

HEBRON -- On December 28, 2010, Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) alumni organized a community service day under the theme **Peace for Hebron**. Alumni of the English Access Micro Scholarship Program (Access), Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES), and the MEPI came together from diverse cities and villages with the desire to volunteer and make a difference in the old city of Hebron.



The day started with a presentation about the History of Hebron to familiarize the volunteers with the past and current economic, political and social situation in the city. After the presentation the alumni were divided into four groups to help paint a mural and store doors, renovate a Turkish bath that is being turned into a museum, and assist with replacing defective lights in an old alley.



By painting a mural 20 meters long and 4 meters high on the back of Al-Yaqatha Boys School, the alumni transformed the empty and dark area into a lively neighborhood. The wall drawings represented the rich history of the city and symbolized hope, ambition, and the desire for a peaceful life.





In another location, a group of MEPI alumni helped in renovating and painting rusted doors of some shops. This was highly valued by the shop owners who have been challenged to keep everything renovated. Additionally the alumni painted the walls and redecorated the furniture in an old Turkish bath that is currently being transformed into a museum in order to maintain its architecture, history, and value in people's mind.



Furthermore, the enthusiasm and encouragement that were reflected in the eyes of the alumni while volunteering not only captured the attention of students who were passing by with their parents, but also the Mayor of Hebron city who also took part in the activity.



The day ended with a speech by Erin Mai, a representative from the U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem, who thanked the alumni for their hard work and emphasized the importance of volunteering to support needy people in the community and building a future for coming generations.

