

JOSEPH FAMILY PRESENTATION OF THE 2024 ROGER E. JOSEPH PRIZE TO

HAND IN HAND

Accepted by Lee Gordon,

Co-Founder and Director of the American Friends of Hand in Hand

The founders of the State of Israel had a vision that the Jewish People could live in harmony and peace with other inhabitants of the land, whether as equal citizens or side by side in two separate states. The aspirations towards equality, democracy, and human rights for all to which the State of Israel aspired in its founding documents has been difficult to achieve for reasons that stand at the heart of the current war in Israel. Where others work on policy and politics, the **Hand in Hand** schools focus on demonstrating what is possible in Israel: a shared and equal society through the power of education and community-building.

In a nation that has separate school systems for different kinds of Jews and Arabs, **Hand in Hand**, starting with only 50 children in 1997, has created shared, bilingual schools for Jews and Arabs, Israelis and Palestinians. They are based in six campuses and communities throughout Israel: in Jerusalem, the Galilee, Wadi Ara, Tel Aviv-Jaffa, Haifa, Kfar Saba, Kafr Qasim, Hof HaCarmel, with new communities being planned. Through its multicultural curriculum and community activities, this vital network is engaging 2,000 students and 3,000 active adults, and having an impact on over 10,000 Jewish and Arab citizens. **Hand in Hand's** mission is based on mutual respect for both cultures and languages, and recognition of competing national narratives, and the aspiration of shared and equal citizenship in a democratic state of Israel.

It is an honor to recognize their sacred work, as they work to transform a society riddled with conflict and violence, to one of cooperation, friendship, and equality.

We would like to read the citation, which accompanies the \$15,000 honorarium:

The 2024 Roger E. Joseph Prize is presented to

Hand in Hand

Whose mission is to build partnership and mutual respect between Jewish and Arab citizens in Israel through a growing network of public, bilingual Jewish-Arab schools and communities throughout the country;

Who are trailblazers in the field of shared education and living, fostering a new generation of Arabs and Jews, Israelis and Palestinians, who can overcome the separation, fear, and violence to prove that they can live side by side, as partners and peers;

Who represent a microcosm of shared society through classroom learning, parent-child activities, civic engagement, lectures and workshops, family gatherings, leadership seminars, facilitated dialogue sessions, language classes, shared holiday celebrations, cultural text study, and community gardens that cultivate friendships, mutual trust, and appreciation, and educate children toward genuine peace.

Who is advancing Israel's fastest-growing, integrated social movement embodying the values of equality, pluralism, and multiculturalism, guided by the understanding that partnership and education are the only way forward, and that together we learn, support, and live hand in hand,

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