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Who we are: Inspire Dreams is a 501(c) 3 international non-profit organization that uses the arts, athletics, and academics to promote social change in the West Bank. Our primary target audience is Palestinian youth in refugee camps.

Our Vision: By 2015, we hope to have our programs available in all 19 refugee camps in the West Bank. Eventually, we hope to work in the Gaza Strip and we will consider the idea of expanding our programs to other areas facing humanitarian crises.

Refugee Camps we work in: We currently work in 6 refugee camps located within the cities of Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Nablus. In order of size, they are the Balata (pop. 41,000), Dheisheh (pop. 13,000), Askar (14,000), Jalazone (9,200), Al-Fawwar (7,000), and Al-Azzeh (pop. 1,700).

Our Programs:

- A. Camp “I Have a Dream” (IHAD)**—Camp “IHAD” is a week-long summer and winter program for refugee youth between the ages of 12-16. The program focuses on teaching non-violence, leadership skills, and career development through the mediums of basketball, soccer, theater, poetry, dance, computer-based applications and journalism. To date, Camp “IHAD” has reached over 175+ Palestinian youth in five refugee camps.
- B. Lead Palestine**—Lead Palestine is a college preparatory program modeled after “Prep for Prep” in New York City and the Super 30s initiative in India. The program focuses on assisting refugee youth between the ages of 16-18 who wish to attend college with college application preparation, entrance exams, identifying and procuring scholarships, and matriculating into a 4-year university within the West Bank, the broader Middle East, the United Kingdom, or the United States. The program pays for application and testing fees, and the instructors include both Americans and Palestinians.
- C. Summer Public Service Program**—This summer we will be sending seven American college and graduate students for our 10-week summer internship program. The interns come from a variety of racial and religious backgrounds as well as undergraduate institutions (including Brown, Georgetown, MIT, Tufts and UC-San Diego). During this time they will be placed in cultural centers in Nablus and Bethlehem where they will teach English to refugee youth, lead workshops in their individual fields (i.e. engineering, photojournalism, exercise), and assist the cultural centers with capacity building. They will also spend time directing Camp “I Have a Dream” and “Lead Palestine.”

Our Approach: We believe in the idea of “positive deviance,” and our work greatly incorporates the thoughts and ideas of the communities we will be serving. Our programs and curriculum are designed and facilitated with the help of village elders in each refugee camp, the cultural centers, older refugee youth, and academics specializing in conflict resolution, youth development, and psychology.

Work within a political context: None of our work is directly political; we do not sign onto any campaigns or petitions, nor do we advocate any specific solutions to the conflict. However, we believe that empowering Palestinian youth, encouraging them to pursue higher education, and helping them avoid criminal and violent activity is positive in many ways. The number of children experiencing post-traumatic stress and other related disorders often goes uncounted in a society that is also struggling to heal from the physical and psychological effects of violence. The children’s dreams are bound by ghosts of villages that no longer exist and by camps where hope is trumped by hunger. Policy makers seem to be trapped in the mid-term, just beyond the dire needs of the



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present, but just short of considering reconciliation efforts that must follow any future deal. For any peace deal to succeed, the youth in the refugee camps must be given a voice in the process, and the tools and skills necessary to build Palestinian society.

Our Financial Outlook: Over the past two years, we have fundraised nearly \$50,000 through grants and individual donations. We have filed tax returns and followed accounting and documenting protocol required by the Clinton Foundation, Oxfam International, and other sponsors. All of our purchases made in the West Bank or anywhere else is executed by our co-founders. We understand that from our donor and sponsors there is concern about where our money is spent, but our accounting process ensures transparency. We do not hand out money to any individual or person. Over the next year, we are looking for corporate sponsors to make both short-term and long-term commitment to our programs.

Our Team: Inspire Dreams is led by Hammad Hammad, Indra Sen, and Rod Solaimani. Our staff also includes American and international volunteers. Former U.S. Ambassador Cynthia Schneider is an advisor to our program and we have consulted in the past with Former NSA and current UNICEF Director Tony Lake and other academics.

Biographies of Principals:



Hammad Hammad is a Palestinian American who spent the first 16 years of his life living in a small town in the West Bank, before moving to California with his family. He received a Masters in Conflict Resolution from the University of Utrecht, where he was a Fulbright Scholar, and now is pursuing a Masters in Laws and Diplomacy from Tuft's Fletcher School, where he is a Charles Rangel Fellow. Hammad is President of Inspire Dreams and his work primarily centers organizing logistics within the West Bank and connecting with cultural organizations within refugee camps.



Indra Sen is the son of immigrants from China and India, and grew up in a small town in Connecticut. He is a *Phi Beta Kappa* graduate of Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service, where he majored in International Affairs. Indra is a 2007 Truman Scholar. He has worked for Barack Obama's Presidential Campaign, Catholic Charities' Refugee Minor Program, and Credit Suisse Investment Banking. Indra is Executive Director of Inspire Dreams and oversees fundraising efforts, program development, and day-to-day operations.



Rod Solaimani is the son of Iranian Jewish immigrants, and was raised in Marietta, Georgia. He majored in International Politics at Georgetown University, and also studied abroad at Hebrew University in Israel. Rod is currently a Fulbright Scholar in Morocco studying ethnomusicology. Rod is Director of Programs, and his work concentrates on developing partnerships and maintaining positive ties with Israel. He brings a unique perspective to the team, as he has many family members living in Israel, and speaks Hebrew, Arabic, and Farsi proficiently. He is also conversational in French and Spanish.

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