



# NEWSLETTER

International

September 2012

DRUZE ORPHANS & CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

VOL. 13 NO. 1&2

## A Legacy of Devotion

By Farid Muakkassa, MD  
President

The Druze Orphans and Charitable Organization is very sad to announce the passing of one of its pillars, Dr. Kamel Fuad Muakkassa, who served as President for 10 years.

Dr. Kamel was instrumental in guiding DOCO toward achieving a milestone in its history by collecting more than one and a half million dollars in donations to benefit many organizations under the DOCO umbrella. These organizations are making great strides in helping the Druze Community to take care of its own, as you can see from their letters and reports in this issue.

Dr. Kamel was especially supportive of Beit-el Yateem in Abey, Lebanon. His family, friends and colleagues donated over \$44,000 in his memory to benefit the orphans. This rallying around Kamel's beliefs is a testament to his love, devotion, and commitment to a worthy cause for which he dedicated a lot of his time and energy.

As I take the helm of DOCO, I know his spirit will continue to light our path to continue his legacy of serving the Druze community by helping where the need is greatest.

Needless to say, this would not have been possible without your continued support, you our DOCO family. I take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity in these difficult financial times and ask you kindly, to continue with us on our journey to provide a better future for those who are less fortunate than us.

May God reward you with multiples of your donations, and protect the health and well-being of your families.

## A SALUTE To an Icon of Charity Dr. Kamel Fuad Muakkassa 1949-2012



*Kamel dreaming to become a Neurosurgeon*



*Kamel as a Neurosurgeon*

*This man they call Kamel has walked upon the sand  
With God in his heart and knowledge in his mind, he journeyed from his great land.*

*He met the challenge God set before his life  
Years of study, the marriage to his wife.*

*Sometimes the endless hours of work cause him to despair  
But, he must meet the challenge, with his great knowledge to share.*

*Eyes intense, hands gentle and full of grace  
Lead him through the problems that many patients face.*

*Sometime, before his birth, God gave him a special gift  
That he would work to give mankind a miraculous medical gift.*

*This man, who has seen the great eagle soar  
And heard the mighty oceans roar.*

*Must sacrifice his time with family and wife  
To bring healing to others, to restore life.*

*God smiles gently upon this man  
For he is living in the master plan.*

One of his patients, Sara, wrote this poem to express Dr. Muakkassa's spirit of generosity.



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*(1949-2012)*

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*Aniseh Assaf (1908-2002)*

*Fnuad K. Muakkassa M.D. (1914-2000)*

**Volume 13- Number 1 & 2  
September 2012**

**DOCOC Newsletter**

**PO Box 1433**

**New York, NY 10018**

**(800) 641-5440 - (212) 764-0546**

**Fax: (212)-391-2638**

**Email: docoinc@hotmail.com**

**EDITOR**

**Sahar Muakasa, PhD**

**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**

**Leila Masri**

**Kathy Jaber Stephenson**

**Manal Mayyasi Masri**

**Oumaya Abi Saab**

Published by  
**DRUZE ORPHANS & CHARITABLE  
ORGANIZATION**

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# Letters to DOCOC

*Dear DOCOC,*

Your work, as reported in the September issue of your Newsletter is very impressive. The progress you have made is some areas since my mother passed away is remarkable. She held the Druze Orphanage in high regard, and would be happy with the work you are doing. So in the memory of Nefgi (Nellie) AbuRaslan, I am making a modest donation of \$50.00.

Thank you.

**Diane Mae Richards**  
Washington, D.C.

*Dear Aunt Afifi,*

It was good to talk to you today and learn that you are doing well, thank God. I have enclosed the obituary notice for my cousin, Emily Shoffey (Nezema Simpson's sister) as well as a check made out to DOCOC for the Elderly Care Home in her memory. The check is from my brother, Eddie Jamell and from me as a memorial donation.

Also enclosed is a check from my mother Wadad Jamell's estate in the amount of \$500.00 to be sent to Beit el-Yateem in Abey in memory of her sister, Shams Halime Sarriedine who died recently in Lebanon. I understand that a memorial fund is being established at the Orphanage by Shams' daughter, Rima and this contribution is from my brothers Gene and Eddie Jamell and from me in memory of my aunt.

May you continue to be in good health and blessed by God for all that you do on behalf of those in need.

With very best wishes always,  
**Jeanette Jamell Thrower**  
Arvada, CO

*Dear Dr. Muakasa,*

Attached is a check for \$800.00 for the Druze Orphanage in Abey in memory of Julia Talhouk. My aunt Ada was married to a Nakady who was affiliated with the orphanage so it has great meaning to my family.

I also sent you an Email last week with a picture of my Mom and a written memorial to her that we would like published in the magazine.

Thank you so much  
**Duane Talhouk**  
Mars, PA

*To whom it may concern,*

I am pleased to enclose a check to the Druze Orphans and Charitable Organization in the amount of \$2,000.00 from the Ghassan and Manal Saab Fund, housed at the Center for Arab American Philanthropy. Please designate this grant to where it is needed most.

The Center for Arab American Philanthropy (CAAP) is the only full service Philanthropic institution in the Arab American community working with donors to fulfill their charitable giving goals within and beyond the Arab American community. CAAP offers a variety of giving vehicles including, Individual and Corporate Donor-Advised Funds, Field of Interest Funds, and Giving Circles.

Sincerely,  
**Maha Freij**

Deputy Executive Director & CFO ACCESS  
Dearborn, MI

*Dear Dr. Muakasa,*

Thank you for your continued efforts to make the world a better place. Enclosed you will find a donation for the University Student Residence in Lebanon.

Education is the key to a peaceful future and we truly appreciate your support of our community.

**Linda Boudiab El Awar  
and Malek El Awar**  
Irvine, CA

*Dear Mrs. Afifi Masri,*

Please find enclosed, for your attention, copies of letters of appreciation received from our students who benefited from the Druze Foundation for Social Welfare – Scholarship Fund at the American University of Beirut for the academic year 2011-2012. Your kind contribution to this Fund is highly appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,  
**Essam Makarem**  
Secretary General, Beirut- Lebanon

*Note: please read the students' letters on page 6.*

*Continued on Page 3*

**The challenge is great  
Our strength is greater  
Our faith and values  
are the greatest**

God bestowed a precious gift upon all human beings – the gift of emotional feeling or compassion, which enables us to act or react at the sight of tragedy or misfortune.

When we react to a situation with compassion, we not only help those involved but we derive great joy and we experience a divine happiness and a sense of fulfillment.

The ultimate aim of DOCO is to serve our deserving brethren and assist them to overcome their tragedies and misfortunes and to be able to live with self-respect and dignity as an integral part of the community.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that we at DOCO, are taking big strides in this regard with the help of our volunteers, supporters and you our donors.

Today there are at least 4000 Druze families (that we know of) living all over this great country, approximately 30,000 Druze individuals.

We have developed ourselves as a coherent social, charitable and independent entity in the most advanced nation and leader of the world. We can feel our presence from a street corner café to the corridors of the White House. We have to realize the uniqueness of our situation and take care of our brethren.

May God guide us in the right direction and give us courage, wisdom and the means to achieve our objectives.

*Sabar Muakasa, PhD  
Editor*

## **A Message from Secondary Schooling for Orphans**

Thanks to DOCO donors and many others, the Secondary Schooling for Orphans (SSO) has been able to help 102 students to fulfill their dreams of a better life through education. The SSO is very proud to announce that to date:

**42 students** graduated from High School with a Baccalaureate Degree.

**12 students** graduated with a Bachelor's Degree.

**One student** graduated with a Master's Degree.

**60 students** are attending High School this year.

**18 students** will graduate with Baccalaureate degrees this year.

**15 students** will go to college next year.

**SSO started its noble mission  
for a great cause: subsidizing  
the education of graduates of  
Druze orphanages through  
the High School years.**

**Let us support them**

*Continued from Page 2*

*Dear Supporters,*

With great pleasure and on behalf of the ladies of the Secondary Schooling for Orphans (SSO) I wish to convey our sincere thanks and express our deep gratitude for your support and interest in our organization.

Thank you for your generous contribution and we wish to acknowledge the total amount received for the sum of \$2,655.00 on August, 2012.

We are truly grateful for your support. Your donation is an investment in helping the orphans in their education and their future.

Sincerely  
**Amal Shantouf**  
President, SSO  
Beirut - Lebanon

*Dear Aunt Afjfi,*

I ask God Almighty to bestow good health on you and your family.

I am enclosing a check for \$500 for you to kindly forward to the Druze Orphanage in Abey to sponsor student Wissam Tabet. Many thanks.

You are our pride and support. May God Bless you with longevity and enlighten others to follow in your footsteps.

Yours Truly  
**Nada Abdel-Malak al-Rayes**  
Marina Del Rey, CA

*Dear Mrs. Afjfi,*

As per you request, I visited Beit al-Yateem in Abey, Lebanon in August 2012 and presented checks to Mrs. Hayat al-Nakadi on behalf of the Druze Orphans and Charitable organization (DOCO) amounting to \$45,851.

Sincerely  
**Majd Abou-Ezzideen**  
DOCO Representative  
Beirut - Lebanon

*Dear DOCO Supporters,*

Our annual Fundraising Campaign, in celebration of Eid al Adha, designated for pocket money for the orphans and for our brethren in Syria, proved to be very successful.

We will share more details in our next issue.

Thank  
**DOCO Team**

**We would like  
to encourage you  
to make a difference  
by making a donation to  
DOCO  
to support the  
various needs.**

**It is through your  
donation that you show  
gratitude for those  
charities you love.**

# Geriatric Medical Center Ain Wa Zein Hospital



*Geriatric Medical Center*

The Geriatric Medical Center (GMC) is located in the Chouf region of Mount Lebanon, at 40 km from Beirut and 45 km from Saida. This Establishment's original role was to fulfill the health needs of a region deprived and destroyed by war.

Sheikh Mohammad Abu Chakra, spiritual leader of the Druze Community (Sheikh Al Akl) founded the "Home for the Aged" in 1978, to provide quality health care for the elderly. Eventually this "Home" was improved to become an Elderly Care Center serving 75 residents.

In 2004, The Board of Trustees along with the Management started planning for a new larger geriatric facility fully equipped for providing inpatient services to 300 residents in addition to providing outpatient services.

The Geriatric Medical Center sits on a 10,000 square meter parcel of land, located south of Ain Wazein Hospital. It is designed as four large square blocks with pitched tiled roofs similar to those found in traditional Lebanese houses. These blocks are arranged as two symmetrical wings connected by a central block.

The center has 150 patients' rooms, 18 first class suites and 132 double occupancy rooms, in addition to clinics, therapy areas and offices. Fifty rooms at the garden level are directly accessible to beautifully landscaped grounds. The cost of building was estimated to be twelve million US dollars. Construction was executed in two phases. The foundation stone was laid on September 2004. The center opened its doors to its first customers in August 2009.

## **Objectives of the Geriatric Medical Center:**

To optimize the health of resident patients in the center; to improve the functional status of patients and maximize their independence through individual and group rehabilitation; to assist residents with their day to day activities through nursing support as well as recreational and social activities; to prevent illnesses, through routine surveillance of their health and immunization. to enhance the knowledge of health care practitioners (physicians, nurses, therapists) in the field of geriatrics and gerontology and train future practitioners in the above fields so that they can provide good medical and nursing care to patients wherever they are planning to practice: to act as a resource for other centers in the area for training and support and to be a research center in the field of geriatrics.

## **Services**

**Outpatient clinics:** The clinic offers medical care to elders living in the community, is open on Tuesday and Thursday morning of each week.

**Acute Care Unit:** A team of residents from the American University of Beirut, nursing staff, physical therapist, dietitian and a social worker. The unit offers educational classes to the patients and family on Skin Care, Nutrition, Immunization, Polypharmacy, Falls, and Exercise.

**Rehabilitation Unit** This unit aims at providing rehabilitation services (physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy) in addition to medical treatment. These services will be provided by a rehabilitation team consisting of a rehabilitation specialist, geriatrician, physical therapists, occupational and speech therapists. Patients who will benefit from these services include stroke patients, post hip surgery patients, amputees, or any other patient who is in need of strengthening exercises in order to stay fit and functioning in the community.

**Psycho geriatric Alzheimer's Unit:** This unit aims at improving the elderly mental abilities and psychological status in order that they manage their own care with the least possible help. It also provides medical, nursing, and psychological support for patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease and other psychological disorders, such as depression. This unit meets the elderly psychological and mental needs, particularly since it provides fenced gardens for the exclusive use of patients.



*The elderly celebrating a birthday*

**Intermediate Medical Care:** This unit aims at providing rehabilitation and medical care to elders who have been exposed to diseases that prevent them from returning to their homes upon discharge from the hospital. Geriatricians, physiotherapists, and physicians will be working together to improve the functional status of the patients and to maximize their independence.

**Long term unit:** his unit aims at preserving and improving the elders' physical and mental health through day to day medical care by an interdisciplinary team and rehabilitation by a physical and occupational therapist. Patients will be enrolled in exercise programs to maximize their functional independence. They will be encouraged to



*The young visiting their elders*

perform their daily activities as much as possible. The Geriatric team is an interdisciplinary team consisting of a geriatrician, general practitioner, social assistant, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, BS nurses and volunteers.

The nursing team will provide 24 hour nursing care to these dependent elders, medication, and other services prescribed by their physicians. Physiotherapist will be conduct training sessions for patients, working on strengthening their muscles through daily exercises using state of the art machines. The social assistant will provide psycho-social support to residents of the center, organizing trips and other activities aimed at improving the psychological well being of these patients.

**Hospice Unit:** (to be constructed) this unit will provide end of life care for elders who suffer from incurable illnesses such as cancer that is not responding to surgery, chemotherapy and/or radiation. It provides medical, nursing and psychological care. The treating team will focus on eliminating pain, in addition to providing psychological and religious counseling to the patients and their families.

#### **Financial Coverage**

The Health Establishment of the Druze Community is a private, non-profit organization that aims at providing the best

possible care to the elderly in need of longterm care. The Lebanese Ministry of Health covers a certain portion of the cost of care, while other expenses are covered by families and friends of the hospital.

We strongly encourage you to be a friend of the elderly care center, to support the mission of the center which is to offer the best possible medical, nursing and psycho-social care to these elders in need, as well as to the educational mission of the center which aims at teaching geriatrics and gerontology to various kinds of health care students (medical students, nursing students, etc.).

#### **Volunteers**

The activities of the Geriatric Care Center and those of its residents are diverse and are highly supported by ECC volunteers. The residents are in great need of the social support, friendship, and recreational activities that are offered by the center's staff with the help of our volunteers.

Volunteers began their activities in the Health Establishment of the Druze Community in 1995 at the Elderly Care Center. Two dentists started their volunteer work but this expanded in 1998 to include all aspects of care such as social and leisure activities in addition to assistance with personal care.

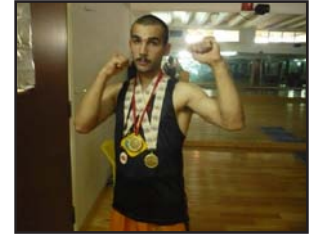
Currently, the center is supported by 50 standby volunteers and 15 on weekly basis, who help residents individually, organize or assist in trips in the community, and arrange for birthday parties for residents at the center. They help in organizing and conducting the festivities in June for Grandparents Day through a program designed to provide elders in the community, and from other nursing homes with recreational activities, as well as lunch and other cultural activities.



*The Volunteers of the Elderly Care Center*

**The Elderly Care Center  
is in great need for our help  
Please help us to support them**

## **Rabih Zahr Gold Medal Winner in the 2012 World Kickboxing**



*Rabih Zahr, World Gold Medal Winner*

*By Jad Dean*

**I**t is our pleasure to inform you that Rabih Zahr has won the gold medal in the 2012 WKA (World Kickboxing Association) Championships in Full Contact Kickboxing in Orlando, Florida.

Rabih is from Abadiye and is the son of proud parents Bashir and Hayat Zahr. Rabih has been training full and semi-contact kickboxing from a very young age, and has won the official Lebanese Kickboxing tournament a record 17 times. He has recently been awarded the prestigious 3rd dan honour in Kyokushin Karate.

One of Rabih's lifetime goals was to win the Kickboxing World Championships, which he has finally achieved through hard work, dedication, and sacrifice. On route to his gold medal, he defeated the British and American national champions, who were both touted as favourites to win the tournament.

It is his lifetime ambition to become a professional and compete all over the world. This dream is close to reality, as he has impressed many individuals in the fight business to an extent that he has his first two professional bouts booked in France and Kuwait.

Rabih will visit the Druze Orphanage (Bait Al Yateem) in Abey to speak to the children and not only inform them of his success, but also motivate them through his inspirational story. He is a true role model and we wish him the best of success in his future endeavours.

# Today's Students Tomorrow's leaders

## Can you help support an AUB Druze Student?

The Druze Foundation for Social Welfare (DFSW) Scholarship Fund Program was initiated in 2002 in cooperation with the American University of Beirut (AUB). The aim of the program is to furnish needy students with a partial scholarship that covers 35% of the tuition fees, to be matched by 35% from the AUB Scholarship fund. For the last 10 years DOCO supporters have been helping to support Druze students at the American University of Beirut.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of many students by helping them to realize their dreams of getting a good education.

These letters are a witness to your generous donations.

*Dear Donor,*

Having learned that I was being granted financial assistance by your generous foundation, I could not help but express my gratitude.

Though it is unfortunate that I cannot thank anyone of your in person, I hope that this letter will suffice. It is an honor to be given aid from a truly humanitarian and magnanimous institution such as you.

In a world where great difficulty constrains us, it is truly a relief to know that there are those out there who rightly and unselfishly care for their fellow man. Financial difficulty and one's living situation have proven time and again to be an impediment to proper education and reaching one's full potential.

A foundation such as yours is what truly helps spread good will among people and afford them the chance to really fulfill their potential as they attempt to reach the careers and lifestyles that they strive for. Thank you all again for your great charity and work in our society for providing people not simply with grants, but with the power of education and skill so as to make something of themselves, much like the metaphorical teaching of "a man to fish" as opposed to simply giving him. Such is the work a truly wise and generous charity.

With great appreciation,  
**Faysal Kordab**

*Dear Druze Foundation,*

I would like to thank you for your generosity which has aided me greatly in achieving my dream to become an electrical engineer.

I promise from the bottom of my heart that I will not fail you or forget your kindness and thoughtfulness, because you have replenished my hopes and filled my life with joy and happiness. I would like others to acquire the same privilege. Therefore, in the future I will like to donate a portion of my income to help the less fortunate achieve the same dreams and opportunities that you have blessed upon me.

Yours sincerely  
**Imad Abou Aychi**

*Dear Druze Foundation for Social Welfare Scholarship*

I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude for granting me this scholarship and helping me pursue my education in one of the elite universities of Lebanon. I'm honored to be chosen by your foundation among the few who were granted this scholarship. I hope I prove myself worthy of this grant and be able to be an active part of my society someday.

Thank for your generosity  
**Bassel Bou Dargham**

*To the Druze Foundation for Social Welfare Scholarship*

Thank you for granting me this scholarship. I am able to continue my education at the American University of Beirut, pursue my goal in life and become a better person. I am very honored because you have chosen to help me and put your trust in me. I hope that I will not disappoint your trust in me. I will be able to help many people in the future since I am intending to be a doctor.

Your help has enabled my dream to come true and making my parents proud of me. I hope one day, I will be able to help students that will need what I need now.

Thank you  
**Madeleine Yehai.**

*To the Druze Foundation for Social Welfare Scholarship*

I, Majed Zaher, a current AUB student, am being privileged by the donation of the Druze Foundation for Social Welfare Scholarship to support the payment of my annual tuition.

I am sending his letter to thank this benevolent foundation for the generous donation it is giving me, I want to also thank you on behalf of myself and other fellow students benefiting from these donations, knowing that it helps support us to attain a proper education.

Thank you,  
**Majed Zaher**

*Dear Druze Foundation for Social Welfare Scholarship*

I am writing this letter to thank you for your generous award for me. I am glad to be chosen as a recipient of this prestigious award. Without this award I can't continue my education at the American University of Beirut.

I am pursuing a BE degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Then will be working on my Masters and PhD degree in Physics. This can be only achieved by your support.

Thank you for your generosity  
**Samir Nasr**

*Dear Messrs. Druze Foundation,*

I would like to express my gratitude for your generous donation that added to the financial aid I was granted for the academic year 2011-2012. Our education at AUB is made easier and more accessible because of people like you holding responsibility towards us; and AUB students hope for more people who take the initiative for aiding them in their studies. Hopefully we can add to those contributions after we graduate to a make other students' experience at AUB similar to ours.

Sincerely  
**Farah Hani**

## مجلتي المفضلة

### رسولة بيت اليتيم

انني من هواة المطالعة على اختلاف انواعها خصوصا الكتب الادبية والشعرية. اما مجلتي المفضلة فهي مجلة الميثاق او كما اسميها رسولة بيت اليتيم الدرزي في الوطن والمهجر. لقد عرفتها منذ صدور العدد الاول. تصدر مجلة الميثاق شهريا منذ الاربعينات وان أعدادها تزين مكتبة بيتنا وتحمل في طياتها الاخبار التفصيلية عن سير مؤسسة اليتيم الدرزي التي احببتها وما زلت احبها وسأظل احبها دوما.

ما ان استلم مجلة الميثاق حتى اتصفحها بشوق صفحة صفحة متمتعة بأخبارها ومقالاتها الشيقة في الادب والاجتماع. كما تزودني بالأخبار السارة عن سير بيت اليتيم الدرزي في عيبه وصور الاطفال وابتسامتهم الدائمة وعن نشاطات النساء في الوطن والمهجر لجمع التبرعات لهذه المؤسسة الكريمة من خلال تنظيم الحفلات. كما تقوم بعض العائلات في لبنان بدعوة الايتام الى الغذاء في منازلهم او في المطاعم. كما يحتفلون بعض العائلات بعيد ميلاد اولادهم مع اطفال بيت اليتيم الدرزي الذين يشاطرون الفرحة ويهنئون صاحب العيد ويوزعون عليهم الحلوى والهدايا.

ويفرحني أكثر عندما أقرأ اسماء المحسنين والمحسنات الذين يرسلون تبرعاتهم الى بيت اليتيم الدرزي من خلال مؤسسة اليتيم الدرزي والأعمال الخيرية في أميركا وكم يسرني عندما توزع الخريجات على الايتام والمعوزين في عيد الاضحى المبارك. بوركت القلوب الخيرة ووافر الشكر والتقدير للمشرفين على هذه المجلة. فهي كما قلت دوما انها مجلتي المفضلة فهي حقا رسولة بيت اليتيم.

جعلكم الله من السعداء في الدنيا والآخرة

عفيفة عساف المصري

مندوبة بيت اليتيم في المهجر

## Letters of Thanks from Students at University Student Residence



*Safa'a Fabd Zeineddine*

### A Word of Truth Must Be Told

I was able to reach college because of my strong desire, my seriousness throughout my school years and my God given intelligence. My early school years, with pleasant and bitter moments, were easy because I was in the bosom of my family in a safe village atmosphere filled with care, love and compassion.

But I am now in the big city, attending a new college, among strangers with habits and custom as different as the students themselves. I confide to myself: this is no big deal as long as my goal is only learning. As my freshman year ended; I began, to look for another place more safe and secure.

This place that I currently reside in belongs to the University Student Residence (USR). In this strange city atmosphere, I was drawn to this big Druze family oriented residence. Thanks to Bani Maarouf's strong ties and traditional values, my family life was restored by the dorm's supervisors who behave like our own mothers and friends who became like our sisters and gracious administrators who willingly dedicate themselves to assisting us in all matters of our concern.

Thank you for directing me to this family oriented residence that is filled with faith, love and security.



*Alaa Hamade*

My name is Alaa Hamade. I came from Jordan to Lebanon, my home land, searching for safe residence.

I was guided to University Student Residence where I live a real family life, after my mother's recent death.

Currently, I am pursuing a degree in social work at Modern University for Business & Science (MUBS). I am also working at the Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union (LPHU) as a recruitment consultant, in the socio-economic integration project.

To me everything is nice in spite of the difficulties I face every day. But among my new family I found safety and comfort.



*Druze Children in Swaida, Syrian's who have benefited from your donations*

# A Salute to an Icon of Charity



**D**r. Kamel Fuad Muakkassa, a neurosurgeon whose passion, intellect and generosity changed the lives of everyone around him, passed away on May 13th, 2012 in Akron, Ohio at the age of 62. He was the son of the Late Dr. Fuad Kamel Muakkassa and Leila Hamadeh Muakkassa.

Dr. Muakkassa, a supremely skilled neurosurgeon, had a zest for life so profound that it will live on in all those who had the privilege of knowing him. Dr. Muakkassa was married to the love of his life, Rola Mansour Abu Faraj for 27 years. He enjoyed spending time with his wife, his children and grandchildren, upon whom he imparted many of his best qualities, including his giving nature, his unique love of life, his humor and his wit.

Dr. Muakkassa mastered an extraordinarily wide range of talents and insisted on sharing his expertise by teaching those around him. His passions included bridge, golf, tennis, soccer, swimming, horseback riding, skiing, scuba diving, classical music, playing violin and piano, orchestral conducting, backgammon, bowling, board games, cooking, travel and international affairs. All of this was in addition to the undeniable impact of his life's work: his relentless clinical and humanitarian achievements in the world of neurosurgery.

As Primary Founder, President and CEO of The Center for Neuro and Spine Inc. (CNS) and former Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery of Children's Hospital of Akron, Dr. Muakkassa was a Board Certified Neurological Surgeon who had been serving his community in Akron for over 27 years. He most recently co-founded Akron General's Neuroscience Institute in 2011, which focuses on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitations of the disorders of the brain, spine and peripheral nervous system.

Dr. Muakkassa performed more than 8,000 neurosurgical procedures and treated over 10,000 patients and had the uniquely broad background of addressing both pediatric and adult spine, brain and peripheral neurological disorders. Dr. Muakkassa advanced the treatment options in his community by being the very first surgeon in Akron to perform an Anterior Cervical Discectomy with Fusion and Plating

Thousands of these surgeries are now performed here annually. Additionally, Dr. Muakkassa was the first surgeon to perform cutting-edge awake surgery for treating epilepsy patients at Akron General Medical Center back in 1986. Other firsts include placing pumps or spinal electrodes for pain management and spasticity, vagal nerve stimulators for depression and seizures and untethering complex spina bifida tumors.

Dr. Muakkassa graduated from The American University of Beirut with a degree in Medicine in 1974. He completed a residency in general surgery as chief resident at AUB, a residency in neurosurgery as chief resident at the State University of New York Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, New York, and a pediatric neurosurgery fellowship as chief fellow at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada. After his specialization, he returned to Lebanon to help establish a Neuro-Science Center in Kafarfalous, southern Lebanon sponsored and funded by the late Prime Minister of Lebanon Mr. Rafic Hariri. This center was to serve the whole Middle East but the war and instability in the area prevented the accomplishment of this big project.

Dr. Muakkassa most recently served as Associate Clinical Professor in Neurosurgery at Northeast Ohio Medical University. He also served as Chief of the Neurosurgery division at Barberton Citizens Hospital and Mercy Medical Center. He is published in peer review journals and received multiple awards including the Summit County Award of Excellence for Outstanding Medical Services to the Community, Teacher of the Year Award and the award for medical services to the Bosnian war victims. He was also a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS), the Congress of Neurosurgeons (CNS), Summit County Medical Society, Ohio State Medical Association, International Society of



*Kamel with the children of Beit al-Yateem*

Pediatric Neurosurgery, Ohio State Neurological Society and the Joint Section on Neuro-trauma and Critical Care of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons.

Dr. Muakkassa also supported his wife in volunteer service to the Akron Symphony, the Ohio Ballet, the Summit County Medical Alliance and the Women's Auxiliary Board of Akron General Medical Center. Even through her work, he found ways to give of himself. On one occasion he even conducted the symphony in support of the arts. He was one of the founders of the AUB Chapter of North East Ohio and he served as its president for two consecutive terms. He was also deeply devoted to charitable works; most notably, serving as president of the Druze Orphans and Charitable Organization (DOCO) for 10 years

Representative Hon. Dan Burton of Indiana gave a tribute to Dr. Kamel Fuad Muakkassa in the House of Representatives on May 17, 2012. [Congressional Record Volume 158, Number 71 (Thursday, May 17, 2012)][Extensions of Remarks][Page E828]. Hon Burton concluded: "Dr. Muakkassa will forever be an accomplished Doctor, philanthropist, husband, and father



*Kamel conducting the Akron Symphony Orchestra*



# Dr. Kamel Muakkassa (1949-2012)



L to R: Grandchild Basel, Kamel, son Fuad, wife Rola, grandchildren Elle, and daughter Leila

whose dedication to medicine, and selflessness will be carried through the legacy he has left in the field of medicine.”

A viewing was held on May 16th, 2012 at Catavolos Funeral Home in Akon, Ohio, attended by many colleagues, friends, relatives, and patients. Touching Eulogies was given by his wife Rola, daughter Leila, son Dr. Fuad, Mrs. Manal Ghassan Saab, and Mr. & Mrs. Sam and Salma Gibara. Per his wishes, Dr. Muakkassa was buried in Beirut, Lebanon.



Kamel meeting with Mrs. Hayat al-Nakadi

Dr. Muakkassa is survived by his wife, Rola Mansour Abou Faraj; his son, Dr. Fuad; his daughter, Leila Muakkassa and husband Wassim Kheireddine; his brother, Dr. Wael Muakkassa and wife Rima Himadeh Muakkassa; his brother, Dr. Farid Muakkassa and wife Dr. Rima Ghosn Muakkassa; his sister, Dr. Sahar Muakkassa; his sister, Dr. Samar Muakkassa Kelly and husband Dr. Peter Kelly; his sister, Majd Muakkassa Abu-Izzeddin and husband Faisal Abu-Izzeddin; his grandson, Bassel Kheireddine; his granddaughter, Elle Kheireddine; his eight nephews Omar, Naji, Camille, Kareem and Ryan Muakkassa, Roger Kelly, Dr. Christopher Kelly, Jad



Kamel with his grandchildren, Bassel and Elle Kheireddine

Abu-Izzeddin; his two nieces, Dr. Nora Muakkassa and Linda Muakkassa; his brother-in-law, Ramzi Mansour Abou Faraj; his sister-in-law, Rania Mansour Abou Chakra and husband Ayman Abou Chakra and their children, Ghazi and Rola Abou Chakra.

Donations in his memory for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital totaled \$10,000.00. Donations for the Druze Orphans (Biet al-Yateem) in Abey, Lebanon totaled \$44,645.00.

Arabic poem for Kamel by Mr. Shehadeh Khoury

لئن غاب عنا كامل حين غفلة  
فذكره تبقى في العقول طويلا  
لقد كان شهما عارفا ومهذبا  
وكان مثالا للهدى و دليله  
فكم جاءه مرضى فطابت نفوسهم  
وعاد سليماً من أتاه عليلا  
وفقدانه أدمى القلوب و حزننا  
عليه سيقى ثابتاً و ثقيلاً  
وذكره يبقى في العقول معطراً  
يهب كما هب النسيم عليلا  
نعزي ذويه ام نعزي نفوسنا  
ومن بعده لسنا نلاقي بديلا

بقلم الكاتب شحاده الخوري

٢٠١٢ / ١٤

مع تحياتي عفتي وكرمي

**Shehadeh Khoury.** Born in Syria in 1924, graduated from the University of Law in 1947 and received a degree in Arabic language in 1957. He is a writer, translator, blogger, and poet and published more than 12 books in Arabic.

I met Kamel Muakkassa at a wedding party in 2003, the very day I retired from Goodyear. My wife, Salma, had known his wife, Rola, for 10 years. By the end of the evening, I felt I had known Dr. Muakkassa just as long.

I soon discovered that I was not alone. Dr. Muakkassa had a rare gift for human attraction. He connected with people immediately. Besides his widely acknowledged surgical skills, it is this oversized human dimension that made him the widely renowned neurosurgeon he was. My wife and I attended the calling hours following his recent death at age 62. Endless streams of people, progressing in long lines to pay their respects, included not just his family and friends but also grateful patients and their families. There were many stories of Dr. Muakkassa getting up in the middle of the night to rush to a hospital for an emergency brain surgery after a car crash. Other stories told of how he courageously took his own practice of medicine to the outer edge, often taking risks to save lives. He was a very talented man with many strings to his bow. An accomplished musician, an opera lover and a bridge player of international caliber, he excelled, too, in sports. He enjoyed tennis, golf, skiing and soccer, the latter until his wife convinced him that at 60, it is safer to watch the game on television. But as impressive as the diversity of his interests was, it was his intense desire to share his knowledge and his passions with other people that was his real trademark.

Dr. Muakkassa was a teacher at heart. Along with my wife and many other friends, I learned to play bridge from him. He was The Professor. He had written a bridge manual and was thinking of publishing it. His illness interfered with his plan. Above all, he was a generously caring person who loved life passionately. And this passion was infectious. He became the center of a large group of people who started out as friends and ended up feeling part of his family. His loss will be felt not only by his family and friends, but also by the whole medical community in Northeast Ohio. We are all the poorer for it.

**Sam Gibara**

**Sam Gibara** was Chairman of the Board of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company from July 1, 1996 until his retirement on July 1, 2003. Gibara was knighted in the French Order of National Merit and inducted into the American Academy of Achievement.

## Donations in Memory of Dr. Kamel Muakkassa to Beit al-Yateem totaled \$44,645

Donor	\$	Donor	\$	Donor	\$
<i>From his family:</i> His wife Mrs.Rola	6,000	Mr. & Mrs. Samir & Ghunwa Shaia	200	Mr. & Mrs. Nadim & Rima Halabi	80
Mansour Abu Faraj Muakkassa, and his Children Dr. Fuad Kamel Muakkassa and Leila Muakkassa wife of Mr. Wassim Kheireddine and their Children Bassel and Elle Kheireddine		Ms. Mona Nemer	200	Dr. & Mrs. Riad & Nelly Laham	75
Mr.& Mrs. Ghassan & Manal Saab	5,000	Mr. & Mrs. Kamal & Ilham Ghosn	200	Mr. & Mrs. J Steven & Betsy King	65
CNS Center for Neuro and Spine, Inc.	5,000	Mr. & Mrs. George & Randa Khoury	200	Mr. & Mrs. Frank & Susan St. George	50
Dr. & Mrs. Wael & Rima Muakkassa & their Children Omar, Dr. Nora & Naji	1,500	Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Zena Debs	200	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony & Rima Maghes	50
Drs. Farid & Rima Muakkassa	1,500	Mike Jabbour & Family	200	MS. Karen Shibley	50
Mrs. Leila Nadim Hemadeh Mansour	1,000	Mr. & Mrs. Rabih & Yasmine Ghosn	200	Mr. & Mrs. David & Ghada Aramouni	50
Abu Faraj, Engineer Ramzi Mansour Abu Faraj, Engineer Rania Mansour Abu Shakra wife of Ayman Abu Shakra and their Children Ghazi & Rola Abu Shakra		Mr. & Mrs. Farouk & Rania Zeineldeen	200	Mr. & Mrs. Maroun & Ccynthia Mhanna	50
Mr. & Mrs. Omar & Faten Salaheddine	1,000	Dr. & Mrs. Constantin & Randa Farah	150	Mr. & Mrs. Jihad & Rima Kawkabani	50
Dr. & Mrs. George & Muriel Makarian	1,000	Drs. Jose & Shanaz Shakoori	150	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony & Leila Vestouli	50
Dr. & Mrs. Fawzi & Henriette Mercho	500	Radiology & Imaging Services, Inc.	150	Dr. & Mrs. Amir & Tania Aalamir	50
Dr. & Mrs. Victor & Marie Louise Khouzami	500	Dr. & Mrs. Wael & Sawssan Khoury	125	Mr. & Mrs. Bassam & Raghida Halasa	50
Mr. Miles Scheatter & Dr. Marjorie Demund	500	Dr. & Mrs. Khalil & Alma Korkor	125	Mr. Michael Bernatovicz	50
Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Jeaneete Boukzam	500	Dr. & Mrs. Rahees & Ahed Lababidi	100	Mr. Camile Ghorayeb	50
Dr. & Mrs. Sami & Leila Masri	500	Mr. & Mrs. Tanois & Mirna Debs	100	Dr. Ranandra Dasvarma	50
Mrs. Afifi Assaf Masri	500	Ms. Diane M. Evans	100	Dr. & Mrs. George & Janet Nankervic	50
Dr. & Mrs. Akram & Luna Masri	500	Mr. & Mrs. Ibrahim & Lina Bshara	100	Mercy Medical Center	50
Mr. & Mrs. Nabil & Iman Masri	500	Mr. & Mrs. John & Rowaida Gashash	100	Dr. & Mrs. Anthony & Jean Locastro	50
Mr. & Mrs. Abboud & Amal Assaf	500	Ms. Ami Saraiya	100	Mr. & Mrs. Todd & Staci Bates	50
Mary E. Lesko	500	Mr. & Mrs. George & Daad Chamoun	100	Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Penny Borton	50
Kisling, Nestico & Redick, LLC, Att. at Law	500	Dr. & Mrs. Adnan & Roba Mourany	100	Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Jill Burnstine	50
Druze Orphans & Charitable Org.	500	Mr. & Mrs. Maroun & Nidal Daher	100	Dr. & Mrs. Khaled & Sawsan Chouki	50
Drs. Peter & Samar Muakkassa Kelly & sons Dr. Christopher & Roger Kelly	400	Ms. Ferial Boukzam	100	Dr. & Mrs. Rrichard & Marcia Hirsh	50
Mr. & Mrs. Faris & Sonai Alameh	350	Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Haifa Hanna	100	Mr. & Mrs. Kameel & Rula Najjar	50
Drs. Michael Doyle, Aida Safer, Khatib Jafri Francisco Peras & Kimberly Morton	300	Mr. & Mrs. Baz & Mona Debaz	100	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry & Marilyn Seals	50
Mr. & Mrs. Nabil & Jumana Assaf	300	Mr. & Mrs. Mousa & Raeda Kakish	100	Mr. & Mrs. Congeni	50
Dr. & Mrs. Nihad & May Boutros	250	Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Grace Scarcella	100	Mr. & Mrs. Rocco & Gfina Coponi	50
Dr. & Mrs. Ramzi & Linda Masri	250	Dr. & Mrs.T & Namdomo Kulasekaran	100	Mr. & Mrs. George & Martha Bethea	50
Dr. & Mrs. Waleed & Hala Nemer	250	Mr. & Mrs. Saad & Annette Sanyurah	100	Mr. & Mrs. Anis al-Moughawesh	50
Dr. & Mrs. James Lehman, Jr.	250	Mr. & Mrs. Khaleel & Samar Deeb	100	Mr. George Tabeji	50
Mr. Andrew Kruman	250	Dr. & Mrs. Zouhair & Carol Yassine	100	Mr. Charles M. Bechara, Jr.	50
Staff of Akron General Medical Ctr	250	Ms. Fetna Mikati	100	Mr. Ray Nemer	50
Mercy Medical Center, Dept, of Surgery	200	Ms. Malahat Malahfji	100	Mr. Adib Halabi	50
Dr. Sahar Fuad Muakkassa	200	Mr. & Mrs. Frank & Arze Witschey	100	Mr. Chad Dakdouk	50
Camille Farid Muakkassa	200	Mr. & Mrs. Larry & Nawzat Fisher	100	Mr. Tony Touna	50
Linda Farid Muakkassa	200	Dr. & Mrs. Thomas & Kristil Pielstick	100	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & Janet Mure	50
Kareem Farid Muakkassa	200	Dr. & Mrs. Fady & Palma Faddoul	100	Mr. & Mrs. Mathew & Anthea Daniels	40
Ryan Farid Muakkassa	200	Mr. Emille Debs	100	Mr. & Mrs. Haurice & Faye Abood	40
Mr. & Mrs. Faisal & Majd Muakkassa	200	Dr. Al Ciraldo	100	Mr. Mark Merhi	30
Abuezzidine and son Jad		Mr. & Mrs. Edgar & Gilberte Ashkar	100	Mr. & Mrs. Rober & Cheryl Barsan	30
Dr. & Mrs. Rasheed & Yola Nemer	200	Dr. & Mrs. Adel & May Mayyasi	100	Ms. Suzeete Saadeh	30
Dr. & Mrs. Jean-Pierre & Sana Yared	200	Drs. George & Nabila Awais	100	Mr. & Mrs. Brina & Carolyn Williams	30
Dr. Michael A. Oddi	200	Dr. & Mrs. Ghassan & Gilda Khayyat	100	Dr. & Mrs. J. Paulo & Fida Jabboure	25
Dr. & Mrs. Ziad & Nina Boutros	200	Mr. & Mrs. Ibrahim & May Aboulhosn	100	Mr. & Mrs. Simon & Marie Saidy	25
Mr. & Mrs. Sami & Colette Moufawad	200	Dr. & Mrs. Sebouh & Nina Setrakian	100	Dr. & Mrs. Ralph & Myla White	25
Dr. & Mrs. Bechara & Souraya Tabet	200	Dr. & Mrs. Eric & Nancy Jenison	100	Mr. & Mrs. Ronald & Barbara Skye	25
Mr. & Mrs. Mohamed & Aida Aljaberi	200	Mr. & Mrs. Mohammed & Alia Saleh	100	Mrs. Sonda Burns	25
MS. Afaf Zayat	200	Mr. & Mrs. Gary & Katherine Hawk	100	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Karen Clark	25
Mr. & Mrs. Hani & Joyce Haddad	200	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Paula Bauer	100	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry & Barbara Bala	25
Mr. & Mrs. Manuel & Colette Nemer	200	Dr. Jeffrey S. Masin	100	Mr. & Mrs. William & Kathryn Murrey Jr.	25
Mr. & Mrs. Fadi & Randa Karim	200	Dr. Gary E. Bollin	100	Mr. Nabil Eldakdouk	25
Mrs. Hayat Assaf Noueihed	200	Dr. David Watkins	100	Mr. Faouzi El Jawouhari	25
Mr. & Mrs. Mounah & Diana Assaf	200	Mercy Medical Center	100	Ms. Janet Vojetch	20
		Mr. & Mrs. Najib & Souad Saab	100	Mrs. Elham Flaherty	20
		Mr. & Mrs. David & Debbie Hawak	100	Mr. Rami Azm	20
		Summit County Medical Center	100	Mr. Issam Boudiab	20
		Mr. & Mrs. Tarek & Siham Shaker	100	Mr. Sakr Dakdouk	20
		Mr. Mark Nemr	100	Mr. Emille Jalhan	20
		Mr. Francoird Risha	100	Mr. Joe Chmait	20
		Mr. Jerry Shibly	100	Mr. Akram Jaafar	15
		Mr. Rashed Karanouh	100	Mr. & Mrs. Harvey & Tracy Effron	10
		Ms. Bahia Nemr	100	Mr. Ghazi Jawhari.	10
		Mr. Rasheed Fagher	100		

## To: Druze Orphans and Charitable Organization

*Greetings,*

We are truly thankful to all gracious members and donors for their support to Druze Orphanage in Abey. Their donations are actively helping in the advancement and progress of this institution in spite of the difficult living conditions that we are all aware of. These generous donations as well as other substantial contributions make it possible for us to fulfill the needs of close to 500 orphans and impoverished students. These needs include shelter, food, clothing, medication, and medical treatment, in addition to education, books and school supplies.

With God's help and yours, we began this school year on the first of October. And we are doing well.

The Board of Trustees and administration, take this opportunity to thank you and the gracious benefactors for your sincere efforts toward this institution, the orphans and disadvantaged residents, who are in fact our responsibility as well as yours.

Again, I repeat my sincere thanks to you, all the gracious charitable sisters and brothers who support our dear children out of their strong belief in this institution and its vital role in protecting and taking care of them, sparing them from illiteracy, vagrancy, and providing them with a decent living similar to that of more privileged children. Without your faith and your donations, our institution would not have survived for over 92 years and hundreds of girls and boys would not have received a decent education.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to all the distinguished members of the Druze Orphans and Charitable Organization (DOCO) for their noble and humanitarian work, wishing them constant prosperity. I also repeat my deep condolences on the passing of the previous president of this organization, Dr. Kamel Fuad Muakkassa, God Bless his soul. We mourn the loss of this distinguished man, brilliant doctor, generous benefactor, and avid supporter of our orphans and the needy.

May God compensate us for his untimely death by keeping you safe for many years to come. Please accept my deep respect,

Sincerely  
**Hayat al-Nakadi**  
Executive Director  
Biet al-Yateem, Abey-Lebanon  
October 14, 2012

## Dr. Nizar S. Nuwayhid November 1, 1940 – August 2, 2011



Dr. Nizar S. Nuwayhid of Belmont, Massachusetts, died on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 at the age of 70. The son of the late Suleiman and Adele Alameh Nuwayhid. He grew up in Beirut, Lebanon, where he met and married his wife of 41 years, Siham Saleh Nuwayhid.

Dr. Nuwayhid began his career as a member of the American University of Beirut (AUB), Faculty of Medicine. In 1987 he moved to Boston where he maintained a private medical practice. He was an active member of the AUB Alumni Association's Boston Chapter, as well



The children of  
Beit al-Yateem wish  
you Happy New Year  
2013

as a long-time supporter of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

He is survived by his beloved wife Siham, sons Ousamah S. Nuwayhid and his wife Beatrice (Ceruelos) Nuwayhid of Skillman, NJ, and Ramzi N. Nuwayhid and his wife Dalia (Al Khawaja) Nuwayhid of Wellesley, MA, and his daughter, Nadine Nuwayhid Nassar and her husband Fayez Nassar of Geneva, Switzerland; six grandchildren: Yasmeeen, Ramzy and Maya Nuwayhid of Skillman, NJ, and Omar, Ayya and Zayn Nuwayhid of Wellesley, M.A.; two brothers Bahij Nuwayhid of El Paso, TX., and Hikmat Nuwayhid of Beirut, Lebanon; sister, Mona Nuwayhid Ibrahim of Beirut, Lebanon.

Donation of \$200.00 by Mr. & Mrs. Ramzi & Dalia Nuwayhid was earmarked for Beit al-Yateem.

## Emily Shoffey 1915 - 2011



Emily Shoffey, 96 of Fort Smith, AR passed away on Sunday 18, 2011, at a local hospital. She was a retired comptroller for Pollack Stores Corp, a Christian and a lifetime member of the Eastern Star. She was a league bowler, piano player, fisherwoman, bird hunter, bridge player and golfer.

She was preceded in death by her parents Charles and Fahada Shoffey, one brother, William S. Shoffey and a sister, Julia Penney.

Graveside services were held on Thursday at Oak Cemetery under the direction of Ocker-Putman Funeral Home of Fort Smith.

She is survived by her brother, James Shoffey of Fort Smith; one sister, Nez Simpson of Bellflower, CA; one sister-in-law, Goldia Shoffey of Fort Smith; one nephew, William G. Shoffey; and four nieces, Nancy Karrant, Jennella K. Simpson, Pattie Jo Lapp and Julie Ann Boyd.

# A LOVING TRIBUTE TO JULIA TALHOUK



Julia Talhouk, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, passed away early on June 25th, 2012 at the age of 85. Julia was born in Whitesville, W.V., where she spent most of her life, to Lebanese immigrants, who brought with them their customs, traditions and values, which they instilled in her, as they did with each of us.

Julia grew up in an era when responsibilities were taught at a very young age. Being the first born into a family of ten children, she accepted these responsibilities without question. She helped care for her brothers and sisters, and did so until we were able to care for ourselves. She also had a deep, sincere and personal concern about our health, safety and well-being. After becoming adults with families of our own, Julia remained genuinely concerned and always in close contact with everyone, making sure we were fine, and even at times, offered a little "Motherly Advice."

She also shared a deep interest and concern about our children and stayed updated as to what they were doing, as well as their involvement in school activities. She also stressed to them the importance of a good education in today's society, just as she did with her own children and grandchildren.

When our Mother passed away in November, 1987, Julia unofficially became the matriarch of the family. We all began to see her in a new and different light. On special occasions, such as Mother's Day, we called to wish her happy Mother's Day, sent her cards and flowers.

Julia worked hard her entire life. As a young girl, she worked after school and on weekends and during the summer in our parents clothing business, and did so for several years. Because of her amazing

knowledge and skills in mathematics, she enrolled in Business College and graduated with a degree in commerce. Upon completion, she began working again in retail sales and later held an administrative position in the mining industry.

In 1955, Julia began working at the Whitesville State Bank and served in numerous positions. Because of her universal knowledge of banking, she also instructed new employees, training them for the position for which he or she were being hired. She ended her thirty-one year career as Vice President of the Whitesville State Bank.

On September 14th, 1955, Julia married the love of her life, Khaled Talhouk, whom she adored. They were married for almost fifty-eight years and had an incredible life together. Julia, with her more conservative approach on matters and Khaled, with his outgoing personality and great sense of humor, attracted each one to the other. They were truly close and deeply devoted to one another. Every challenge and hardship they faced in life, they confronted together. Each was the other's tower of strength. They had three sons, one of whom they lost at birth; a loss that was very devastating.

Julia was a lady who never complained about anything. Even during times when she was in pain or seriously ill and had to be hospitalized, she never complained. When asked how she was feeling, if she was experiencing any pain or discomfort, with her little smile and a glimmer in her eyes she would say, "I'm alright," or "I'm ok." Over the past year as her health began to deteriorate, she displayed incredible strength and courage. She always knew she had the love and support of her family.

Julia's kindness, sincerity, gentleness, generosity, and loving spirit will always be treasured and admired by all those who knew her. She had a pure heart and a heart of gold. She was a true lady in every sense of the word. Her morals and values were of the highest standard, yet always forgiving of those who's ideals and values were different.

It is of great significance not only to re-emphasize Khaled's unrelenting, unwavering and unconditional love and support for Julia; we must also express recognition and admiration of their son Duane, who lives nearby. Just as his dad cared for Julia, Duane, who has such abundant love for his

parents and all his family, closely cared for both parents. The nature of his job requires extensive domestic and international travel; therefore, when unable to be with his parents in person, he was in contact with them daily by phone, as well as their doctors, when necessary. He made certain they were well cared for and were provided with all the services they required.

Julia was always proud of, devoted to and had a deep rooted sense of love for her large and loving family. Her happiest moments were when all the family was together. Although we all remained in close contact with each other, we made certain that we gathered together each year for our family reunion. They were held around June 25th, our brother, Nadeem's birthday. It was a joyous occasion that we always looked forward to. Nadeem was born with Down Syndrome. He was our precious gift from God. He was very loving and was the glue that tightly bonded our family.

This year we held our family reunion in Pittsburgh on June 23rd, and 24th, 2012, and it was a very enjoyable event. Several hours after we all left and returned to our homes, we received the unbelievable, sad and shocking news, that Julia had passed away in the early hours of June 25th, our brother Nadeem's birthday. She passed while in the arms of her beloved Khaled, into the loving arms of God.

Although there will always be a great void in our lives, we will always have the beautiful memories of our sweet, loving sister; our precious jewel, etched in our minds and hearts. She is deeply loved, painfully missed and will forever live in our hearts. Throughout her journey in life, Julia had many accomplishments, but to her, the most important was the love of family. This is the greatest legacy that anyone can leave behind.

Julia was preceded in death by her son, Kavin, parents, Majeed and Bahia Joseph, and two brothers, Dr. J.M. Joseph and Nadeem Joseph. She is survived by her husband Khaled, sons and daughter-in-laws, David and Jean Talhouk of Clearwater, Fl., Duane and Joya Talhouk of Pittsburgh, Pa., granddaughter, Corinne Talhouk of Pittsburgh, Pa. Grandsons, Michael and Andrew Talhouk of Clearwater, Fl. and Christopher Talhouk of Coronado, Ca.,

*Continued on Page 11*



**To my beloved and life companion, my husband  
About Fadi Amin Boukzam**

It has been four years since we lost you, yet you are still among us every hour of every day.

Your children, grandchildren and I miss your tenderness, smiles and kind words. The holidays are coming and you are away from us for eternity.

We are all going to visit you at your final resting place, carrying flowers that you like, carnations and lavender blossoms. Donations in his memory for Beit al-Yateem totals \$100.00.

**Fahima Boukzam**

**A Loving Tribute to Julia Talhouk**  
*Continued from Page 10*

great granddaughter, Kylie Talhouk of Coronado, Ca., sister-in-law, La Rue Joseph of Baltimore, Md., Sister, Juanita Richani of Bristol, Tn., Sisters and brother-in-laws, Jeanette and Michael Bennett of Wheelersburg, Oh., Fefe and Ivan McCall of Summerville, S.C., brothers and sister-in-laws, Shakeeb and Alice Joseph of Baltimore, Md., Adle and Connie Joseph of Leesburg, Va., Fred and Reyna Joseph of Richmond, Va., and Jim and Hoda Joseph of Charleston, W.v., as well as many nephews, nieces and great nephews and nieces.

Julia, we know you are now in Heaven with Mom, Dad, Joe and Nadeem. May God Bless you and give you peace. We will never say goodbye, but rather until we meet again, Allah Yorhama.

Donations from the family of Julia Talhouk in her memory to Beit al-Yateem totaled \$800.00.

**In Loving Memory  
The Family of Julia Talhouk**

**Fuad Adib Mansour Abu Faraj  
1927-2012**

Fuad Adib Mansour Abu Faraj was born in Beirut in 1927, the eldest of three boys.

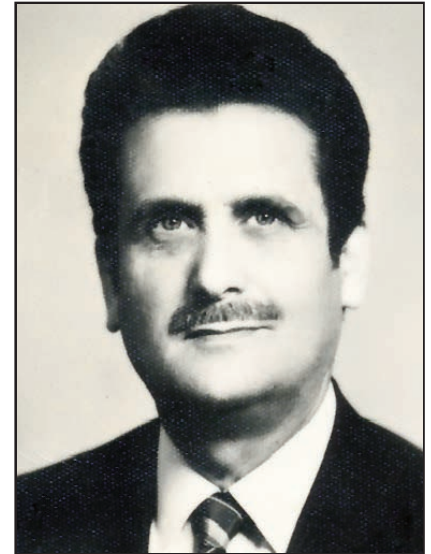
After earning a Baccalaureate Degree from the Sagesse School in Beirut, he moved to Liberia and established himself as a successful businessman and an expert in audio-visual technology.

In 1960, he returned to Lebanon where he met and married his wife Leila Nadime Hamadeh. They lived happily together for 52 years.

In 1963, they decided to establish a technical school named the Oriental Establishment, one of the finest technical schools in the Middle East in downtown Beirut. During the Civil War, Fuad relocated the school to the Hamra district and rebuilt it as the premier business school in the country.

Fuad was interested in all scientific discoveries, technical advancements and medical research. He was passionate about opera and classical music. He lived a life of serenity guided by his faith and his love for his family.

He is survived by his wife Leila, his daughters Rola Muakkassa, the wife of the late Dr. Kamel Muakkassa, Rania Abu Chakra, the wife of Ayman Abu



Chakra, his son Ramzi Mansour Abu Faraj, his grandchildren Leila Khaireddine, the wife of Wassim Khaireddine, Dr. Fuad Muakkassa, Ghazi Abu Chakra, Rola Abu Chakra, his great grandchildren Bassel and Elle Khaireddine, and his brother Omar and family. He lost his oldest son Raed in 1993 and his brother Farid in 2010. He will always be remembered as a great brother, husband, father, and Jedo.

**Donations from Family and Relatives in Loving Memory of  
Fuad Mansour Abu Faraj to Beit al-Yateem totaled \$6,300**

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<i>From his family:</i> his wife Leila Hemadeh Mansour Abu Faraj, and his children Mrs. Rola Muakkassa wife of late Dr. Kamel Fuad Muakkassa, Engineer Ramzi Mansour Abu Faraj, Engineer Rania Mansour Abu Faraj wife of Mr. Ayman Abu-Shakra and his grandchildren Leila Muakkassa and husband Wassim Kheireddine and their children Bassel and Elle Kheireddine, Dr. Fuad Kamel Muakkassa, Ghazi Abu-Shakra and Rola Abu-Shakra	5,000
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Mr. & Mrs. Faisal & Majd Abou-Ezzideen and their son Jad	100

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We at DOCO would like to offer a special salute to the following for generously donating to DOCO's various charities. This list acknowledges donations received from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. Please note that donations made in Memory of Dr. Kamel Muakkassa (p.10), Dr. Nizar Nuwayhid (p. 11), Amin Boukzam, Julia Talhouk , Fuad Mansour Abou Faraj and donations received in memoriam 2011 (p.13) appear separately.

Donor	US \$	Donor	US \$	Donor	US \$
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Jamal Assaf (Im Abboud)	Memory of Munira Jamil Assaf	100
Masri, Dr. sami & Leila	Memory of Munira Jamil Assaf	200
Masri, Dr. Akram & Luna	Memory of Munira Jamil Assaf	200
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Noueihed, Hayat Assaf	Memory of Nimat R. Aboushakra	25
Assaf, Mounah & Diana	Memory of Noha Haitham Assaf	100
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