



הקרן לירושלים  
THE JERUSALEM FOUNDATION  
مؤسسة صندوق القدس

## **A First For the Old City**

*The Muslim Quarter Welcomes an Ecological Garden, thanks to the support of the Jerusalem Foundation, the Jerusalem Municipality and the Jerusalem Development Authority.*

*Jerusalem's Old City, October 18, 2012:* The Muslim Quarter is now home to very first ecological garden, literally within arms length from the 3000 year-old Old City walls.

Thanks to support from the Jerusalem Foundation, the Jerusalem Municipality and the Jerusalem Development Authority, the garden will be dedicated on October 18, 2012 by Jerusalem's Mayor Nir Barkat and the Jerusalem Foundation President Mark Sofer.

One can touch the walls of the Old City from this 1.5 million NIS garden which now grows vegetables, spices and beautiful fruit trees, with benches nestled among them. The garden is run and maintained by the Abna Al Quds Community Council, with assistance from young and old who tend the garden with great care.

For years, the area was neglected and barren. Today it is lush and green, something unimaginable in the Old City. On the other side of the garden stands a state of the art playground for children who waited patiently for their new equipment and jumped immediately on it the minute it was available to them.

In order to ensure sustainability of the garden, the Jerusalem Foundation has secured funding for various programs including employment of counselors who will work with handicapped children and the elderly through gardening and environmental studies.

"This is a place of opportunity, a tranquil natural setting for residents of the Old City's Muslim Quarter, something that is nearly impossible in this part of Jerusalem. For the first time in perhaps hundreds of years, butterflies can be seen here, thanks to this garden," said Nadim Sheiban, Director of Projects at the Jerusalem Foundation.

"This is a large area compared to the relatively cramped quarters of the Old City and the potential is significant," said Yuval Yakov, of the Jerusalem Municipality and one of the imitators of the project.

Watch a video of what this space looked like before its renovation and after at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2Xzk4uCdGA>

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