



The Helen Abbott Community Service Awards

A youth leadership program of the Arab American Institute Foundation

Arab American Institute Foundation
1600 K Street, NW * Suite 601
Washington, DC 20006

Helen Abbott, friend, humanitarian, and philanthropist, made dreams come true in the Lincoln Park Community of Fort Pierce, Florida. Upon arriving in the community in 1989, Ms. Abbott noticed that most of the individuals needing affordable housing and paying rent were black. The bell of discrimination rang in her head, and her active mind started thinking of ways in which she could become active in her new community.

Ms. Abbott donated \$500,000 from her personal funds and worked closely with the City's Housing Authority to secure an additional \$100,000. Her goal to develop twenty-two homes for twenty-two families in the community was completed in 1998. Helen Abbott passed away in August 1999.

Ms. Abbott was a life-long friend of AAI, a founding member, generous supporter and vocal advocate. A community park has been dedicated in Ms. Abbott's memory in the Lincoln Park community she helped to create. A bronze memorial, made possible in part from a gift from AAIF, was unveiled in September 1999. Ms. Abbott made a bequest to AAI's Foundation which has been converted to a youth leadership in her memory.

Helen Abbott Community Service Awards honor students whose devotion to community service, selfless acts of care, and interest in improving the quality of life for others reflect the life of the Awards' namesake. A maximum of three awards are presented annually: two \$1,000 prizes to individuals and a \$500 grant to an accomplished High School student.

Completed applications must be received by April 1. Finalists will be chosen by the Review Committee of the Arab American Institute Foundation. Successful candidates will be notified by late April.

The Helen Abbott Community Service Awards is given in two categories: (1) achievement by a college/university student and (2) achievement by a High School student. Each year the Foundation awards a maximum of two \$1,000 individual prizes and one \$500 grant to a High School Student.

Strongest applicants for the Award must:

- (1) be currently enrolled as an undergraduate in a college or university program; or enrolled in High School
- (2) include a resume which indicates a strong interest and commitment to community service;
- (3) have a minimum 3.0 grade point average verified by either an official or unofficial transcript;
- (4) submit two letters of recommendation;
- (5) discuss in no more than 500 words how their field of study is a springboard for a life of community service; and,
- (6) be a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident of Arab descent.

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Please complete the following sections.

Grant Year: _____ Grant Desired (circle one): College/University High School

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

I am sending/ have enclosed letters of recommendation from:

(1) Name _____ Phone Number/Email: _____

Title: _____ Organization: _____

(2) Name _____ Phone Number/Email: _____

Title: _____ Organization: _____

(*note- Individual applications require two letters of recommendation. Letters enclosed with your application packet must be sealed and signed across the back.)

Please attach to this application your transcript, resume, and 500-word essay.
All materials should be sent to:

The Helen Abbott Community Service Awards
Arab American Institute Foundation
Samer Araabi, Cultural Outreach Specialist
1600 K Street, NW * Suite 601
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 429-9210 * Fax (202) 429-9214
aaif@aaiusa.org * www.aaiusa.org



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