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Arabic Educational Foundation



Arabic Educational Foundation
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<https://www.facebook.com/aefrhodeisland>

August 2020

Arabic Educational Foundation

Mission Statement:

The purpose of the organization shall be to offer financial assistance to high school and college students of Arab American descent. Assistance is based on an established set of criteria approved by the AEF Board to determine each applicant's eligibility.

- ◆ Arabic Descent
- ◆ Financial Need
- ◆ Academic Performance
- ◆ Student's Written Essay Response
- ◆ Community Service/ Volunteering Experience

Our founding members in 1966 were wise and dedicated Blackstone Valley Businessmen and Educators, setting high standards for the organization.

Today, the Ten Member Board has continued to meet those standards, in addition to focusing on future growth of the AEF organization, as an established non-profit.

All Board Members are volunteers with the highest ethical standards and years of Board and Community experience.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Ann M. Scherza - Chairwoman

Donna Raheb - Vice Chairwoman

Kayla Mardo - Secretary

Janelle Khoury - Treasurer

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1966 - 2020

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**The 54th Year
1966—2020**

The Arabic Educational Foundation Board Members

wish to thank the generous donors and supporters from our parishes, businesses, community leaders and families. All donations are vital and further the education of our youth.

The year 2020 will be remembered in different ways as everyone was affected by the world wide pandemic. The AEF Board wishes to acknowledge those impacted and those who have lost loved ones during this crisis. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

The pandemic also produced changes to society, families, businesses and individuals resulting in various methods of communicating, social interaction, education, and employment.

The AEF annual fundraising drive was affected. Due to the pandemic's statewide "stay at home" requirements, the following events were cancelled:

- ◆ The Annual Awards Brunch and Ceremony
- ◆ The Group picture of the 2020 recipients
- ◆ The Celebration between the recipients families, and friends at the awards ceremony

Always pushing our creative ability and determination to succeed, the organization raised sufficient funds for scholarships. This year we selected 28 highly qualified and deserving high school and college students. The 2020 Arabic Educational Foundation recipients are pictured on the following pages.

We hope you enjoy perusing the annual program book. It demonstrates our dedication and support for the student scholars and their education.

Scholarship Donors

A SINCERE THANK YOU FOR YOUR
contribution and continued faith and commitment
to the mission statement of the organization!

THE ASERMELLY SCHOLARSHIP

“In Loving Memory “

Jean Asermelly

Donated by: Family and Friends

Recipient: **Kaitlin Peters**



THE AYOUB SCHOLARSHIP

“Scholarship Support “

Donated by: Philip and Bette Ayoub

Recipient: **Ava Librizzi**

Best Wishes to all Graduates!

CONGRATULATIONS!



*Christine Deeb
and Kyle Poccia*

“In Loving Memory”

GEORGE T. MATOOK

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FOUNDATION BOARD***

FOR over 30 years !



Sandra Matook & AEF Board Members

**“CONGRATULATIONS
TO MY
GRANDSONS”**

*PETER KEVEN MC MICHAEL
AND
BENJAMIN JAMES MC MICHAEL*

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
ARABIC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

The Honorable Thomas Lazieh
And Sons
Jordan T. and Alexander M.

“ In Loving Memory of Loved One “

Ernest George Sr. (Jido)

Donated by: Anonymous

Recipient: **Angela Macksoud**

“ In Loving Memory of Loved One “

Mary George (Sity)

Donated by: Anonymous

Recipient: **Dillane Wehbe**



THE CUSTOMERS BANK SCHOLARSHIPS

“ Scholarship Support “

Donated by: Customers Bank

Recipient: **Peter Mc Michael**

Recipient: **Matthew Mardo**

THE LOREESE ISSA SCHOLARSHIP

“ In Loving Memory “

Loorese S. Issa

Donated by: Steven and Patricia Issa

Recipient: **Andrew Briden**



THE LOUIS and MATILDA JOSEPHS
SCHOLARSHIP

“ In Loving Memory “

Matilda and Louis Josephs

Donated by: Mary Lou and Bill Catelli

Recipient: **Claudine Wehbe**

You did it!
Congratulations

A gold star graphic positioned behind the word 'Congratulations' in the congratulatory message.

ON SERVING OUR

YOUTH FOR

OVER 50 YEARS !

Dr. & Mrs. James J. Samra

“IN LOVING MEMORY OF”



WILLIAM T. ASERMELY

By his Wife

Mary Ann Asermely

THE KANDO SCHOLARSHIPS

“ In Honor “

Catherine Kando

In Honor of Catherine Kando

whose love of education inspires her children
and grandchildren. We are blessed to have her in our lives.

Donated by: Janice Kando and Sonia Bettez

Recipient: **Shaylee Costa**

Recipient: **Michael Rodigou**



THE ROSE KHOURY SCHOLARSHIP

“ In Loving Memory “

Our Mother Rose Khoury

Donated by: Khoury Family

Recipient: **Anthony Chamoun**

THE JOSEPH RAHEB SCHOLARSHIP

“ In Loving Memory “

Samuel and Flavie Raheb

Donated by: Joseph and Donna Raheb

Recipient: **Tyler Balon**



THE SHAKAN SCHOLARSHIP

“In Loving Memory “

Albert and Florence Shakan

Donated by: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mitchell Family

Recipient: **Karissa Massud**

CONGRATULATIONS !

**TO ALL
THE 2020**

***Arabic Educational Foundation
Recipients***

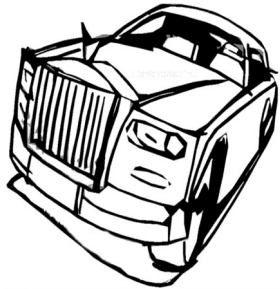


**James K.
and
Marzena M. Salome**

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Donated by Dr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Samra

Recipient: **Isabel Hallal**



THE SAMRA - GORAB SCHOLARSHIP

“In Memory of Loved One “

Steven W. Kilsley

Donated by: Dr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Samra

Recipient: **Nicole Baalbaki**

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“ In Loving Memory “

Anthony D. Asermelly

Nicholas P. Asermelly

Donated by: Rick and Ann Scherza

Recipient: **Julien Karraz**



THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
SCHOLARSHIPS

“ In Loving Memory”

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who have passed

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2020 COLLEGE RECIPIENTS

TYLER BALON—The Ohio State University

ALLISON BATTY—University of Rhode Island

MARY BOGHOS—Providence College

ANTHONY CHAMOUN—Bryant University

MARY BETH CLARKE—Johnson & Wales University

MARISSA KANAKRY—Wheaton College

JULIEN KARRAZ—University of Rhode Island

RYAN LANE—Boston College

ANGELA MACKSOUD—Wheaton College

MATTHEW MARDO—Harvard University

KARRISA MASSUD—Bridgewater State University

PETER MC MICHAEL—Rhode Island College

KAITLIN PETERS—Stonehill College

DILLANE WEHBE—Fordham University

2020 HIGH SCHOOL RECIPIENTS

GADA ALAM—Lincoln High School Senior

CHRISTOPHER AZAR—La Salle Academy Senior

NICOLE BAALBAKI - Bay View Academy Senior

ANDREW BRIDEN—La Salle Academy Senior

LANA CHEHAB—Barrington High School Senior

SHAYLEE COSTA—Smithfield High School Senior

ISABEL HALLAL—Foxborough High School Senior

BAHJAT KHOURY—Cumberland High School Senior

AUSTIN MASSUD—Bishop Feehan High Senior

BENJAMIN MC MICHAEL—Cumberland High School Senior

AVA LIBRIZZI—St. Raphael Academy Senior

MICHAEL RODIGOU—South Kingstown High School Senior

EDESSA SHABO—Lincoln High School senior

CLAUDINE WEHBE—Woonsocket High School Senior



JULIEN KARRAZ

University of Rhode Island
Pharmaceutical Science

Witnessing the daily trauma that my family endured after they immigrated from Syria has made me selfless and instilled a desire to help others. Being able to help people who are sick or injured is the perfect career path. I look forward to knowing that I may save someone's life, this give me a feeling of accomplishment.



MARISSA KANAKRY

Wheaton College
Psychology

When I became an altar server at the age of eight, I did not know that this experience would shape my life and help me find my true passions. Serving mass has allowed me to see how much I enjoy supporting and advocating for others. Campaigning for adolescents has given me a passion to help them see their full potential. These experiences have given me a life-long devotion for serving others.

KENNETH J. MACKSOUD, ESQ.

Attorney at Law



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KAITLIN PETERS

Stonehill College

Elementary and Music Major

Volunteering as a tutor for With-In Reach has made a big impact on my life. The diverse student population has taught me a lot about what students need and how different children learn and thrive in their own way. These experiences solidified my career choice to become a teacher.



PETER MC MICHAEL

Rhode Island College

Undecided

On April 1, 2020 I was ordered by the National Guard to help with contact tracing for the Rhode Island Health Department for the COVID-19 Pandemic. I had to make tough calls. Informing entire apartments to self-quarantine and telling a pregnant woman she had been exposed to the virus. I am proud to have had the opportunity to volunteer for the COVID task force.



ALLISON BATTY

University of Rhode Island
Human Development Major

In September 2019, I joined a sorority that emphasizes on raising money for philanthropy, Breast Cancer Education and Awareness. It was an enriching experience supporting women you don't even know. The event made me feel purposeful. Service and volunteer work has made me a kinder and more generous person .

MATTHEW MARDO

Harvard University
Neuroscience Major

Upon entering college, I knew that I wanted community service to play a role in my life. Joining ExperiMentor, an enrichment program where college students volunteer in local elementary schools. We conduct science experiments and lessons. This has been my dedicated outlet to service others. Service and lifelong commitment to learning, values instilled in me from my Middle Eastern heritage.



We are Proud to Support the
Arabic Educational Foundation...
Congratulations to all the Scholarship Recipients!!



Anthony Landi, Deborah Shuster, Kelly Almonte and Jeffrey Boudjouk (Left to Right)

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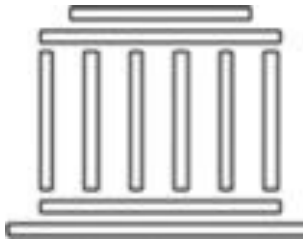
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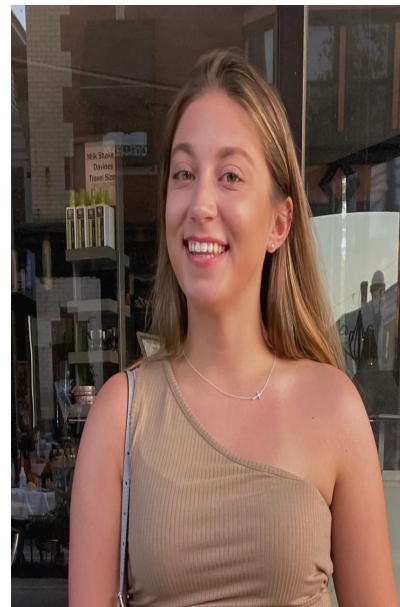
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TYLER BALON

The Ohio State University
Neuroscience Major

This past year, I had the opportunity to become a founder and lead a service organization. It works one on one with the elderly living in rehabilitation and assisted living homes. This experience has taught me that little things can be impactful for others. Never underestimate the power of taking time to serve your community.



KARISSA MASSUD

Bridgewater State University
Secondary Education Major/
Mathematics

For as long as I can remember I wanted to be a teacher. Being given the responsibility to teach the children of my church about their faith has been nothing but a privilege. This volunteer experience has not only been rewarding but beneficial to my personal life. Teaching Sunday School has only confirmed my future teaching aspirations.



DILLANE WEHBE

Fordham University

Economics Major

Community service is very important to me. I have spent many summers volunteering at Bluefish Swim Club teaching swimming lessons. I teach young people that with hard work they can achieve whatever they want. Volunteering has made me feel extremely lucky, being able to give back to my community.



ANGELA MACKSOUD

Wheaton College

Biology Major/ Optometry

Since fourth grade I have been passionate about community service. Being an altar server, Special Olympics, and a Food and Wellness Center volunteer. Through all of my experiences, I am constantly amazed by the kind people and how effortless it is to give back to those in need. I better appreciate my Arabic heritage, loving and caring for others.

Congratulations and Best Wishes

To the

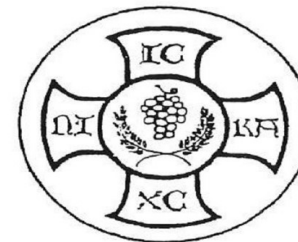
Arabic Educational Foundation

May you continue to strengthen the growth of your organization towards furthering the educational needs and goals of our youth, promoting the pride, culture and contributions that the Arabic speaking people throughout the centuries have achieved.

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BEST WISHES

TO
2020
RECIPIENTS



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MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH***

Fr. Edward Nedder
And Parishioners



ANTHONY CHAMOUN

Bryant University

Finance Major

Volunteering at Dog Orphans has changed my perspective on life. This volunteer experience has made me realize how important it is to help others in the community. I have realized that you should also look to help people. You never know who will need your help whether it be your friends, family or people in your community.



MARY BETH CLARKE

Johnson & Wales University

Marketing Major

Stewardship (sharing one's time, talent and treasure) is an important tenet of the Catholic Church. I have been able to donate both my time and talent by playing the flute at mass. I have received many positive comments at mass and these comments make me feel like I am providing a little bit of joy to my church community. This has made a difference in my life.



MARY BOGHOS

Providence College

Biology Major

My past two years of volunteering have shaped me to become the person I am today. Traveling to India and experiencing how people in third world countries live, or locally, assisting elders in the hospital. I found myself becoming more confident, patient, and happier. I now feel that helping others is a passion of mine.

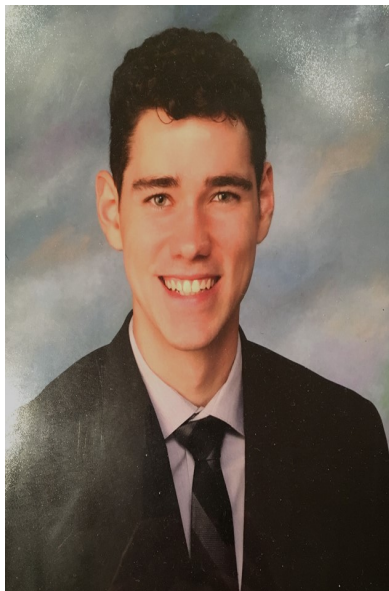
IN LOVING MEMORY



Samuel G. Raheb



Flavie Raheb



RYAN LANE

Boston College

Biochemistry

This past semester I pledged a national fraternity that focused on serving the campus community and the nation. From soup kitchens, to homeless shelters, to charity races, each service brought out the best in everyone. These services have taught me and made me more compassionate, selfless and aware of the political and socio-economic issues of others.

Laila Raheb

Michael and Lina Raheb & Family

Joseph and Donna Raheb & Family

Ronald and Stacey Raheb & Family

Sharon DeSimone, John Walsh & Family

Brenda and Roger Hultquist & Family

Darlene and Bruce Balon & Family

THANK YOU to the
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For more than 50 years of supporting
Education in our community !



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Congratulations and
Best Wishes
For Happiness, Success and Prosperity
To this year's Recipients !



ANDREW BRIDEN

La Salle Academy Senior

My interest in health care developed in high school when I volunteered at the Miriam Hospital transport team. Reflecting on this experience, I realized that I wanted to be part of this system that impacted the lives of others. I recognized the importance of communication which enables one to better empathize with people and make deep connections.



AVA LIBRIZZI

St. Raphael Academy Senior

Growing up with a father who is a first responder has gifted me solid values. My father's guidance of compassion, humility and service to others has directed me toward a life of community service. My own non-profit, Help A Hero which came to me during a trip to New York City. There I saw many homeless people and homeless Veterans. This is how Help A Hero service of Veterans began.



MICHAEL RODIGOU

South Kingstown High Senior

The hours of volunteer work that is required of me by the National Honor Society are the most meaningful. I work hours on the massive East Matunuck beach clean up. During this clean up, I find all kinds of concerning pieces of litter that is potentially harmful to our wildlife. If it were not for the Matunuck Beach clean up, I am not sure I would be interested in conserving my local environment.

GADA ALAM

Lincoln High School Senior

Community service is based on the acts performed by someone with the purpose of helping or bringing benefits to the community. Volunteering at churches and many other places I encourage other young adults to help in all the local community events. I personally enjoy talking to people especially if they are going through a hard time. It makes me feel useful and helpful in their lives.

**PICTURE
NOT
AVAILABLE**



NICOLE BAALBAKI

Bay View Academy Senior

Last spring, I had the opportunity to attend my first YES trip to Providence. The trip was not what I expected. We handed out lollipops and held conversations with strangers. I met humans with amazing stories. This simple gesture can change a person's entire day and even outlook on life. I also learned how important it is to serve others in the community who are less fortunate.

LANA CHEHAB

Barrington High School Senior

The community service that I have been involved in over the years has made a huge difference in my life. I was born in Lebanon and at the age of three came to America with my mother. My favorite volunteering job was at the Taunton Juvenile Court. I was able to listen to court hearings involving troubled youths. The most emotional part was being able to talk to the children and get their minds off of what was going on in their lives.

**PICTURE
NOT
AVAILABLE**



BENJAMIN MC MICHAEL

Cumberland High School Senior

Throughout my entire life, I have always believed in treating others the way I would like to be treated. This belief is what drew me to volunteering with the Best Buddies organization. This national organization is devoted to creating an inclusive scholastic environment for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The program was rewarding and as an individual found I could have a positive impact on someone.



CLAUDINE WEHBE

Woonsocket High Senior

As a member of the National Honor Society I have been able to do volunteer work for various organizations. Day One Child Advocacy Center raised my awareness for sexually abused children in our community. I have gained valuable experiences, and what it means to be a part of a community that prides itself on giving back to others. It has opened my eyes to caring for others.



EDESSA SHABO

Lincoln High School Senior

One particular experience I am most passionate about has been volunteering at the Pink Party for the Gloria Gemma Cancer Walk in Providence. During the event I was able to meet many new people and was able to learn new things. It was a bit scary, but that feeling faded once I began helping others. I was honored to be able to help the cause.



AUSTIN MASSUD

Bishop Feehan Senior

My time spent as an altar server and Sunday school assistant teacher has made a difference in my life by giving me responsibility and opportunities to help. I would always try to keep the kids involved with different activities by having creative ways of teaching. This also made me responsible for a class, always making sure things were happening. These service opportunities have helped me today and I am sure in the future.



BAHJAT KHOURY

Cumberland High Senior

During my junior year, I started volunteering every week at the Miriam Hospital. I learned that I love spending time at the hospital, and felt a great sense of purpose in helping others. I also volunteer at my churches breakfast club on Sundays. I noticed that they needed help and I volunteered. Through my community service, I have won the affection and gratitude of many people. I am so happy and proud doing my best for others.



ISABEL HALLAL

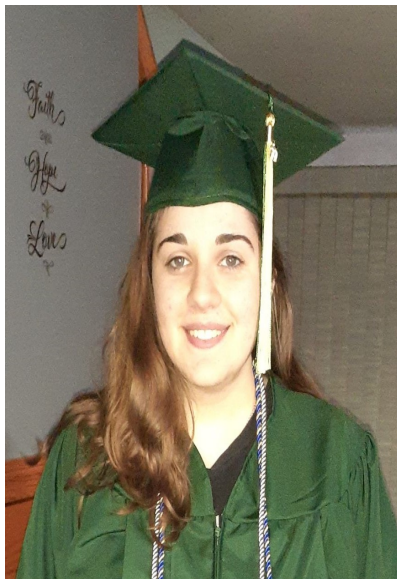
Foxborough High Senior

When I think of Community Service, it often reminds me of what my Tete taught me throughout my entire life. To give back, put others first, and help those in need without any expectation of something in return. My volunteer commitments through the Girl Scouts, making blankets at holiday time. Also helping the outreach program at my church with the clothing drive for the homeless are examples of giving back to others.

SHAYLEE COSTA

Smithfield High Senior

I was invited to participate in the FLITES after school program at an elementary school. The program taught a second language to fourth grade students. For most student it was rewarding experience at a young age. This was my first experience really teaching. I developed teaching skills and also discovered how much I enjoyed sharing my knowledge of French with others. I also realized that I now want to study become a French teacher.



CHRISTOPHER AZAR

La Salle Academy Senior

During my April school vacation my junior year I traveled with classmates to Rutgers Tennessee for my school service abroad program. I am quite introverted, so jumping into a new experience in a new place with people I had never talked to before was quite challenging. I learned that listening to people's experiences, and spending time with new people benefits all those involved and that physical and emotional service are essential.