

Spring 2010 Vol. 1, No. 3



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Dear Members and Friends:

Hope everyone had a wonderful start to the New Year. The Afghan American Women Association (A-AWA) has started 2010 with wonderful energy and hope.



Since our official introduction into the community three months ago, we have made some important accomplishments. A-AWA proudly announces the establishment of an emergency fund through which two Afghan families have already been assisted when their critical circumstances needed immediate attention. In addition A-AWA was able to offer assistance with a newly arrived Afghan refugee family in Virginia. These most recent examples in our community [details available under A-AWA updates] reinforce A-AWA's cause and the role it can play in bringing the Afghan community together along with other available resources.

In respect to projects in Afghanistan, A-AWA has continued with its "Winter Clothes Project" and hopes to expand its services within Afghanistan through exploring partnerships and proposal writing to obtain any funding if available.

Lastly we would like to announce that we are currently in negotiations with the County of Fairfax to obtain an official office space.

With this new office our momentum will increase as A-AWA Board of Directors hopes that with growing membership and dedicated partners, we will be able to achieve more as an organization and expand our services through effective collaborations and successful projects.

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Welcome to the Afghan-American Women's Association



MISSION STATEMENT

The Afghan-American Women's Association (A-AWA) seeks to enrich the lives of Afghan women by establishing closer relationships and understanding between Afghan Women through cultural, educational, charitable, and social activities and providing opportunities for volunteerism and leadership in the Afghan Community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. *Promotion and sharing of Afghan traditions and culture;*
2. *Partnership with community groups and other Afghan-focused organizations;*
3. *Respect for diversity in individual values and religious faiths; and*
4. *Awareness of and support for Afghan women facing challenges unique to the Afghan community.*

GOALS

1. *Serve as a center of personal and cultural exchange for members;*
2. *Research and assist members with community resources;*
3. *Offer group support for Afghan women facing crisis;*
4. *Provide life skills training and mentorship;*
5. *Encourage entrepreneurship and business networking; and*
6. *Furnish opportunities for self-improvement through educational and volunteer activities.*

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These success stories are at the core of why the A-AWA was formed, but it is important to mention that A-AWA would not have been able to make so much difference without the overwhelming contributions made by so many generous community members, and the hard work of its members and volunteers. Our Afghan culture and values form the solid foundation that A-AWA needs at times like this to succeed. A-AWA while grateful for the existing support remains in dire need of greater support from community in form of membership, volunteerism, sponsorship and partnership. Our success will be defined by each and every effort that each one of us is willing and able to put into this newly born organization.

Sincerely, A-AWA Board of Directors

Ms. Shahla Ahmadi
Dr. Homaira Behsudi
Dr. Hosai Hesham
Mr. Lou Mitchell
Ms. Nillab Pazhwak

Offering first Resettlement services to a newly arrived Afghan family

A-AWA has also been instrumental in assisting a newly arrived Afghan family of four in obtain housing, social service support, and guidance for a better transition into society. We utilized our existing partnership with Good Will to assist the family with clothing and furnishings.

Obtaining Office Space through Fairfax County

We would like to announce that we are currently in negotiations with the County of Fairfax to obtain an official office space. The county has made it clear that they intend to help us procure and utilize a space wherein we can base our organization's daily activities. With this new office we will be able to maximize our efforts, have an official meeting place, and place better focus on our most important projects. Our momentum will increase as we establish a physical address accompanied by the ability to set up a computer based network. The exciting aspect of this achievement will be our ability to better serve the immigrant population of Fairfax County, as well as share the burden that currently rests solely on Fairfax County's shoulders.

Establishing an Emergency Fund



A-AWA has been involved in assisting several critical circumstance members of our community through establishing an emergency fund: "A-AWA Emergency Fund for Afghan Refugees and Needy Families". The effort begun when A-AWA became aware of a terminally ill and very young mother here in Virginia. During our efforts to assist the family, this loving wife and mother of two beautiful children lost her battle with cancer. A-AWA rose to the occasion with launching and organizing a very successful fundraiser event in collaboration with Mustapha Center that resulted to \$40,000 for the children. Those funds are in the process of being placed in a trust fund. To ensure transparency and accountability, the process has been overlooked by members from A-AWA, the Mustapha Center, Afghan Academy, and Faith Organization. Special thanks to the following A-AWA members who were outstanding in offering their compassion, time and efforts in helping this family: Ms. Raihana Noorzad, Ms. Nadia Aman, and Mrs. Rohina Baser-Panah.

In addition, A-AWA has been able to bring aid to a single mother living in California with her six year old daughter. This woman became very ill and was hospitalized for weeks at a time. With no immediate family to assist her, she was forced to bring her daughter to the hospital while she underwent several days or weeks of inpatient care. As her treatments often left her too weak to work, A-AWA decided to offer immediate financial assistance helping this Afghan woman pay her rent for two months hoping that she will be able to return to work as she wishes in near future. A-AWA would monitor the situation attempting to look for more sustainable assistance to this family.

Projects in Afghanistan

In respect to projects in Afghanistan, A-AWA has been privileged in having wonderful support from friends and colleagues. One such partnership is in the process of being created with a Japanese NGO. We are in the process of writing two proposals. One will focus on obtaining direct shipment of new clothing to Afghanistan. The second proposal will hopefully start a pilot micro lending project aimed at Afghan women and entrepreneurship.

New Members since October 2009

The Board of Directors (BOD) is now complete with Ms. Nillab Pazhwak as the fifth member. The BOD has been working hard and meeting regularly over the last 3 months. We are planning on amending the bylaws to increase the number of the Board of Directors to nine. In addition, we are fine tuning the structure of Committees and how to distribute the work within the community to see better and more efficient results.

Welcome New A-AWA Members

Ms. Fouzia Amiri	Ms. Mahboba Ali	Ms. Nadia Aman	Ms. Nilofar Ariasaif
Ms. Nahid Nasrat Aziz	Ms. Zakia Ali Wardak	Mr. David Beg	Ms. Nooria Faryar
Mr. Fahim Kadiri	Ms. Tooba Mayel	Ms. Arian Mirdaq	Ms. Homira Nassery
Ms. Nasrin B Nawabi	Ms. Raubia Nooristani	Ms. Homa Sharif	Ms. Patricia Silberman
Ms. Mariam Ufyani			

Welcome New Corporate Partners

Reston Dermatology and Cosmetic Center

Dr. Syed Amiry is a leading dermatology expert in the field of general dermatology and over 6 years of experience in cosmetic dermatology. Dr. Amiry is Board Certified by the American Board of Dermatology. Dr. Amiry received his Medical Degree at AT Still University in Kirksville, MO. His Medical School training included traditional Medical School Teaching as well as a Holistic Osteopathic Philosophy of Integrating Mind and Body. He completed his Dermatology residency at Geisinger Health System in Pennsylvania where he was honored as Chief Resident. Dr Amiry completed specialized training (only 13 programs in the country) in Cosmetic, Laser and Skin Cancer Surgery (Mohs) at Dermatology Associates of San Diego under the guidance of world-renowned dermatologists Dr. Fitzpatrick, Dr. Goldman, Dr. Tse and Dr Butterwick. Reston Dermatology & Cosmetic Center is a full service dermatology office, offering the most advanced treatments for everything from acne, rosacea, eczema, psoriasis, rashes, moles, and various other skin conditions—to all skin cancers, including the deadly malignant melanoma. Dr. Amiry works closely with Georgetown and George Washington University in the management of his patients with malignant melanoma. "With the best tertiary care center in the East for handling this disease so close to us, I feel that my patients deserve this standard of care! It's where I would go," says Dr. Amiry. As a recognized leader in the field of cosmetic dermatology, Dr. Amiry combines leading technologies and procedures with first-class, individual attention, to create a destination for those seeking the best in the field. For more information, email care@restondermatology.com

TriVision Studios



TriVision Studios is an award-winning, full service agency that develops innovative strategies to achieve powerful and creative marketing, entertainment and media campaigns for its clients. We specialize in high-impact, result-oriented, brand advertising communications for ONLINE, PRINT & BROADCAST MEDIA.

With more than 15 years of experience, TriVision manages cross-platform advertising and integrated communication programs for a diverse group of clients, ranging from start-up companies to government agencies to some of the world's leading multi-national organizations. For more information, visit www.trivision.tv

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CUSAP



The Campaign for a U.S. - Afghanistan Partnership (“CUSAP”) is a membership organization for U.S. and Afghan citizens who believe Afghanistan can be a strong, prospering nation, but continued support of the United States is necessary to ensure this will happen. CUSAP’s vision for achieving sustainable security and prosperity in Afghanistan is guided by the following nine pillars. For more information, visit www.cusap.org

AMPAA



Afghan Medical professionals Association of America formerly known Afghan Physicians Association in America was founded in 1989 in Williamsburg Massachusetts by one of our dedicated afghan physicians Dr. Ghulam M. Dastageer. The Afghan Medical Professionals Association of America is a non-profit association representing Afghan Medical Professionals in the United States and all over the world. The mission of the organization is to promote medical education, research and to provide educational assistance by means of teaching materials, and training opportunities for Afghan medical and paramedical personnel. For more information, visit www.ampaa.org

AACC



The Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) is the leading organization facilitating U.S.-Afghan business, investment, and trade ties through its Matchmaking Conferences and related activities. AACC serves the interests of its members through various programs, advocates for a free and open market economy in Afghanistan, and endeavors to strengthen U.S.-Afghan economic relations.

AACC works to ensure that Afghanistan’s market economy remains a priority for U.S. and Afghan policymakers. It serves as a link between the private sector and government to encourage economic policies that result in increased business and investment between the U.S. and Afghanistan. AACC seeks to reduce the impediments to business and market economic progress through its Working Groups. For more information, visit www.a-acc.org

ASF



Afghan sports Federation (ASF) is a non-profit organization based in Fairfax, Virginia of Metropolitan Washington, D.C area. It is run by Afghan individuals, for the benefit of amateur sports among the Afghan youths and Adults both men and women at every level of excellence in the region, the United States and the world. The aim of ASF is to create a center of guidance or counseling for Afghan athletes (men and women) who want to be active in amateur sports or pursue professional career in any athletic field of his/her choice. For more information, visit www.afghansportsfederation.org