

CELEBRATING

10

YEARS




OF EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH EDUCATION



Daughters  
For Life  
FOUNDATION

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



*"When you educate a man, you educate an individual. When you educate a woman, you educate a nation" - African Proverb*

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# ABOUT DFL

Founded in 2010, the Daughters for Life Foundation (DFL) is a registered Canadian charity dedicated to providing access to high-quality education to girls and women facing socio-economic adversity and hardship in the Middle East. In 2020, DFL celebrated a decade of investing in and empowering women in the Middle East with the help of our partners across the world. Despite the hardships brought on by COVID-19, we worked tirelessly to continue supporting the dreams of women across the Middle East in pursuing higher education and brighter futures. DFL provides scholarships, financial awards and fellowships to women in the Middle East regardless of their ethnicity, nationality, or religious affiliation.

While DFL's scholarship program helps women pursue post-secondary education globally, the financial awards we deliver support students attending universities in the Middle East. Our fellowship program provides women from universities in the Middle East with the opportunity to participate in academic activities conducted by educational institutions around the world. Our recipients are chosen based on their academic achievements, socio-economic hardships, and their commitment to improving the lives of women in the Middle East.

Since its inception, DFL has helped over 400 girls realize their potential and pursue their dreams. By the end of 2020, we have awarded 59 scholarships for women to study at 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 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 women to challenge themselves as leaders and ambassadors for change. We demonstrate leadership in advocating for the empowerment of women through rigorous admission practices, good governance, innovative funding and professional growth opportunities. We develop and nurture collaborations and partnerships with educational institutions, businesses and community organizations to fulfill our objectives.

## OUR VALUES

- Education
- Cultural diversity
- Women's empowerment through education
- Social mobility
- Peaceful change



### 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 BELIEFS

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.

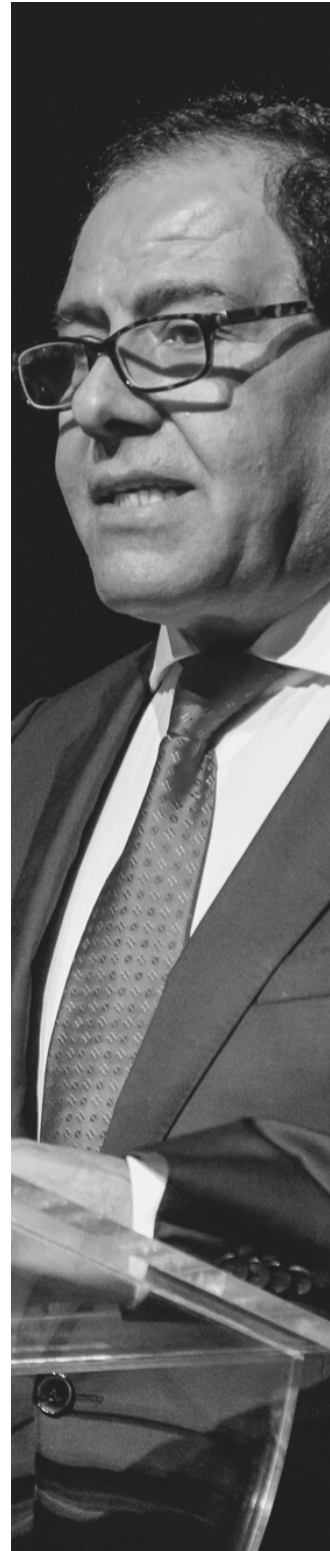
# A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone around the world. Despite the challenges associated with the pandemic and lockdowns, it has brought people together in their struggles globally and caused them to join hands in uplifting each other. Through the help of our partners, donors and volunteers we have continued to work hard in supporting our scholars around the world and providing access to quality education for women in the Middle East. Now more than ever, it is crucial to empower women through education to become agents of change in their communities. We have seen developing countries suffer disproportionately due to COVID-19, and we hope that through our efforts in educating women, we will empower them to be leaders in resolving complex challenges.

In 2020 we celebrated DFL's 10th anniversary. I am so proud of and grateful to all those who have been a part of this remarkable journey over the last decade. Over the last decade, DFL has supported over 400 women through our programs and has formed partnerships with 23 universities across 4 countries. We have made great progress every year and we are counting on your support to ensure that we continue to empower even more women through education every year. I believe that not only does education improve an individual's life, but it also contributes to the development and success of their community. I look forward to seeing all the great things we will achieve together in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish**  
**Founder and President**





# FOUNDER'S 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

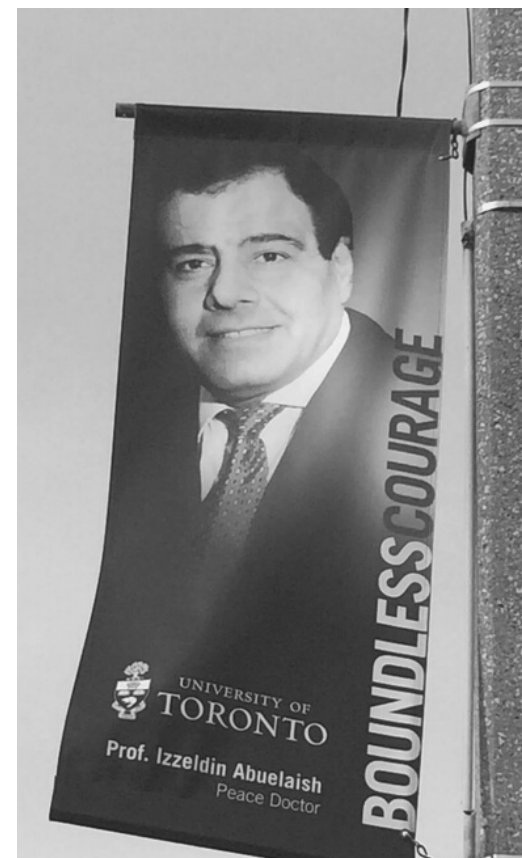


“*Daughters for Life believes that the antidote for hatred is education. Tragedy can't be the end of our lives. We must not allow it to control or defeat us.*”

– Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish

In November 2020 DFL's President and Founder, Dr. Abuelaish was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020-2021 by the California State University. Thanking the University, Dr. Abuelaish dedicated this achievement to every individual fighting against injustice and raising their voice for freedom, equality and justice for all.

In December 2020, Dr. Abuelaish was promoted from Associate Professor to the rank of Professor at the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health.



# A DECADE OF MAKING GREAT IMPACT

**1,800+** DONORS TO DATE

**400+** PROGRAM RECIPIENTS OVER 10 YEARS

**1,122** APPLICANTS SINCE 2011

**341** TOTAL BURSARIES AWARDED

**59** TOTAL SCHOLARS

**5** FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

**23** PARTNER UNIVERSITIES IN 4 COUNTRIES

**9,738** HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE YEARLY



# OUR DAUGHTERS' 2020 IN CAMERA



# PARTNERS, DONORS AND SPONSORS

Daughters for Life (DFL) would like to acknowledge and extend a heartfelt thanks to our partners, donors and volunteers who have remained committed to our cause. Your support, whether in kind, in tuition or through your time, has given hundreds of young daughters from the Middle East the chance to complete their education without financial constraints or to pursue academic degrees in fields such as medicine, arts, literature or technology. DFL will continue to champion for women's empowerment through education by providing brighter futures for women in the Middle East. We know that with your support, we will be successful in this mission.

*T H A N K   Y O U !*

## 2020 Academic Partners



Ryerson  
University



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY



McMaster  
University



Brock  
University



Brescia  
Choose to Lead.



YORK  
UNIVERSITY



LAURIER  
Inspiring Lives.



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



Sunnybrook  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE



Penn  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



New College  
THE HONORS COLLEGE of Florida



Manhattanville  
COLLEGE®

# Donors and Sponsors

The contributions and commitment of our donors have made it possible for us to carry out our mission of empowering women through education and promoting peace in the Middle East. We want to thank them for supporting us and believing in our cause. Their strong support has helped us to continue our efforts in helping to fulfil the dreams of many young women.

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Mura Mudar  
L.W. Veene  
Jill Krishner  
Mark Faiz  
Suleiman Rasheid  
Alaa Tannous  
Thomas Miller  
Bruce Robertson  
Aysha Lockhat  
Yasser Rizvi  
Mona Loutfy  
Paul Gooch  
Martha Fraser  
Binnie Innocenti  
Manuel erickson  
Sylvie Gaspard  
Maggie Bras  
William Butt

## INKIND DONORS

Mike Hammer

## COMMUNITY DONORS

Adrian Family  
St. John's Church  
Student Organization Mahara  
United Way of Greater Toronto  
Nancy's Very Own Foundation

## CORPORATE DONORS

Beneplan  
Rashid & Quinney Chartered  
Accountants  
Igernan Limited  
Part Time CFO Services Inc.

## ONLINE AUCTION

Eric Gerstein (purchase of  
"Venture Capital Crush" by  
Mike Hammer)  
Alexander Moskovitz (purchase  
of "Oh Well, There They Go" by  
Mike Hammer)



# NATIONAL MENTORSHIP DAY

Hosted by DFL fellow, Hiba Zaaroura, the Mentorship Webinar was a great success and a wonderful way to celebrate National Mentorship Day. Hiba is currently completing a clinical fellowship in Advanced Medical Dermatology at Sunnybrook Healthcare Centre in Toronto, and is DFL's first medical fellow in Canada.

DFL launched a mentorship program in November 2020 to help DFL applicants with university applications. The application process can be overwhelming for many students who may be unfamiliar with how to apply to international universities. The mentorship program connected DFL applicants with current DFL scholars and volunteers who helped guide them through the process, providing insight on their applications, including resume and essay submissions, interview tips and educational material. Many participants of the mentorship program were not eligible for a DFL scholarship, but were still able to receive mentorship and guidance.

Daughters for Life Presents

**Mentorship Webinar with host DFL Fellow Hiba Zaaroura**

Dr. Hiba Zaaroura is DFL's first medical fellow in Canada.







# 2020 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS

## Art Auction

To continue to support scholars through their undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate studies, DFL looked to the community for support from our community! DFL organized an auction of 3 artworks created and donated by the talented Canadian artist Mike Hammer. Mike Hammer is a talented Canadian from Calgary, Alberta who uses blobs to create a 3D effect for abstract works of art.

DFL recognizes and appreciates the kindness and support of Mike Hammer, with which DFL was able to raise \$5,020 through the art auction selling the "Oh Well, There They Go" and the "Venture Capital Crush" pieces.

The donated artworks included:

- Oh Well There They Go, 2015
- Ventricular Veracity, 2019
- Venture Capital Crush, 2017



## Virtual Campaigns

DFL launched virtual fundraising campaigns through social media platforms including the #GivingTuesday campaign that encouraged donors to contribute to DFL on Tuesdays by highlighting our scholars' accomplishments. Our Educate a Nation campaign highlighted the importance of women's education and empowerment to the development of nations raising \$6,436.00.

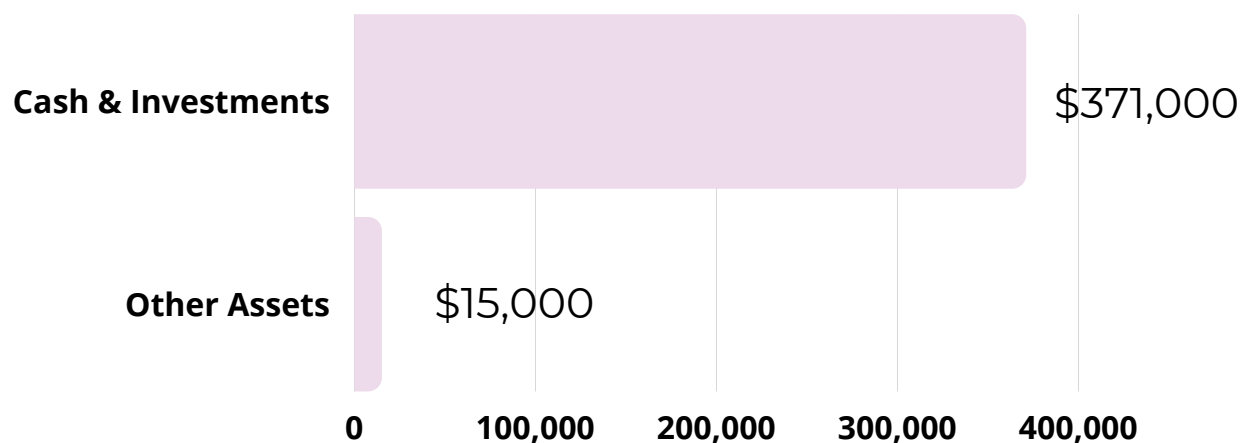
# ANNUAL FINANCIALS

2020 Summary	CAD Dollars
Revenue	<b>136,728</b>
Expenditures	<b>155,508</b>
Surplus/deficit	<b>(18,780)</b>

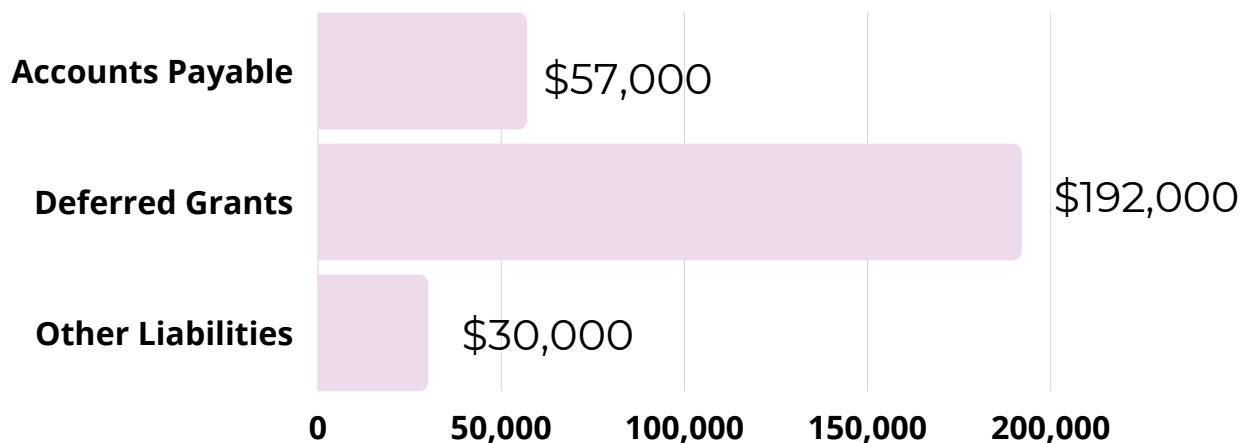
**~\$600,000**

IN-KIND DONATIONS:  
ELEVEN SCHOLARSHIPS AND  
ONE FELLOWSHIP

## TOTAL ASSETS: \$386,000



## TOTAL LIABILITIES: \$279,000



## UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS: \$107,000

# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 20-21

Meet our 2020/21  
scholarship winner:

*Dania Mahadin*



The DFL Foundation is proud to introduce a brilliant new scholar who joined the family in 2020. Dania Mahadin, who joined us from Jordan, is studying engineering at York University. Dania believes that engineering encompasses a wide range of systems that benefit humankind. She looks upon this opportunity to become an engineer with great enthusiasm and motivation believing it will enable her to develop and provide a detail-oriented vision of shared systems that can lead to a common ground for fruitful understanding between different civilizations. Dania has a clear view of how she would like to contribute to her society in the future, and the DFL scholarship serves as a bridge between her keen dreams and a successful future.

With this scholarship, Dania will be able to use her education to enhance her society. Dania understands the benefits of this experience. She says, “engineering provides a great atmosphere for students where all of them are working for the same goal; for a sustainable world”. She asserts that she hopes to be able to share what she learns in her home country, Jordan, and develop and implement the basis for successful experiences in her profession. This is in direct alignment with the DFL motto of educating young girls from the Middle East so they can move forward in uplifting their home countries and societies.



# 2020 ALUMNI



**Waed Hasan**

Master of English Language and Literature, Brock University

Over the course of her DFL scholarship, Waed has consistently maintained an excellent academic track record as an A student, balancing her studies with many ambitions including her work as a teaching assistant at Brock University, her research assistant positions and her community service as an NGO volunteer at a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon. She is currently pursuing her PHD in English at the University of Guelph in Ontario.



**Marwa Soliman**

Double Major in Biology and Computer Science, Manhattanville College

Despite many obstacles, Marwa ended her four years at Manhattanville College with many milestones reached and even more awards earned. Her diligence led to her graduating with Tribeta honors, a distinction specific to studies in Biology and Summa Cum Laude. She additionally received honours in both of her program departments. She was a recipient of the Dr. Ruth Paula Alscher Award and the Castle Pin Award. Marwa remained an active member of the student body, balancing her studies with holding the presidency of her school's Muslim Student Association, membership in the ACS Chemistry Society and the Tribeta Biology Society.



**Alaa El Hajjar**

Chemistry, pre-med with minor in Math, Manhattanville College

By the end of her term in the Spring of 2020, Alaa walked away from her four year academic career at Manhattanville College having triumphantly earned her undergraduate in Chemistry with a minor in Mathematics. Although the pandemic shifted the flow of her studies, Alaa was named on the Dean's list for her final term, and graduated with Honors and the highest distinction of Summa Cum Laude. She was also published in the American Academy of Neurology's Journal, having penned an abstract and submitted a manuscript for publication as well.



**Dalia Aita**

Quantitative Economics, New College of Florida

In Spring of 2020, Dalia achieved her goal of receiving her undergraduate degree in quantitative economics. She remained diligent and ambitious during her time at the New College of Florida by serving as a research assistant for the Public Space Database Project sponsored by KTH Royal Institute in Sweden in partnership with the United-Nations Habitat Project and was later chosen as a student mentor by the cross-college alliance.



**Merehan Amin Mostafa**

Triple Major in Political Science, International Relations, and Business Marketing, University of Rochester

Merehan made the most of her DFL scholarship by pursuing a triple-major and successfully graduated as an elected member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society at her University, securing a spot in the top 120 students at the institution exemplifying her outstanding work. She completed all her courses despite the challenges of the pandemic and has safely returned home to Egypt, bringing her achievements along with her.

# FIRST DFL FELLOW, DR. HIBA ZAAROURA



Daughters for Life is proud of Dr. Hiba Zaaroura, our first fellow. Born in Jerusalem, Dr. Zaaroura was raised in the small village of Reineh in Israel. After finishing high school with excellence, Dr. Zaaroura got into Israel's best medical school in Haifa. During the last year of medical school, Dr. Zaaroura discovered her interest in Dermatology and decided to complete her residency in the Department of Dermatology at Rambam Health Care Campus. After finishing her residency in Israel, Dr. Zaaroura joined the Daughters for Life family in 2019 to start her fellowship in Advanced medical Dermatology at Sunnybrook hospital in Toronto. She completed the program in September of 2020, after which she has taken on the second Fellowship in Pediatric Dermatology at Sickkids.

An opportunity like this is made possible by the gracious support of the donors, partners, and the entire DFL community. Daughters for Life is proud of partnerships with highly accredited institutions such as the University of Toronto. Together, we hope to provide a chance for growth and prosperity for these young women to contribute to the success of their communities.

We believe that empowering women in their professional development is an impactful act of bettering the Middle East countries. After finishing her fellowship in Canada, Dr. Zaaroura hopes she can develop the dermatology field in her community and share her new knowledge with her colleagues and residents.

# CURRENT SCHOLARS



**Eva Gorgy Shenoda**

Biology,  
York University  
Expected graduation:  
2021



**Ayaat Labbad**

Biology,  
Ryerson University  
Expected graduation:  
2021



**Maria Shehata**

Computer Science,  
New College of Florida  
Expected graduation:  
2021



**Esraa Naguib**

Nutrition and Dietetics,  
Brescia University  
Expected graduation:  
2022



**Passant Metwally**

Honours Computer  
Engineering,  
York University  
Expected graduation:  
2022



**Sara Saad**  
Electrical Engineering,  
McMaster University  
Expected graduation:  
2022



**Yousra Benradi**  
Business Administration,  
Brock University  
Expected graduation:  
2022



**Liyan Alkawafhah**  
International Relations,  
University of Calgary  
Expected graduation:  
2023



**Saja Saymeh**  
Global Studies and  
Management,  
Wilfred Laurier University  
Expected graduation:  
2023



**Rasha Aljbour Almajali**  
Commerce and Human  
Resources,  
York University  
Expected graduation:  
2023



# 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.



DARRYL  
GOODALL  
Board Director &  
Trasurer

Darryl is the President of Part Time CFO Services Incorporated.



PAUL  
GOOCH  
Board Director

Paul is the President Emeritus of Victoria University, federated with the University of Toronto.



LORNA JEAN  
EDMONDS  
Board Director

Lorna Jean is a Professor Emerita of Global Health in the College of Health Sciences and Professions at Ohio University.



SHLOMIT  
KENIGSBERG  
Board Director

Shlomit is the Owner and Founder of ACTIVE-inspiring.



ABDULLAH  
SNOBAR  
Board Director

Abdullah is the Executive Director of DMZ.

# THE DFL TEAM

## JACKLIN IBRAHIM

### DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS



As Director of Operations and Programs at DFL, Jacklin plays a significant role in the success of DFL's daily operations and strategic initiatives. Utilizing her extensive experience in communications, public relations, and project management, Jacklin supports and ensures the success of DFL's programming, communications, and marketing activities. Jacklin can be reached at [communications@daughtersforlife.com](mailto:communications@daughtersforlife.com) or (416) 630 0246.

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

We want to thank our volunteers who have selflessly donated their time and effort to DFL's operations. We are proud to note that our volunteers have dedicated a total of 9,738 hours of service each year. Each volunteer has brought their expertise to kindly support DFL in helping our daughters and bringing our vision to life. We are grateful for your continuous work towards a better, more educated world with us.

Hodan Garbiye, Admin and Operations  
Maham Siddiqui, Copyediting and Digital Marketing  
Jonathan Chik, Web Designer  
Karin Miron, Scholarship Coordination  
Karthik Kannan, Digital Marketing  
Toyin Oladosu, Admin and Operations  
Vasudha Sharma, Copywriting  
Joy Khalil, Admin and Editing  
Mohammad Faheem, HR & Copywriting  
Pounesh Kharabi, Scholarship Coordination  
Ana Reynoso, Scholarship Coordination  
Marina Gorgi, Admin and Operations  
Polina Burmistrova, Digital Marketing  
Bibin Joseph, Social Media  
Kirsten Myhal, Social Media  
Waad Hasan, Copyeditor





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

## Connect With Us

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20 De Boers Dr, Suite 380  
Toronto, On M3J 0H1

[www.daughtersforlife.com](http://www.daughtersforlife.com)  
+1 416 630 0246  
[info@daughtersforlife.com](mailto:info@daughtersforlife.com)



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