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A Warm Welcome!

“Ahlan wa sahan” to the members of Friends of Jordan! In this first edition of the official Friends of Jordan newsletter, we are excited to share what we’ve been doing and how you can become involved, and we thank you for your membership!

Our group of 35 so far—returned volunteers from J1 through J5, former and current Peace Corps Jordan Staff, and other friends of Jordan—lives in 12 states around the country and 6 countries around the world. Together we have laid the foundation for a forum through which we can

network with each other, share knowledge and experience, and continue to contribute to our communities in Jordan and the U.S.

We have worked primarily on setting up the organization: everything from recruiting members and drafting bylaws to electing officers. Our website is almost ready to launch, and you can read about our small grants program below. We are also looking ahead to support the next returning Jordan volunteer group in Spring of 2006.

So how can you get involved? Join our small grants or other future program committees, contribute to the newsletter, submit program

ideas, help develop website content, or just tell us what you are doing! If you’ve been to Jordan recently, given presentations to your US communities, or otherwise “connected” to Jordan or to Peace Corps, please let us know so we can share your experiences. Our email address is **fojordan@yahoo.com**.

Thank you again for joining us. We look forward to building this organization with you. Salaam.

Rose Heil, President & Kathleen Sheridan, Vice President

Membership Greetings

Hello FOJ Members! As your friendly Membership Coordinator (MC) I would like to welcome you to Friends of Jordan. My job as MC has a few different facets: I work with both members to make sure all membership questions are answered and non-members to try to encourage them to join. I am available to all of you and am more than happy to assist you with any membership concerns you might have. Please feel free to contact me at any time at **Cabrera_Farraaj@yahoo.com**. My membership goal for the coming months is to recruit as many people as possible per month. In order to meet my own goal I need your help! Those of you who work with, live near, or keep in touch with other Jordan RPCVs *(continued on page three)*

Program Coordinator's Corner: Starting the Small Grants Program

The Friends of Jordan Small Grants Program is rapidly gaining momentum as the Association's first charitable activity. Within a month or two, FOJ intends to be ready to offer financial assistance (up to \$150) to Peace Corps Volunteers currently serving in Jordan to cover expenses related to their small secondary projects such as purchasing classroom materials, holding field trips, organizing workshops, beautifying the community, or facilitating other grassroots activities that promote community development, cultural exchange, or education. The remaining details needing attention are (i) how many and which FOJ members will review proposals – **please contact me if this interests you!** – and (ii) how to actually transfer the funds to PCVs in Jordan. We have reached *(continued on page two)*

