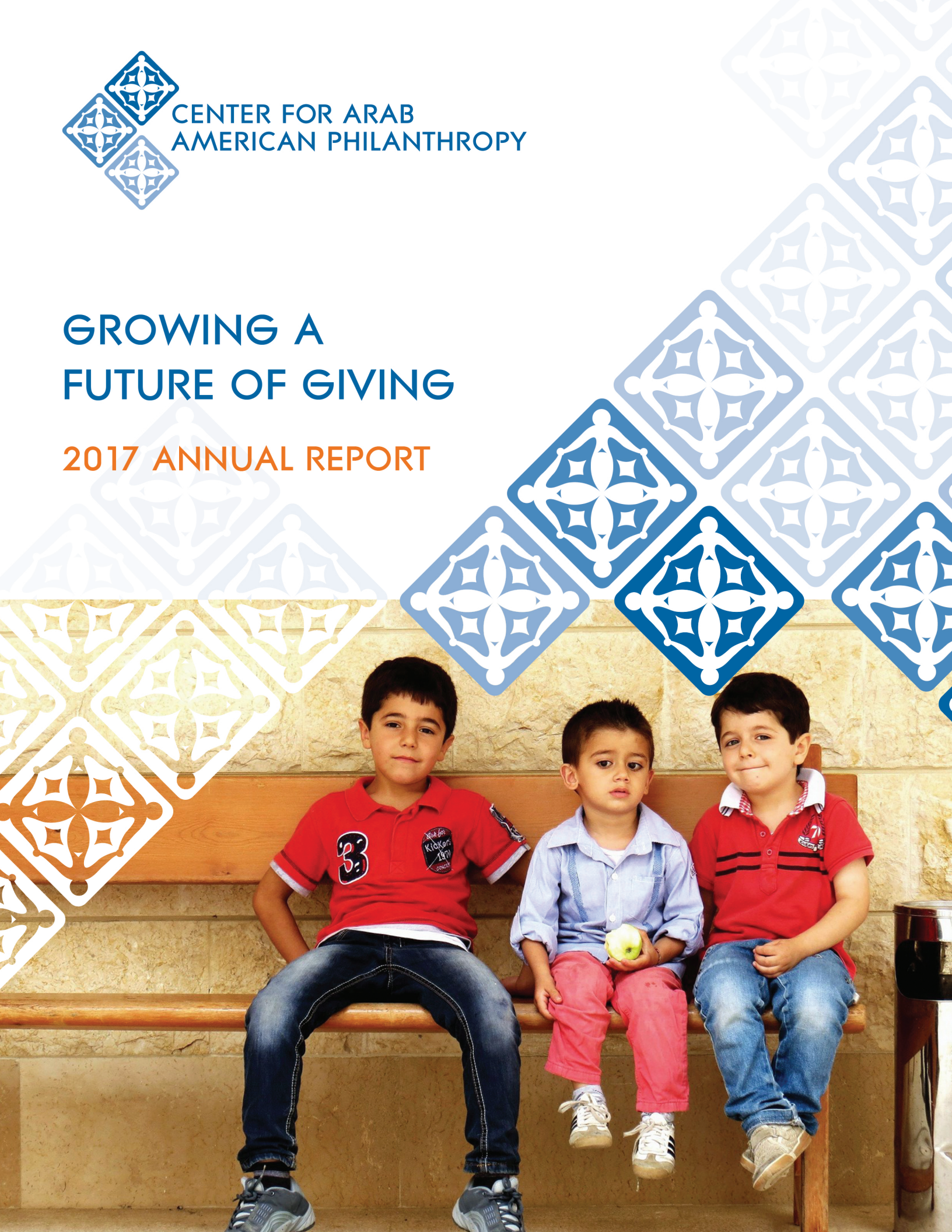




CENTER FOR ARAB  
AMERICAN PHILANTHROPY

# GROWING A FUTURE OF GIVING

2017 ANNUAL REPORT





1

# GROWING A FUTURE OF GIVING

## A message from our leadership

A safe park for children in Detroit; a child who can hear for the first time; a refugee from Syria who has reliable transportation to get to work; a young Muslim woman receives a scholarship to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor. What do all of these examples have in common? Through the Center for Arab American Philanthropy (CAAP), we are improving communities, serving donors, building leaders and shaping perceptions, in order to grow a better future; a future full of empowered and engaged Arab American philanthropists.

Philanthropy has the ability to change lives and create lasting legacies. It helps to grow the next generation of leaders and equip them with the tools to make a difference in their communities. Whether it's a teenager in Detroit making a grant to help prevent bullying, a young woman in Boston pursuing her education, or a refugee child in Syria struggling to access clean water and food, we know the impact that just one contribution can make

in someone's life. We each have the ability – through the power of giving – to change someone's future.

This year, CAAP granted more than \$2 million to causes around the world, improving thousands of futures. We hope through the following stories you'll feel inspired by the impact of Arab American giving. When we give smart and give together, we can grow a future of giving that makes our world a better place to live.

Sincerely,



Maha Freij  
CAAP Director



Hussien Y. Shousher  
CAAP Advisory Board  
Chair

## THE YEAR IN NUMBERS (October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017)

**\$2,157,755**  
granted to organizations  
around the world

**38**  
scholarships  
awarded

**237**  
grants  
made

### TOTAL GRANTMAKING BY LOCATION

United States  
\$1,894,317



International  
\$263,438

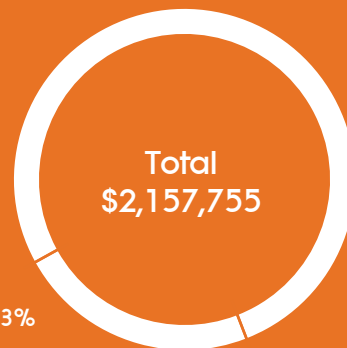


### TOTAL GRANTMAKING BY ORGANIZATION TYPE

Arab American/Arab  
77%

Non-Arab 23%

Total  
\$2,157,755







## MOVE 2017 hosts first Arab American philanthropy convening

MOVE (Mobilize, Organize, Vocalize, Empower), was a first-of-its-kind Arab American summit that took place in Dearborn, Michigan in November 2017. Hosted by ACCESS and its three national institutions (CAAP, the National Network for Arab American Communities and the Arab American National Museum), MOVE brought together over 500 changemakers and key allies from all corners

of the country to explore intersectionality in a safe environment, have critical conversations about a wide range of issues that impact Arab Americans, and build stronger relationships with partners from other marginalized communities.

CAAP was incredibly proud to bring together philanthropists from all walks of life and host several of the 40 workshop sessions that covered topics in the arts, activism, philanthropy, organizational development and youth empowerment. This event was truly a gamechanger for the Arab American community and a precursor for similar ongoing convenings.



## SPECTACULAR SPOTLIGHT:

Visit our website and view recordings of MOVE sessions, including the Philanthropy Track Kickoff with Farhan Latif, CEO of the El-Hibri Foundation, along with an incredible and inspirational keynote address from Reverend Alvin Herring, Director of Racial Equity and Community Engagement at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.  
<http://bit.ly/MOVE2017Highlights>



WE **SERVE DONORS** BY PROVIDING THEM WITH SMART TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO CARRY OUT THEIR PHILANTHROPIC GIVING.



## 30 volunteers help 400 refugee children hear for the first time

The *Hearing the Call Fund*, launched in 2017 by CAAP board members Dr. Randa Mansour-Shousher and Hussien Shousher, supports the provision of hearing healthcare services in the U.S. and internationally to those in need, particularly refugee children. With the support of many generous donors, 30 volunteer professionals traveled to the Arab World in May 2017, where they served more than 400 children. The group was able to visit 11 refugee camps throughout Jordan and Palestine, providing them with the gift of hearing, dubbed a “hearing smile.”

In reference to the humanitarian trip, Dr. Mansour-Shousher said, “So many people were waiting for us that we had to turn away adults and treat only children. From morning to evening, we literally never stopped. But we keep going, knowing that we’ve opened up their world to the hearing world. It’s amazing.”

## SPECTACULAR SPOTLIGHT:

Visit our website to watch the story of Seedra, a young girl who just heard her name for the first time.  
<http://bit.ly/SeedraHears>





## "Art heals hearts" for Syrians in refugee camps

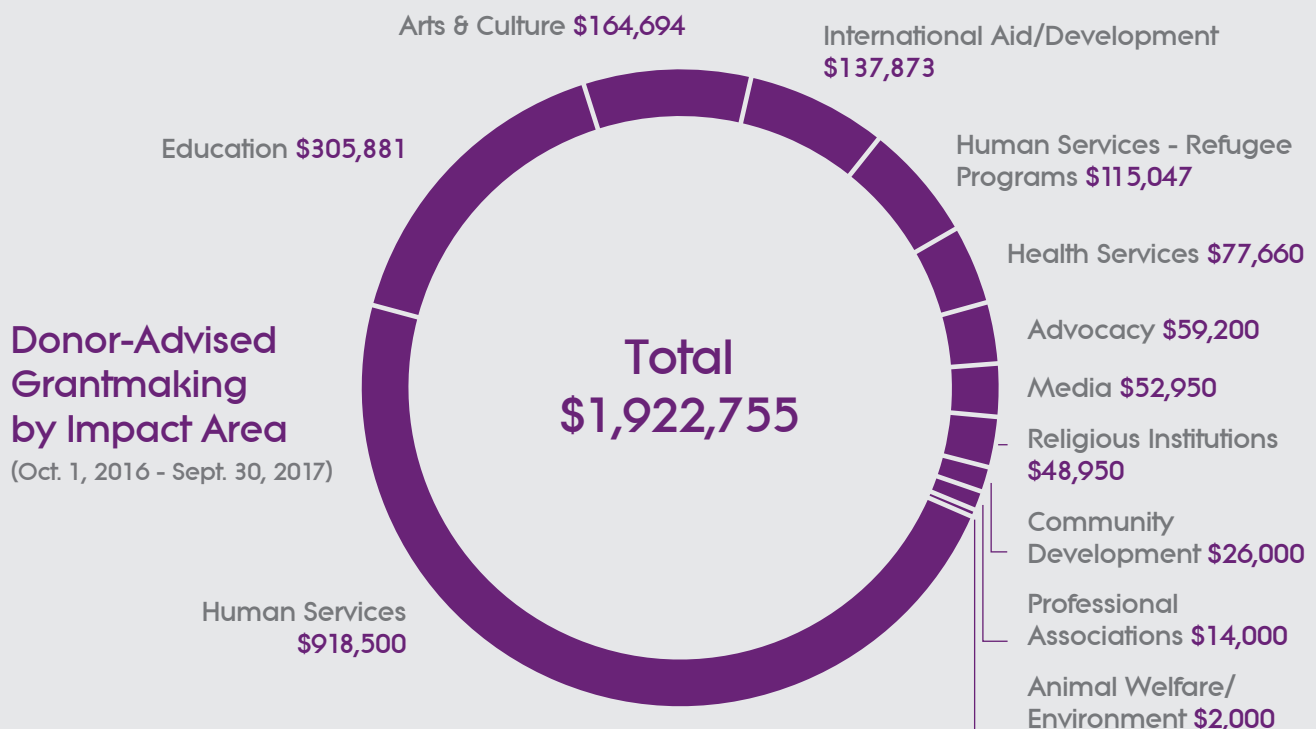
The *Mawada Initiative Fund*, established at CAAP, supports organizations that primarily carry out humanitarian aid and social justice efforts in Syrian refugee camps, with a special focus on under-funded programs that often go unnoticed. Yasmin El-Sayed established the *Mawada Initiative Fund* in order to raise public awareness and support of projects whose focus is to create social change through art therapy, education and public health endeavors.



The fund's main grantee this year was Artolution, a public arts organization that seeks to ignite positive social change through creative, participatory and collaborative art projects. They facilitate projects around the world that connect diverse people in order to address common social objectives. In Jordan and Turkey, Syrian refugee youth uplift their camps and host communities by painting brightly colored murals, exploring their plight in healthy and creative ways. These projects give young people an opportunity to dream of a brighter future that allows for them to rebuild their communities and live in peace.

### SPECTACULAR SPOTLIGHT:

See highlights from the *2017 Healing Colors Gala: A Night for Syrian Children*, a fundraising event for the *Mawada Initiative Fund*! <http://bit.ly/Mawada>





## WE BUILD LEADERS BY EDUCATING AND INSPIRING ARAB AMERICANS, INCLUDING YOUTH, TO REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL FOR CHANGE.



### Constructing a safe park for elementary school students in Detroit

Growing up in Southwest Detroit, CAAP fund-holder Rachid Elabed and his friends had few places to play outside. Drawing on his belief that youth everywhere should have a safe place to play and enjoy their childhood, Rachid partnered with Neinas Elementary School and other community organizations to build a playground for children in Southwest Detroit.

The park, named the *Alayna Elabed Brighter Neinas Community Park*, after Rachid's daughter, is located across the street from Neinas Elementary School. This year, as part of ACCESS' *National Arab American Service Day*, hundreds of Arab American teens and other community members worked diligently with Rachid to clean up the park and its surrounding area.

Moreover, Rachid partnered with several community members for an additional day of service, dedicated to further tidying up the area and helping to install various picnic tables, signs, landscaping and a sprinkler system to irrigate the park. For Rachid, this passion project is a part of a long history of community service. Rachid is a strong believer in giving back to his community and sees the park as a

way to invest in the children of the community. In order to support this project, Rachid and his wife Kathy established a donor-advised fund at CAAP, and used their fund to engage others in the project. Rachid credits CAAP for being a huge help towards achieving his goal and giving him the resources and tools needed to make his dream a reality. All of us at CAAP are proud to support Rachid and his passion for community service!

**"It is very important to invest in your community and for every child to have equal opportunity, no matter their background."**

- Rachid Elabed





## Arab American teens invest nearly \$40,000 in community-based projects

The Teen Grantmaking Initiative (TGI) is CAAP's signature youth program, and the only program in the country that teaches Arab American youth leadership skills, using philanthropy as a tool. Since its launch in 2011, TGI has granted nearly \$40k through four chapters across the country to address a variety of issues facing youth.

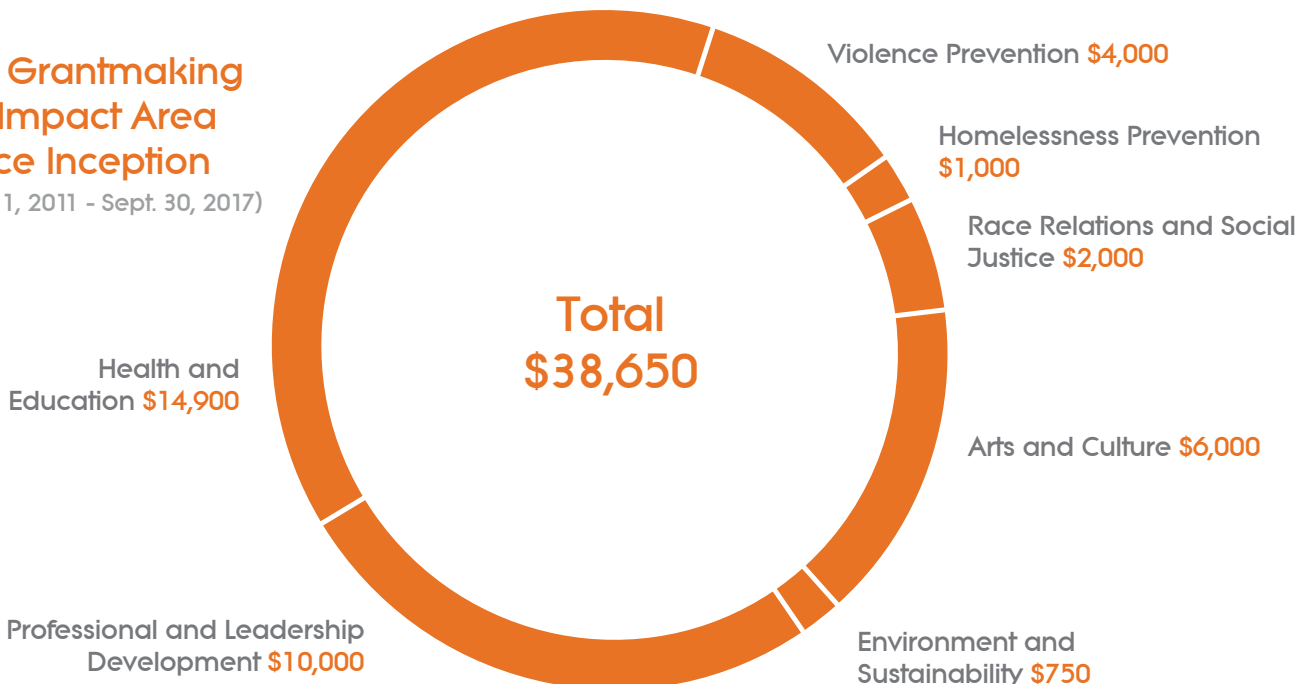
In a world where philanthropists are often thought of as wealthy adults that are able to give back to their choice of charities, TGI is unique in that youth are put in charge of their own three-step philanthropic process: needs assessment, fundraising and grantmaking. First, TGI composes and distributes a needs assessment survey to gauge the concerns of the youth in their community. Next, TGI youth translate their interests and passions into exciting fundraisers to raise money for the issue areas identified by the survey results. Lastly, TGI sends out a request for proposals, highlighting these community issues and reviews which projects will receive funding as a group. They prioritize proposals that serve youth and involve them in the development, implementation and leadership of the project.

Throughout this process, TGI youth learn about the nonprofit world; how to apply knowledge of their own strengths and personality; how to communicate, govern, and even how to give fundraising pitches to gain support for their causes. By following a curriculum grounded in positive youth development and entrusting youth with substantial responsibility, TGI builds empowered and community-minded leaders, along with more connected and equitable society.



### TGI Grantmaking by Impact Area Since Inception

(Jan. 1, 2011 - Sept. 30, 2017)



# WE IMPROVE COMMUNITIES BY MAKING GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S. AND AROUND THE WORLD.



## Delivering hope and a sense of home to newly resettled refugee families

Imagine being forced to leave your home and flee your country for your family's safety. Imagine coming to a country with very few personal possessions and with limited support to assist you, as you attempt to rebuild your life in a foreign land. This is the reality of refugees forced to flee their homes to escape the ongoing civil war in Syria. *The Building Blocks for New Americans (BBNA) Fund* was established at CAAP in December 2016 to serve New American families as they settle in the United States. Beginning with Southeast Michigan,

the initial goal was to provide 25 Syrian refugee families with much needed resources, such as rent for housing, cars and household needs – which are often overlooked or underfunded by government assistance.

Due to the success of the program, CAAP was able to aid several more Syrian, Iraqi and Yemeni families in Metro Detroit and Houston through our partners at ACCESS, the Syrian American Club of Houston and the Syrian Relief Fund. With the help of many dedicated individuals, CAAP raised more than **\$300,000** in 2017, supporting more than 50 families and providing financial stability to help these families move towards self-sufficiency.



## SPECTACULAR SPOTLIGHT:

Norma Sabbagh immigrated from Aleppo when she was 4 years old. She wanted to do something to help New American families in Metro Detroit. With assistance from CAAP, Norma established the *ROAR Fund*, which stands for "Reaching Out and Advocating for Refugees." The first initiative of the fund was a community fundraiser that featured world dance performances and music by well-known Detroit artists Sean Blackman and John

Arnold, which raised more than **\$12,000** for Syrian refugee families. The proceeds were directed to BBNA. On her motivations for creating this initiative, Norma says

"I can only imagine what these families are faced with, I would hope that the refugees feel like they are part of the community and that the community accepts them as such."





## Arab Americans support efforts for Hurricane Harvey relief and recovery

Several states throughout the U.S., along with a few countries in Latin America, were battered by a succession of natural disasters in 2017. Families tried to rebuild after the loss of cars, homes, irreplaceable family heirlooms and (in some tragic cases) family members and friends.

CAAP responded to the devastation from Hurricane Harvey by sending out a call for donations, which would be matched by our *Disaster Relief Fund*, and our community responded. All proceeds were directed to the *Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund* at the Greater Houston Community Foundation, which aided victims of the flooding by providing housing materials, food and supplies, healthcare, transportation, child care and a number of other needs. Because of the immense need in and around Houston, this fund dedicated itself to filling the gaps that were not met by other local and federal efforts.

### Board-Directed Grantmaking by Impact Area

(Oct. 1, 2016 - Sept. 30, 2017)



**Total \$235,000**



# WE SHAPE PERCEPTIONS ABOUT ARAB AMERICANS BY HIGHLIGHTING THEIR GENEROUS HERITAGE AND EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY.

## STEM scholarship for Muslim women cracks glass ceiling and helps dispels stereotypes

Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields are vastly underrepresented. However, CAAP is aiming to turn the tide with the *Dr. Adawia Alousi STEM Scholarship Fund for Muslim Women*. This scholarship program - the first of its kind - will establish a sorority of Muslim American women across the U.S. who are pursuing STEM fields: they are known as the Adawia Alousi Scholars.

The fund and the sorority are named for Dr. Adawia Alousi, who was a true renaissance woman: a scientist and educator, with a multitude of passions. Originally from Iraq, the discoveries and scientific contributions of this pioneering researcher continue to improve and extend lives, and her work has been the benchmark for pharmacological experimentation around the world. Dr. Alousi was truly a leader in an era when very few women – especially foreign-born Arab women – were recognized for their accomplishments.



Established at CAAP by the family of the late researcher, this endowed fund supports Muslim American women as they obtain education within STEM fields – placing highest priority on immigrants and refugees. Through this groundbreaking initiative, CAAP is working to create a positive image of young Muslim women – one that showcases their brilliant minds, their ambitious dreams and their determined



spirits. This year's scholarships were awarded to 11 exceptional young women, including Zahra Shafiekhorrassani, who says,

**"Being recognized as a recipient of the Adawia Scholarship truly means a lot to me, because it reminds me that I have a support system of Muslim women in the STEM field that believe in my capabilities and are constantly encouraging me to be curious, passionate and to leave my mark."**

## SPECTACULAR SPOTLIGHT:

Meet all of the 2017 Alousi Scholars at <http://bit.ly/AdawiaAlousiScholars>



**IN MEMORIAM** Among all the many exciting opportunities that 2017 brought, we also experienced some heartbreaking loss. Two legendary changemakers in the Arab American community passed. These wonderful friends were key players in the growth of CAAP's programs. We'd like to pay tribute to them here.

### Dr. Jack Shaheen: A life dedicated to tolerant and fair representation

Dr. Jack Shaheen, was an acclaimed author, mass communications expert and prominent community leader who was renowned worldwide for his lectures and public works that illustrate the damaging consequences of ethnic stereotyping in the media. A compassionate philanthropist, Dr. Shaheen was a pillar in our community. His long and distinguished career as a tireless advocate for fair and impartial representation of Arabs in the media was surpassed only by his lifelong commitment to building an engaged and vibrant Arab American community.

Dr. Shaheen and his wife, Bernice, created a scholarship program in 1997 to support Arab American college students pursuing college majors in the media. In order to provide these scholarships in continuity, Dr. Shaheen and his wife established the *Jack G. and Bernice M. Shaheen Endowed Media Scholarship Fund* at CAAP in 2011. To date, they have awarded more than 60 scholarships to outstanding students, who have pursued high-impact careers in filmmaking, journalism and academia. His impact will, undoubtedly, resonate for generations to come.



**"I will remember Dr. Jack for the incredible legacy that he left behind with his books, films, archives, lectures, and publications. And I will remember him for his message that stereotypes dehumanize people, and that it is important not to remain silent."**

- Dr. Evelyn Alsultany, University of Michigan Professor and Shaheen Achievement Awardee



# In Memorium continued

## Russell J. Ebeid: The personification of integrity and community investment

Russell J. Ebeid was a revered businessman, community icon and benevolent philanthropist. He was a pillar in the community he resided and did business in, and his long and distinguished career and passion for giving back was evident in his commitment to building confident, engaged and vibrant communities.

Ebeid rose from working class roots in Detroit, to become one of four directors of Guardian Industries (a world leader in glass, automotive and building products sciences) and then graduated to Chairman of its board, while also holding the title of President of the Glass Group. In 2011, Ebeid retired as Chairman Emeritus.

As a philanthropist, Ebeid was driven by a desire to make a difference by honoring his roots and giving back intentionally. An avid supporter of a multitude of causes in Metro Detroit and Toledo, Ohio, Ebeid's passion for giving back carried into his commitment to providing educational opportunities for underserved youth. Through the *Ebeid Family Fund Scholarship Program* housed at CAAP, he supported the educational endeavors of numerous students from marginalized communities. CAAP stands proud

of his pioneering reputation as a philanthropist, businessman and community icon, and we look forward to carrying his legacy forward through the continuation of his scholarship program.



**"The lesson I learned from Russ was that not only did people matter, but the best satisfaction that a person can get was as a result of helping people help themselves and positively influencing the lives of people around you to strengthen your community."**

**- Firas Sakkijha, friend and former colleague at Guardian Industries**



## Center for Arab American Philanthropy Revenues and Expenses October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

Revenue:	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Individuals	\$1,707,499	\$308,159	\$210,366	\$2,226,024
Foundations	\$35,000	-	-	\$35,000
Fees	\$36,845	-	-	\$36,845
Change in Value	-	-	\$166,142	\$166,142
Endowed Donor-Advised Fund Distribution	\$55,369	-	(\$55,369)	-
Total Income	\$1,834,713	\$308,159	\$321,139	\$2,464,011
Release from Restriction	\$546,108			
<b>Total Unrestricted Income</b>	<b>\$2,380,821</b>			
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$193,022			
<b>Grants:</b>				
Board Directed Grant Making	\$235,000			
Donor-Advised Grant Making	\$1,922,755			
Total Grants	\$2,157,755			
<b>Other Program Expenses:</b>				
Software Fee	\$9,000			
Consultants	\$5,000			
Printing, Supplies and Publicity	\$5,330			
Conferences and Meetings	\$3,958			
TGI Group Start Up	\$3,000			
Other Expenses	\$3,221			
Total Other Program Expenses	\$29,509			
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,380,286</b>			

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## CAAP Funds (as of Sept. 30, 2017) Thank you to all of our fund-holders!

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CAAP Operating Endowment Fund  
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Dr. Adawia Alousi Endowed STEM Scholarship Fund  
Dr. Philip M. Kayal Endowed Fund for Arab American Research  
Jack G. and Bernice M. Shaheen Endowed Media Scholarship Fund  
Lubna Emil Bathish Fund  
Muna and Basem Hishmeh Endowed Fund  
Walid and Rasha Demashkieh Fund

### Agency Funds

Arava Institute Arab Student Scholarship Fund  
Dalia Association Palestinian Community Fund  
Michigan Arab Orchestra Fund  
NAAP Arab American Scholarship Fund  
Palestine Community Advocacy Network Fund

Palestine Legal Fund  
Solidarity Studios Fund  
Taawon (Welfare Association) Fund

### Impact Area Donor-Advised Funds

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Cultural Dialogue through the Arts Fund  
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Dr. Philip M. Kayal Fund for Arab American Research  
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Hearing the Call Fund  
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Mawada Initiative Fund  
McLennan Family Foundation Scholarship Fund  
Music for Palestine Fund  
Piano Keys for Syrian Kids Fund  
Reaching Out and Advocating for Refugees (ROAR) Fund

### Giving Circles

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100 Arab American Women Who Care - Michigan  
100 Arab American Women Who Care - Toledo  
ACCESS Youth Giving Circle  
Bustan Al-Funun Giving Circle

### Board-Directed Funds

Building Blocks for New Americans Fund  
Community Grantmaking Fund  
Disaster Relief Fund  
Empower Women and Children Fund  
Teen Grantmaking Initiative - Dearborn  
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**Special thanks to all of our fund-holders!**  
**For more information about establishing a fund or contributing to an existing fund, please contact:**

**Katy Asuncion | CAAP Donor Services & Program Officer**  
**[khanway@accesscommunity.org](mailto:khanway@accesscommunity.org) | 313-842-5130**



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### Our deepest gratitude to our 2016-2017 major supporters (Oct. 1, 2016 - Sept. 30, 2017)\*

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## ABOUT CAAP

The Center for Arab American Philanthropy (CAAP) is a national community foundation. An institution of ACCESS, CAAP's objective is to unite and empower the Arab American community by demonstrating the impact of giving together. We improve communities by making grants to nonprofit organizations. We serve donors by providing them with smart tools and resources to carry out their philanthropic giving. We build leaders by educating and inspiring Arab Americans, including youth, to realize their potential for change. Most of all, we shape perceptions about Arab Americans by highlighting their generous heritage and exceptional contributions to society.

Visit [www.centeraap.org](http://www.centeraap.org) to learn more.

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A national institution of ACCESS

