



Capital of Christmas Club

Courtesy of John Paul II Football Academy and Children Without Borders



The John Paul II Foundation in Palestine, working in cooperation with and through Children Without Borders (CWB), targets children aged five to fifteen with the aim of ensuring mental, moral, and physical empowerment. The activities offered seek to emphasize the emergence of what it calls the six C's: critical thinking, creativity, cooperation, co-existence, commitment, and courage. Children Without Borders offers children the opportunity to discover and develop their talents through special programs in the arts and sports which regular schools cannot offer as part of their curriculum. CWB intends to provide children the

possibility of spending constructive free time by removing them from negative surroundings and experiences. In this endeavor, CWB considers itself a partner to all the community associations that try to take responsibility in the process of educating and raising children.

Like all over the world, football, or soccer, is probably the most preferred game for children in Palestine. Thus, in 2009 CWB has established its first soccer academy in Palestine, titled John Paul II Football Academy, and launched a project entitled Building Character through Football. Since that date, the academy has provided playgrounds and offered training schedules to more than 1,200 children that participate in branches in cities throughout Palestine, among them Jenin, Jericho, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Gaza.

The Bethlehem branch is considered one of the most important branches since it has the largest number of participants in its three sub-branches in Beit Sahour, Beit Jala, and Bethlehem. The John Paul II Football Academy has a strong and strategic relationship with the Municipality of Bethlehem which shares its mission of supporting youth, a relationship through which the academy has come to be the representative of the municipality in sport events in Bethlehem and abroad. Thus, the Bethlehem youth football team has participated twice in the tournament of Brescia, Italy, where it achieved second place when it participated for the first time in 2014, and first place in 2015. Locally, the team has also been very successful, as it is considered the champion in the southern region and number two in all of Palestine.

In its latest news, the John Paul II Foundation and Children Without Borders have launched a sports and social club with the distinguished name Capital of Christmas Club that has been accredited by the highest council for youth and sports and under which name and umbrella all future event participation will be registered.

