



5400 W. 35th Street, Cicero, IL., 60804

Bridgeview, IL. June 14, 2006 – Ziyad Brothers Importing, the Chicago-based distributor of more than 1,200 food items to stores in 46 states and six countries, presented the 2006 “Giving Back to the Community” scholarship awards to two graduates at the Aqsa School in Bridgeview.

Nassem Ziyad, Ziyad Brothers Importing General Manager, named graduates Issra Rashad and Naila Parvez as the winners. Both received a \$1000 U.S. Savings Bond and paid summer internship opportunities with Ziyad Brothers Importing.

“Ziyad Brothers Importing launched the program this year because we wanted to recognize the future leaders of our community who demonstrate a commitment to enhancing and strengthening the image of the Arab Americans through individual initiative and community service,” Nassem Ziyad said during the graduation ceremonies.

“It is so important for young people, like all those who applied and participated, to not only work hard and strive for excellence, but to also be recognized for their efforts.”

Each applicant was required to write an essay detailing their efforts to “give back to the community” through community service projects, and why they felt such efforts are important to the Arab American community.

Nassem Ziyad also recognized Sabrina Ahmad, who was the Salutatorian of her graduating class, for her “outstanding essay submission.”

Ms. Rashad, Ms. Parvez and Ms. Ahmad all also received a commemorative plaque recognizing their achievements. Ziyad said that he was very impressed with all of the scholarship entries.

“In reading through the essays that were submitted, I could feel the genuine desire within their hearts to improve this world we all share. The purpose of this scholarship is to reinforce that wish and encourage these amazing young women to continue to help their communities, no matter what direction life takes them after graduation,” Nassem Ziyad told the audience of more than 300 parents and relatives of the 28 graduates at the all-girl Aqsa School.

“Esteemed teachers, administrators and families, let us all continue to dedicate our lives to molding our young people into productive members of society. We are the past, they are the future ...together, let us spend the present making each day brighter than the

day before.” Ziyad Brothers Importing was originally founded as “The Syrian Bakery & Grocery Inc.” in 1966 by Ahmad and Ibrahim Ziyad, two immigrant brothers from Palestine.

Their small retail outlet on Chicago’s south side specialized in hard to find Middle Eastern food products as well as the first Pita Bread bakery in Chicago catering to the Middle Eastern ethnic community.

The retail outlet later expanded into one of the first automated Pita Bakeries in the Midwest and began distributing Pita bread and Middle Eastern food products to other retail outlets.

Ten years later, from these humble beginnings, Ahmad and Ibrahim Ziyad purchased their first warehouse located at 21st and Western Avenue. In 1995, Ziyad Brothers Importing consolidated facilities and moved into the current location in Cicero, IL.

This new 150,000 sq. ft. facility was a tremendous accomplishment and a source of great pride for the founders. A year later in 1996, Ahmad Ziyad passed away at the age of 56. His brother Ibrahim assumed the role of President. Ziyad Brothers Importing is a family owned and operated business. Ahmad’s sons Nemer, Nassem and Nazmy and Ibrahim’s son Nezar and daughters Leila and Sonia also work at the company.

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