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Project uses arts therapy to empower marginalised groups



Noel Irwin Hentschel, founder and president of the Noel Foundation, visits the Queen Zein al Sharaf Institute for Development on Monday (Photo courtesy of JOHUD)

AMMAN (JT) - HRH Princess Basma on Monday received Noel Irwin Hentschel, founder and president of the Noel Foundation, who is on a short visit to the Kingdom.

Hentschel reviewed the work that the Noel Foundation is supporting with the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD) to develop the use of creativity and arts-therapy techniques to empower marginalised groups. The main clients for this project are vulnerable Jordanians, girls at risk and displaced Iraqis living in Amman.

The project responds to the dire need of those who have been badly affected by conflict in the region and are in need of skilled help to deal with the aftermath of trauma, violence and abuse.

During her visit, Hentschel met with staff at Beit Al Bawadi, JOHUD's centre for creative enterprise, to look at the new handicraft products they are developing, which will help create employment and generate funds for these marginalised groups.

She also visited the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development (ZENID) in Hashemi Shamali and met with some of the displaced Iraqis who are undergoing training, and with staff who attended arts therapy training and apply these skills in their work.

Hentschel also met with young people who are setting up a mentorship programme to help excluded youth integrate into their communities, according to a JOHUD statement.

Inspired by working with Mother Teresa, Hentschel established the Noel Foundation in 1989 to create and fund projects to "help those most in need to help themselves", focusing on women and children.

The Noel Foundation has long been a partner with JOHUD, providing financial support for empowerment projects.

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