



COMMITTEE ON CHARITABLE AFFAIRS

Report from June 2013 ,30 to March 2014 ,30
by Fouad Sleem, Chair

The Committee on Charitable Affairs (COCA) is committed to establish and use policies and guidelines in determining the eligibility of various charitable organizations seeking to participate in the ADS charitable program. COCA is to ensure that all its policies and guidelines are in compliance with the regulations of its charter, the Internal Revenue Service and all other agencies dealing with Homeland Security.

COCA is committed to work with the approved organizations to ensure that contributions made by the American Druze Society are used exclusively for the benefits and well-being of deserving members of Druze communities anywhere.

As a Chair of this Committee, and on behalf of the American Druze Society, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks, gratitude and appreciation to those donors for their dedication, generosity and thoughtfulness.

From June 2013 ,30 to March 2014 ,30 has been raised and, of this amount, 20,000\$ came from one donor. May God bless him and all the donors, bless the ADS and bless our Druze community nationwide.

The charitable organizations that have benefitted from these donations were:

- | Ainouzein Hospital: 1,000\$
- | Geriatric Medical Center: 2,500\$
- | Al-Jabal Hospital: 1,670\$
- | Druze Foundation for Social Welfare (DFSW): 1,000\$
- | Druze Orphanage Swayda, Syria: 12,222,00\$ (On hold until the conflicts end)
- | Druze Social and Medical Welfare Fund: 000\$
- | Druze Orphanage, Abey, Lebanon: 48,020\$
- | Secondary Schooling for Orphans (SSO): 000\$
- | University Students Residence: 000\$
- | Rabitat Al-Amal Al-Ijtimai: 000\$
- | National Rehabilitation and Development Center: 1,300\$
- | Chwaifat Ladies Charitable Society: 000\$
- | Al-Irfan Religious Institution: 000\$
- | St. Jude Children's Research Hospital: 220\$
- | Charitable, Social and Educational Organization, Sahnaya: 880\$. (On hold until the conflicts end)
- | Social Action Charity, Bab-Msalla, Sahnaya: 220\$ (On hold until the conflicts end)

The fundraising campaign is financed by the ADS. Not a single penny from the donations is used. The fundraising campaign is on-going to year's end. This will give each one of us a chance to donate whenever it is convenient. Go to: www.druze.com/donations TODAY.

Brothers and Sisters, every one of us has a moral obligation to maintain the walk that our forefathers began over hundred years ago: to help and support the needy and to honor the hope of our people. Your support and generosity are greatly needed for the well-being of our children and their future.

Thank you so much, may God bless you, bless the ADS, and bless the United States of America.

THE SAFETY NETS FOUNDATION

Druze Businessmen Launch an International Druze Fund and Promise to Operate with the Highest Level of Transparency. The Fund is an Endowment Fund that Grows Over Time and Provides Financial Support from its Revenue.

A group of Druze businessmen launched a new philanthropic non-profit foundation, the first of its kind not only among Druze foundations, but also in the Middle East.

What is the mission of this initiative? What is the vision these individuals have in mind? How does this foundation operate? Based on an interview with one of the founders, here is a brief on this benevolent initiative. The intention is to introduce this blessed establishment and strengthen its support in Lebanon and around the world.

The initial concept behind the creation of this fund was to provide continuous financial support for the families of our martyrs who fell in May 2008, while defending our dignity during the civil clashes. However, the concept later evolved to cover a wide spectrum of the needy among our people, as was declared by one of the founding members.

Currently, there is an absence of a Druze benevolent institution able to provide both immediate and prolonged financial support to individuals in the occurrence of tragedies resulting in casualties, injuries, or disabilities. The absence of such an institution has inspired the development of the **Druze Endowment Fund**, which by its nature can grow over time from the continuous contributions of donors, while securing from its annual income continuous financial support to the needy among our people. The Druze Endowment Fund is currently registered with the Lebanese Ministry Of Interior under the name of **The Safety Nets Foundation** as of May 2012 ,24 under article No 911. The following is a brief description of the components of the Safety Nets Foundation:

Vision. The founders aspire to evolve the concept of the *social responsibility* from the limited provision of donations, which end when its circumstance ends, to a concept that is built on the continuous benefit from the benevolent deed as an investment in the development of the capabilities of those who are in need among our people. Within this vision, a finite financial donation made can benefit individuals *continuously* for a prolonged period of time.

In the absence of land- endowment for the past 00 years and the difficulty in the development of existing endowed (AWKAF) properties, this fund shall be the alternative for those of us who want to endow a portion of their money or property. The concept of endowment will not be limited to the endowment of properties, but shall evolve to include money, which can be ready for immediate investment in the fund.

Although the purpose of this foundation is to serve our people in Lebanon who are in need, we aspire that one day, with our continuous collective contributions, it shall grow to become a Global Druze Fund, capable of supporting all of our people who are in need anywhere in the world.

Mission. The primary mission of the foundation is to improve the quality of life of those who are in need among our people and enhance the culture of philanthropy; it shall financially support from the earnings of the endowment fund the following categories:

1. The families of our martyrs and the widowed and orphans
2. University students
3. High school students
4. Elderly and disabled
0. Patients

From this fund five independent accounts branch to support the five above mentioned categories/ charities. However, it remains at all times



that it is always the choice of the donor to determine the charity that shall benefit from the earnings on investment of his or her donations.

Operation. The operation of the fund is grounded in the imperative that the principal remains intact in its totality and under no circumstances can the Board of Directors spend any money from it; the principal shall grow over time from the continuous donations of the donors. Further, the expenditure on individuals shall not be more than 20% of the yearly donations, in addition to the earnings generated from investment of the principal. To illustrate with an example, assume the following: the accrued donations in the "widowed and orphans" category at the onset of 2014 is 200,000\$; the additional donations during this year amount to 50,000\$; and the money is invested with a return of 5%. The budget for expenditures on the *widowed and orphans* for year 2015 would be as follows:

Generated revenue from investment of the principal is
 $250,000\$ \times 12,500\$ = 0.05$
%20 of yearly donations is
 $50,000\$ \times 10,000\$ = 0.20$
Total budget for 2015 expenditure in this category
 $22,500\$ = 10,000\$ + 12,500\$$

The total spending on widowed and orphans in year 2015 will be 22,500\$. Subsequently, at the beginning of year 2016, there will be in the account of the "widowed and orphans" the initial principal of 200,000\$ and the 50,000\$ after deduction of the 10,000\$ (which was spent), making the total amount of the principal in the account of "widowed and orphans" 290,000\$ ready to be invested again.

As such, the remaining amount of the yearly donations, which shall be 20% or more, will become part of the primary principal that will be invested only in financial institutions with a known rate of return. As a result, the donations will be perpetuated to provide help and hope to people in need for generations. The fund operates with full transparency where all accounts are audited by international renowned auditors (MGI KICA International, Chartered Accountants) and all general and financial information can be accessed in the website by any donor as well as his/her personal donations and corresponding dates. In the event that this foundation is dissevered for whatever reason, the money and the assets of the fund shall go to the Druze Confessional Council and the rules of AlAwkaf shall prevail on it. It shall be spent for the same goals for which the fund was set up.

Fund Support. The founders believe that the support of the fund shall not depend only on the financially privileged among us, but it shall be the responsibility of every Druze Muwahid according to his or her capability. In this way, the culture of philanthropy and the spirit of compassion will grow, as we safeguard our brethren. It is our strong belief that when a small donation is made and added to other small donations, a vast difference can be made. Moreover, we should not forget that the sea is composed of individual droplets of water, which together create a vast body of water. As a collective group made of each of us individuals, we hold the power to improve the lives of others, alleviate hardships, and improve opportunities for education for those less fortunate. The success of this fund is a success for each of us.

For more information on this foundation and online donation, kindly access its website www.druzeFund.org or contact Mr. Samih Daou at info@druzeFund.org.

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (NMC)

Committee Chair: Walid Shaban

Committee Members: (in alphabetical order) Rabih Elawar, Farid Makarem, Charif Masri, Layal Nawfal, Nidal Radwan and Hanan Rafeh

The National Membership Drive for 2014 is underway and its success hinges on the initiatives of our local chapters.

Again, the NMC would like to offer its help in promoting the benefits of the membership and by acting as a liaison between local chapters and National to address any of your concerns. So please, feel free to call upon us

You can reach us by email at Director@Druze.com and in subject line please note: *Membership Committee*. Or, contact the Chair directly at (2197-900) (704). The NMC is here to help YOU!

We have communicated earlier this year to your chapter presidents asking them to name a representative from each local membership committee to partner with us in order to share ideas and promote the membership drive. Please, consider helping us with that task.

It was brought to our attention that our email list covers only between 20% to 30% of the American Druze that resides in our communities. Reaching out to the other 70% or so percent to keep them abreast to the ADS' activities and communications is a top priority for the NMC.

First step that we will be looking into achieving with the help of the digital committee and local chapters is matching the email address lists for the chapters with National. Compiling /deciphering through those lists would likely yield to a larger National emailing list. Currently, the DC and Illinois chapters are updating/cleaning their e-mailing list and hopefully the other chapters will follow suit soon as well.

Please remember to take advantage of the following programs:

1. The installment plans for the lifetime membership
2. Free lifetime membership for our elders (+70) and their spouses

Thank You Note :

The NMC would like to thank those who took advantage of the reduced Husband and Wife Lifetime Membership special. The intent of that promotion was to help the smaller ADS chapters to maintain their needed membership to ensure their sustainability; and, it was a success.

Being a Member Opens Opportunities for Fellowship and Volunteerism

- | Become eligible to be a National or Chapter **Board Member**
- | Register your children for the **Online Tawhid Curriculum** classes
- | Apply for **Scholarships** as a Student Member
- | Join the **American Druze Young Adults** (20-38 yr olds) and be a part of their annual Career Guidance Fairs and Professional Networking Mixers
- | For teens 17-19 yrs old, the **American Druze Teens** (ADT) holds a lot of interactive activities
- | For youth 20-29 years old, the **Young American Druze Sisterhood** (YADS) and the **American Druze Brotherhood** (ADB) offers lifelong fellowship
- | Receive discount rates for our activity-packed **Conventions and Regional Gatherings**
- | Read the richly designed **Our Heritage** magazines both online and in print

Being a Member gives you Secure Access to:

- | Learn about the Tawhid Faith and Druze Culture
- | Learn the Basics of the Arabic Language
- | Apply for Student Scholarships
- | Join Professional Networks, Webinars and Member Forums
- | Register for the ADS Membership and Pay Dues Online
- | Donate to a Favorite Charity (Donations made via ADS are tax-