

## 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 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)



## CONTACT

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**A-AWA.org**



# NEWSLETTER



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## 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.



We will focus much our energy on our community in this country, but we will spend 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.



We welcome assistance in any form. 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 ABOUT TOWN

## Shaam-E-Irfan, Springfield, VA

May 29, 2009 — A-AWA had its first public appearance at the well-known Northern Virginia Afghan function, Shaam-E-rfan. The event was held at the honor of Mother's day. The poetic verses of Dari and Pashto literary greats echoed the walls of the Masonic lodge in Springfield, VA. A-AWA was honored to introduce its mission and goals to the greater Afghan American community present at the event. The welcome response from the attendees served as wonderful encouragement to us, and yet again proved the need for an organization such as A-AWA.



## Help the Afghan Children, Tyson's Corner, VA

September 10, 2009 — The tireless work and accomplishments of Ms. Suraya Sadeed and her organization, Help the Afghan Children (HTAC), is well known to the greater community. HTAC is a testament to the impact non-governmental organizations can have on development, education, and promoting peace. Through providing educational means, HTAC is changing the lives of countless Afghan children for the better.



A-AWA was proud to be present at the HTAC fundraiser. The evening was a great opportunity to learn about the accomplishments of HTAC and hear from Ms. Sadeed regarding the great need for education in Afghanistan. A-AWA is eagerly looking forward to collaborating and supporting HTAC in the future. For more information about HTAC, visit their Web site at [www.helptheafghanchildren.org](http://www.helptheafghanchildren.org)

## Nancy Dupree Event, Washington, D.C.

September 15, 2009 — Nancy Hatch Dupree has been instrumental in safe guarding the historical and literary treasures of Afghanistan. She has been working for more than three decades within Afghanistan to help preserve our history and tradition. The Nancy Hatch Dupree Foundation created The Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU), a library and central repository for information on Afghanistan. The ACKU now has over 18000 documents and is continuing to grow.



A reception was held in her honor at the Rayburn House Office building sponsored by the Afghan American Chamber of Commerce and the Congressional US-Afghan Caucus. A-AWA was delighted to partake in honoring Ms. Dupree along with Representatives from Congress and Mr. Richard Holbrooke, U.S. Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

## 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.



A-AWA advisory board members gather for the first organizational meeting April 19, 2009 at the offices of the Afghan American Chamber of Commerce in Tysons Corner, Va.

## 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.

TO **IMPROVE**  
THE STATUS AND  
**WELL BEING** OF  
AFGHAN-AMERICAN  
**WOMEN** THROUGH  
PERSONAL SUPPORT,  
**EDUCATIONAL**  
OPPORTUNITIES AND  
**PROFESSIONAL**  
GROWTH.