

A message from the board

Welcome to the beginning of the Afghan-American Women's Association. Our organization is a diverse effort to directly help, support and connect Afghan women in the United States and Afghanistan.

Women are our pillars supporting our families. Women are necessary for bringing civility to our communities and urging the next generation to pursue their full potential.

But even the strongest pillar cannot bear the entire weight of the community without the help of others.

The A-AWA exists to connect and support women of the Afghan community by offering training, help with entrepreneurship, mentorship and educational opportunities.

We are also here to help with daily tasks that can make life in a new country challenging for anyone, regardless of cultural and language barriers. As our organization grows, we hope to offer resources for both the newly arrived and the American born.

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## Welcome to the Afghan-American Women's Association

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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



### GOALS

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

Message continued...

We will focus much our energy on our community in this country , but we will always spend as much effort helping the people of Afghanistan. In fact, our first project as an organization will help the youngest Afghan children with clothing needs for the cold months ahead.

While our mission is devoted to the betterment of women, we invite membership and help from everybody regardless of gender, age, race or religion.

During the past months we have brought together a diverse group of people to help with the launch of A-AWA. Professionals in the medical, retail, journalism and academic fields have offered their skills and experience to help with our founding as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

## Who are we?

We welcome assistance in any form. Our first objective is to spread word of A-AWA in our local community. We will introduce ourselves at gatherings within the local Afghan community and have plans to officially launch at our own major event later this summer.

The A-AWA is very much in its infancy. We need continued help from the overall community to develop projects and expand our reach.

Please do not hesitate to contact us to offer ideas and help us as we progress into a vibrant and extraordinary organization.

Shahla Ahmadi, President  
Homaira Behsudi, Vice President  
Hosai Hesham, Secretary  
Louis Mitchell, Treasurer  
Sima Wali, Honorary Board Member

A-AWA founding members gather for the first organizational meeting April 19, 2009 in Tysons Corner, Va.



# Our People

We seek help in all areas of our organization. The people that help us with our mission are our most important asset.

Contact the Afghan-American Women's Association if you wish to bring your expertise to the execution of our goals.

We currently have formed four committees to carry out daily operations and expand our reach into the surrounding community.

Do you have experience in the following areas or just a willingness to help?

- Fundraising
- Budget matters
- Project management
- Community outreach
- Grant/proposal writing
- Public relations
- Writing and/or editing

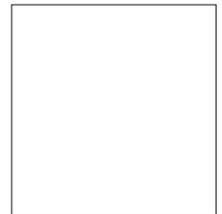
Send an e-mail to [info@a-awa.org](mailto:info@a-awa.org)

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## **Afghan-American Women's Association**

P.O. Box 12115  
Arlington, VA 22219

[www.a-awa.org](http://www.a-awa.org)  
[info@a-awa.org](mailto:info@a-awa.org)



To:

# How you can help

Our first project will help clothe the children of Afghanistan during the cold months of winter.

We are working with contacts within the country to most efficiently send clothing to various schools around Afghanistan. We will partner with other organizations to help with this important effort.

Winter weather can be harsh in Afghanistan's mountainous region. We have identified this as a priority need for the coming winter months.

You can help by donating your unneeded personal items or by shopping at Goodwill or other thrift stores in the region. We are looking for culturally appropriate winter clothing: sweaters, jackets, pants, hats, gloves, socks, mittens and scarves.

We will also accept monetary donations for the above items.

Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 12115, Arlington, VA 22219.

All contributions are tax deductible.

Our clothing project will be the first of many efforts coordinated by the A-AWA. If you have identified a need in our local community or abroad, please contact us.

As we move forward we are also looking to expand our membership base. Membership in the A-AWA is offered to all individuals, businesses, nonprofit groups and community organizations regardless of ethnicity, religion, race, gender or language difference.

Membership will be offered at various levels, including:

- Individual Member: \$35 annual fee
- Supporter: \$100 annual fee
- Sponsor: \$300 annual fee
- Benefactor: \$500 annual fee

The A-AWA will also consider sponsorship opportunities for events organized for the overall community.

Please contact us at [info@a-awa.org](mailto:info@a-awa.org) or visit our Web site, [www.a-awa.org](http://www.a-awa.org) for more information.



Let us know how you can help:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW DO YOU WANT TO HELP?:

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\_\_\_\_\_

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

SEND TO: Afghan-American Women's Association  
P.O. Box 12115, Arlington, VA 22219  
[info@a-awa.org](mailto:info@a-awa.org)