



Valentine's Dance Proceeds Donated in Memory of Chapel Hill Victims

February 12, 2015: The tragic news that three young Muslim students were murdered in their apartment near UNC Chapel Hill sent shock waves through our community, because it was close to home in many ways. We silently grieved with the family and friends of the victims, Deah Barakat, 23, his new bride Yusor Abu-Salha, 21, and her sister Razan Abu-Salha, 19.

The MPC's Young Adults Committee was especially devastated by the news and decided to donate the \$420 that was raised at their Valentine's Dance to a project called **Refugee Smiles** that was being spearheaded by Deah Barakat, a promising dental student of Syrian origin. Deah was organizing a medical mission to Turkey this summer to provide free dental care to Syrian refugee students.

Inspired by the thoughtfulness of our Young Adults, board members Tony Bikhazi and Rolana Sbano each matched the money raised and increased the MPC's donation to \$1,260. The money will be split equally between **Refugee Smiles** and another charitable organization called **Basmeh & Zeitooneh** that helps Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

Our hope is to keep Deah Barakat's memory alive by supporting the work that he started to help Syrian refugees with no access to medical care.

The MPC's donation to Refugee Smiles will be received by the Syrian American Medical Society, a non-profit humanitarian organization that is co-sponsoring the medical mission to Turkey. See the links below to learn more about Refugee Smiles and Basmeh & Zeitooneh.

<http://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/syrian-dental-relief/206249>

<https://www.facebook.com/basmehzeitooneh>