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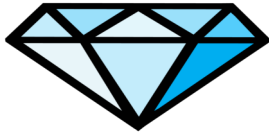
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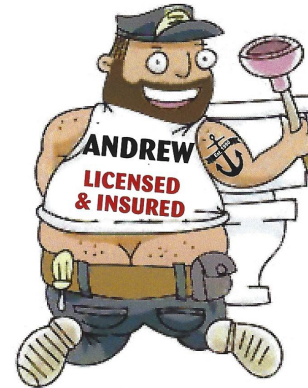
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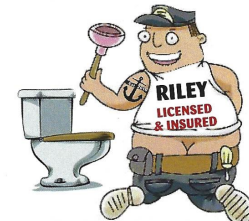
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**Message from the Arabic Educational Foundation**

Welcome, clergy, recipients, families and friends to the 52nd Annual *AEF* Scholarship Awards Brunch Ceremony. It is with great pride that we acknowledge and congratulate the 2018 recipients.

Our founding members in 1966 were wise and dedicated Blackstone Valley Businessmen, setting high standards for the organization. Our mission continues today, as we offer financial assistance to Arab American high school or college students that are furthering their education. We are committed to fundraising for education. The future of our organization is dependent upon the next generation.

To truly celebrate our 52nd year we are awarding 32 students *AEF* scholarship based upon the following criteria:

- ◆ Arabic descent
- ◆ Financial need
- ◆ Academic performance
- ◆ Student's written essay
- ◆ Community service/ volunteering experience

The organization is an established non-profit and every Board Member is a volunteer with the highest ethical standards.

Our sincerest appreciation for your attendance, support and contributions throughout the year.

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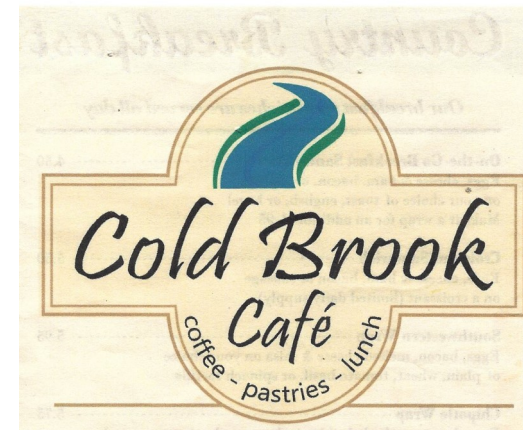
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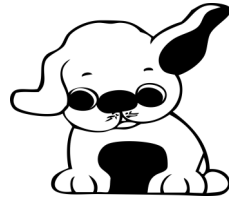
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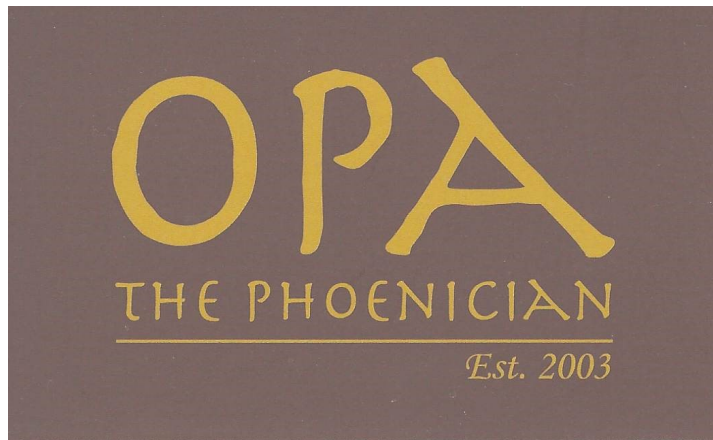


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**CONGRATULATIONS 2018 Recipients !**



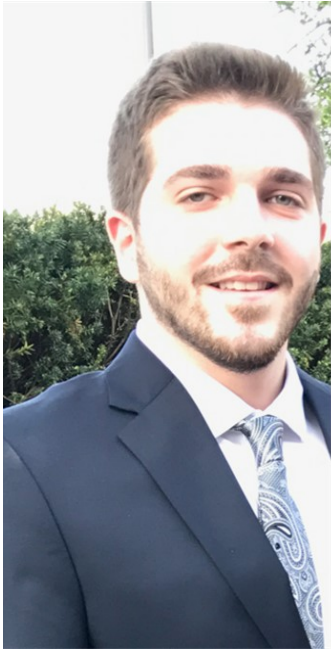
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- Sydney Zech - Cumberland High School



**JEAN JOSEPH ABOUD**  
Sacred Heart University  
Business Management

A big Middle Eastern value that I would like to see continue on in the future generations and as I grow up, is family. This is because this is so important, as your family will always be there for you and you never know what might happen, so you must cherish every moment you spend with family. My family means so much to me and I value what I have learned from my mother and father. Family value is priceless and can only be learned and passed on from generation to generation.



**ANGELA MACKSOOD**  
Wheaton College  
Biochemistry

A Middle Eastern value that I would like to see continue is future generations is loyalty. One part of my life that demonstrates tremendous amounts of loyalty is within my family. Whether it is supporting each other at special events like games or performance, or simply gathering together to celebrate a holiday, or an accomplishment. Not only is loyalty an important and useful value within a family, but also within the work place, in sports, and in personal relationships. I believe that if we teach future generations the importance of loyalty, they will be better suited to succeed in many aspects of their lives.

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SARAH CALLAHAN  
Rhode Island College  
Justice Studies

There are many aspects of the Middle Eastern cultures that should continue. One of the values I would want to see continue in is religion. Due to my religious upbringing I have been able to travel and meet many people of the same culture. I have attended the same church since birth which opened the doors for me to join the MYO and MAYA. We have laughed and cried together. Growing with the same people throughout the years connecting over our culture and religion I would not be where I am today if it was not for my religion.



SARA ALKHOURI  
University of Rhode Island  
Biomedical Engineering

Family plays a key role in human life. As many cultures, Middle Eastern have so many values that they try to teach their children. Growing up in my family has taught me that honesty and to have respect for others were the best policies. Having respect for other people has allowed me to be more open-minded and see qualities in people that most would not. I have always listened to what my friends and family have to say. That doesn't always mean that I agree with them, but it is their opinion, so I respect it. I hope these Middle Eastern values continue in the future generations.



EVA PICKERING  
American University  
Communications, Law &  
Government

My favorite Middle Eastern value that I would love to see passed on to future generations is the importance of family. Growing up I spent every Sunday afternoon at my Sitto's house with all of my aunts, uncles and cousins which have allowed me to build irreplaceable relationships in my life. Our strong sense of family has contributed to our ability to be welcoming and caring to anyone from anywhere. This feeling allows us to form strong, and close relationships with everyone around us despite any differences we may have.



MATTHEW MARDO  
Harvard University  
Neurobiology

In a world that seemingly aims to shun the continuation of Arabic culture, it is difficult now more than ever to keep Middle Eastern traditions and values alive. Despite media portrayals and societal prejudices, it is through my family that I have been able to see the beauty and pride in our Arabic heritage. I see family as being the single most important value in keeping our cultural heritage strong enough to persevere through any hardships that attempts to undermine the Middle Eastern traditions and values that have become essential to who I am.

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**GIANNA ROUSSEAU**  
Assumption College  
Actuarial Science

In a society that is consistently experiencing rapidly changing norms, it is critical that we remind ourselves of our root. One essential value that is widely apparent in almost all Middle Eastern households, is family. It plays an integral role in the Middle Eastern life style and acts as a support system for the individual involved. What is even more important, is the strong respect for elders. This family system is one that future generations need to recognize and adopt, because it must not be lost.



**KAITLIN PETERS**  
Stonehill College  
Elementary Education/Music

The most prominent value I would like to continue into future generations is openness. Open-minded leads to gaining more knowledge and learning about other, new culture, along with learning more about our own. It shows a lot about the kindness of these people when are willing to accept anyone that needs help. In today's world, this openness needs to be continued and promote acceptance and spread love in a society driven by hate and discrimination.



ANGELA GATTINELLA  
Wentworth Institute of Technology  
Industrial Design

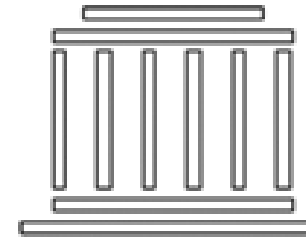
In today's world, the notion of "family" is becoming diluted, and its traditional definition and value is constantly challenged. Although, work, sports, entertainment, etc. are important part of everyone's lives, far too often nowadays, people are obsessing over them, they are taking over a 'family's' lives. It is both dividing and robbing them of their time together rather than bringing them together. My immediate family understood the importance of 'family' so we always found away to balance our outside activities and made time for one another.



VANESSA WEHBE  
Lasell College  
Marketing

Middle Eastern culture is rich with values and traditions that are passed down through generations and have been brought over from the "old country." Some of these values include honoring tradition, hard work, and dedication, loyalty, devotion to religion, and family. Each of these values attribute to the person I have become and continue to guide me through each stage of life. If I had to choose, one value that I would always want to be continued into the future generations it would be the deep value of family.

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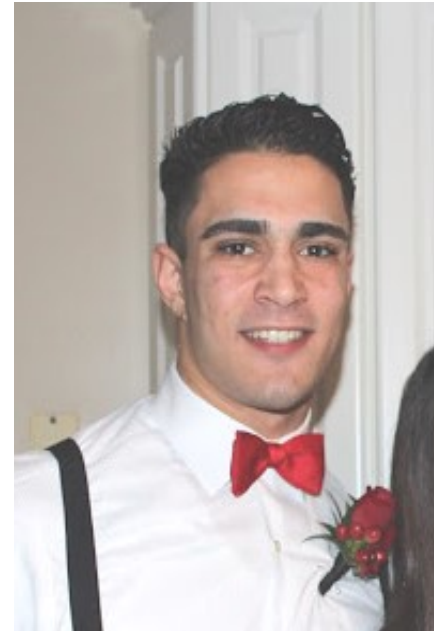
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**TYLER BALON**  
The Ohio State University  
Neuroscience

Throughout my life, a large emphasis has always been on education, and the value of education is something that I believe to be universal and quite apparent throughout Middle Eastern culture. While difficult to heed adults advice, as a young boy, I nonetheless have developed a new appreciation for this true value of education. I am extremely grateful for my Middle Eastern heritage as it has instilled into me the value of education, and the ability to lead a successful life.



**MEGHAN GHAZAL**  
Stonehill College  
Biology

With so many aspects of my life constantly fluctuating around me at one point or another there is one aspect that has remained consistent, my family. Family has always been very valuable to me, and it is something that should never be taken for granted. Your family is made up of people that bring out the best in you, or even sometimes the worst. I have learned to never underestimate the power of family, cherish every moment you have with parents, siblings and relatives. Family is the most important value to honor in our lives.



**ALLYSON KANAKRY**  
Rhode Island College  
Secondary Math Education

My family has been my support system from the time I began school into my college life. When faced with personal challenges they have managed to stick by me and guide me through each obstacle. My strong work ethic came from the dedication of both my parents and their drive to work hard and succeed despite their circumstances growing up. This value is important because I feel that in order to succeed positively in life one must have a strong connection to their family.



**ANNE ASKAR**  
Rhode Island College  
Early Childhood Education

It is hard for me to pick one value, raised on Middle Eastern values I believe that the culture as a whole is something that should be passed down for generations to come. If I must pick one I would have to say it is the closeness of family. Family is the center of our culture, it is the first thing I think of when I think about being Middle Eastern. Now when I use the term family I am not only talking about four or five people, but grandparents, aunts, uncles and thousands of cousins we all seem to have. One day I hope to raise my own family into this loving, welcoming and amazing culture.

The graphic features a textured, parchment-like background. At the top, there is a stylized orange logo consisting of a square with rounded corners and a central teal fork. Below the logo, the text "HABIBI'S" is written in large, bold, dark green letters. Underneath that, "MIDDLE EASTERN KITCHEN" is written in white text inside a teal rectangular box. Further down, a teal circle containing a white telephone handset icon is positioned to the left of the phone numbers "508.695.1111" and "508.695.1114". Below the numbers, the words "CATERING MENU" are written in large, bold, dark green letters. At the bottom, a teal rectangular box contains the address "11 SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET" and "N. ATTLEBORO, MA 02760" in white text. The entire graphic is framed by a black border.

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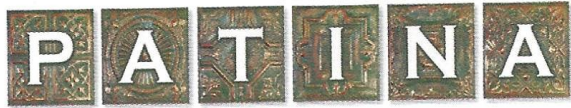
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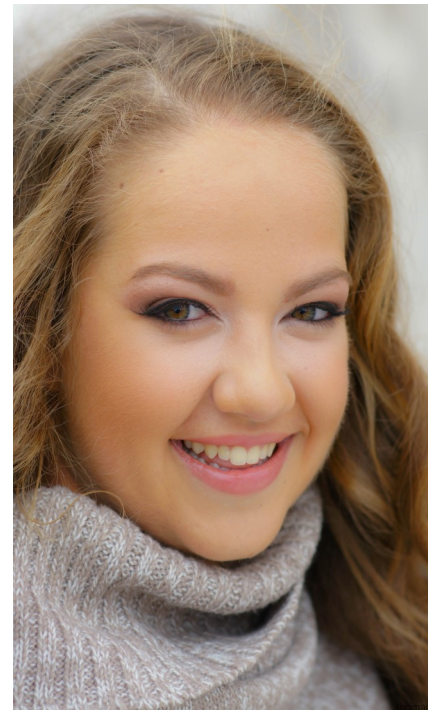
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ADAM KHOURY  
Emerson College  
Visual Media Arts

If I wasn't Lebanese, I don't think I'd have a sense of humor. Maybe I don't understand a word anyone of my relatives are saying, but what I do understand is the laughter that flows constantly and sweetly through the conversation. The Lebanese are a happy people because they've acquired the invaluable knowledge that life shouldn't be taken too seriously, the most important mantra. Humor is a coping and self-defense mechanism, and once it's lost, so is the world.



RACHEL BRIDEN  
Regis College  
Nursing

As a Syrian-American, the most influential Middle Eastern value instilled in me is respect for my elders. I have helped my Jido and an elder aunt during medical and health issues feeling family pain. Nevertheless, it became evident that I was destined to become a nurse and care for others. It also became evident that caring for the elderly was a Middle Eastern value I would carry throughout life. I strongly believe in the power of respecting one's elders and will hopefully inspire future generations to do the same.



**ALEXANDRA AWAD**  
University of New Hampshire  
Animal Science/ Pre-Veterinary

A strong work ethic is an important quality young adults and future generations should possess. Many are fortunate to have opportunities handed to them. Although this is beneficial and provided experiences, it has negatively impacted many young adults' work ethic and sense of value. The value of a work ethic should be carried on through future generations to help them achieve their goals and stay close to their roots.



**ANDREW SAKER**  
Johnston High School Senior  
Bryant University

The values of Arab culture are unique to the world. Arab refers to culture and language rather than lineage. Family is an essential aspect of Arab culture. A value that should continue in future generations is how families maintain tribal connections in many countries and loyalties are always strong. In the Arab world, parents play conventional roles in family life and that is very important for future generations to come.



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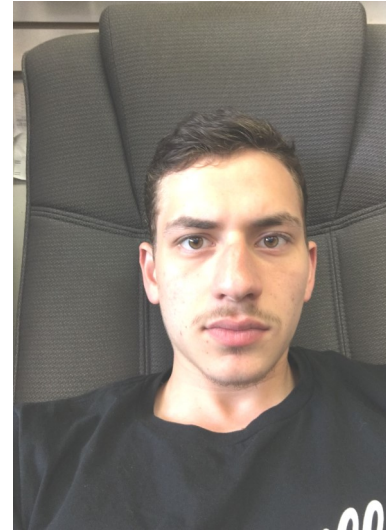
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**DR. AND MRS. TAWFIK HAWWA**



OMAR CHAGHLIL  
Rhode Island College  
Computer Science

School in Syria, Middle East, was very diverse in many ways than the U.S. and learning more about the Arabic language was on of the most challenging classes to pass, because we had to learn every root for many variant verbs. Since Arabic us one of the first languages to be spoken around the world, many modern languages have been influenced from it. Arabic is one of the hardest languages to be fluent in as a foreign learner. I am grateful to be fluent at a troublesome language.



.SAMANTHA ELKAS  
Comm. College of Rhode Island  
Philosophy

Being Middle Eastern, I have learned many aspects as to how to live my life and how to view the world around me. I admire the tradition where people can connect with many relatives and other good people at haflas , socialize and enjoy good food. Being part of this tradition is such a wonderful experience because it teaches a person to value others around them, knowing they rely on them. I understand that I am responsible for my own path in life, but also know that I have the support and love of my family.



**JOSEF MADOUR**  
Cumberland High School Senior  
Brown University

There are many Middle Eastern qualities that set us apart from the rest of the world. We are family-oriented and are known for our loyalty and hospitality. But, most importantly, we possess a quality that is often overlooked: compassion. Arabs strengthen each other during misfortunes by making time to visit suffering family, offering to bring food or take care of their children. As a proud Middle Easterner, who has lived in Syria for thirteen years, I hope that future generations will possess this significant value that sets us apart from others.



**CLAUDETTE ELKHOURY**  
Seekonk High School Senior  
U Mass/Boston

Family should be a top priority, even in years to come. Most millennials are leaving their relatives and are never looking back. What is so great about families in the Middle East, is that they rely on each other and do not abandon anyone. Relatives are proud of their relationships, and have built such trust through values, that they cannot be shattered. That should not be influenced by any environment, the only trust that future generations can rely on, is with their loved ones. Family is the foundation of a bright and successful future.

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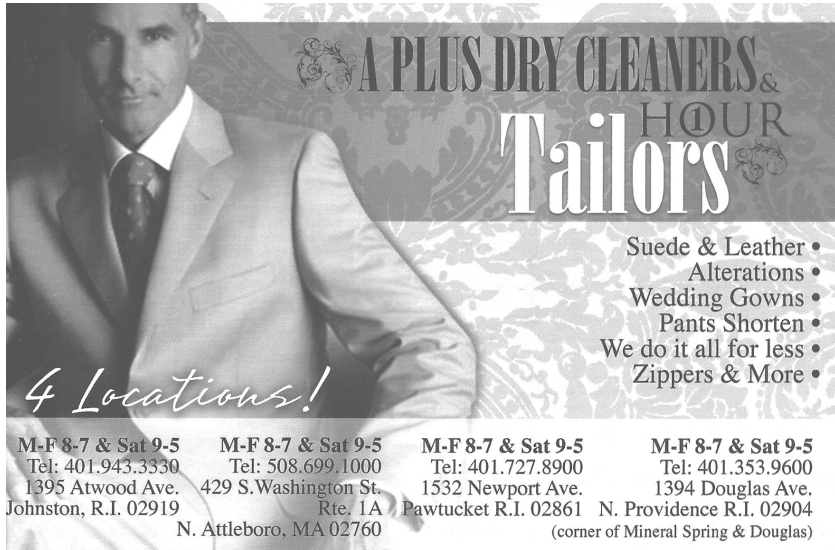
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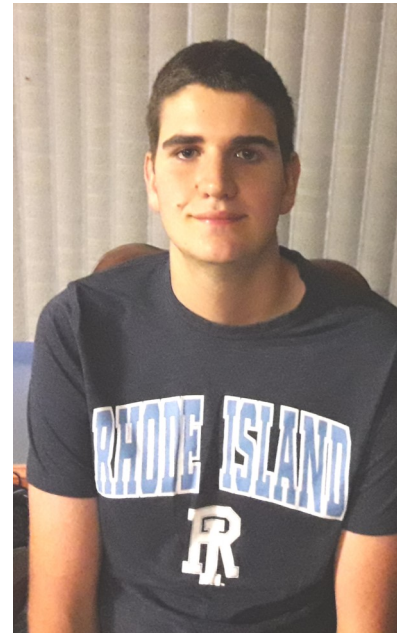
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**KARISSA MASSUD**  
Saint Raphael Academy Senior  
Bridgewater State

Each generation after the next, times may change, but there is one thing I know that has always remained the same: Middle Eastern value and tradition. While of course I love the food, music, and language, my search for a tradition for future generations is more refined. Storytelling reveals the authenticity of our culture and is essential in educating future generations of our history, in hopes of replicating our people with the values we believe in. Those stories shaped me, especially if they were aimed to teach a moral lesson at the end.



**LANCE COSTA**  
Smithfield High School Senior  
University of Rhode Island

Growing up in a rather Americanized home, Middle Eastern culture was different than what I was accustomed to, but it helped influence my life. Being a family of five, my family has established a very close group filled with love, sheltered from the outside world. Every night, we eat dinner together and talk about our days and what we learned in school. My favorite value from the Arabic culture would be the importance of family in everyday life, and I hope this this value will continue on for many generations.



SYDNEY ZECH  
Cumberland High School Senior  
Rhode Island College

The emphasis on hospitality and generosity in Middle Eastern cultures is one of the things I admire most. Hospitality and manners are timeless, and will never lose their power in society, and because of this I believe that there is truly no better value to teach to future generations. Being kind and generous is something my mother has been teaching me since I was born by being that way herself. These traits come along with acts of hospitality, which is why it is so important to teach to future generations.



ANTHONY CHAMOUN  
Providence Country Day Senior  
Bryant University

The Middle Eastern value I would like to see continue from generation to generation is family unity and respect. People in my family and at the church show respect to their elders by helping in many ways. Also grandparents are the key to family unity as they are often consulted by their kids for advice. Other values my family is interested in are encouraging children to reach their goals and to respect people around them no matter the disability or age of the person.

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DILLANE WEHBE

Bishop Hendricken H. S. Senior  
American University

Being a first generation Lebanese in America, it is easy to see differences between my family, and the families of my American friends. My family eats dinner together every night, go out together, enjoy celebrating every single holiday together as a big happy family. This is something I cherish deeply because I know I always have my family to lean back on. To me, family is the most important thing in this world, and if we do not continue to value it, then what do we have left?



MARISSA KANAKRY

Mount Saint Charles Senior  
Wheaton College

I was recently volunteering in my community for a spring cleanup project when an adult coordinator said "You are a very hard worker, just like your father." I realized that I credit the value of hard work to my Middle Eastern roots, and I feel the importance of this value. I wish to pass the value of hard work down to others. I know that my future success will depend on my deep commitment to my education and my understanding and application of hard work. Carrying on this Middle Eastern value will be my personal motivation.

**ANDREW BARR**

Lincoln High School Senior  
University of Rhode Island



When I first sat down and thought about what Middle Eastern value I would like to see carried on to future generations, one immediately stuck out: family. I feel lucky to have had so many opportunities to stay close with my whole family. Family dinners with extended family happened every weekend, which produced some of the best memories that I will have for a lifetime. Above all else, family is the most important value that should be continued for future generations, without it there is nothing left.

**CHRISTOPHE CHEDID**

Dartmouth High School Senior  
UMass/ Dartmouth



As a Lebanese American and in a world we live in today I can see that even though many Lebanese values have not yet faded, there are definitely some that have. I grew up going to church, participating in the activities and gatherings that keep us all as one parish. This is a gift that our ancestors started for us and it is our duty to fill their shoes and also pass it down to generations to come. The importance of this does not become clear until we mature. There is nothing more powerful than this bond that we build with friends and families that we treat as our own.



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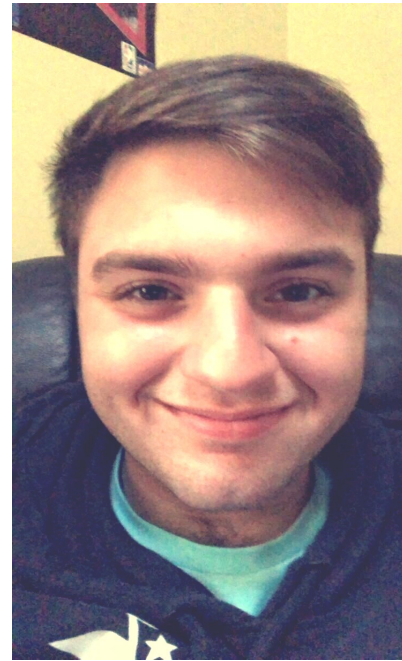
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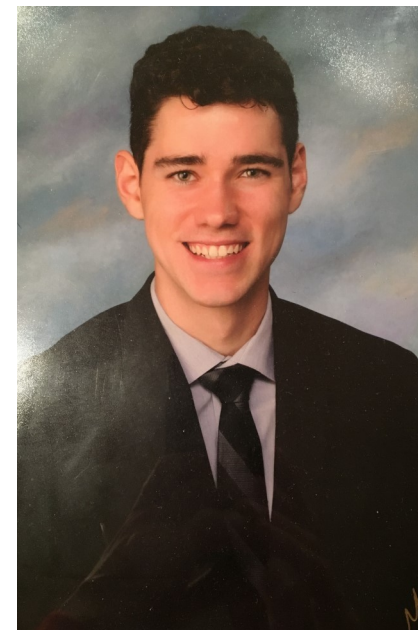


Michael S. Abbood.  
AAMS  
Financial Advisor



KADEN ABI AAD  
Bishop Feehan High School Senior  
University of Rhode Island

The Middle Eastern value I would love to see continue in future generations would be the importance of family. Learn as much as you can from family, talk to them, ask them to teach you how to cook something or how to say something in Arabic. I like to listen to stories about my elders. Your family is always there, right by your side, through tough times and memorable events. Spend time with family it is the most important part of your life.



RYAN LANE  
Smithfield High School Senior  
Boston University

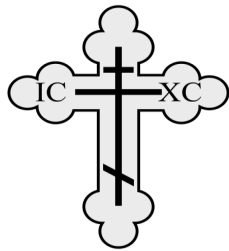
A story of success about my great grandfather has instilled the strong work ethic in me and that I still demonstrate today. Uncompromising determination has been crucial to my success, pushing myself out of my comfort zone to achieve goals. Conviction and tenacity are some of the most important aspect of my family lineage. I will pass these priceless value down, continuing the Middle Eastern tradition of success through hard work. Diligence will always be a factor in prosperity, no matter the year.

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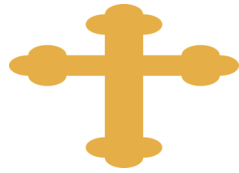
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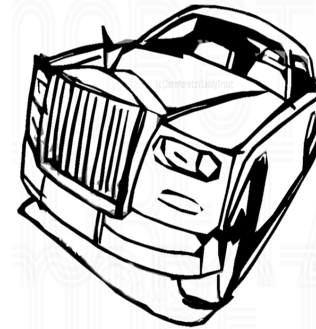
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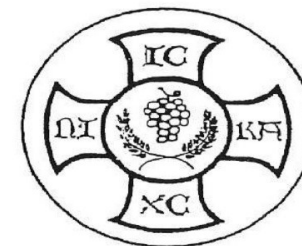
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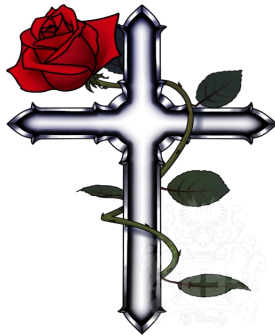
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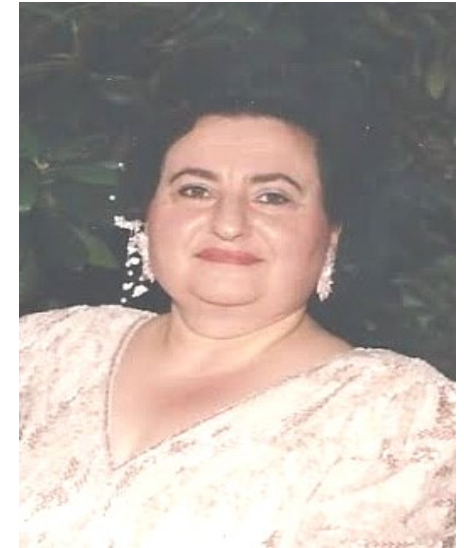
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