signed an agreement with the Obeidat International Marketing Company and with the Municipality of Moath Ben Jabal in northern Ghor to generate income for the stakeholders.

The agreement will allow the private sector to partner with the local community in running a new commercial center comprised of 9 shops, and large halls that provide the public with meeting space to rent.

This agreement is a part of the Poverty Pockets II Program with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) that NHF developed to establish income generating projects in which the returns go back to the local community.

The agreement stipulates that the Obeidat International Marketing Company will manage the commercial center for the next five years.

MOPIC funded 300 thousand JD’s to establish this commercial center based on needs assessment survey conducted in the area of Moath Ben Jabal.

The program is expected to create 18 full time jobs and generate 28 thousand JD’s in revenue.

The municipality will receive 25% of the revenue generated by the center to improve public services and the remaining 75% will go directly to the cooperative of Northern Ghor so it can provide assistance to at least an additional 75 poor families from the area.

Program Manager Muhammad Al Zoubi stated, "The importance of this partnership with the private sector in managing the commercial center is that it will enable the local community to be trained and to acquire experience from the private sector. By the end of the agreement they will be able to effectively run a sustainable enterprise for the benefit of the community."

The head of the municipality, Engineer Imad Abu Abbas highlighted the importance of this venture for the municipality and the community:

"The income generated by the project will improve living conditions and eliminate the need to travel to nearby communities to purchase goods or hold gatherings in large social halls."

MOPIC Coordinator, Engineer Wafa' Fahhad expressed her hope to manage this enterprise on a sustainable basis to create opportunities and supplement the income of families in that area.
32 young people between the ages of 7 and 16 sang, danced and rapped their way across the stage of the King Hussein Foundation’s National Centre for Culture and Arts (NCCA) during the closing performance of the first-ever Summer Performing Arts Camp.

For three weeks in July aspiring young performers and artists escaped the brutal summer heat by attending daily acting classes. NCCA Director Lina Attel says they decided to be adventurous by also adding courses in hip hop and break dancing and rap music, drawing on the expertise of renowned Jordanian rapper/instructor Ostaz Samm.

When asked if there were any future super star rappers in attendance, the 27-year old artist replied, "absolutely yes." He said the most important thing is that the young students learn to write their own lyrics about good subjects. As an example he cited how one girl wrote about freedom, while another student wrote about family relationships, and others expressed concern for the next generation.

Dance instructor Alaa Al Qaise said he had to start with the very basic hip hop moves, but the girls exhibited talent.

13-year old Meera Maaytah said the dance classes inspired her to continue studying dance after the camp ends.

"I really had fun learning to dance," she said, "I had two left feet before I came to this camp but now I can dance really well and I like it."

14-year old Basel Nader from Zarqa said he enjoyed the break dancing classes, and the detail with which they learned new steps.

But not everyone arrived at this camp inspired.

10-year old Dani Sakkal from Boca Raton, Florida said attending the camp was his dad’s idea:

"The first days I was dreading it, you know I can’t sleep in, but it turned out to be a nice camp, and the teachers are nice, the people are nice, and you just come here and have a good time."
Sakkal now says he wants to continue dancing, and his Arabic has improved after making new Jordanian friends.

Attel says the camp, which also included the visual arts, focused on providing intensive instruction rather than staging a production in order to equip the students with important life skills.

"We thought this is a good opportunity to give young people a platform where they can express themselves creatively," noted Attel, "and learn about what it means to respect each other’s views, what it means to solve problems effectively and peacefully."

She also pointed out that the arts teach young people discipline and help boost self-confidence.

Another bonus?

"I got to make new friends," said Maaytah, a very important factor in the life of a 13-year old.

160 Jordanian youth between the ages of 10 and 25 had a chance to get a little taste of the lights on Broadway in July, singing and dancing parts from famous Broadway musicals before an audience at the Palace of Culture in Amman on July 5, 2011.

They were joined onstage by 150 members of a youth orchestra, mainly compromised of NMC students and 30 musicians from the Jordanian Armed Forces Orchestra. The groups played selections from a variety of traditional, classical and contemporary music composers.

The performance was the culmination of an 11-day workshop held June 25 - July 5, 2011 conducted by the "YES" Academy (Youth Excellence on Stage) put on by the King Hussein Foundation’s National Centre for Culture and Arts and the National
The intensive workshop, which provided sessions at no charge to young people from all across Jordan, was sponsored by the cultural section of the US Embassy and Union Bank.

The workshop was organized by the American Voices Association, led by executive director John Ferguson, which brought 12 performing arts instructors from the United States to help train young people in music, song and dance, including hip-hop.

Selections performed during the final concert included selections from the Broadway musical "Grease", "Phantom of the Opera", and "The Sound of Music".

Due to the success of the YES Academy Program in Jordan, the workshops will be conducted again next year.

The YES Academy has held similar programs in the past in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Singapore.
On Tuesday, July 26 the National Music Conservatory (NMC) celebrated its College Commencement at the Al Hussein Cultural Center, under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Four of the six graduates performed solos with the Amman Symphony Orchestra, including Abdul Rahim Al-Khatib on viola, Abdul Halim Al-Khatib on qanun, and Tarek Al Jundi on cello. Vocalist Haifa Kamal also performed a solo.

NMC Director Dr. Kifah Fakhouri delivered the commencement address, commenting on the cooperation agreement that exists between the NMC and Yarmouk University.

"Yarmouk University signed an academic cooperation agreement a few years ago accrediting our College Division and conferring the bachelor's degree in music to our students who fulfill the requirements," said Fakhouri. "I would like to extend to Yarmouk University, represented by its new president, Professor Abdullah Al Musa, our sincere thanks and appreciation."

Fakhouri noted that one of the graduates is the first to hold a bachelor's degree in music therapy. The others graduated with a variety of degrees including three in Arabic Music (one in voice, one in qanun, and one in oud), and two in Performance (one in viola and one in cello).

A graduate speech, delivered by Tarek Al Jundi, highlighted the important role that music plays in society.

"We would like to thank our parents, everyone who stood by us," remarked Al Jundi, "and if our society gives off the impression that music does not buy bread, let's not forget that bread is not man's only means."

The commencement ceremony marks the 8th graduating class since the NMC first began offering college degrees in 2001.
The National Music Conservatory's Amman Symphony Orchestra (ASO) performed at Jerash Festival 2011, holding an outdoor concert at the Northern Amphitheatre among the famous Roman ruins of Jerash on the evening of Monday, July 25.

The concert, entitled "An Evening of Unforgettable Arabic and Western Songs" featured Jordanian vocalist Haifa Kamal, a recent graduate of the National Music Conservatory (NMC), singing Arabic songs and Jordanian soprano Zeina Barhoum performing western music. Both vocalists were accompanied by the ASO conducted by Maestro Mohammed Othman Sidiq, the head of higher education at the NMC.

The Arabic portion of the concert included songs made famous by Lebanese diva Fairouz including, "Baadak Ala Bali" (Still Thinking of You), "Nihna Wil Qamar Jiran" (We and the Moon are Neighbors), and "Kinna Nitlaka Min Ashiyeh" (We Used to Meet in the Evenings).

Western songs included Italian favorites "O Sole Mio" and "Santa Lucia", in addition to famous songs from the sixties and seventies including "Speak Softly Love", "La Vie En Rose", and "When I fall in Love".

Soloists Kamal and Barhoum closed the concert by singing together "Akher Ayam As-Saifieh" (The Last Days of Summer), a song made famous by Fairouz.

The audience in Jerash also had the opportunity to hear from the talented 17-year old Jordanian violinist Mouayyad Abdo Mousa, who performed the vocal part of "Amman Fi Al-Qalb" (Amman in our Hearts). Abdo Mousa will soon leave for Vienna to pursue his musical career in violin.

The ASO also performed its closing concert of the 2010-2011 season on Wednesday, July 20 and is now in the process of preparing for the 2011-2012 concert season.

IFH hosts Mental Health Campaign During Ramadan
The **Institute for Family Health (IFH)** offered two free mental health workshops during Ramadan for Iraqi families living in North and in East Amman.

The workshops entitled, "Ramadan and its Healing Value" were held at the **IFH** in Sweileh on August 8th and at the Al Hashimi Center in East Amman on August 9th.

The workshops provided Iraqi families and their children with an opportunity to socialize, participate in educational games, share success stories, and enjoy an Iftar meal with other families.

One hundred and thirty persons attended the workshop in Sweileh, where 28 women had the opportunity to undergo screenings for Gender Based Violence and other psychological trauma. Twelve women in Al Hashimi were also screened during the workshop. This allows staff members to identify new cases to be provided with the specialized rehabilitation services both centers are offering.

Dr. Jalal Damra, a psycho-therapist at **IFH** says the workshop provided the families with the opportunity to increase their level of social interaction within the community in which they now reside.

According to Damra, the adults who attended the workshop in Sweileh were separated into groups of men and women, and through role-playing participants "discussed the correct way to resolve conflict in the home, without resorting to violence."

One hundred people attended the second workshop that was held in Al Hashmi.

The workshops are part of a project between the **IFH** and the UNHCR.

The **IFH** offers comprehensive physical and mental health services to Jordanian and Iraqi families at its center in Sweileh in North Amman. The **IFH** offers a wide array of mental health services including specialized home visits, community awareness activities, counseling and holding training courses for other CBO's in Jordan on topics related to human rights, child protection, reproductive health and domestic violence.

The center in Al Hashmi is a success story of its own. It provides psycho-social health services to Iraqi and Jordanian children and their families. The **Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Institute for Family Health** recently took over the management of the center from the NGO Terre des Hommes in March, 2011.