From ancient times until today the Christian community has never been numerically significant. It’s always been a small community at the birthplace of Christianity. However, as descendants of the first Apostles, local Christians are the vital thread of continuity from the Mother Church to the world. Today their identity is as precious as ever, but it is incredibly fragile. Amidst decades of instability and insecurity, Christian families absolutely need to be accompanied by our families, members of the Universal Catholic Church. We can and do make an important difference. Our support shines a light reminding our brothers and sisters that their presence means “to lead to.”

EDUCATION comes from the Latin word educare which means “to lead to.”

Help us to continue leading Christian youth to a new future in their homeland so they can deepen their roots, develop local resources, and professional capacities without having to migrate away from their birthplaces in the Holy Land.

Through your support and participation in the life of the Holy Land you are helping to change lives, one at a time. Your generosity and interests lead young Christians to choose wisely for their futures and their families. You are not only giving hope to them but you will be sustaining the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

The Foundation has committed itself to do all we can. There is no question that support from friends like you can – and does – go a long way. We see it. We know the results. You can be that mustard seed of goodness which grows life in the desert.

Christian Education – for peace, progress and service

For too many years there have been hard times in the Holy Land. Good people have struggled in many ways to survive, to hold on to their family roots in the birthplace of Christianity. Few things matter more to families than to help their children have a strong education. Visits to local families and asking them what their children need always leads to a discussion about education. Like anywhere, parents shine with pride when speaking about their children – and their potentials. Few families can actually afford the full cost of a college education for even one child, never mind several. Still, they are willing to sacrifice, many literally from their widow’s mite. Our Foundation was started to specifically find ways to respond to these needs now.

It’s more than just providing a decent college education. It’s about building up the community’s opportunities, it’s greatest natural resources – the young adults. Our scholarship program invites Sponsors to help multiply these intellectual and community resources, these young talents into a benefit for the entire Christian communities in the Holy Land - and must support them in their needs. These caring calls have confirmed this as a priority for the Franciscan Custos and our friars.

Echoes from Our Students...

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Hear these young hope-filled echoes from the Holy Land, voices of gratitude from students, past and present...

"Why should I go live in another country when the Holy Land is my home?" Foteh goes further: "More importantly – as a Christian I have an obligation to remain here, to build up the Christian community where Christ began our Church. I cannot abandon my family. I have to stay in this country!" Educated as an engineer and working full-time at the Franciscan Custody, Foteh is making a helpful difference.

Shehadeh, sixth child in a large family of eleven people including grandparents says: "I remember as a boy all of us living together in a three room apartment. You see I would never have been able to go to the University if the Franciscan Foundation hadn’t helped me. They changed my life completely. Now I have a life and a good salary."

While attending University, Niveen worked part-time at the Terra Santa School to cover her expenses for transportation and school supplies. When she graduated the school offered her a permanent position. "I could go somewhere else for a higher salary, but I prefer to stay at the school. I feel very connected to them because the Franciscans have done so much for me."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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