

KARAM FOUNDATION 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



KARAM
FOUNDATION

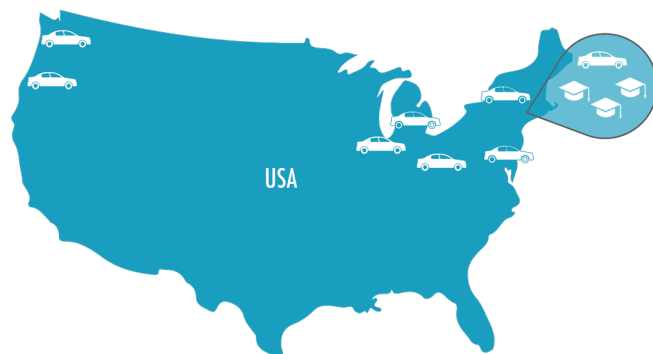


IN 2017,






We celebrated 10 years of Karam – and it was our most impactful year yet! Our generous supporters helped us raise over \$3.5 million for our programs designed to provide long-term, deep-impact, community-driven aid to hundreds of thousands of Syrians in need. As the crisis in Syria continues, so too does our work. Without your support, our work would not be possible. Thanks to you, we were able to deepen the impact of our Innovative Education, Smart Aid, and Sustainable Development programs for tens of thousands of Syrians in need. Here's how and where your donations made a difference!

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Opened Karam House: Reyhanli
- Hosted our 1st group of international mentors at Karam House
- Doubled the number of families in Sponsor a Syrian Refugee Family program
- Increased the number of Karam Scholars accessing higher education
- Launched Jumpstart for Refugees in the US
- Fundraised with Chelsea Handler in Chicago
- Embarked to the peak of Kilimanjaro on our 1st Climb4Karam expedition
- Grew our staff in Turkey
- Continued to amplify Syrian voices through 67 media mentions, including: Full Frontal with Samantha Bee, FORBES, CBS, The Chicago Tribune
- Featured in 2 video ads in Times Square, New York City



WHERE WE WORK – SYRIA, TURKEY, USA, JORDAN

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
|  | JUMPSTART FOR REFUGEES |
|  | KARAM SCHOLARS |
|  | KARAM HOUSE |
|  | SPONSOR A SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY |
|  | REFUGEE / SYRIA SCHOOL SUPPORT |
|  | RAMADAN |
|  | WINTER ASSISTANCE |

AT A GLANCE: OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

4 COUNTRIES

3,795 STUDENTS

13,490 FAMILIES

3,200 BABIES

42,973 CHILDREN

212 TEACHERS

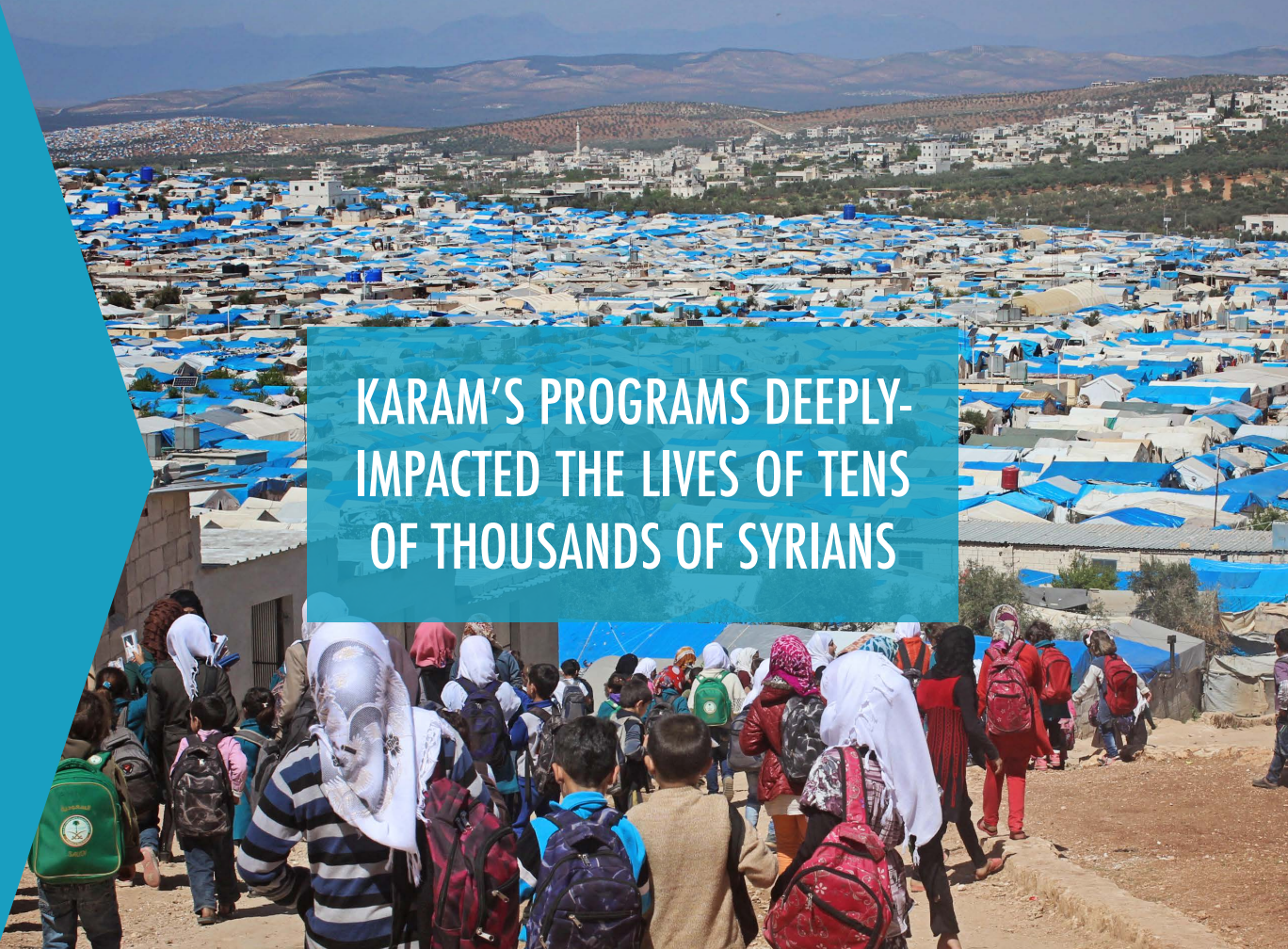
7 SCHOOL BUSES

301 JOBS

13 SCHOOLS

68 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

KARAM'S PROGRAMS DEEPLY-
IMPACTED THE LIVES OF TENS
OF THOUSANDS OF SYRIANS



A CLOSER LOOK: KARAM HOUSE



Molly Crabapple painting murals in Karam House

We opened Karam House: Reyhanli in March 2017. Karam House is a community innovation center designed for Syrian refugee youth. It is a safe space where youth can learn, build, grow, and most importantly, be teens. **Karam House is an investment in Syria's youth.** Our team of highly skilled mentors provide support and guidance, working one-on-one with students to implement the curriculum tailored to students' specific needs. Karam House provides students with cutting-edge workshops including: Entrepreneurship, Technology, 3D Digital Design and Fabrication, Graphic Design, Journalism, and English and Turkish Language Acquisition. To date, we've hosted 26 workshops, 11 of which were led by international volunteer mentors from across the globe in aviation, video editing, entrepreneurship, philosophy, law, and more. In 2017, Karam House served 266 students, including 108 girls and 158 boys.



A CLOSER LOOK: SPONSOR A SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY



[Sponsor A Syrian Refugee Family](#) seeks to restore the dignity and quality of life for refugee families living in Turkey. This program stabilizes families by providing them with a monthly financial stipend on the condition that their children go back to school, combatting exploitative practices such as child labor and early team marriages.

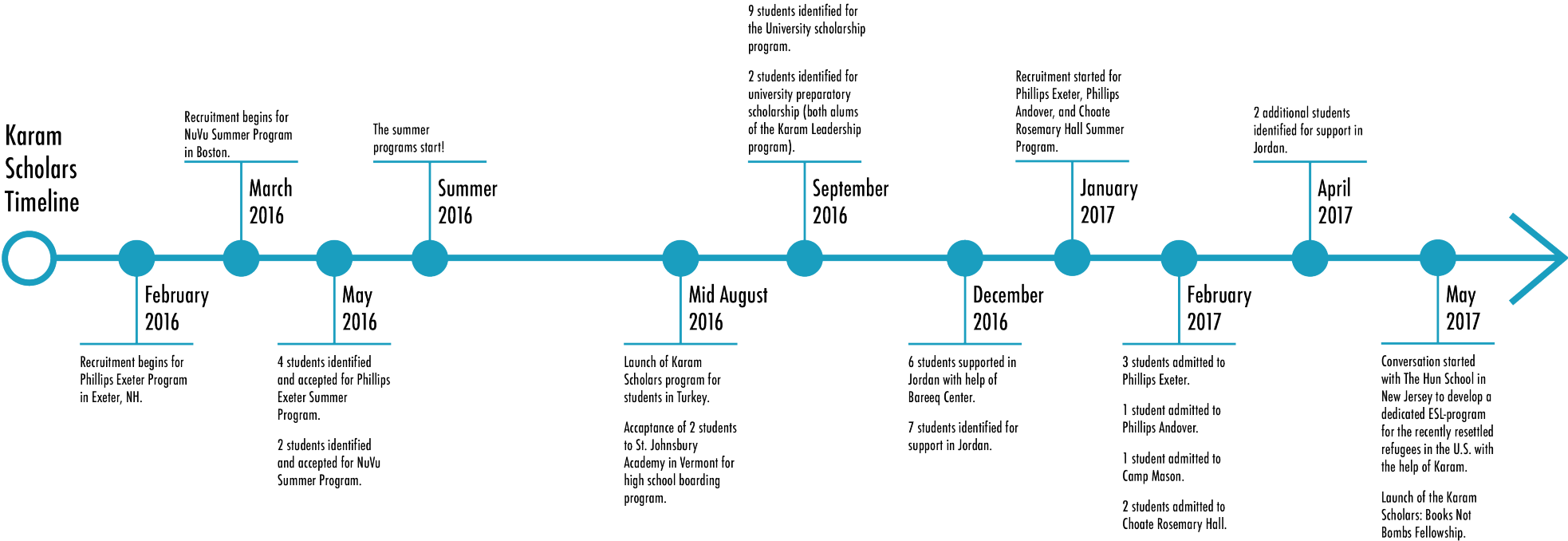
When we first launched the program in 2015, we started with 18 families in Reyhanli, Turkey – a town located on the Syrian border that is home to more than 100,000 Syrian refugees. Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to expand our program to support families living in Istanbul.

In 2017, we added 7 families in Reyhanli and 28 families in Istanbul. We hired 4 program coordinators in Turkey to oversee the program and work directly with the families that we serve. This high impact program makes cultivating meaningful relationships with the families a main priority. [As children go back to school, families stabilize and are able to focus on building a better future for themselves and their communities.](#) With your support, we have sponsored 78 families and sent 281 children back to school.

A CLOSER LOOK: KARAM SCHOLARS

Karam Scholars assists Syrian students access higher education in their host countries. We provide gap funding for Syrian university students in Turkey, tuition support for a select group of students in Jordan, and mentorship, tuition support, and gap funding for resettled high-school age Syrians in the United States. This program also provides mentorship throughout the university application and testing process.

We awarded scholarships to 31 students in Turkey and 17 students in Jordan. In the US, we awarded 8 students with scholarships at our partner college preparatory schools.



A CLOSER LOOK: INSIDE SYRIA

SCHOOL SUPPORT

In 2017 we restored and supported 10 schools inside Syria that were damaged by barrel bombs and airstrikes. These schools are attended by 3,325 students and 175 teachers and staff.

EMERGENCY AID

In December 2017, we launched an Emergency Aid campaign to support the children of besieged Eastern Ghouta that suffer from severe malnutrition. Our team worked with networks of doctors and nurses to identify the most at-risk children that will be supported with nutritional children's food made inside the besieged area. Our staff on the ground oversee the distribution of 36,000 life-saving meal packages to 6,000 of the most vulnerable children. Karam's efforts to support families in Eastern Ghouta is ongoing as the security situation continues to worsen.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

We distributed food to 7,555 families in cities throughout Syria, including: Atmeh Camp, Rif Aleppo, Rif Hama, Rif Idlib, Maarat al Noman, and Aleppo.

SCENTS OF SYRIA

We continued to support Ghar, a women's collective that handmakes traditional soap products, including hand embroidered sachets, pouches, and bags that are used to hold Laurel soaps from Aleppo. Karam's Scents of Syria initiative supports 50 internally displaced women and their families in Damascus, and 12 refugee women in Istanbul. This project was featured in Forbes in November and December 2017.



HAPPY FARM

Launched in September 2017, this initiative is located in a small rural village called Kafr Rouma just west of Maarat al Nouman in northern Syria. The project employs families from within the community to manage the farm and its produce - milk and eggs. The produce is then sold to the local community at a subsidized price. Happy Farm served nearly 3,000 people in 2017.

WINTER RELIEF

During the harsh winter months, we supported schools and families across Syria with heating fuel and blankets. Our staff on the ground distributed supplies to 826 families in Daraa, Homs, Eastern Ghouta, Maarat Misrin, Maar Shoreen, and Maar Zeita.

A CLOSER LOOK: JUMPSTART FOR REFUGEES

In 2017 Karam Foundation officially launched **Jumpstart for Refugees**, Karam's first US-based program designed to assist resettled Syrian refugee families. Jumpstart assists refugee families through 4 main tracks: (1) purchasing cars and assisting with driver education, licenses, and car insurance, (2) support for job and vocational training certification as well as higher education opportunities, (3) referrals to specialized community networks or organizations, and (4) emergency assistance. We supported 17 families in 8 states across the country in 2017. Your support has helped over 70 individuals gain social and economic mobility by getting their driver's license, finding advantageous job opportunities, living in safer and cost effective housing, attending advanced English courses, and accessing essential community networks.



SERVED 17+ FAMILIES

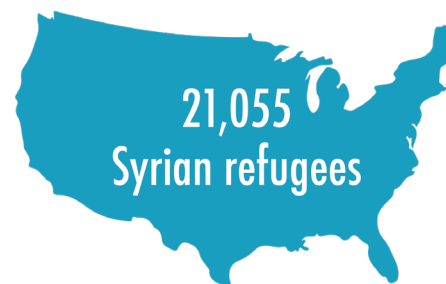


BOUGHT 13 CARS



FIRST CAR PURCHASED: MARCH 10, 2017

THERE ARE CURRENTLY:

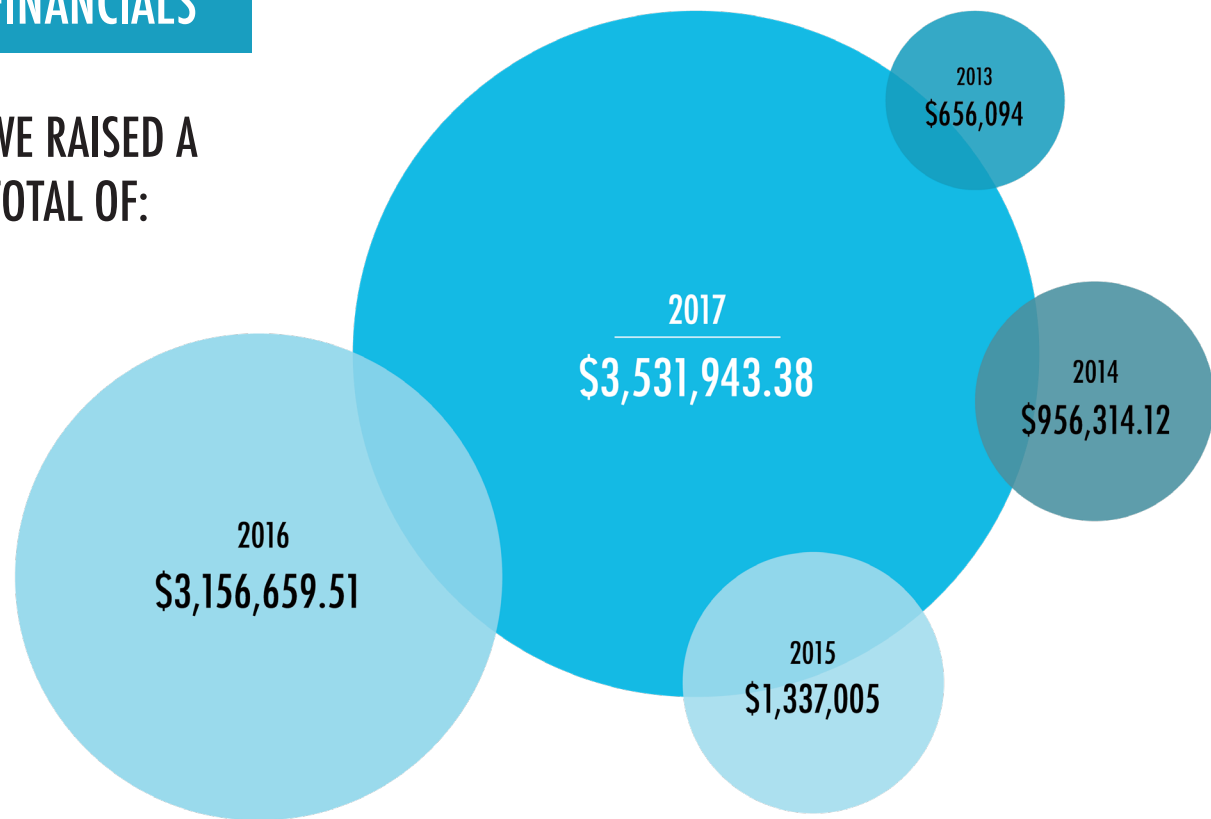


IN THE UNITED STATES

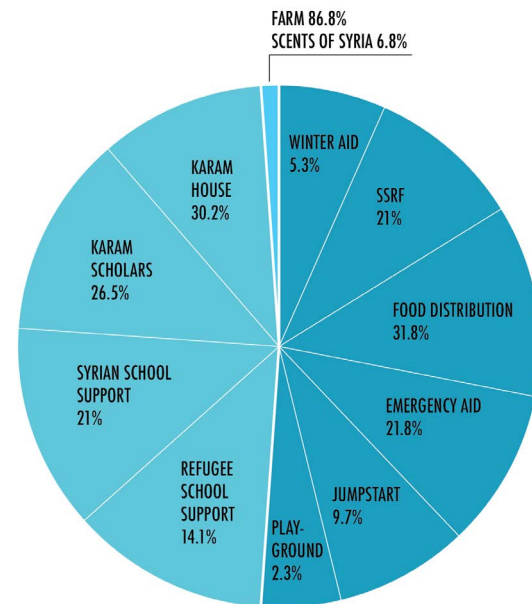
The US is considered to be the land of opportunity. For many refugees, actually acquiring these opportunities is the difficult part, as it has become increasingly challenging for them to access basic necessities, such as a car, in order to jumpstart their new lives.

FINANCIALS

WE RAISED A
TOTAL OF:



TOTAL SPENDING: \$2,869,616.04



- SMART AID (51.32%)
- INNOVATIVE EDUCATION (47.63%)
- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (1.05%)

INVESTING IN KARAM'S GROWTH

In 2017, we invested 15.3% of our total spending to grow our organizational capacity, develop our teams' skills, and build up our internal infrastructure to support our programs. Karam Foundation covers all overhead expenses through sales, fundraisers, capacity-building grants, and our general fund. We are committed to staying lean and efficient while sustainably growing Karam's work and long-term impact.

We are committed to transparency and accountability. Please visit our website to review our 990 Forms and annual internal audit reports.

KARAM'S NEXT DECADE: SCALING WITH IMPACT & PURPOSE

While we grew and expanded, 2017 was also an introspective year for Karam Foundation. Our rapid growth over the last few years while being in the constant “emergency” mode of conflict aid taught us how to be **flexible and fast in our response**. However, as the war continues and **refugee kids grow into refugee adults**, we needed to recalibrate our work and plan for the future of Karam so we can best invest in their futures. We took the time to take stock of our programs and operations. We analyzed what was working and what had become stagnant or inefficient. We adjusted our work to focus on our strengths. Through our self-critical analysis, we found that 4 of our programs for refugee families (Karam House, SSRF, Karam Scholars, and Jumpstart) all revolve around one vision: **creating community leadership for the future**. Providing innovative education, financial stability, competitive job training, cutting-edge technological and entrepreneurial skills, and access to higher education are the life-affirming elements that **transform the refugees of today into the leaders of tomorrow**. This is the core of our work.

We are going to spend the next 10 years developing pathways to long-term success for Syrian refugee youth and families. We will scale with impact and purpose. And we have set an ambitious goal of **creating 10,000 leaders by 2028**.

We hope you will join us and help us reach our goal!

10,000 LEADERS in 10 YEARS

A **Karam Leader** is: every Syrian youth that we empower for the future by acquiring a higher education degree and/or receiving innovative and competitive job training skills needed to get a job with fair wages and prospects for the future. **Karam Leaders are problem-solvers, change-makers, innovators, and are driven to serve**. They understand **technology is a tool not a solution**. They know they must **build ideas together**. They know that they must be positive contributors in their host communities. They are not passive bystanders. **They have the agency, skills, and courage to make social change**. They are community organizers, entrepreneurs, teachers, designers, journalists, writers, artists, inventors, engineers, story-tellers, critical thinkers, and scholars. **They will build the future for themselves**, their communities, and the generations that come after them.



PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS: MAYA'S STORY



Our core programs each offer a [clear pathway to success](#). An SSRF child is able to quit their exploitative work and return to school. A Karam Scholar gains access to higher education opportunities. A student at Karam House learns to solve problems through design and critical thinking. [We have hundreds of success stories already in these programs and already our programs are intersecting to create deeper-impact ripples of empowerment](#). The story of Maya and her mother is a powerful example of this intersection.

Maya's family is from Ghouta, a suburb outside Damascus. Her family fled Syria to Turkey after surviving the chemical weapons attack in 2013. When we met Maya's family, they were living in a basement apartment in Istanbul. Maya and her siblings didn't attend school and were suffering from respiratory problems due to their exposure to the chemical gasses. [We sponsored Maya's family and soon the kids returned to school and we helped the family move to a better apartment with windows and proper ventilation](#). Their health improved. Maya's mother had been a university student in Damascus with only one course left to graduate before they fled. [She applied to the Karam Scholars program and received the funding she needed to return to university to complete her degree](#). This is our first case of an SSRF mother becoming a Karam Scholar, but it will not be our last. We want to replicate this family's success as many times as possible.

[We will seek out and invest in hundreds of Mayas and mothers of Mayas](#). We believe in hope despite the despair of war. The future is bright as long as we give the youth the opportunities to shine with their own brilliance, resilience, creativity, and strength.

2018 GOALS

- Open Karam House: Istanbul
- Scale up our Sponsor a Syrian Refugee Family program
- Scale up our Karam Scholars program
- Develop our Jumpstart for Refugees program
- Support our Syria projects
- Invest in the capacity & development of our Syrian staff in Syria and Turkey
- Set up Karam operations in Jordan
- Develop our advocacy strategies
- Activate an advisory council
- Raise 5 million dollars
- Launch our 10,000 Leaders in 10 Years Campaign

"IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE." - NELSON MANDELA



Lina Sergie Attar in front of Molly Crabapple mural at Karam House: Reyhanli

THE KARAM TEAM



BOARD

LINA SERGIE ATTAR

Founder/CEO

OMAR SALEM

Chairman

MOHAMAD OJJEH

Treasurer/Director of Smart Aid

MAYA KHATER

Secretary/Director of Events

RAZAN WAFAI

Director of Health and Wellness

AYA SAMMAN

Director of Strategic Partnerships

GHAZI JEIROUDI

Director of Sustainable Business

STAFF

2017 was the year of internal growth at Karam Foundation. In one year, our team grew in size in Syria and Turkey as well as in capacity in the United States. We are committed to employing a majority of Syrian refugees to implement our programs in Turkey. We are in awe of our Syria team's courage as they oversee and implement our emergency aid and education programs in extremely dangerous conflict zones. We look forward to developing our team's professional skills and capacity in 2018 so we can impact the lives of more people in meaningful ways.

11

UNITED STATES

4

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

18

REYHANLI, TURKEY

6

SYRIA

THE BEST TIME TO PLANT A TREE WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO.
THE SECOND BEST TIME IS NOW. - CHINESE PROVERB

WWW.KARAMFOUNDATION.ORG

Karam Foundation is a
501(C)3 Non-Profit Organization

Federal Tax ID: 37-1548241
Karam Foundation is rated "Gold" by Guidestar

GIVING SINCE 2007