A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Each year, as we reflect on the events of the year prior, we feel inspired and amazed by the generosity of the Arab American community. No matter what challenges we face, our giving spirit has the power to bring us together and make a transformational impact in communities. This has never been more true than in 2020, when our world faced monumental challenges and hardships brought on by COVID-19. In moments of crisis, the significance of CAAP’s vision to promote a just and equitable world bolstered by active, strategic Arab American philanthropy became even more clear.

Thanks to fundholders and donors like you, CAAP awarded more than $1.4 million in grants in fiscal year 2020 to hundreds of nonprofit organizations. We supported 19 Arab American human services and arts organizations with COVID relief grants; launched two major campaigns for humanitarian aid in Lebanon following the explosion in Beirut; and provided 53 students pursuing their educational dreams with a total of $151,500 in scholarships.

As the only Arab American community foundation in the United States, CAAP now houses a total of 147 funds that have granted nearly $11 million total since 2010, and we couldn’t have done it without you. Giving is an empowered choice. Thank you for not only choosing to give through CAAP, but for choosing to elevate your voice through your time, talent and treasure. In 2020, we witnessed first-hand how our communities responded to unparalleled challenges: with empathy, with generosity and with hope for a better future. There is nothing more powerful than that.

ABOUT CAAP

OUR MISSION
Building vibrant societies by uniting and strengthening the collective power of Arab American giving

OUR VISION
A just and equitable world nurtured by the active participation of Arab American giving

OUR CORE VALUES
Improve Communities, Serve Donors, Build Leaders, Shape Perceptions

Visit www.centeraap.org to learn more

2651 Saulino Court, Dearborn, MI 48120
caap@accesscommunity.org
A national institution of ACCESS
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: HOW CAAP RESPONDED

As a community foundation, the safety and well-being of the communities we serve are always our top priority, and in the wake of COVID-19, that commitment did not waver. Staff shifted to a fully remote work environment in March 2020, and we reimagined new ways to run our events and programs virtually, including the 100 Arab American Women Who Care event and our Teen Grantmaking Initiative.

Most importantly, CAAP recognizes its responsibility as a community-based organization to provide critical leadership, particularly in times of crisis. This pandemic has shed light on the many inequities vulnerable and underserved communities continue to face and has increased the need to elevate these voices. The reality is even more dire for families struggling to fulfill the basic needs for survival, as well as small businesses and nonprofits that took a large financial hit in 2020. In May 2020, CAAP granted a total of $80,000 to 19 Arab American human services and arts and culture organizations across the country. The grants, which ranged from $2,000 to $5,000 each, supported nonprofit organizations in maintaining operations during the pandemic. In addition, CAAP made emergency relief grants totaling more than $50,000 that directly supported the critical needs of immigrant and refugee families. Looking ahead, CAAP is keenly aware that the economic impact of COVID-19 will be felt for years to come. We remain committed to continuing our grantmaking efforts to support nonprofits as they provide essential services and artistic and educational outlets to communities across the country.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: Arab American Family Services expands outreach and responds to growing community needs during COVID-19

Arab American Family Services (AAFS) was established in 2001 by Itedal Shalabi and Nareman Taha—two women who saw first-hand the need for a social service agency in the south suburban Chicagoland area—to provide assistance to Arab American and other underserved populations. Today, AAFS offers a wide range of services impacting more than 15,000 people annually. Throughout the pandemic, AAFS has provided numerous essential services including the following: implementing a multilingual outreach and education campaign about COVID-19 using the most updated informational materials from state and county public health officials; expanding existing programs and services to assist individuals with their mental health during isolation; as well as helping to lessen social and economic impacts on families through assistance with rent, public benefits, food and essential items, health coverage and more. Most recently, AAFS began partnering with two Chicago-area health providers to develop, manage and conduct a comprehensive COVID-19 testing program.
On August 4, 2020, a massive explosion in Beirut, Lebanon killed over 200 people, destroyed countless homes and buildings, and left local hospitals overwhelmed with thousands injured and wounded. The devastating explosion came at a time when Lebanon was already facing a political, social, economic and health crisis—a reality intensified by COVID-19.

CAAP responded by launching an initial match campaign on August 5, 2020 in support of Lebanese Red Cross that raised more than $50,000. CAAP provided an additional 50 cents to the dollar match, resulting in a grant of $75,155 supporting Lebanese Red Cross, which was one of the first organizations on the ground providing critical medical support, transporting the wounded to hospitals and organizing blood donations.

With the success of the initial campaign, CAAP launched a second campaign supporting the Lebanon Relief Project, which is a nationally coordinated effort led by the American Task Force on Lebanon (ATFL) and Flint, Michigan-based philanthropists Ghassan and Manal Saab to urgently collect and airlift medical and surgical supplies, personal protective equipment and pharmaceuticals to Lebanon. With the partnership of several nonprofit organizations including AFYA Foundation, ANERA and Direct Relief, as well as the U.S. Department of State, the American Embassy in Beirut, FedEx, CargoJet, MHCare Medical, Emirates Air and others, the Lebanon Relief Project was able to raise more than $400,000 to airlift $30 million worth of essential medical and pharmaceutical supplies to hospitals and NGOs on the ground. With several hospitals damaged or completely destroyed in the blast, fundraising efforts are continuing into 2021 to provide additional support.

“The Lebanon Relief Project represents the love that Lebanese people in the U.S. and Canada have for that special country. This effort relies on creative and hard-working people in our community. We are indebted to those volunteers here and in Lebanon that are vital to the successful impact of the program.”
– Edward Gabriel, President, American Task Force on Lebanon

“There are many hearts suffering for Lebanon, and we are all in this together. Thanks to the leadership of ATFL, Rashal Baz Zureikat (co-founder of Lebanon Relief Project), CAAP, Afya Foundation, FedEx and many others, we were able to transcend borders and extend our healing hands to Beirut hospitals.”
– Manal Saab (pictured, on left with daughter Rashal), co-founder, Lebanon Relief Project

When Lebanese American attorney and activist Rebecca Abou-Chedid heard about the explosion that occurred in Beirut, Lebanon on August 4, 2020, she knew right away that she had to help. Rebecca contacted CAAP, which helped provide her with the charitable giving tools to establish the Lebanon Relief Campaign. In less than three months, more than $30,000 was raised through the Lebanon Relief Campaign to support several nonprofits working to deliver desperately needed resources to assist Lebanon in its path to recovery.

“In coordination with CAAP, the Lebanon Relief Campaign offers a central location to donate to trusted NGOs to help rebuild Lebanon. With 300,000 people in Beirut becoming homeless in an instant, it was so important for me to help show the Lebanese community that they are not alone.”
– Rebecca Abou-Chedid, Founder of Lebanon Relief Campaign
SERVING DONORS

FUND SPOTLIGHT: Peggy and Ghaffar Kazkaz Pathway to Independence Fund helps refugees and asylum seekers build a better future

Refugees and asylum seekers leave their homes because they have no choice—often fleeing violence, torture and persecution. Unaccompanied children face even greater trauma as they embark on a painful journey from their homeland to the U.S. border, where they are met with little assistance and long proceedings to determine their status in the U.S. That’s where the Pathway to Independence Fund comes in.

Established by Peggy and Ghaffar Kazkaz, the Pathway to Independence Fund makes grants to organizations providing critical support to young adult asylees and refugees as they navigate their new home. By providing essentials such as clothing, food and safe housing, as well as advocating for individuals through case management and support services, the fund helps ensure refugees and asylees get on the pathway to independence and build a better future.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Philanthropy that feels like family: Jeff Antaya on supporting causes that are close to home

“I remember my dad making contributions to the church every Sunday, no matter what. Philanthropy, from a small scale, became a familial act. To this day, my favorite philanthropic experiences are ones where I feel like family. My mother is Lebanese and my father is French Canadian but, like so many people of their generation, they wanted to blend in, to not be noticed. Unfortunately, we lost a lot of our ethnic heritage because of that. Everything changed for me when a childhood friend, David Allen, asked if I’d like to get involved with ACCESS, the nation’s largest Arab American community nonprofit. Serving on ACCESS board isn’t just a way to give back—it also gave me an opportunity to learn more about this part of my family and heritage. When Maha Freij introduced me to CAAP, I was inspired by funds like Building Blocks for New Americans, because I felt like I was helping people who were coming here the same way people helped my family.”  – Jeff Antaya, CAAP Fundholder

Raised in Detroit, Jeff Antaya went on to earn a B.S. in accounting and an MBA from the University of Detroit Mercy. Jeff began his career as an accountant and eventually moved into the cellular phone industry. Most recently, Jeff became partner and chief marketing officer at Plante Moran, which allowed him to merge his skills in accounting, sales and marketing to help one of the country’s preeminent accounting firms grow.

An avid art collector, Jeff currently serves on various art and social service boards and advisory groups, including the Friends of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) and the Center Gallery Advisory Board. He is also a founding member of Cabaret313. Jeff is a board member of ACCESS and established the Jeffrey Antaya Fund at CAAP in 2013.
Teen Grantmaking Initiative awards $5,500 in grants

CAAP’s Teen Grantmaking Initiative (TGI), the only Arab American youth philanthropy program in the country, successfully transitioned to a fully remote program model this year. The participants, ages 13-19, utilized their leadership skills to learn about community needs and fundraise and award a total of $5,500 in grants to three metro Detroit area nonprofits: HAVEN, InsideOut Literary Arts and Detroit Heals Detroit. The grants focused on youth engagement, racial equity, mental health and wellness and domestic violence prevention. We are so proud of our TGI members for making a difference and raising funds for these organizations!

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: At Detroit Heals Detroit, youth are at the helm of transforming their community

Detroit Heals Detroit is a youth-led organization focused on fostering healing justice and transforming pain into power among Detroit youth. Through healing-centered engagement, members of the organization advocate around their personal and collective trauma, educate their community and share their greatest vulnerabilities with the rest of the world while simultaneously working to dismantle oppressive systems for marginalized Detroit youth. The grant from TGI supported their youth-led healing circles, where students are given the tools to heal through transformative writing practices.

FUND SPOTLIGHT: The Abbas Family Red Wagon Fund uplifts the Abbas family’s commitment to higher education

Two years after the tragic deaths of Issam and Dr. Rima Abbas and their children Ali, Isabella and Giselle (pictured, on right), we are keenly reminded of the values of kindness, equity and compassion that the Abbas family so beautifully embodied—values that so many of us have been called to demonstrate this past year.

The Abbas family’s legacy continues to ground, guide and inspire us through the lives that have been touched by The Abbas Family Red Wagon Fund housed at CAAP. The fund has supported several social justice initiatives with grants totaling $16,500, including a $5,000 grant supporting ACCESS’ work to provide emergency relief to those struggling due to COVID-19. The fund has also awarded three scholarships to Northville High School students through The Ali, Isabella and Giselle Legacy Scholarship.

The Abbas Family Red Wagon Fund is championed by Dr. Rima Abbas’ sister and lifelong activist, Rana Abbas Taylor and her husband Tom Taylor (on left), to honor the memory of the Abbas family who were tragically killed when a drunk driver struck their vehicle on January 6, 2019. The fund aims to forever carry out the Abbas family’s legacy of generosity and community support and is spurred by the family’s annual tradition of spreading holiday cheer through small acts of kindness. For years each Christmas, with their parents steps behind, Ali, Isabella and Giselle pulled a red wagon full of presents stopping at dozens of homes in their neighborhood. While this tradition is only one example of the ways this remarkable family devoted themselves to giving back, it speaks to their belief that societal change comes through generosity.

The Ali, Isabella and Giselle Legacy Scholarship, as well as a new initiative, The Issam and Rima Abbas Endowed Scholarship that was launched in Fall 2020, aim to further the commitment that the Abbas family had to higher education. These two scholarship programs, which support exceptional senior students at Northville High School and Fordson High School respectively, echo the values the Abbas family stood for: helping to create a just, equitable and inclusive society.

“The Abbas Family Red Wagon Fund

“Receiving this scholarship means so much to me. It shows me how if other people can believe in me enough to help support my education, I need to stop selling myself short. It gives me a huge sense of achievement no other experience could, and I am immensely thankful for it.”

– Guntaaz Kaur, The Ali, Isabella and Giselle Legacy Scholarship recipient
SHAPING PERCEPTIONS

145 women support CAAP’s first-ever virtual 100 Arab American Women Who Care event

On June 27, 2020, with the leadership of Rasha Demashkieh (pictured, on left), CAAP hosted our first-ever virtual 100 Arab American Women Who Care event. This was our largest 100 Women event to-date, with 145 tickets sold to participants across the country, and even some internationally. The Arab American National Museum (AANM) was selected by attendees to receive the collective grant of $11,500. Participants had the opportunity to vote between three amazing organizations: the Arab American National Museum, Forgotten Harvest and the Flint Kids Fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. The event also featured a special performance by the talented Omani musician Amal Waqar (on right) who was introduced by the world-renowned musician Simon Shaheen, and a presentation by Kids Coalition Against Hunger, our 2019 100 Arab American Women Who Care grant recipient.

Now more than ever, we understand the importance of Arab American representation in all parts of society. Arab American visibility in public service spaces ensures that the community’s voice is heard and that policies reflect and address its concerns.

Lifelong advocacy champions Brenda Abdelall (pictured, top left) and Rima Meroueh (bottom left) recognized this need for representation and established the Arab American Leadership Fund (AALF) to support internships for young Arab Americans interested in working in federal government agencies, at Capitol Hill and in other public service institutions in Washington, D.C. Through hands-on experience, networking and mentorship opportunities and leadership development workshops, the AALF aims to empower Arab American students with the skills they need to succeed in their future professions.

CAAP will be supporting the first cohort of AALF recipients in Summer 2021, helping eliminate financial and structural barriers students face, ultimately empowering the entire Arab American community.

FUND SPOTLIGHT: Arab American Leadership Fund aims to increase the number of Arab Americans working in the public service sector
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

OCT. 1, 2019 – SEPT. 30, 2020

The Ali, Isabella and Giselle Legacy Scholarship – The Abbas Family Red Wagon Fund

Established by Rana Abbas Taylor and her husband Tom Taylor to carry on the legacy of their nephew Ali Abbas, and nieces Isabella and Giselle Abbas, through supporting senior students at Northville High School.

Isha Gupta
Georgetown University
International Relations

Guntaza Kaur
University of Maryland
Biology

Nick Mansfield
Michigan State University
Special Education

Dr. Adawia Alousi Endowed STEM Scholarship Fund for Muslim Women

Established by the family of the late Dr. Adawia Alousi, a pioneering scientist, to support Muslim women nationally studying STEM fields.

Rewan Abdelwhab
Mayo Alix School of Medicine
M.D., Medicine

Maab Abulimy
North Carolina State University
Chemical Engineering

Haneen Ali
Wayne State University
M.D., Medicine

Nisreen Alibeg
Brown University
Cognitive Science

Miraam Al-Saedy
Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine
M.D., Medicine

Doonyah Alucozai
Purdue University
Computer Information Sciences

Farhah Chowdhury
Columbia University
Microbiology

Maria Ghalmi
University of Michigan
M.D., Medicine

Marwa Harp
Wayne State University
Applied Chemistry

Kemi Ibrahim
University of Texas at Austin
Ph.D., Pharmaceutical Science

Hiba Kahouli
University of Southern California
Ph.D., Aerospace Engineering

Sarah Kammourh
Yale College
Neuroscience

Salma Khan
Johns Hopkins University
M.H.S., Biostatistics and Epidemiology

Yasmin Lachir
University of Maryland
M.D., Medicine

Huda Maarouf
Wright State University
Aerospace Engineering

Yousra Mohamed
University of Southern California
Biochemistry

Baraa Nawash
University of Pittsburgh
M.D., Medicine

Heba Shaaban
Weill Cornell Medical College
M.D., Medicine

Misbah Sheikh
Columbia University
Neuroscience

Tasfia Tasnim
Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine
D.O., Medicine

Ebeid Family Fund Scholarship

Established by the late Russell J. Ebeid, a generous philanthropist and former chairman of Guardian Glass Group, to support Arab American, Black and Latinx students studying engineering or business at Kettering University, Wayne State University, University of Detroit Mercy and University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Husam Abdouni
University of Michigan-Dearborn
Computer/Electrical Engineering

Zainalsharif Al-Muwaais
Wayne State University
Electrical Engineering

Nikola Ashkar
Kettering University
Mechanical Engineering

Renan De Carvalho Martins
Kettering University
Mechanical Engineering

Hussein Cheato
University of Michigan-Dearborn
Software Engineering

Antonia Chin
Kettering University
Chemical Engineering

Alexis Ford
Kettering University
Industrial Engineering

Tarashki Frater
Kettering University
Industrial Engineering

Ephraim Gibson
Kettering University
Mechanical Engineering

Brandon Gurrell
University of Michigan-Dearborn
Computer Engineering

Melouk Harp
Kettering University
Industrial Engineering and Business Administration

Navardo Henry
Kettering University
Industrial Engineering and Applied Mathematics

Jordan Howell
Kettering University
Computer Science

Dajeline Johnson
University of Michigan-Dearborn
Biomedical Engineering

Aliouf Kah
University of Michigan-Dearborn
Bioengineering

Maher Khushashi
University of Michigan-Dearborn
Computer Science

Mohamed Qasem
University of Michigan-Dearborn
Supply Chain Management

Laila Saad
University of Michigan-Dearborn
Mechanical Engineering

Christina Salama
Wayne State University
Mechanical Engineering

Maram Salama
Wayne State University
Mechanical Engineering

Ekram Suleiman
Kettering University
Chemical Engineering

Nicholas Veher
Kettering University
Industrial Engineering and Business Administration

Chelsea Wright
Kettering University
Pharmacy

Valeria Ziade
Lebanese American University

Jack G. and Bernice M. Shaheen Endowed Media Scholarship Fund

Established by the late Dr. Jack Shaheen, an intellectual, educator and philanthropist, and his wife Bernice to support Arab American students nationally studying journalism, radio, television or film.

Munir Atalla
Columbia University
M.A., Dramaturgy and Writing for Performance

Omar Hammud
Rutgers University
M.A., Journalism and Mass Communications

Marwa Moaz
American University
M.A., Dramaturgy and Writing for Performance

Lauren Sifer
Whitworth University
M.A., Strategic Communication

Michael Zalta
Goldsmiths, University of London
M.A., Journalism and Mass Communications

Mclennan Family Foundation Scholarship Fund

Established by the McLennan Family Foundation to support Arab American, Black and Latinx students studying engineering or business at Wayne State University and University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Hussein Cheato
University of Michigan-Dearborn
Software Engineering

Melouk Harp
University of Michigan-Dearborn
Computer Engineering

Mariam Salama
Wayne State University
Mechanical Engineering

Jana Taleb
University of Michigan-Dearborn
Bioengineering
## REVENUE & EXPENSES

**OCT. 1, 2019 – SEPT. 30, 2020 (UNAUDITED)**

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## CAAP PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD & STAFF

**OCT. 1, 2019 – SEPT. 30, 2020**

### PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
- Hussien Y. Shousher, Board Chair, Toledo, Ohio
- Noha El-Shareif Taha, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Dr. Walid Demashkieh, Port Huron, Mich.

**BOARD MEMBERS**
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- Peter Omar Farah, Cleveland, Ohio
- Reyad Fezzani, San Francisco, Calif.
- Basem Hishmeh, Montvale, N.J.
- Dr. Randa Mansour-Shousher, Toledo, Ohio

**HONORARY MEMBER**
- Richard A. Alldoo, Milwaukee, Wis.

### CAAP STAFF

- Maha Freij, Director
- Katherine Asuncion, Donor Services and Program Officer
- Mikala Cox, Generalist
- Mohamad Jaafar, Communications Specialist
- Brittany Shaheen, Generalist