

## HAMMAMI FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Hasan Hammami, 20 years after joining the Board of the Charlotte Community Foundation (CCF), is investing in its future by making a generous gift to a permanent endowment that will benefit in perpetuity the community where he has lived longer than anywhere else. The new Hammami Family Fund endowment is the largest within a collective of new, permanent, unrestricted funds for Charlotte County—Forever!

Born in Jaffa, Palestine, and educated and employed in several countries, Hasan Hammami is a true citizen of the world who wants to enhance peace and collaboration everywhere—including the Charlotte County community he has now called since the accomplished engineer chose to retire—then from being a seasoned executive with Proctor & Gamble—in Punta Gorda at age 60.

During his years in the community, Hasan has been extremely active in many organizations. As an early pioneering director at CCF, Hasan was also instrumental in advancing nonprofit education, including sharing “Strategies for Success” he had learned from business.

Fittingly, two decades after he joined the CCF Board, Hasan is once again making an invaluable contribution to serve as an example to the whole community by championing an endowment fund to forever support Charlotte County. It is hoped his affirmation of the current CCF board’s focus on strengthening the permanent resources of the Foundation will inspire others to support endowment, so as to ensure lasting resources for Charlotte County and its continued vibrancy across all sectors.

In commemoration of CCF’s gratitude to Hasan Hammami for all his contributions over the years, his daughters Rema, Fawzia, and Haifa are also paying their own tribute with a “roast” that should delight all those who know Hasan—and those who will want to know him after reading on!

THE DAUGHTERS’ TRIBUTE/ROAST: Our Dad, Hasan, has always been a “can-do” kind of person. He has never met a problem that he didn’t have a solution for or an obstacle that he couldn’t find a way to negotiate his way through (or around).

These traits have served him, us his daughters (as well as our Mom) well. Losing his home, beloved city, and country when he was only 16; forced into exile with his family, losing literally everything and having to rebuild a whole life from scratch is probably one of the central experiences of his life that made him the can-do person that we have always known and relied on.

But perhaps we must go back a little earlier. Our Dad was born in a time and a place when the greatest desire for a young bride (his mother) was to have a son. Hasan met his mother’s greatest wish only after she had already given birth to 3 daughters. So when he finally arrived – he came into this world as a PRINCE. Then once he met and married our mother, that little Prince graduated to becoming a KING. And then when we daughters came into this world – he was promoted to the all seeing /all knowing GOD- Dad that we all knew growing up...

There is no topic he cannot speak to: the world financial system, astro-physics, the sex lives of orangutans. More recently he has become an expert in the nutritional benefits of anything you’re about to put in your mouth. On any of these and many other topics he can talk at length, at a very, very, great length and in infinite detail.

NEVER ask him about something if you even think you might need to go the bathroom. Or if you have an appointment in the next few hours. And definitely NEVER mention the P-word (the Palestine P-word) if you have plans over the next 48 hours. Ask him 1 simple question about the P-word and you will find

yourself being marched through 48 episodes over 5 seasons-- with a few encyclopedias thrown in for good measure. Total strangers around the world will never forget the day they simply asked that nice-looking older man where he was from...and then missed their flight.

But Dad is also a knowledge practitioner – he turns all-knowing into all doing. Trained as an engineer in the UK and with a career that spanned 3 continents, at least 6 countries, and over 4 decades he knows the importance of being adaptable and flexible and how to apply his engineering expertise to totally new situations and problems.

But Hasan never thought engineering expertise should mean being restricted to boring things like building machines or bridges. No, Dad's version of engineering is that it's a license to practice whatever form of professional expertise is needed for any situation. With all-knowing Dad-God engineers, professional degrees and licenses just aren't necessary to practice any profession you want.

A small example: We are on a family trip—a safari in Tanzania—and stop in a village of Masai tribespeople. Hasan the engineer pulls out an old make-up case of our mother's from the Land-Rover. *Hm, Is he going to do clown face makeup with the Masai kids?* Nope, he's an engineer, not a child entertainment professional. Weirdly the women in the village immediately understand what his daughters do not: Hasan is a Bush Doctor-Engineer, a roving MD-Engineer. The make-up case is full of home pharmaceuticals that the Engineer-MD doles out to the worried mothers after quickly (and of course expertly!) diagnosing their children's ailments. After this episode me and my sisters often referred to him as “the Brain Surgeon to the Masai.”

If there are any of Dad's many MD friends (and I mean you - the real certified ones) reading this, I just want to say that my sisters and I feel your pain! We know that every time he calls you about an ailment or treatment, you are suddenly thrown back to being an intimidated medical student being put through your paces by the Senior Resident MD. And we would also like to thank you his MD friends who have kept him healthy and safe until now by talking him down from whatever is his latest, crazy, self-treatment “discovery.”

But we all have seen the positive sides of these GOD-like urges of my Dad and indeed have been the beneficiaries of them. As his daughters, each one of us at different stages of our lives (especially in life's difficult moments) have depended on his sage advice—and perhaps more so on his dogged conviction that there is no problem that doesn't have a solution for, and he will usually find it!

I can imagine that those of you who worked with him during his time with the Charlotte Community Foundation also benefitted from his can-do, problem solving, no-challenge-that-can't-be-overcome ethic. And also from his boundless enthusiasm and energy.

At 93 he is still energetically exploring: new ideas, making new connections, taking up new hobbies—while keeping in touch with his huge international network of friends, family, and acquaintances (what we daughters call his global fan base!). Dad – Baba- Hasan – We want to share our deepest gratitude that our grandmother was finally granted that Prince who became the man so many people here and elsewhere came to love, respect, and depend on.