



Photo credit: Kobi Wolff

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your interest in Roots-Judur-Shorashim, a unique grassroots organization established and run by local Palestinians and Israelis seeking to create a culture of nonviolence,

understanding and transformation. We are strategically located in the Gush Etzion-Hebron area of the West Bank, a region that frequently experiences the pain of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. By working with people on both sides of the divide, we aim to create a new discourse from within these neighboring communities. We envision the creation of a political and social climate that honors the rights and connection of both peoples to the land, and provides freedom, dignity and civil rights for all its inhabitants.

The incredible moments and initiatives that we witness here on the ground — from the children speaking each other's language, to the solidarity shown between neighbors across enemy lines — are all deeply indebted to the supportive partnerships we've developed. We invite you to join us on our path and thank you for believing in us, and we pray that the days ahead will bring the positive changes that all of us are yearning for.

With profound gratitude,

Khaled Abu Awad & Shaul Judelman
Roots co-directors

HOW YOU CAN HELP



None of our work would be possible without the support of peacemakers who believe in our vision. Day by day you are helping us create a social reality that is founded on mutual dignity, trust and respect.

Please consider making a donation and becoming a peacemaker today!

Consider bringing Roots activists to your community, participating in Roots programs, and volunteering with Roots in the United States or on the ground in the region.

You can invest directly in our efforts by going to **www.friendsofroots.net/donate** and making a tax-deductible donation, or by sending a check to the address below:

Friends of Roots, c/o Dave Paller, Treasurer
4901 Libbit Ave., Encino, CA 91436

Together, we can move beyond the destructive discourse and take constructive actions towards a better future. Please join us in making this work possible.



For more information
please feel free to contact us at:
development@friendsofroots.net



**A LOCAL PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI INITIATIVE
for UNDERSTANDING, NON-VIOLENCE
and TRANSFORMATION**

**At Roots our aim is to transform enemies
into partners through direct human contact,
deep listening and recognition of the other's
history and experience.**

We promote:

- leadership instead of victimhood
- shared futures instead of hostile pasts
- equality instead of exclusivity
- paradigm shifts instead of status quo
- hope instead of despair
- standing with each other instead of against each other

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

3,350

Palestinian and Israeli youth engaged in Roots programs



45

local Israeli-Palestinian volunteers and staff



5,000

Israelis from across the country participated in Roots discourse through lectures, conferences and workshops in over 150 events.



جذور
שורשים
ROOTS



18,000

overseas visitors to our center and attendees of our speaking tours abroad, including politicians, journalists and religious leaders, heard Roots speakers



500

local Palestinian and Israeli adult participants



Since our work began in 2014, Roots has become a center for grassroots work and partnerships, a platform for innovation, and a springboard for new discourse in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Our peace-building programs include:

- “Growing Roots” after-school program; young adult programs; photography workshops for kids; summer camps
- Solidarity visits to victims of violence; addressing extremist violence between communities
- Activists meetings; open houses; women’s group; lectures; language classes
- Spreading the message about Roots including hosting groups, pre-military academies workshops and visiting schools
- Jewish-Christian and Jewish-Muslim interfaith dialogue groups; joint Ramadan and Sukkot celebrations



OUTREACH

Outreach to Israeli and Palestinian communities and individuals continues to be a central focus at Roots. We held parlor meetings in over ten different communities this year and appeared in numerous local print and radio outlets.

As Roots’ core center in the Gush Etzion/Hebron region is attracting participants from over 30 local towns and villages, our sister project in the Jordan Valley is now in its third year of activity, while new branches are being established in both the southern Hebron Hills and the northern part of the West Bank/Samaria. This network of individuals and communities will serve as the platform for Roots future steps. In addition, Roots is increasingly acting as a hub for other partnering and bridge-building projects including business ventures, health initiatives and new political initiatives.



When Muhamad, 16, from Bet Omar, first came to the Roots youth program, he felt really scared. Khaled, one of his classmates, was killed by the Israeli army shortly after the start of the program. Despite the family’s pleading, Khaled’s body was withheld by the IDF from burial. At the following Roots meeting, our staff chose to discuss the powerful emotions that arose after this tragedy. The entire Roots organization decided to apply pressure on the Israeli Defense Ministry to release Khaled’s body to his family for burial. Through broadcast protests and signed petitions, the pressure was sufficient to persuade Israel to finally return the body and allow the family to bury their son. Muhamad continued to attend our meetings and became one of the leaders of the program. Currently he is leading the new cohort of young adults, and is responsible for speaking with visiting groups about non-violence and social activism. He recently returned from shoulder surgery in Jordan, which was paid for through donations gathered by his Jewish friends.