



DAUGHTERS FOR LIFE FOUNDATION



2019
ANNUAL REPORT

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ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Daughters for Life Foundation (DFL) was founded in 2010 and has since been dedicated to improving the lives of girls and women facing socio-economic adversity and hardship in the Middle East by providing them with access to quality education. DFL is a registered Canadian charity that provides scholarships, financial awards and fellowships to girls and women in the Middle East regardless of their ethnicity, nationality, or religious affiliation.

While our scholarship program helps female students to study in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Bangladesh, the financial awards we deliver support women attending universities in the Middle East. Our fellowship program provides women from universities in the Middle East the opportunity to participate in academic activities conducted by educational institutions around the world. Recipients are not only chosen for their academic achievements, but also for their character and commitment to improving the lives of girls and young women in the Middle East.

Since its inception, DFL has helped over 400 girls realize their potential and pursue their dreams. To date, we have awarded 58 scholarships for women to study in international universities. In addition, over 341 financial awards and 5 fellowships have been granted to support meritorious students to continue their education in the Middle East. Our goal is to invest in the potential of girls and women from the Middle East to take on leadership roles in the future. We want to support their dreams of becoming skilled professionals in any field they choose to pursue.

HOW WE REACH OUR GOALS

We inspire our programs' recipients to challenge themselves as leaders and ambassadors for change and the empowerment of women. We demonstrate leadership in advocating for the empowerment of young women through rigorous admission practices, good governance, innovative funding and professional growth opportunities. We develop and nurture collaborations and partnerships with educational institutions, business and community organizations, and strategic partners to fulfill our objectives.

WE BELIEVE

Education is a human right that should be accessible to every woman across the Middle East, regardless of faith, nationality or ethnicity.

Higher education empowers women to be leaders and agents of transformation of their communities and societies.



OUR VISION

Educated young women of the Middle East act as leaders and agents for peaceful social change in their communities.



OUR MISSION

We strive to advance, invest, and promote higher education for young women living in the Middle East.



OUR VALUES

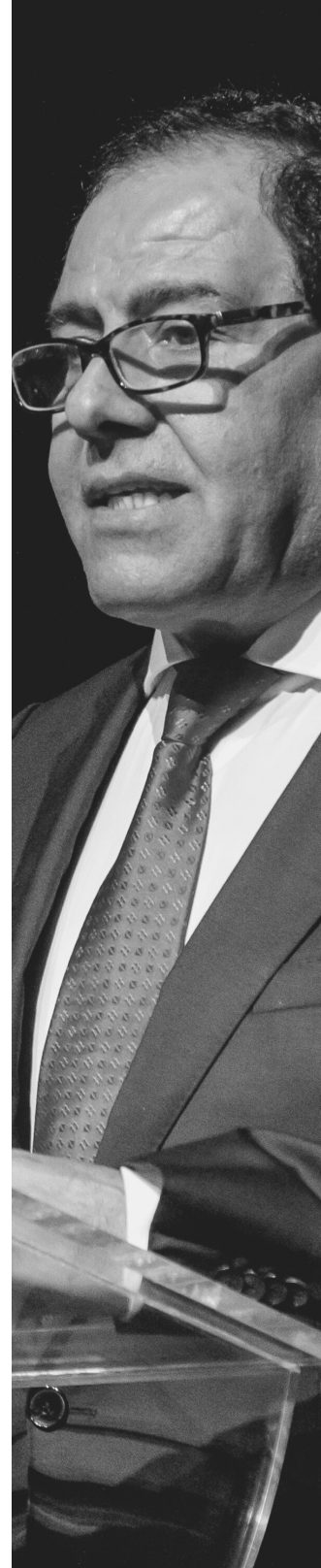
- Education
- Cultural Diversity
- Women's Empowerment Through Education
- Social Mobility
- Peaceful Change

MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

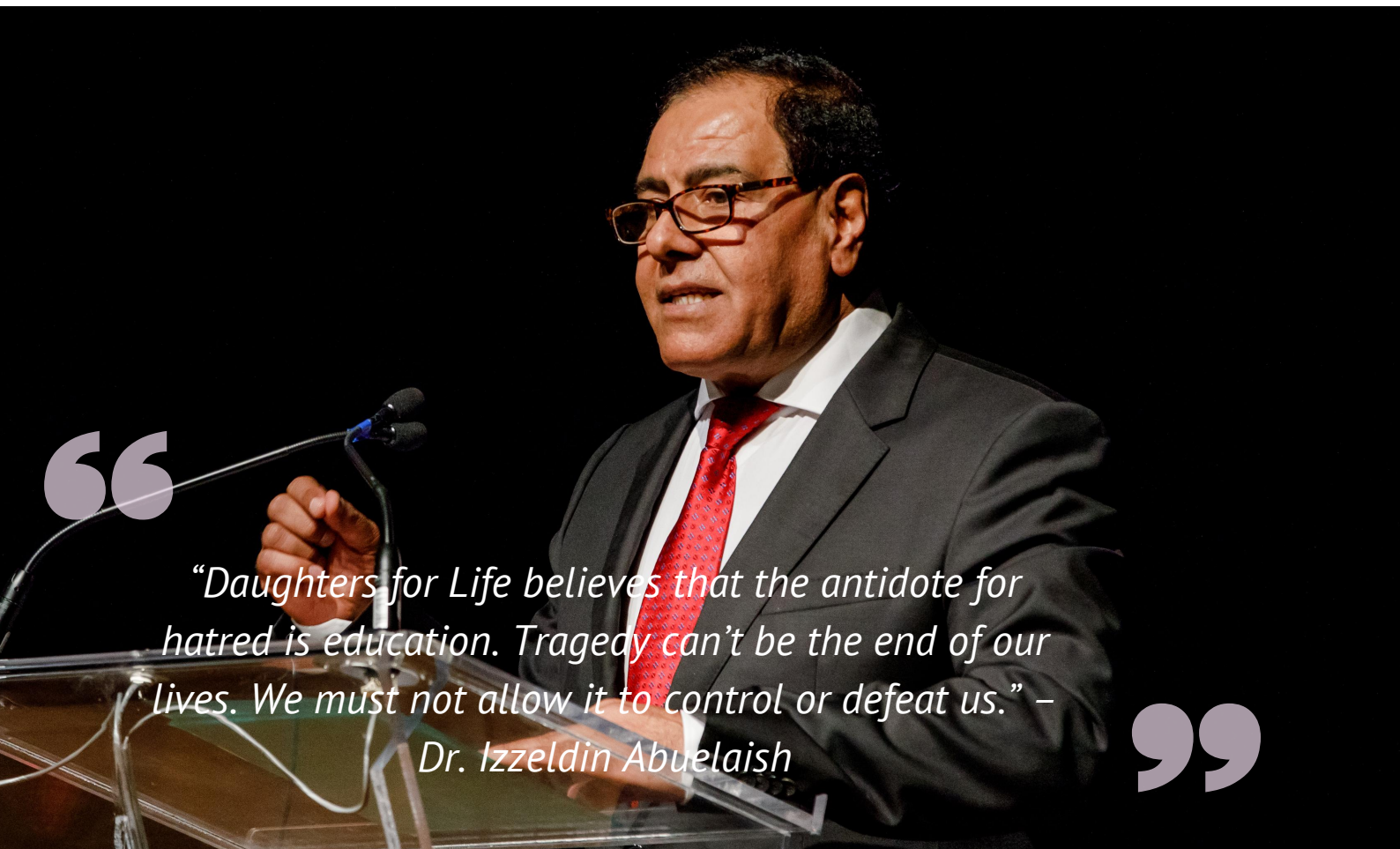
It is with pride and thankfulness that I look back at 2019 as it marks another successful year for Daughters for Life. This past year has been one full of hope and positive changes worldwide. In light of the current pandemic and the struggles we face as a community, it is essential to reflect on our past successes and developments to remind ourselves of the power of a united and hard-working community. While 2020 continues to present obstacles, we are proud to continue working alongside this community to spread education. Here, I would like to reflect on the positivity of our current times. Through the power of connection and perseverance each year, the world gets closer towards eliminating gender barriers in education, especially in post-secondary institutions, faced by women. Here in Canada, women have started outnumbering their male counterparts in many academic programs and sectors. However, these same numbers are not reflected in many places across the globe. I wholeheartedly believe that educating and empowering girls and women is crucial to global progress. The world cannot grow and prosper to its full potential when half of its population does not have access to full and meaningful education. Education empowers women to be the confident leaders and agents of change they have always been capable of being, allowing them to take on opportunities for making the world a better place. This is why I continue to believe that education is the key to peace and prosperity in many developing countries. Despite the growing emphasis on the importance of women's education and the progressive steps that have been taken in the past ten years, we still have a long way to go, especially in the Middle East where progress has been hindered by limited resources. I remain optimistic, however, that we are going in the right direction. I am proud to say that in June 2019, DFL celebrated the graduation of 11 DFL scholars and welcomed 3 new scholars and a returning scholar to the DFL family to begin their undergraduate and graduate programs. I truly believe that for every young woman we support in their pursuit of higher education, we are slowly but surely working towards improving women's education in the Middle East. In a time when we see increasing fear, hatred, poverty, injustice and diseases in the world, we must remember to let education be the light that guides us. I invite everyone who shares in DFL's belief in the power of women's education to join us in supporting this cause.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish
Founder and President



FOUNDER'S 2019 ACHIEVEMENTS



“Daughters for Life believes that the antidote for hatred is education. Tragedy can’t be the end of our lives. We must not allow it to control or defeat us.” –

Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish

- ☑ Received Doctor Honoris Causa in recognition of humanitarian work for peace, tolerance and equal rights from the University of Antwerp in Belgium.
- ☑ Delivered multiple lectures and keynote speeches at universities around Canada and the United States.
- ☑ Received the ICON Award at the Professional Development Conference for Immigrants (PDCI) from Humber College in Toronto, Canada.
- ☑ Received Recognizing the Giants: DIP Award in partnership with University of Florence, Italy
- ☑ Featured in the Scottish Sunday Post written by Laura Smith on January 19th, 2019 titled “Palestinian doctor devoted to peace after daughters killed in Gaza hails Bard before his visit to Scotland”.



LOOKING BACK

1,800+ DONORS TO DATE

400+ PROGRAM RECIPIENTS
OVER 10 YEARS

1,122 APPLICANTS
SINCE 2011

341 TOTAL BURSARIES
AWARDED

58 TOTAL SCHOLARS

5 FELLOWSHIPS
AWARDED

22 PARTNER UNIVERSITIES
IN 4 COUNTRIES

9,738 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER
SERVICE YEARLY

MOVING FORWARD



4 NEW SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS

1 MEDICAL FELLOWSHIP

11 CONTINUING
SCHOLARS

15 SCHOLARSHIPS

OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS

To help bring the gift of education to girls and young women from the Middle East, we enjoy the continuous support and patronage of academic institutions from around the world. We are proud of these partnerships that help us to run successful scholarship schemes each year. To keep the momentum going, Daughters for Life seeks new collaborations with educational institutions so that each year we can take in more female students from the Middle East.

2019 PARTNERS



ANNUAL FINANCIALS

~\$1M

IN-KIND DONATIONS, NAMELY
16 SCHOLARSHIPS AND ONE
FELLOWSHIP

TOTAL
REVENUE

\$320,400.00 CAD

NET
INCOME

\$95,800.00 CAD

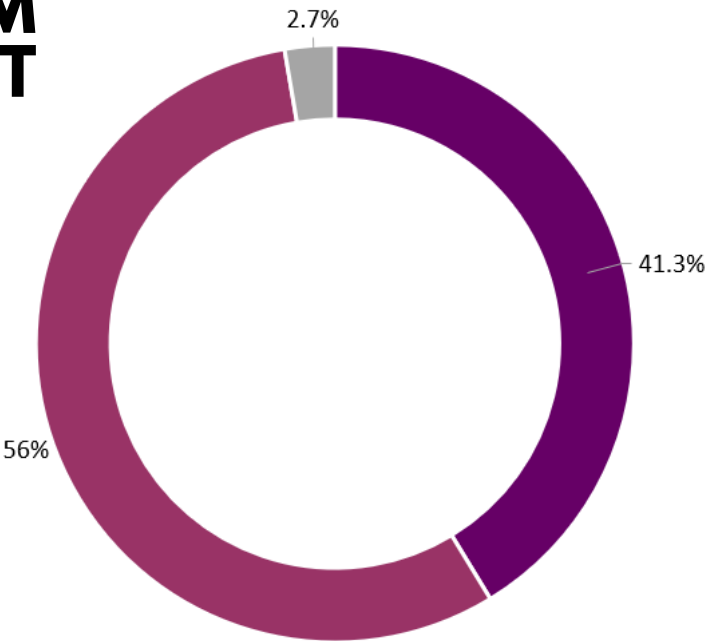
(\$61,000 of this amount is due to a prior year
accounting expense adjustment).

EXPENDITURES

\$224,500.00 CAD

HOW THE PROGRAM DOLLARS ARE SPENT

- Flights and travel
- Tuition, room and board
- Textbooks, health insurance and miscellaneous



OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

The dedication and compassion of our donors have made it possible for us to continue our mission of promoting peace through education. Thank you for believing in us. Your support has helped us to continue our efforts to support women's educational dreams.

OUR MAJOR DONORS

Marshall Noecker
Jill Krishner
Ramez Sousou
Michael Dan & Amira Dan
Lous Veeneklaas
Mark Faiz Sakkejha
Suleiman Rashid
Frank Gomberg

Gerrit De Boer
Thomas Miller
Raed Hawa
Maggie Bras
Julie Ratner
Paul Gooch
Cornelia Baines
Aysha Lockhat

OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

Part Time CFO Services
Ryerson University
Brock University
St. Joseph High School
St. John's Episcopal Church, Norwood Parish
DMZ Ryerson
The Kololian Foundation
Ripstyles Media
Adrian Family Foundation
Nancy's Very Own Foundation

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 19-20



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE FOUNDATION!

Three new scholars arrived from the Middle East and joined the DFL family while one of the scholars is a DFL alumna and was chosen to continue on with new studies. These future four leaders are studying International Relations, Business Administration, Masters in English, and Arts and Management. We are proud to support them in their educational journeys. DFL also continued to support our 11 scholars in universities around the world that amounts to a total of 15 scholars!

After the success of the 2018 scholarship program, DFL has been busy shortlisting its next batch of scholars. For the 2019 academic year we are inviting more brilliant female students from Middle Eastern countries to pursue their dreams at universities in North America. For the 2019/2020 academic year, DFL is grateful for our new partnership with the University of Pennsylvania, and University of Calgary. Brock University, Wilfrid Laurier University and York University have welcomed DFL scholars once again for the 2019/2020 academic year.

OUR 2019 ALUMNI



Safaa Zaoui, Morocco
Computer Science
Collège Boréal, Canada



Diana Tarazi, Palestine
Computer Science
New College of Florida, USA



Rozana Jaber, Jerusalem
International Relations/Literature
New College of Florida, USA



Simona Rahi, Lebanon
Economics
New College of Florida, USA



Jaida Zafer Abu-Khader, Jordan
Economics/Accounting & Finance
New College of Florida, USA



Maha Mehanna, Palestine
Peace Studies & Conflict Resolution
Eastern Mennonite University, USA



Mayar Tharawat, Egypt
Physics
Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada



Hiba Miari, Lebanon
Biology Major, Chemistry &
Political Science Minor
Wilfrid Laurier University,
Canada



Wardah AlAkrah, Lebanon
Biology Major, PreMedicine &
Psychology Minor
Manhattanville College, USA



Waad Hassan, Palestine
English Literature & Creative Writing
Manhattanville College, USA



Abeer Obaido, Palestine
Arts
New College of Florida, USA

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 19-20



Liyan Alkawafhah

**Jordan, BA in International Relations
International Relations,
University of Calgary, Canada
Year of Graduation: 2023**

Liyan Alkawafhah is a DFL scholar studying at the University of Calgary in the International Relations Program. She has a passion to close the social, economic and educational divides in her community. She is the first delegate under 18 to represent Jordan at the United Nations (UN). DFL is proud to state that Liyan is currently a Junior Executive at the UN.

Waad Hassan
**Palestine, Master of Arts, English,
Brock University, Canada
Year of Graduation: 2020**

Waad Hassan, who first joined the DFL family as a scholar for her undergraduate studies, continues her education at Brock University to complete a Master of Arts, English degree. Hassan is an avid writer who has published a poem with Z Publishing House and a short story with the Ocotillo Review. By also working as a Teaching Assistant at her university, Hassan is taking a step towards her dream of being a professor.





Saja Saymeh

Palestine, Bachelor of Arts and Management in Global Studies

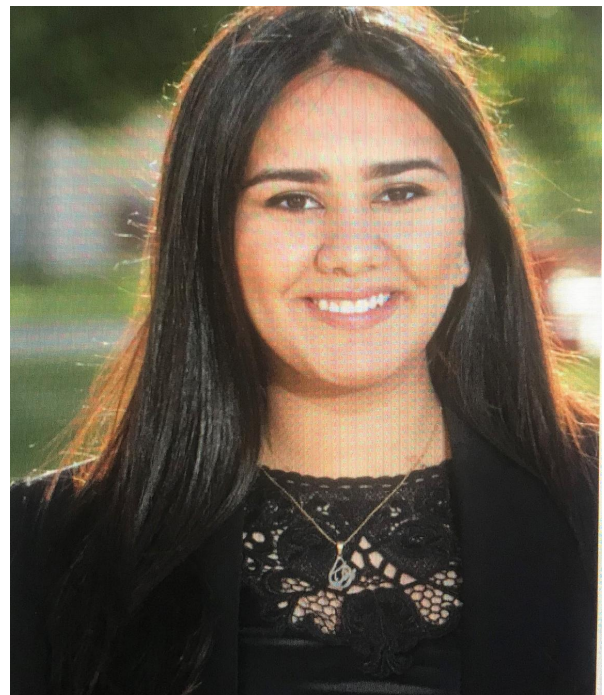
Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada

Year of Graduation: 2023

Saja Saymeh, A Palestinian refugee living in the Gaza Strip is attending Wilfrid Laurier University and will pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies. She currently spends her time volunteering for community mental health programs as well as working on projects that aim to offer cultural and artistic activities for children living in disadvantaged areas.

Rasha Aljibour Almajali
Jordan, Bachelor of Arts in Business
Administration Commerce and Human
Resource Management,
York University, Canada
Year of Graduation: 2023

Rasha Aljibour Almajali, a Jordanian DFL daughter, started her journey at York University to pursue a degree in Commerce with a special interest in Human Resources Management. She founded a social club called 'Building Bridges' as a platform for students to have one-on-one interactions to spark dialogue. Rasha is amongst the top ten scholars securing an A grade in the ADMS program.



CONTINUING SCHOLARS



Alaa El Hajjar
Manhattanville College
May 2020



Merehan Amin Mostafa
University of Rochester
May 2020



Dalia Aita
New College of Florida
May 2020



Marwa Soliman
Manhattanville College
May 2020



Maria Shehata
New College of Florida
May 2021



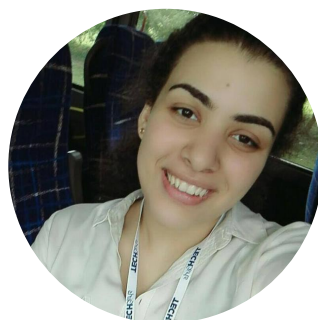
Eva Gorgy Shenoda
York University
May 2021



Ayaat Labbad
Ryerson University
May 2021



Esraa Naguib
Brescia University
May 2022



Passant Metwally
York University
May 2022



Yousra Benradi
Brock University
May 2022



Sara Saad
McMaster University
May 2022

OUR RISING STARS

We would like to highlight some of our scholars who have shown exceptional commitment to personal growth by pursuing academic and professional development opportunities. These Rising Stars reflect the qualities of a Daughters for Life scholar through their hard work and determination.



Alaa El Hajjar

**Chemistry Honors Program,
Manhattanville College**

In 2019, Alaa maintained a place on the coveted Dean's Honor List by achieving excellent grades while successfully operating at a co-president in both the DFL Club and the ACS club at her college. Alaa became the recipient of the Valiant Award for her remarkable skill with the French language.



Maria Shehata

**Computer Science,
New College of Florida**

In 2019, Maria became the recipient of the college's Student Research and Travel Grant (SRTG) in the spring. She also successfully programmed a robot to utilize both light and distance sensors to navigate a room.



Merehan Amin Mostafa

**Political Science, Business & International Relations,
University of Rochester**

In 2019, Merehan maintained a place on the coveted Dean's Honor List by achieving consistently excellent grades, showing her amazing dedication to her studies. Additionally, she was invited to speak at a TED conference, served as a senator for the Students' Association, and is involved in the Senior Giving Campaign Committee in her class council.

Waad Hassan

**Master's of Arts in English,
Brock University**

In 2019, Waad's successes were exemplary. Along with maintaining her record of outstanding grades, her research was accepted at the 28th International Congress of FILLM (Federation Internationale des Langues et Litteratures Modernes/The International Federation of Modern Languages and Literatures) in Vienna, Austria. She was also accepted as a graduate student associate at the Brock Human Research Institute.



Dalia Aita

**Economics,
New College of Florida**

In 2019, Dalia was selected by the SHRA (Sarasota-Manatee Human Resources Association)/Cross College alliance to serve in the role of student mentor. Additionally, she gained excellent experience in a research assistant position for the Public Space Database Project, an endeavour sponsored by the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden in partnership with the United National Habitat project.



Marwa Soliman

**Biology & Computer Science,
Manhattanville College**

In 2019, Marwa secured a position on the Dean's Honor List through her excellent grades and admirable commitment to her studies. She became the recipient of both the sophomore and junior Biology awards and was given the honour of the Leadership and Outstanding Service to the Mary T. Clark Center for Religion and Social Justice award towards the end of the semester.



Wardah Al Akrah

**Biology/Pre-Health,
Manhattanville College**

In 2019, Wardah had a truly magnificent year of achievements. From her perfect academic performance to her many extracurriculars, she truly came into her own over the year. She came in first place at the platform presentation and was invited to attend the 2020 National Chapter Conference as a representative of her district in the greater competition. She was also given an honorable mention as a mentor and received an award for her work in her pre-health minor.





Mayar Tharwat

**Physics,
Wilfrid Laurier University**

In 2019, Mayar took steps to help further the evolution and widen the scope of inclusivity in STEM fields by working with the catalyst startup “FEM in STEM” as an engager. In her role, she assisted in promoting the presence and the need for women in STEM fields, both in the industry and in academia by sharing that message throughout Ontario high schools. 2019 also marked her fourth consecutive time receiving a scholarship and recognition via inclusion on the Dean’s Honour list for her excellent grades.



Maha Mehanna

**Conflict Transformation & Peacebuilding,
Eastern Mennonite University**

In 2019, Maha was hired into a Graduate teaching position, alongside her academic advisor, to teach the course “Analysis: Understanding Conflict” for the duration of her school’s Peacebuilding Institute over the summer. She also participated in the International Students Leadership Conference held at James Madison University of Harrisonburg, Virginia.



Esraa Naguib

**Foods and Nutrition,
Brescia University College**

In 2019, Esraa flourished in keeping up with her studies and was recognized for her efforts by being included on the Dean’s Honors’ List. Moreover, she delivered a presentation outlining her project with the aim to make education more accessible throughout Canada to Western University where it was accepted. The project will be implemented by the university within a course, with her collaboration with a professor. Additionally, Esraa received the opportunity to conduct research at HEAL (Human Environments Analysis Laboratory) at Western University and worked as a nutrition program developer.



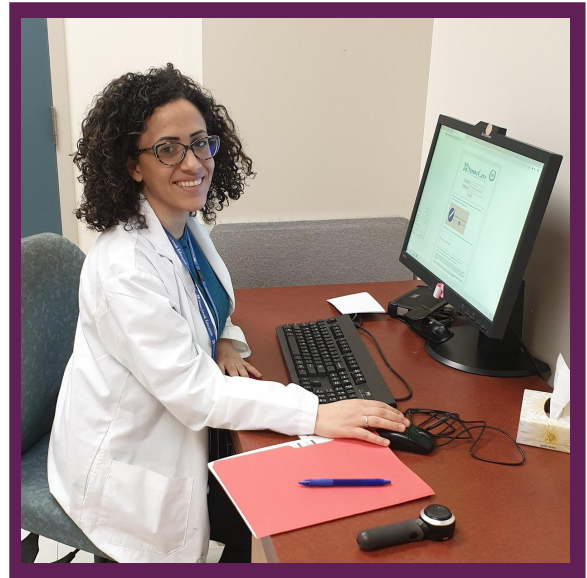
Liyan Alkawafhah

**International Relations,
University of Calgary**

In 2019, Liyan participated in her university’s Model United Nations Club, thriving in her role as a junior executive.

FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT 2019

Hiba Zaroura is our Dermatology fellow at Sunnybrook Health Science Center at the University of Toronto. She started her fellowship July, 2019 and has since been hard at work. She has participated in multiple meetings, including the Toronto Dermatology Society Meeting, the Toronto Psoriasis Seminar (ToPS), Robert S. Lester Postgraduate Dermatology and a Dermatology Fellows Journal club in which she had the opportunity to present her work. She attended a clinic at the Phototherapy Education and Research Centre based in the Women's College Hospital, which exposed her to Phototherapy and Biologic treatment methods for patients. She also attended



a skin lymphoma clinic at Odette center, which is a clinic that combines Dermatology and Oncology. Alongside her clinical experience, she has also participated in teaching Dermatology to medical students. This fellowship has given her a unique access to resources, support, and professional networks that will allow her to cultivate her skills and experience to grow in her career.

By the time she completes her education and returns to her home country, she will have gained substantial knowledge and experience. She plans to use this knowledge to contribute to the Dermatology field and hopes to bring the positive aspects of the Canadian healthcare system to her practice back home. We are really proud of Hiba's continued progress and success as a fellow and can't wait to see what she does next.



7TH ANNUAL GALA 2019

The seventh annual Daughters for Life Gala was held at the Carlu in Toronto, on October 18, 2019. Three hundred guests, that included heads of Canada's top educational institutes, titans of industry, prolific thought leaders and respected philanthropists, attended the fundraising gala in support of the mission that the Daughters for Life Foundation has upheld since its inception, which is to educate women from the Middle East, and empower them to uplift their communities towards peace and progress.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

The evening commenced with a glittering cocktail reception where guests were greeted by Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, the founder of the Daughters for Life Foundation. With the music of Radwan Talib in the background, guests participated in a silent auction to raise funds for the foundation's ongoing efforts to provide educational scholarships to talented young women from the Middle East. Artist Mike Hammer's popular blob art, an exclusive men's suit from LGFG Fashion House were just some of the many coveted items that were auctioned during the evening. Guests were also invited to participate in an exciting raffle, with a chance to win a dinner for four at the glamorous French bistro and cocktail bar, Maison Selby by the famed Oliver & Bonacini group. A photobooth run by Imagica entertained many guests who enjoyed being photographed with fun props.



SCHOLARS' SPOTLIGHT

The annual gala is an opportunity for the foundation's generous donors, educational partners, and the local community to learn about the academic achievements of the scholars that they have been supporting. Daughters for Life scholar, Waad Hassan, an MA in English student at Brock University, delivered this year's scholars speech. The brilliant Waad also moderated a panel discussion on stage with three other scholars of the foundation, who shared their journey of overcoming prejudice and adversity to achieve their dream of pursuing a college education. Award-winning documentarian, author, and acclaimed radio host, Carol Off, emceed the night with her bright, hopeful, and empathetic personality. Following Dr. Abuelaish's welcome address, guests were served dinner and the stage was taken over by the music of Forte band. The elegant voice of Nour Khedder rang through the historic walls of the Carlu, along with the artistry of Edward Tarzi on the guitar, Amir Khoury on the violin, and Johnny Bahri on the piano.



LUMINARY AWARDS

Every year, the gala honours three individuals who've shown exemplary courage in the face of tragedy, and have tirelessly persevered for justice and equality. This year, **Dr. Jean Augustin**, the first African-Canadian woman to be elected to the House of Commons, received the **Trailblazer Luminary Award**. **Dr. James Orbinski**, physician, humanitarian activist, author and leading scholar in global health, received the **The Leadership Luminary Award**. And **Mindy Corporon** from the Faith Always Wins Foundation received the **Courage and Inspiration Luminary Award**. Mindy's father and son were killed in a hate crime in 2014 in Overland park, Kansas. After the raffle winner was announced, it was time to bring the curtains down on a beautiful night of inspiration and empowerment by Abdullah Snobar, the Gala Chair and Daughters for Life Board of Directors Member. We would like to thank the Gala Chair Abdullah Snobar and his team, Weronika Gruszczynska and Natasha Campagna for their efforts in making this year's gala a great success.



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR GALA SPONSORS

PLATINUM SPONSOR

MICHAEL DAN
AND
AMIRA DAN

GOLD SPONSOR

UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH

IMPROVE LIFE.

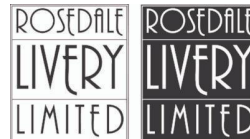
SILVER SPONSORS



SAKKEJHA
FAMILY



IN-KIND SUPPORTERS



ALISHA MUSIL
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AN ARTIST
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THANK YOU, GALA CHAIR AND COMMITTEE

Abdullah Snobar
 Weronika Gruszczynska
 Natasha Campagna
 Jacklin Ibrahim

Dalal Abuelaish
 Shatha Abuelaish
 Darina Landa

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DR. IZZELDIN ABUELAISH
Founder and President

Dr. Abuelaish is an Associate Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. He has received many awards and has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his promotion of human rights and peace.



DALAL ABUELAISH
Founding Director

Dalal is a Quality Assurance Engineer at Moody's Analytics.



SHATHA ABUELAISH
Founding Director

Shatha is a Quality Assurance Lead at Multi-Health Systems Inc.



DR. JACK LIGHTSTONE
Board Director

Dr. Jack is the former President and Vice-Chancellor of Brock University.



DARINA LANDA
Board Director

Darina is the Executive Director of Advancement in the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine.



Shlomit is the Owner and Founder of ATIVE-inspiring.

**SHLOMIT
KENIGSBERG**
Board Director



Paul is the President Emeritus of Victoria University, a college of the University of Toronto.

**PAUL
GOOCH**
Board Director



Abdullah is the Executive Director of DMZ.

**ABDULLAH
SNOBAR**
Board Director



Tina is a long time Partner of the Daughters for Life Foundation. Tina is also the Founder of CultureWorks.

**TINA
BAX**
Board Director



Darryl is the President of Part Time CFO Services Incorporated.

**DARRYL
GOODALL**
Board Director & Trasurer

MEET OUR DFL TEAM

JACKLIN IBRAHIM

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS



Jacklin is integral to the daily operations and successes of the Daughters for Life Foundation. With her extensive experience in communications, public relations, and project management, she ensures every aspect of the DFL programming, communications, and marketing endeavors are functioning. Jacklin can be reached at communications@daughtersforlife.com or (416) 630 0246.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

None of this would be possible without the endless hours from our exceptional volunteers!

Hodan Garbiye, Admin & Operations
Emma Oruc, Scholarship Coordination
Jonathan Chik, Web Designer
Tina Tuyen Vo, Event Coordinator
Shasha Karim, Admin & Operations
Mazen Ibrahim, Marketing & Events
Karin Miron, Scholarship Coordination
Zandile Malaza, Admin & Operations
Talha Ather, Marketing & Communications

Akshata Koli, Marketing & Communications
Shruti Lyer, Marketing & Admin
Albina Yakubiv, Digital Marketing
Karthik Kannan, Digital Marketing
Sally Abudiab, Gala Team
Sarah Ghemraoui, Gala Team
Vasudha Sharma, Editor and Copywriter
Rami Accoumeh, Filmmaker and Photographer
Joy Khalil, Admin & Editing



We strive to advance, invest, and promote higher education for young women living in the Middle East.

Connect With Us

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Daughters for Life Foundation