young Christians. We work to build up minds, lives, and hopes. We see a new generation going out into Holy Land communities better equipped to contribute, to support, to serve. Despite darker times, they encounter their own potentials with a clear eagerness – not just to go to school but to develop themselves. It is this energy which the Foundation supports so they too can make a shining difference.

In the Holy Land in 2018 the average yearly cost to attend college is $6000, compared to $34,000 in the USA.

What a wonderful way to invest in the future of Christianity by sponsoring one, or more, of these young Christians.

What an opportunity to "give the gift you have received as a gift" to one of these young men or women.

Since the Foundation's University Scholarship Program began in 1997, it has enabled many students to attend college with a sense of confidence and Catholic encouragement. This caring investment in others has reached $6 million. Most of these students have secured professional employment in nursing, medicine, business, education and engineering. When you travel around the Holy Land to parishes, communities and other events, you continually meet our students. They are as proud of the Friends of the Foundation as we are of them. This is our community along with all their families. In addition – we meet leaders and managers who offer thanks to the Foundation for our contribution to the society.

Echoes from Our Students...

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.

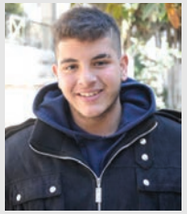
Through your support and participation in the life of the Holy Land you are helping to change lives, one at a time. Your generosity and interests lead young Christians to choose wisely for their futures and their families. You are not only giving hope to them but you will be sustaining the Christian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

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? 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 information on the Christian Student Education Program or our other efforts, please contact us:

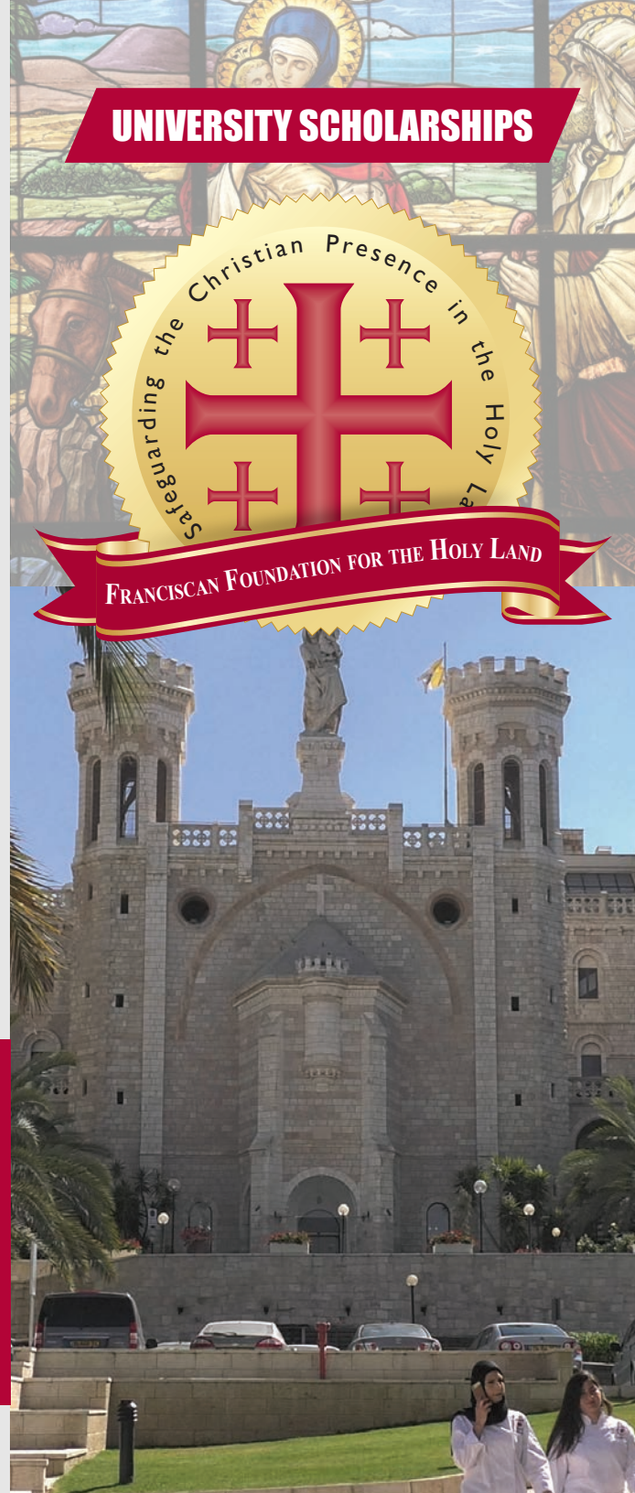
FRANCISCAN FOUNDATION FOR THE HOLY LAND

P.O. BOX 29086
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017-9086

855.500.FFHL(3345)

info@ffhl.org | www.ffhl.org

FFHL is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the United States. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.



Yes, I would like to sponsor a Christian university student in the Holy Land.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

☐ Check ☐ Charge

☐ $24,000 full 4 year scholarship payable:
- ☐ In full now
- ☐ Annually ($6,000 ea.)
- ☐ Quarterly ($1,500 ea.)
- ☐ * Monthly ($500 ea.)

☐ $6,000 for one year scholarship payable:
- ☐ In full now
- ☐ Quarterly ($1,500 ea.)
- ☐ *Monthly ($500 ea.) *only through automatic deducation on credit card

☐ Other gift for scholarship _____

Credit Card _____ Exp. date _____ CVV _____

Signature _____

Mailing Address: University Scholarship Program, FFHL, P.O. Box 29086, Washington D.C. 20017-9086

"Education will be the key in keeping our young people in the Holy land."

- Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

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 is important. Most of all, as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI expressed:

"With an opportunity for higher education they will be able to secure employment following their studies. Thus they will keep Christianity alive in the land where Christ founded our Church."

The apostolic mission of tens of thousands of religious men and women through the centuries has been, like Christ Himself, to teach the children well. This has been a heroic uninterrupted commitment from the Catholic Church which has unquestionably changed the face of day-to-day life in the Holy Land. This special call was vigorously endorsed when Pope Paul VI came on his historic pilgrimage to Bethlehem in 1964. He spoke of the urgent need to educate everyone, to build on the very gifts God has continued to give to children.

He initiated Bethlehem University and this school, rooted in faith, hope, charity and educational excellence has educated thousands of Holy Land Christians. The Franciscan Foundation has been a serious part of this process. Our friends and donors have led dozens of young students through the doors of this college. We have assisted dozens more to attend other community colleges in the Holy Land.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *for peace, progress and service.*

When St. John Paul II journeyed to Jerusalem, Bethlehem and all the sacred places in the Jubilee Year 2000, he too noted that one of the great needs was for education. *"All Catholic faithful must always be concerned about the 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.

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