



## Newsletter

September 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are happy to present a summary of our summer activities.

We will also take this opportunity to share the link to [Mehra Rimer's TEDxGeneva talk](#) which took place last June. Our chair and co-founder's 11 minute talk describes the transformative impact of people-to-people connections, and pays tribute to some of our courageous and inspiring Peace-builders and Change-makers in the Holy Land.



The transformative power of people to people connections | Mehra Rimer | TEDxGenevaStudio

686 vues 1 sept. 2022 Human beings are capable of the worst and the best. This shift is what makes us human. Empathy is key in this shift. What triggers empathy are intense hu ...[afficher plus](#)

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### ➤ July on the Ground!

Chrystelle Thiébaud (B8 of Hope's Administration, Internship and Special Project Manager), Mehra Rimer (B8 of Hope's Executive Director, Chair and Co-founder) and David Rimer (B8 of Hope's Treasurer and Co-founder) all went to Israel and the West Bank in July which allowed them to spend time with and debrief Jean-Marc Liling (Board Member and B8 of Hope representative on the ground).

Two of B8 of Hope's donors as well as two members of [B8 of Hope Next Gen Youth Group](#) joined the team for a few days. [Here is a link](#) to the testimonial of Ben McLeod, one of the two "Next Gener" who shadowed Mehra during some of her meetings.

The photos below were taken by Noa Grandchamp, the other “Next Gener” who joined the trip.



We wish Ben the best of success in his studies at the Faculty of Law of University of Fribourg, and a continued success to Noa whose [free-lance photography carrier](#) is based in Geneva.

As part of our educational program in Geneva, we very proudly offer these firsthand experiences to young people who are interested in B8 of Hope’s approach to peace-building, and encourage them to join our Next Gen.



The primary objective of our July trip was to receive updates on the preparation and implementation of our 7 Synergies projects which were funded earlier this Spring.

To stimulate synergies between our grantee organizations and scale up their impact through collaborations, B8 of Hope called for applications that target collaborative projects last winter. We selected 7 projects which connected a total of 15 organizations. These projects involve partnerships that run programs, share data and resources, or develop mutual capabilities. A total amount of \$155,000 was distributed.

During the 3 week stay on the ground, the B8 of Hope team met with all grantees as well as other organizations (who are currently unfunded by B8 of Hope, but on our closest radar). This trip allowed us to evaluate and monitor funded projects through in-depth discussions and/or participation in several activities. We are looking forward to sharing information about them in our forthcoming 2022 annual report.

[Click here to view the full photo album!](#)



Last but not least, we extend our gratitude to our contacts at the Swiss embassy in Tel-Aviv and the Swiss Representation in Ramallah for their guidance, advice and warm welcome as we update them about our activities.

## ➤ September: Partners in PEACE

September opened with a partnership between B8 of Hope and [Coexistences](#), a wonderful Swiss-registered association that is based in Lausanne. We have interacted and worked with them for several years. This time, our collaboration focused on sponsoring part of the costs involved in the “Strengthening the Dynamics between Facilitators of the Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue” seminar which took place from September 4<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>.

Since its creation in early 2007, Coexistences has hosted 33 dialogue groups of 15-20 facilitators on the ground. This represents 100 years of facilitation experience when added up!.

These Israeli and Palestinian facilitators do not necessarily know each other, and their approaches are different. Through Coexistence’s seminar for facilitators, all received a unique opportunity to share their field experience and toolbox while tackling their soft spots or areas in which they lack training. Throughout the 9 day event, a cross-fertilization of diverse, rich and effective practices emerged; contributing to this enriching experience was very rewarding. Several seminar facilitators lead some of our grantee organizations in their dialogue sessions. We are thrilled to have helped our grantees profit from Coexistences’ capacity-building opportunity by co-funding the seminar.

On the last evening of the seminar, B8 of Hope joined the participants’ farewell party. It was lovely to see our Israeli and Palestinian friends in Switzerland! Spending time with members of Coexistence and the Swiss families who hosted the Israeli and Palestinian participants was wonderful. This occasion also enabled us to compare notes with our contacts and co-funders from the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs who were also present.





For the International Day of Peace, B8 of Hope partnered with [Interpeace](#) in support of their [Geneva PeaceTalks 2022](#) event on Wednesday, September 21. The event took place both in person at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, and on livestream in English and French.



The Peace Talks showcases the inspirational stories of people who make a positive contribution to Peace. The event was co-founded by the United Nations Office in Geneva, UN Geneva, Interpeace, and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform with the support of the Swiss Government. This year marked the 10th anniversary of this wonderful initiative, and B8 of Hope is very proud of its contribution to this important milestone edition!



To explain the background, earlier this year, Interpeace spotted two of our “Mid East Storytellers” whose portraits and stories were showcased in our travelling B8 of Hope and Alliance for Middle East Peace Mid East Storytellers exhibit. Both Eran Nissan from New Story Leadership and Wassim Almasri from Alliance for the Middle East Peace (whose work we support) were chosen as keynote speakers for Interpeace’s Peace Talks, alongside seven speakers from other countries.



[Click here](#) to read Eran and Wasim’s interview in Geneva Solutions’ online media platform.

## ➤ Coming soon: Philanthropic Adventures workshop

It's time for youth to sign up! Throughout November and December, we will be collaborating again with Philanthropic Adventures, around a workshop about peace philanthropy with a small group of high-schoolers (14-18 years-old) at the B8 of Hope workspace in Geneva. The purpose of this workshop is about a journey towards peacebuilding through the lenses of B8 of Hope while learning the skills of philanthropy with the facilitator of Philanthropic Adventures, Paola Genovese.

Philanthropic Adventures is a Swiss registered non-profit association. It offers an educational program for young people to find information, inspiration and support to take action for social and environmental issues they care about.

### Lets Talk about Peace

Learn about Peace Building in the Middle East with B8ofHope and use your time, skills and creativity to support MEET (Middle East Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow) a peace grassroots initiative.

#### Participate in a 5-sessions Workshop

##### Step 1: Lets Talk about Peace (1 session)

Meet B8ofHope and get a better understanding of their mission and Peace Building in the Middle East.

##### Step 2: Explore (2 sessions)

Meet a grassroots peace initiative, MEET, and evaluate projects.

##### Step 3: Act (2 sessions)

Learn how to fundraise in collaboration with A.Community.ch, and organise a fundraising event to support Peace.



#### Location

B8ofHope offices  
Rte de Chêne 63



#### Dates

Tuesdays 5-7pm  
From 01.11 to 13.12 2022



#### Ages

14-18



#### Takeaways

Projects Evaluation  
Fundraising tools  
Social awareness

For info and registration:

[hello@philanthropicadventures.com](mailto:hello@philanthropicadventures.com)



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*"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."* - Albert Camus

B8fully Yours,  
The B8 of Hope Team

