Jerusalem grassroots network:

There are today numerous groups working on social justice issues, ecological sustainability and multi-cultural issues in Jerusalem. Because of their grassroots nature they often lack professional direction and management. As a result, many of them lack sufficient funding, are largely unknown to one another and to the general public and do not carry out their missions as efficiently as possible. One particular problem that they suffer is the inability to work together to jointly address issues of common interest.

By creating the opportunity to network and work together, such organizations may combine their efforts, pool resources, achieve economies of scale and more effectively carry out projects that address their issues. Most important, it will allow them to weave a mutual vision, set longer term goals, and mobilize a larger and more coordinated work force to achieve their missions.

The goal of this project is to develop a network of connections among the grassroots NGOs in the greater Jerusalem area which are working toward a society of social justice, ecological sustainability and open communication between different ethnic and cultural groups. This network of connections will also facilitate contact between the groups in the Jerusalem area and supporting communities and organizations around the world.

The key to the success of this project is the development of personal connections between people, using the internet and other means of communication to carry out an effort to contact a wide range of relevant individuals and organizations.

Stage 1: To identify and become acquainted with the numerous grassroots organizations and projects that exists in the Jerusalem area. To catalogue and describe each organization setting forth its mission, scheduled projects and support needed to continue its work.

Stage 2: To develop a website presenting the grassroots organizations and projects that exist in the Jerusalem area. The website will present a “marketplace” of organizations, projects and other initiatives that are working towards the society mentioned above. The site will facilitate the sharing of information and linkages among the NGOs and will enable a mutually supporting grassroots social network to be formed. The information on the site will enable interested individuals to learn about the organizations and what they are doing and will assist them to get involved.

Stage 3: To develop connections with potentially supportive organizations and communities around the world and connect them to the Jerusalem network and to specific organizations and projects within their scope of interest. The market place of opportunities will be presented to the supporting communities.

Stage 4: To develop a consultation and referral capacity which will help communities identify
their goals and interests and match them with appropriate options; eventually creating long term relationships between the supporting communities and partner Jerusalem Grassroots NGOs. These community relationships will facilitate the creation of personal relationships which will ultimately create personal partnerships which will work to fulfill the organization's goals.

At the conclusion of the project, there will be in place a communication network for the Jerusalem area grassroots NGOs which will connect them to one another in order to facilitate their cooperative efforts. This network and exposure will connect them to supporting communities, organizations and funding sources overseas which will enhance their ability to succeed in the projects that they undertake.