



**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2016-2017
Living Up to Our Mission



COLLATERAL REPAIR PROJECT

Collateral Repair Project is a grassroots effort to bring much-needed assistance to refugees and other victims of war and conflict—those commonly referred to as “collateral damage”. We seek to repair some of this damage and, through these efforts, foster peace and reconciliation.

We are located in Amman, Jordan—temporary home to hundreds of thousands of Iraqi and Syrian refugees.

Collateral Repair Project is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization in the United States, and is registered with Jordan’s Ministry of Social Development. Collateral Repair Project provides emergency services and community programming to urban refugees in Amman, Jordan.

LIVING UP TO OUR MISSION

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Collateral Repair Project (CRP) team. As we enter the seventh year of war in Syria and the ongoing conflict in Iraq, organizations like CRP face huge challenges meeting the growing needs of urban refugees. Meanwhile, overall international funding for refugees declines. In spite of this, we close the 2016/17 fiscal year having provided support, services, education, and community to more people than ever before. We could not have done it without your support, and that of our volunteers (many of whom are refugees themselves) who shared their time and talents even in the face of their own personal challenges. In times like these, we need heroes, and at CRP, we have them.

Jordan has the sixth-largest refugee population in the world. These individuals and families are waiting and hoping for conditions that will allow them to either return home or rebuild their lives elsewhere. As displacement stretches on, resources are depleted, which leaves people vulnerable to exploitation, health and mental-health concerns, and a loss of hope for the future. The mission of Collateral Repair Project is to make life for refugees a little easier and more dignified.

This year, your compassion and generosity allowed us to:

- Send nearly 1,000 children back to school. To do this, we provided school fees, backpacks, stationery, and book fees—our contribution to avoiding a “lost generation” of Syrian and Iraqi children who fall out of the education system. Lack of education has devastating effects on people’s future and for the future of the countries we will one day rely on them to rebuild.
- Fend off food insecurity and prevent some of the desperate coping strategies it can lead to. Our food voucher program reached more than 15,000 people.
- Grow our bustling community center with programs that help people heal from their trauma, build a new community, and learn new skills. We increased the space available for children to learn and play, offered more women’s leadership programs, and began vocational training for men. The barbershop courses we started this past year are among our most popular programs.

We have always taken pride in the fact that many people who come to us initially for emergency assistance stay on as volunteers and even as staff. Most of our programs are led or supported by volunteers. This active engagement helps combat the depression and hopelessness that often accompany life for refugees. It also tells us that the programming we provide is valued and important to the community.

Being a hero doesn't require superpowers—the refugees we see everyday at CRP show us a different kind of hero. People who have left their homes, jobs, and communities behind to keep their loved ones safe. People who live in situations of uncertainty, but still devote themselves to their own development. People who are permanent strangers in Jordan, but still find ways to contribute to the community.

Looking to the coming year, CRP has two exciting new partnerships that will help us do even more. A two-year education grant from Rotary International will allow us to get more children into school and help them succeed there through support and outreach to families in the community and an enriched after-school program focused on strengthening literacy, numeracy and social skills. A second partnership with the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO) Foundation, entitled "Hope Beyond Displacement," will support girls' education and women's vocational training and leadership.

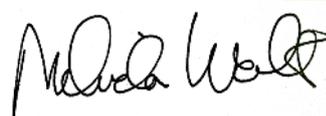
While the challenges are immense, at CRP we are filled with hope. The reasons are all around us: the refugee moms who join our women's leadership program so they can be strong role models for their daughters, the kids who have been through so much and yet want nothing more than to get back in school and make up for lost time, and the extraordinary donors who have found ways to engage more and more to make it all possible. Heroes, every one.

We are happy to share with you this 2016/17 Annual Report with highlights from the past year, and look forward to what we can accomplish together in the year to come.

Deepest Regards,



Executive Director
Amanda Lane



Board Chair
Melinda Wells

CRP HEROES NEED HELP WHEN THEY FACE THREATS TO THEIR SURVIVAL

Families first access CRP's services through our Emergency Assistance Program. Our beneficiaries arrive on our doorstep coping with the emotional loss and devastation of war, as well as desperate poverty. Most come to us with under \$40 in cash and little more than what they can carry. Largely forbidden by law to work in Jordan, refugees often cannot even meet their most basic needs. Food insecurity, in particular, is a huge stressor that not only presents obvious financial and health challenges, but also has negative secondary consequences such as keeping children out of school and increasing the risk of domestic violence.

Emergency assistance is therefore the foundation of CRP's work. Our small size and dynamic structure allow CRP to very quickly assess refugees' needs and provide relief in the form of food vouchers, household goods, and fuel to the families who need it most. CRP conducts home visits and interviews with potential beneficiaries and, where possible, cross-references their information with other aid organizations to

ensure that we are assisting families with the greatest needs and the fewest resources. Many have sought help from larger aid organizations without success and are truly desperate by the time they reach CRP. In 2016-17, CRP provided assistance to needy families in the form of:

- **Food vouchers** for **15,106***
- **Fuel vouchers** for **6,733** and **heaters** for **246***
- **Cleaning-supply** and **personal-hygiene kits** for **2,496***
- **Fans** for **883***
- **Food bags** for **2,253***

**total individuals reached*

HEROES OF CRP



For refugees, living in situations where even basic needs are hard to meet, **the very act of survival is an act of heroism. CRP Heroes Hala and Hind**, a mother-daughter pair, provide an example. In Syria, Hala's husband was imprisoned for two months and Hala herself for three days. After both were released, the family fled to Jordan, bringing with them only the clothes they were wearing. As refugees, they continue to face numerous difficulties and barriers in Jordan. "My son, who is 15 years old, left school to work so we can live," Hala says. Hind's children are still young, but

she worries about their futures. She cannot afford extra English classes for the children, and a lack of childcare options limits her own abilities to fully participate in activities at CRP.

But Hala and Hind have not let their experiences of loss and cultural isolation prevent them from engaging with others of different backgrounds, supporting people they meet, and learning new skills. They impress us every day with their commitment to each other, their families and the larger community, and their desire to engage with others around them.

CRP HEROES COMMIT TO THE FUTURE AND TO THEIR OWN HEALING

CRP believes that the second step in assisting refugees is to support them in rebuilding the sense of community that they lost when they fled their homes. With our Emergency Assistance program providing a basic foundation, our beneficiaries are able to begin rebuilding their lives and community at CRP's Family Resource and Community Center. Our Center provides a safe place where refugees can connect with other members of the community, build and share their skills, and obtain information and support needed to heal their lives and rebuild community.

The Center also provides an opportunity for refugees to become heroes to others—allowing them to make a contribution to the community and regain a sense of empowerment and self-esteem that may have been lost in the midst of displacement. All of our community center programming is volunteer led, and most of our

volunteers are members of the local community or beneficiaries themselves. In addition, programs such as our Women's Empowerment Program, Men's Support Group, and Hope Workshop help refugees develop skills that instill confidence and a sense of autonomy over their own lives despite challenging circumstances.

The Men's Support Group, also known as the *diwaniyyeh* (Arabic for "discussion forum"), meets once a week and provides an opportunity for the men to come together to talk about the issues they, their community, and their neighbors are facing in their lives. A theme is selected and the men take turns to talk and to listen to one another. We regularly hear from participants that they truly appreciate the support they receive from one another. Both we and they find the community that has emerged from the group across religious and sectarian lines to be inspiring.



Thamer, a CRP Hero at the Community Center, came to Jordan in 2013 from Syria, where he led an ordinary life in Homs. He ran a supermarket, spent time with friends and family, and was raising four children. Though Thamer did not want to leave his home and community, he felt that he had no choice. His main concern was his four children, and his first priority upon arrival in Amman was ensuring that they were all enrolled in school. Thamer is currently unemployed, and the need to pay for food and rent is a constant worry.

Although Thamer struggles to meet his family's basic needs, he still advocates for others. He attends programs at the community center, including the weekly men's support group. When he heard through the group about three women struggling to provide for their collective 21 children, Thamer brought them to CRP's attention and helped set up furnishings in their apartments and ensure that they were able to feed their families. Thamer also seizes opportunities to share the realities of the refugee experience and to advocate for his community, and even participated in a television special on refugees.



Hope Workshop, CRP's women's craft collective led by refugee women, meets weekly at CRP to design and make crafts and share strategies regarding new products and marketing opportunities. Hope Workshop provides these women with the opportunity to develop friendships, enhance their creative abilities, learn new crafting skills, and earn

some income. The Hope Workshop now boasts a membership of about 50 women who come every week to produce hats, door stops, and cards together. The products the Hope Workshop sells have increased in quality over the years and have proved very popular in the various local bazaars at which they have been selling them.



CRP Hero, Nadia, a Kurdish refugee from Iraq, felt that her life had stalled until she joined the Hope Workshop. Nadia had separated from her husband after 23 years of marriage and had been diagnosed with breast cancer when she decided to flee to Jordan. Her children, facing the social stigma of their mother's separation, had stopped going to school and had retreated into their home. When she came to Jordan, it was the first time Nadia had travelled by herself with her children. Her family continues to face many challenges in Amman, but Nadia refuses to allow her difficulties to define her, stating, "I don't want to see myself as a weak woman, a woman who just has cancer."

Nadia recalls the lack of compassion she felt in Iraq during her marital separation and breast cancer diagnosis. Despite her own troubles, she tried to be a source of friendship and encouragement to other women in the center where she received treatment, and she brought this desire to support others with her to Jordan. In spite of the challenges and uncertainties she faces, Nadia lives with the hope of bettering herself and supporting others. "One can help others not just with large things, but with simple things, maybe a kind word, maybe from a smile," she says.



CRP's **gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and awareness raising program** promotes peer-to-peer support strategies aimed at encouraging beneficiaries to help each other cope in a positive way with the many difficulties they face. It also raises awareness of the rights of women, men, boys and girls to live lives free of violence by engaging adults

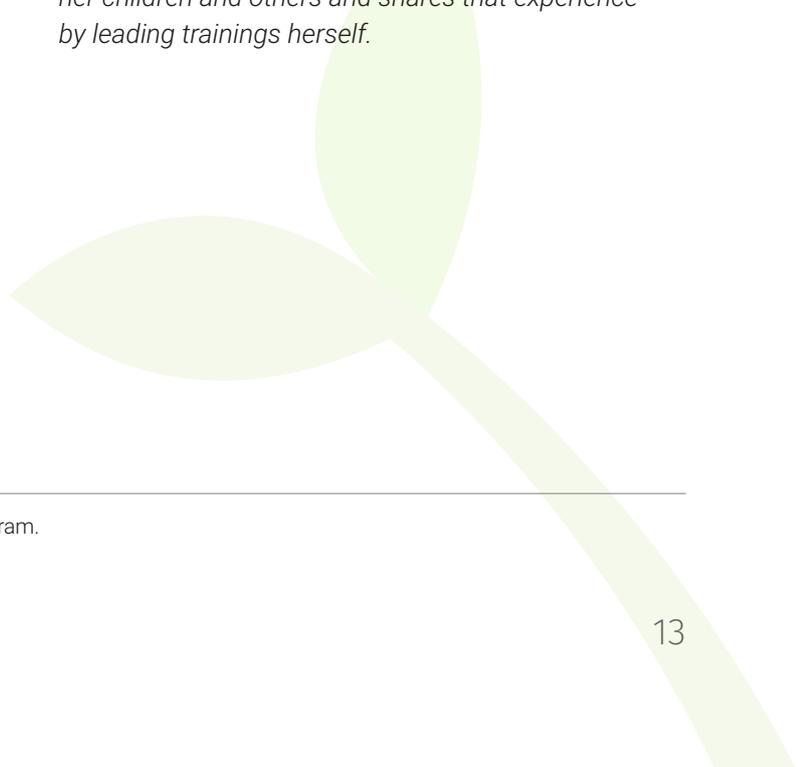
and youth from the community in interventions that promote rights education and awareness, violence prevention, healthy relationships and wellness.

Munah and **Emad** have become **CRP Heroes** through their work as volunteer trainers in the GBV program.



Like so many other refugees, Munah's decision to come to Jordan was motivated by the desire to keep her family safe, coming to Amman from Baghdad in 2014 to escape sectarian violence. In Jordan, her family struggles to meet their basic needs, as aid is limited and Iraqi refugees cannot legally work. Munah participates in many activities at the Community Center, including the Women's

Empowerment Program. When Munah learned that a fellow participant could not read or write she began to teach the woman herself. But the GBV¹ class is the program that has become the most meaningful to Munah. She finds that her participation in the program has led to more positive interactions with her children and others and shares that experience by leading trainings herself.



1. Gender-based violence prevention and awareness-raising program.



Emad, a refugee from Syria, was in the final stages of his doctorate in the philosophy of civilization at a university in Homs, when he fled to Jordan. When he brought his family to safety in Amman, Emad was not sure whether he would ever be able to complete his degree, but he did not stop searching until he found a program willing to support his efforts. Although Emad was struggling to meet his family's daily needs, he persisted in the face of incredible difficulties in

order to pursue his dreams and has now received his doctorate. After participating in CRP's gender-based violence training program, Emad became a trainer himself and finds that he is constantly learning from the other program participants. He is confident that the group has improved the way he interacts with women and has provided him with insight into women's experiences that he previously did not have.

YOUNG
CRP HEROES
MAKE UP FOR
LOST TIME IN
SCHOOL AND
GET THEIR
CHILDHOODS
BACK



Life as a refugee can be especially difficult for children and youth. At a time in their lives when they should feel carefree and curious, refugee children are often plagued by traumatic memories, concern over the challenges their families face, and consequences of the family tensions these challenges create. Trying to provide a stable environment for their children presents a major challenge for refugee parents struggling to put food on the table.

YOUNG HEROES LEARN

CRP established our After School Club to reach the youngest and most vulnerable amongst our beneficiaries. The program is a safe space where children can play, study, and socialize with each other in a fun learning environment while building confidence and a sense of community.

All refugee children attending CRP's after-school activities have experienced some type of trauma in their recent past. We promote recovery and social cohesion and provide foundational education skills.

Each age group participates in fun after school activities from Sunday to Thursday which address four core areas: numeracy, literacy, interpersonal and conflict resolution skills, and healing and wellness.

In recent months, CRP has also been collaborating with Harmony of Hope to bring the joy of music to the After School Club. Harmony of Hope has been conducting music games as a form of therapy for the children twice a week, focusing on using music as a tool for healing and self-expression. With support from the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO), CRP will begin a new "Super Girls" program, designed to sensitively address the specific needs and challenges of girls in our community, focusing on life skills, leadership, critical thinking, and computer skills. A recent grant from the Rotary Foundation will also go towards strengthening after school programming, including upgrading our existing computer learning center.



YOUNG HEROES LEAD

Refugee teenagers need a space where their skills and contributions are valued and where they can get the support they need to learn and grow into leaders. These teens have a particularly difficult time adjusting to life in Amman. Many of them are out of school due to a number of different reasons, such as the difficulty of registering, the lack of money for school supplies and tuition, or bullying and trauma-related issues. The CRP Teen Group gives young men and women the opportunity to get together and have fun in a safe space while developing useful life skills. They receive leadership training and plan their own activities and outings, and work hard to integrate newly arrived refugee teens into the group and the community. The teens explore various topics of their own choosing and address the many challenges they face as refugees in Jordan. Members of our Teen Group also facilitate activities for the

younger children, a task that encourages them to become involved in the community and improve their leadership skills. Members of the Teen Group are active volunteers at CRP as well, helping out with distributions of food, clothing and household items. Under the same Rotary grant, CRP will support 30 out-of-school teens to enroll in an alternative education program that will allow them to earn the equivalent of a tenth grade diploma.

We cannot afford to have a lost generation of children due to war and conflict. CRP is committed to helping urban refugee children heal from the conflict and trauma they have experienced and ensuring they have access to education and opportunities for personal development.



Sami, a CRP Youth Hero of the future, was only six years old when his father was kidnapped for eight days. When his father escaped, the family left Iraq and sought refuge in Syria, but five years later they became refugees again, fleeing the conflict in Syria for safety in Amman. Sami did not attend school for his first year in Amman; not long after his family had arrived in Jordan, his grandfather suffered a stroke and Sami, who was twelve years old at the time, helped take care of him. Sami returned to school for several years but circumstances forced him to drop out .

After leaving school, Sami struggled to find meaningful ways to spend his time and eventually found his way to the CRP Community Center where he began volunteering. Sami also became active in the teen group, at first struggling to find his place in the group, but over time becoming the group's co-leader. He describes the group as a "low-key environment where you can be yourself." When Sami's hopes of being resettled dimmed, he decided to return to school. He studied for the SSAT and has been accepted by Jordan's most prestigious high school. He hopes to use his education to support his family and become a voice for peace in Iraq. Sami is our **Hero of the future**.



Programs for Children and Youth:

In 2016-17, CRP offered financial support that was critical in getting over **992** children into school when their families were unable to cover the cost of uniforms and education materials. An average of **278** kids per month participated in our daily After School Programming for children ages 6-12. CRP's Girl

Scouts program was attended by an average of **62** girls each month. Over **155** kids attended our weekend activities every month. On average, each month over **68** teens attended our Teen Group in 2016/17.



CRP'S HEROES PROVIDE THE FUNDING THAT MAKES IT ALL POSSIBLE

Individual donors are the lifeblood of CRP. 80% of our funding comes from our annual campaigns, personal donations, and our monthly Partners in Repair. In addition, a number of important institutional funders have provided CRP with critical funding to help us take our programming to a new level.

This year we received two generous grants from Rotary International and the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas. These funds are allowing CRP to expand our community programming in important and innovative ways in 2017/2018:

Rotary Grant

The Rotary Grant will focus on education catch-up for refugee children and removing social and financial barriers to urban refugee youth attending school. The grant will support at-risk students who are attending school to stay in school and strengthen after school programming for school-aged children. It will also support out-of-school teens to join a specialized non-formal education

program and develop their leadership skills to become mentors for youth in our programs. As a way of ensuring success of the program, CRP will work with parents and community leaders to make sure that the children we put in school are adequately supported, nurtured, and at reduced-risk of dropping out.

Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas

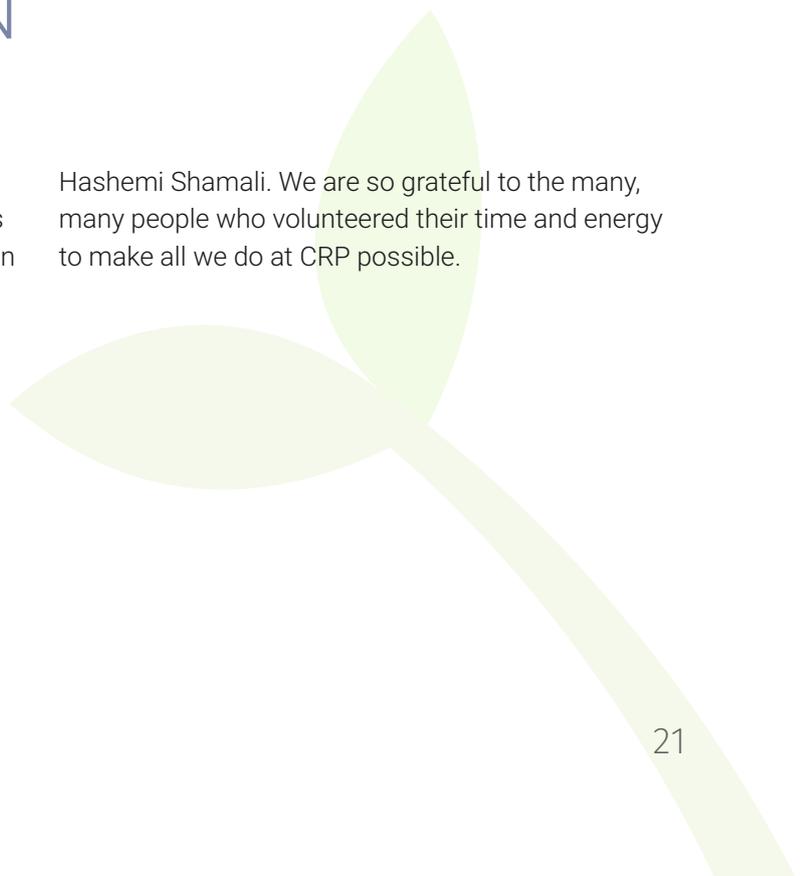
Hope Beyond Displacement, funded by the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO) is designed to build better futures for refugee women and girls by addressing pressing issues identified in close consultation with the women CRP serves. Families who cannot afford the cost of sending their daughters to school will receive the resources and support needed to enroll them. The grant also includes educational and leadership training for women and girls and a program engaging with men and boys on issues related to sexual and gender based violence.

CRP HEROES

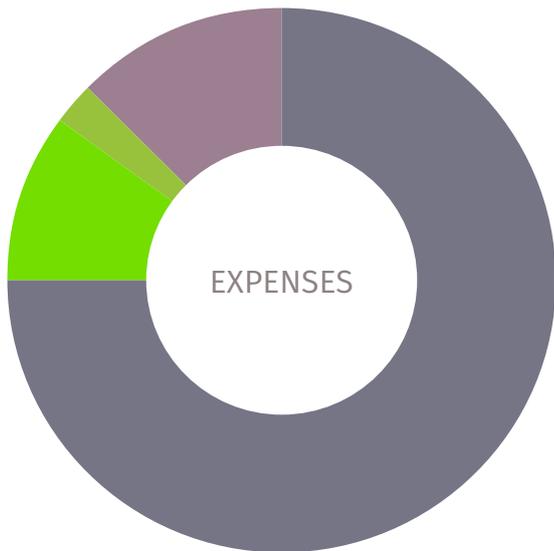
VOLUNTEER
THEIR TIME
AND SKILLS
TO HELP CRP
LIVE UP TO ITS
MISSION

As a small grassroots non-profit organization, CRP relies heavily upon volunteers to help run the various programs that take place at our Community Center in

Hashemi Shamali. We are so grateful to the many, many people who volunteered their time and energy to make all we do at CRP possible.

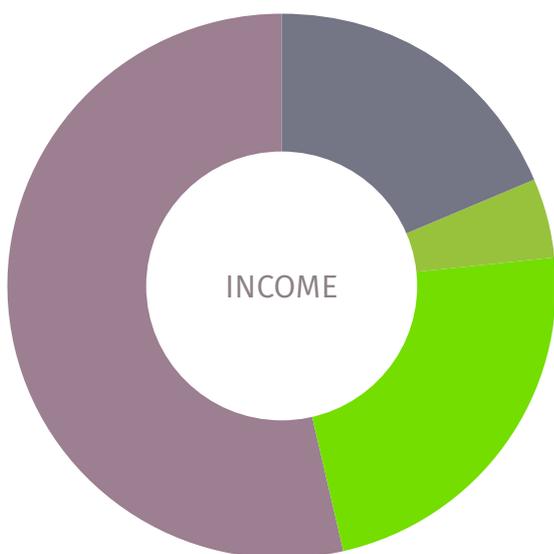


FINANCES



- \$327,102 | Emergency Assistance
- \$44,689 | Community Center
- \$9,699 | Fundraising
- \$54,695 | Administration

Total
\$436,186

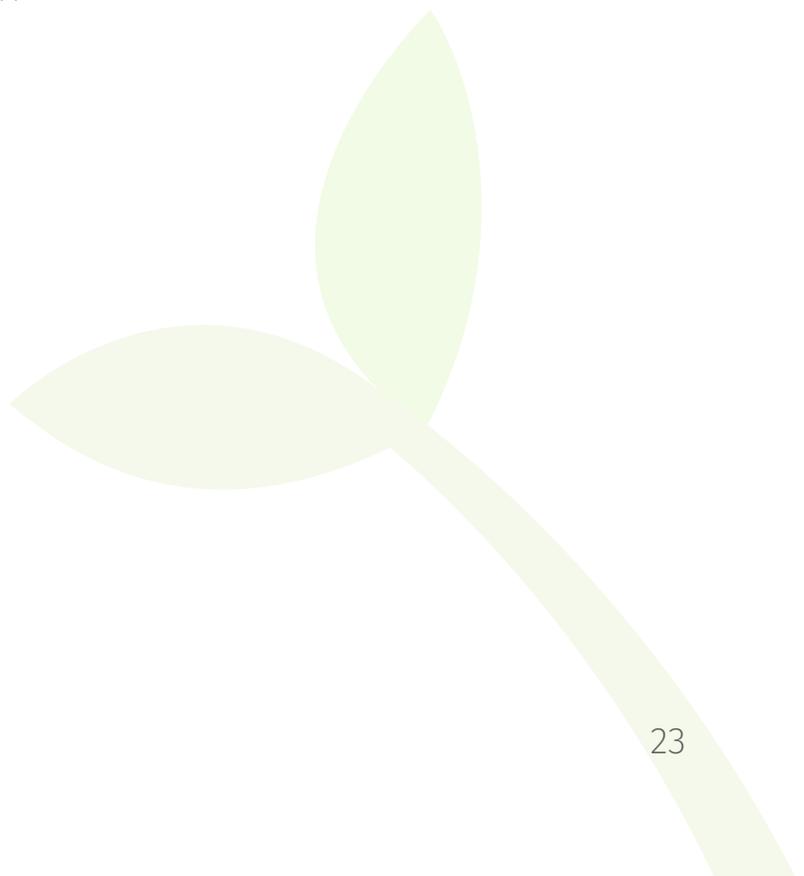


- \$76,477 | Foundations & Grants
- \$19,087 | In-Kind Donations
- \$93,771 | Monthly Donations
- \$217,503 | One-Time Donations

Total
\$321,699

BOARD MEMBERS

- Amanda Lane (Executive Director) Amman, Jordan
- Melinda Wells (President) Ottawa, Canada
- Monica Greco (Treasurer) Brooklyn, NY
- Hind Katkhuda (Secretary) San Francisco, California
- Tara Sutton, Toronto, Canada
- Ghazwan Altaee, Dallas, TX
- Therese Hartwell, Houston, TX
- Rosemary Nuri (Board Member Emeritus) Exton, PA



THANK YOU!





Collateral Repair Project is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization in the United States providing emergency services and community programming to urban refugees in Jordan.



/CRProject



@crp_amman



/crp_amman



/The Collateral Repair Project

www.collateralrepairproject.org
info@collateralrepairproject.org