

In the spring of 2000 Mrs. Azadeh Hariri Founded the Iranian Youth Scholarship under the umbrella of the Iranian Federated Women's Club (IFWC). This fund was formed with the vision of starting a meaningful scholarship program for Iranian American students in the United States. Our goals were driven with the view of making sure the second generation of Iranians growing up in the US, not forget Iran, and be proud of their Iranian heritage. We firmly believe that the future of the Iranian community is in the hands of the young generation. If we support our best and brightest students today, tomorrow when they are in decision-making positions, their influence will affect millions of Iranians around the world.

With this vision and determination the Iranian Youth Scholarship was founded. In the first year Mrs. Hariri donated \$25,000. Since 2000, the Youth Scholarship Fund has grown to become one of the most respected community services within the Iranian population in the USA. In the early days, many students were not aware that such a scholarship existed, and that they could apply for it. Now although we have raised our criteria for accepting applications, each year we receive hundreds of applications.

Last spring Mrs. Hariri decided it was time to take another step and establish the Iranian Scholarship Foundation. She saw the need of introducing new scholarships to help Iranian Graduate students. Currently the students arriving from Iran are not allowed to work or receive financial help from their universities. So the need for a foundation, which can focus on helping these students, inspired Mrs. Azadeh Hariri to form the Iranian Scholarship Foundation. The foundation is currently working on creating the process of accepting students for the postgraduate scholarship fund.

Currently the undergraduate scholarship fund is open to undergraduate students of Iranian descent studying in a four-year college in the United States. The scholarship awarded can be as high as \$10,000 per year. Once a student is awarded the scholarship, s/he is supported for four years or until the student graduates, whichever comes first. The scholarship recipients are required to perform at least 100 hours of volunteer work each year in their community.

The list below highlights the main requirements for a qualified applicant:

- Grade Point Average of 3.5 or higher.
- History of volunteer work in the community at large.
- Recommendation letters. One from a teacher and another from an organization for which the student has done volunteer work.
- Must be in need of financial help.
- Submit an essay about their goals and the turning points in their lives.
- High school seniors who apply must have a minimum SAT score of 1850.

A copy of the tax return of the parents and students must also be submitted for verification of income.

The Scholarship Selection Committee handles the process of reviewing applications and selecting the recipients. The members of this committee are all well known members of the Iranian community.

They are:

Dr. Jaleh Pirnazar -- Professor of Persian Studies at UC Berkeley

Mrs. Mahin Afkhami – Ex Vice Minister of Information in Iran

Dr. Abbas Milani - Director of Iranian Studies at Stanford University

Dr. Behnam Tabrizi – Associate Professor of Management Science at Stanford University

Mrs. Azadeh Hariri – Entrepreneur - Chair and Founder of the Iranian Scholarship Foundation

Mr. Mehdi Safipour – Software Engineer - Administrator of the Iranian Scholarship Foundation

During the past five years the Youth Scholarship Program has awarded 74 scholarships. The total amount of the scholarships awarded over the past 5 years is over \$500k.