



PALESTINIAN HAPPY CHILD CENTRE

SPEECH OF DR. JUMANA ODEH AT THE RECEPTION

Good afternoon,

**Your Excellency Dr. Salam Fayyad, dear friends, colleagues & family.
Thank you for sharing with us this special day.**

I would like to dedicate this Award to the memory of my father who was very influential in my life and believed in the power of women to change the world.

Thanks to my mother, to my soul mate, friend & husband Tamer, to my precious daughters Dana & Tala, to my brothers and sisters Ali, Husein, Mohammad, Naser, Lina, Sahar & Samar.

Thanks to our President & his office.

Thanks to Talal Naser Eddin the Chair of our Board of Directors, to Dr. Vivian Khamis a special friend and co-founder of the PHCC, to the staff & family of the PHCC, to Dr. Anan Masri, Deputy Minister of Health.

And a special thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Leibowitz, founders of the World of Children.

Thanks to all donors & supporters of the PHCC who believe in the work we do.

Thanks to the children of Palestine who made my life has a real meaning.

50.2% of the Palestinian population is children under 18. Of those 2.3% are children with different disabilities that affect their daily living. There are very few centers that deal with the needs of these children.

PHCC was created to fill unmet needs of children with special needs living under Israeli military occupation. We have developed our own model, based on the reality, needs, and strengths of our communities.

PHCC has a multidisciplinary staff which includes, doctors, nurses, psychologists, special educators, vocational trainers, physiotherapists,

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community based rehabilitation workers, EEG technologists, speech therapists & audiologists, social workers and volunteers.

PHCC offers nine comprehensive projects through which children are served.

Since its establishment in 1994, the PHCC has served approximately 32,000 children with a whole range of disabilities, from all over Palestine.

Our working philosophy is to work with families, bearing in mind their psycho-social, environmental, and economical realities in life.

Working with people and understanding their needs is the way to change societies.

I am part of a strong professional community that takes care of the needs of children in Palestine. We know what to do and how to do it, but for that we need an atmosphere of freedom. We want to live in peace and dignity, free of military occupation.

April 9, 2009