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**Important Info Inside!**

- Dec 31<sup>st</sup> – New Year’s Eve Party
- Jan 28<sup>th</sup> – Installation of Officers and Membership Dinner
- 2012 Membership Form Enclosed
- 2012 Convention Ad Book Form

December 12, 2011

Dear Member(s):

As we near the end of 2011, I would to take this opportunity to keep our members apprised of the many activities and great progress your Ramallah Club has enjoyed this past year. We can all be proud of being members of one the most active Ramallah Clubs in the nation, and here’s why:

**Charitable Giving:** You spoke and we listened! This year, your club is proud to announce that we have raised and donated over **\$34,000** to local and Palestinian charities. The Club’s participation in the Mandarin Relay-For-Life and the **Youth Club’s** highly-successful Fall Fashion Show both raised over \$3,500 and \$6,000, respectively, for the local chapter of the **American Cancer Society**. In conjunction with the annual American Federation of Ramallah Palestine’s trip to Ramallah, AFRP President Mr. Johnny Rukab and his committee held a charity dinner at the Club and raised \$8,000 to Palestinian charities on behalf of the Club. As part of the AFRP’s National Civil Service day, our members and youth helped build a house for **HabiJax** for those in need in our community.

And who can forget the **Palestine Youth Cultural Tour** whose performance at the historic Florida Theatre reminded us that the spirit of Palestine lives on through the energy and talent of its youth. The Ramallah Club of Jacksonville is proud to have hosted this tour and even more proud to have raised over \$17,000 to the First Ramallah Scout Group and the Edward Said Nation Conservatory of Music.

**Social Activities:** Our annual **Super Bowl Parties** are another way to say thank you to our members as we show the big game on an in-door super size screen and enjoy all types of homemade snacks and appetizers. Be sure to attend our 2012 party.

The three picnics we have each year are great ways to catch up with family and friends and enjoy some of the best BBQ in the city. Besides, where else can you have an indoor picnic with over **600** of your family and friends? The sold-out Mother’s Day Dinner was also a great way for mothers and daughters to enjoy an evening with a catered dinner at the Club. The **Ramallah Children’s Club of Jacksonville** is a great way for our little ones and their parents to enjoy each other’s company in the safe environment of the club. RCCJ members were aptly chosen to cut the ribbon off the new **playground**, complete with slides, a rock-climbing wall and safe rubber mulch. Unveiled at the Father’s Day Picnic, the new playground was built with the hard work and generous donations of members dedicated to the future of our children. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, you just enjoyed the RCCJ Christmas Show and you are ready to attend the popular New Year’s Eve Party.

**Political Aspirations:** This year, we rallied behind one of our members and supported their election campaign for **Jacksonville City Council**. Next year, we will have the honor to support another member’s candidacy for **City Judge**. The promotion of our members to political office is an important part of our organization.

**Clubhouse Remodeling:** Over the past several years, the Club has **invested in remodeling the interior and exterior of the club** as more of our members see the benefit of using the Club for private parties and weddings. After remodeling the main hall and front lobby, we tackled the outside with a fresh new color, added more energy-efficient lighting and removed old landscaping with plans to start the pavers project in 2012.

Membership: The success of our Club depends on great members like you! I am proud to report we have **461 paid members** in 2012. Enclosed you will find a **membership form for your 2012 dues**. Although we have a healthy number of paid members, we cannot progress without active participation. Our community's wealth of knowledge and experience is needed now more than ever.

AFRP Convention: Next July, the Jacksonville community will have the honor to host the greater Ramallah family at the **Bonnet Creek Waldorf-Astoria and Hilton Hotel** in Orlando, Florida. The Convention Steering Committee – lead by Mr. John Bateh – and the many sub-committees are hard at work in order to make the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention one to remember. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact us or attend a General Assembly meeting, usually held the first Sunday of every month. Ads for the 2012 ad book are now being accepted. Please find enclosed an ad form and submit yours today.

As you can see, your Ramallah Club is growing and has activities for all ages. Because of members like you, the Club is one of the most influential clubs in Jacksonville and serves as a model for other Ramallah clubs in the U.S. Thank you for your membership, active participation and we look forward to seeing you in 2012.

Sincerely,  
**The Ramallah-American Club of Jacksonville**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronie G. Rukab".

Ronie G. Rukab  
President  
ronrukab@clearwire.net

Enclosures

P.S.  
Be sure to mail in your 2012 dues today. We look forward to seeing you at the Installation of Officers and Membership Dinner on January 28<sup>th</sup>!



Find us on Facebook  
Ramallah American Club of Jacksonville  
&  
AFRP Convention 2012



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