

NAME	Nabil Al Jamal	Gender:	male
Occupation	Student		
Affiliation (educational institution)	Gallaudet University		

Attachment 1: recommendation letter(Tashi Bradford)

Attachment 2: recommendation letter(Simone Rossi)

Attachment 3: English Language Institute Progress Report

Attachment 4: Gallaudet University Grade Report

Goal: To earn a B.A. degree in Deaf Education from Gallaudet University, and return to Israel to teach Deaf children and advocate for the wider Deaf community.

Work Experience:

**Gallaudet University Physical Plant Dept.** 2002

Duties: Upkeep and maintenance of buildings

Strauss Foods, Elait, Israel 1998 – 2001

Duties: management, delivery of products.

The only deaf employee, responsible for training of new hirees. Skilled in warehouse stocking including forklift operation.

**Family business: Jerusalem** 1990-1998

Duties: painting, moving, maintenance

I learned painting from my father and older deaf brother. I worked independently for many years doing moving and maintenance service, communication effectively with my hearing clients.

Education:

**English Language Institute, Gallaudet University** 2002

Washington, DC, U.S.A.

Gallaudet University is the only liberal arts university in the world for deaf people.

The E.L.I. attracts deaf students from all over the world to study English. Arriving with only minimal knowledge of English, nine months later I will soon be ready for university study.

**High School, Jerusalem, Israel**

1987-1990

From the age of eight I attended a residential school for the deaf in Bethlehem run by Italian Catholic nuns, visiting my family on weekends. At thirteen I transferred to a deaf school in Jerusalem and commuted. The school was attended by Jewish and Arab deaf children.

Civic Service: Ramallah Deaf Club, Israel

1992-1996

Co-founder, vice-president, sports coordinator

For many years, deaf Arabs in Israel had no gathering place or organized activities. A deaf colleague and I founded the Ramallah Deaf Club to fill this gap. During my stint the Ramallah club had about fifty members: Muslims and Christians, men and women. As vice-president, I was responsible for recruiting members from all over Ramallah and the surrounding area. I also met with representatives of Jewish Deaf Clubs in Israel and clubs in Jordan as well in the interest of cooperation and good will within the deaf community. Activities included soccer, ping-pong and pool tournaments, as well as a project which produced the first dictionary of Palestinian Sign Language, for which I was the Sign model for drawings. The significance of this dictionary is still being realized. For example, the deaf school in Bethlehem where I attended as a child once was totally oral. Now the school accepts the use of sign language, and displays the dictionary on their shelves. It is an example of deaf adults advocating for deaf children for the betterment of the community as a whole.

Certifications: PADI scuba certification, all levels and medic

1997-current

Professional Association of Diving Instructors

Trained in Elait, completing all possible levels of certification. Skilled in resuscitation, CPR, and water safety/ lifesaving. Through diving I came to appreciate the natural beauty of Israel's waters and to cherish even more the value of life.

Carpenter, vocational program, Jerusalem

1998

Trained in general carpentry skills in a vocational program for deaf teenagers. Though my classmates were Arab, all of our teachers were Jewish. It was an honor to learn this ancient vocation from them.

Languages: Hebrew, Arabic, English

Israeli Sign Language, Palestinian Sign Language, American Sign Language

Personal:

The third of six children, I was born in Jerusalem. I became deaf at age two from a fever. I was fortunate because my oldest brother is also deaf and was a great role model for me. My mother taught me from a very young age to speak, read, and write. My father taught me life skills,

including painting, which would serve as my livelihood for many years. I was also fortunate receive an education in my youth, eventually learning sign language in the school in Jerusalem. However, my earliest education was strictly oral. Emerging from an oral background into the visual deaf world of sign language, I fully appreciate the value of signs from deaf people. I was able to use the sign language dictionary that the Ramallah Deaf Club published to encourage my old school in Bethlehem to accept the use of sign language in the classroom. The school to this day uses sign language and still has our dictionary on their shelves. That dictionary is just one step in the journey deaf people are taking in Israel, both Jews and Arabs. To continue to do my part in serving the community, I am now seeking higher education that is available for deaf people in the United States.

### **Essay**

Education is the key to peace. To do my part in attaining peace in my country, I am pursuing an education. Some people in my country try to achieve peace by making their body a bomb, or by shooting. But I believe that is not a way to peace. You see, I was born in Jerusalem, Israel, into an Arab family. The third of six children, I became deaf at age two from a fever. I was fortunate because my oldest brother is also Deaf and was a great role model for me. My mother taught me from a very young age to speak, read, and write. My father taught me life skills, including painting, which would serve as my livelihood for many years. I was also fortunate to receive an education in my childhood, but for Deaf people in Israel there is not opportunity for higher education. At age fourteen I entered a carpentry course, and for years after graduation earned my livelihood through manual labor.

The Deaf community is my priority. Already I have co-founded the Ramallah Deaf Club and served as vice-president for five years. Projects included a dictionary of Palestinian Sign Language and organizing sports tournaments to bring Deaf people together. One reason for founding the club was to offer young Deaf Arabs a place to go instead of getting into trouble in the streets. In this we were successful and the club grew to about fifty members, men and women of all ages. For the Deaf Club I was the model for the dictionary's sign drawings and was responsible for outreach to the community, and organizing the tournaments. I want to continue this work in Israel to unite all Deaf people, both Jews and Arabs, but beyond that I want to teach Deaf children. It is of utmost importance that deaf children learn sign language and have deaf role models at a very early age, and Israel has no deaf teachers for deaf children.

Until this year my work has been as a manager for Strauss Foods in Elait, Israel, where I was proud to be the only Deaf employee with hearing employees under my management. However, I am on my way toward my goal of earning a university degree in education. I am currently enrolled in my third semester in the English Language Institute at Gallaudet University and should begin regular university studies as a freshman in the fall of 2003. I want to major in education, so I can return to Israel to teach.

At this time I am in great need of financial assistance. If I am unable to find support for my studies, I will be forced to return to Israel where there is no opportunity for me to study. It is a dangerous time now in Israel, and very difficult for Arabs. A scholarship would not only help me, but it would be an investment in peace itself. Thank you for your consideration.