



**Massachusetts Albanian American Society**

**Albanian American Women's Organization – Motrat Qiriazhi**

**Press Release**

**Establishing the Global Albanians Foundation**

**Supporting Albanian Not-for-Profit Organizations**

**August 11, 2015**





## Establishing the Global Albanians Foundation

### Supporting Albanian Not-for-Profit Organizations

The [Massachusetts Albanian American Society](#) (MAASBESA) and the [Albanian American Women's Organization – Motrat Qiriaz](#) (AAWO) are proud to announce their partnership to develop the Global Albanians Foundation (GAF) financed by Albanians living abroad and others who wish to support not-for-profit organizations in Albania, Kosova, Macedonia, and Montenegro.

**Why:** The not for profit sector receives less and less support from the international donor community as the countries in Southeastern Europe develop. However, there is still a great need for financial and professional support in the not-for-profit sector so that pressing social and economic development needs can be addressed in the future in a sustainable manner. Without the support of Albanians living abroad, it will be very difficult to meet the needs of the not-for-profit sector and civil society in Albania, Kosova, Macedonia, and Montenegro.

**How:** We propose that creating a Foundation that initially focuses on giving small grants targeting many different not-for-profit organizations throughout the countries in Southeastern Europe where Albanians live is the best way to reach and assist a wide and diverse group of people and organizations.

**Work Program:** The work will be carried out in three phases over several years with only Phase 1 below being considered for financing at this time. Phases 2-3 are presented here to give an idea as to a possible long-term vision

Phase 1: August 2015-December 2015 -- \$10,000 for 10 grants of \$1000 each

Phase 2: January 2016-December 2017 – same as phase 1 on larger scale

Phase 3: January 2018 and Beyond – Create Global Albanians Foundation

During Phases 2 and 3, larger grants than \$1,000 would be considered, of course, depending on the amount of money raised. In addition, we would seek grants and financing from private and corporate foundations, Albanian and non-Albanian private individuals and businesses, and other organizations that might want to use the GAF as a conduit for philanthropic and charitable activities in Southeastern Europe.

**Who:** A Board of Directors consisting of five people will oversee the work. The Board of Directors will initially include two active members from each of our organizations plus one other person from outside of our two organizations.



The responsibilities of the Board of Directors will be to:

1. Seek donations from Albanian companies, organizations, and individuals;
2. Appoint an Advisory Board that will include 10-15 people and at least one person each from Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia, Greece, and Italy;
3. Oversee financial administration of the work program;
4. Determine which (if any) specific sectors or themes should be the focal points;
5. Develop an online template for not-for-profit organizations to submit their proposals;
6. Review grant proposals prepared by Albanian not-for-profit organizations in SE Europe;
7. Select grant winners to be supported under Phase 1;
8. Oversee Phase 1 grant implementation and review project results; and
9. Develop plans for Phase 2 based on Phase 1 results and lessons learned.

#### **Description of Phase 1:**

1. By September 1 finalize selection of Board of Directors and Advisory Board Members;
2. By September 15 send out format that not-for-profit organizations have to complete to be considered for Grants;
3. By October 15 not-for-profit organizations submit proposals for financing;
4. By November 1 the Board of Directors reviews and approves grants for Albanian not-for-profit organizations; and
5. By December 31 – Review status of grants under implementation and begin plans for developing Phase 2.

**Benefits:** We have selected a small grants approach to begin for several reasons:

1. In addition to providing financial support we would like to develop a s wide of a network as possible with not for profit organizations so that synergies can be created through collaboration;
2. We believe that Albanians donors living abroad will be much more willing to support a small grants approach that does not favor any particular region or sector;
3. We believe that with a Board of Directors and Advisory Board comprised of people who are considered leaders and active members of the Albanian Diaspora that it will be much easier to convince prospective donors that the work will be carried out in a professional, transparent, and trustworthy manner
4. Finally, we have to walk before we can run, so we think with a relatively small Phase 1 at \$10,000 we can best build a successful effort slowly over time; and
5. By coordinating these efforts with the [Harvard Albanian Diaspora Program](#) (which has already identified two possible partner organizations -- [Partnere Per Femijet](#) and [Yunus Social Business](#) -- that they would like the Albanian Diaspora to work with) we can also benefit in the short and long run through a formal collaboration with Harvard, the organizations that they propose, and the organizations that the Albanian Diaspora proposes.