



Financial Aid Reaches Record High in 2015

March 16, 2016

We are pleased to report that the Metrolina Phoenician Club dispersed a total of \$17,243 in financial aid for the 2015 fiscal year (see breakdown below). This represents a substantial increase compared to the \$15,500 donated in 2014. The increase can be attributed to charitable donations made by our newly formed Young Adults group, who are learning to organize fundraisers in support of nonprofits that assist the needy and disadvantaged.

The Young Adults see firsthand where their donations go and how they are put to use. In November of last year, they went to present Loaves & Fishes with a check for \$365, as well as nonperishable foods they collected at a fundraising event held before Thanksgiving. More recently, on March 12 they accompanied a delegation of board members to Safe Alliance, a Charlotte-based organization that the MPC regularly supports. The MPC presented a check for \$1,000 to Kathy Gauger, Director of Residential Services at Safe Alliance. They were given a tour of the facility, which provides critical crisis services to those victimized by domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse or other types of trauma. The MPC is able to help nonprofits such as Safe Alliance with moneys raised at fundraising events, most notably the annual haffleh that takes place in the fall.

On the other hand, the club's Scholarship Program, which was established in 2007 by Tony and Lak Bikhazi, is funded by generous donors from within the community. Last year, thanks to several benefactors, the club was able to award a total of \$6,000 in scholarships to three young members who are now college freshmen. One of them also received a scholarship of \$2,500 from the Southern Federation of Syrian Lebanese American Cubs (SFSLAC), an umbrella organization that we are pleased to belong to. The MPC contributes \$500 annually to the SFSLAC's scholarship fund.

The MPC is grateful to everyone who has supported the club by paying their membership dues and by attending our fundraising activities. You make it possible for us to support nonprofit organizations that do invaluable work helping the underprivileged. We also thank our members

who have donated to the club's Scholarship Program so that our young adults have a chance at a good future.

2015 CHARITABLE DONATIONS & SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Total Donations to Nonprofit Organizations: \$11,243

- The Lebanese Society for the Blind & Deaf: \$1,500
- Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon: \$1,200
- Creche St. Vincent de Paul: \$1,200
- Safe Alliance: \$1,000
- Smile Train: \$1,000
- Susan G. Komen: \$618
- Cedars in the Pine museum exhibition (co-sponsorship): \$2,000
- Arab American Council of the Carolinas: \$200
- SFLSLAC Scholarship Fund: \$500
- Basmeh & Zeitooneh: \$1,030 *Donation by MPC Young Adults*
- Project Refugee Smiles (Syrian Dental Relief): \$630 *Donation by MPC Young Adults*
- Loaves & Fishes: \$365 *Donation by MPC Young Adults*

Total MPC Scholarships Awarded: \$6,000

- Tamer Alyateem: \$2,000
- Maen Halawani: \$2,000
- Sarah Ghannam: \$2,000

Total SFLSLAC Scholarships Awarded: \$2,500 (NOT INCLUDED IN MPC FINANCIALS)

- Tamer Alyateem: \$2,500