

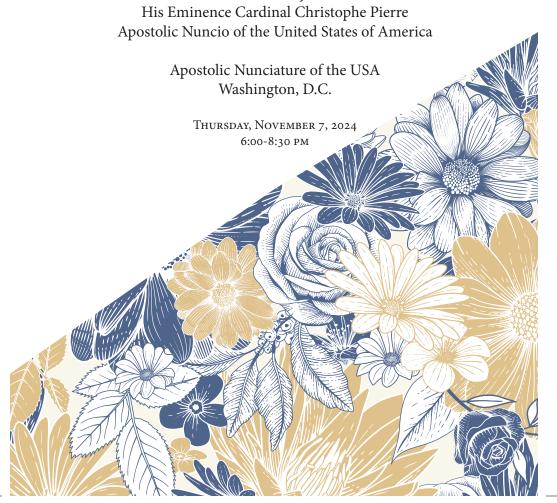
## 2024 Annual Benefit and Awards Reception Supporting Bethlehem University Foundation

# Uplifting Human Dignity

## Honoring

Mr. Samer Khoury

## Hosted By





For over 50 years, Bethlehem University has been an oasis of hope, peace, and education for its diverse students and the greater Bethlehem community. Tonight, we celebrate and acknowledge the contributions and dedication of those who ensure its mission can continue into the future. We are grateful to all those who made this event possible.

**Host Committee Members**Annette and Elias Aburdene

Issa and Doris Baconi

Randa Fahmy

George McLendon

Ghassan and Suava Salameh

George and Rhonda Salem

Let us begin by respecting true freedom: the resulting peace will be . . . a peace built on justice, a peace founded on the incomparable dignity of the free human being.

Pope John Paul II

#### **RECEPTION PROGRAM**

#### Welcome

#### From Our Host

Reverend Monsignor Većeslav Tumir, First Counselor
On behalf of
Cardinal Christophe Pierre
Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America

## From Bethlehem University Foundation

Mr. Ghassan Salameh Chair, Board of Directors, Bethlehem University Foundation

#### **Presentation of Awards**

## The Archbishop Pietro Sambi "Star of Bethlehem" Award

Presented by The Honorable Chris Van Hollen United States Senator for Maryland

to

Mr. Samer Khoury Chairman, Consolidated Contractors Group

## **Investiture of Patrons**

Presented by Mr. James Howell Executive Director, Bethlehem University Foundation

Silver Patrons

Mr. Mark and Mrs. Jane Chopko
The Honorable George and Mrs. Rhonda Salem

Bronze Patrons
Mr. Clay, KC\*HS and Mrs. Anne Hoffman, DC\*HS



## Remarks by

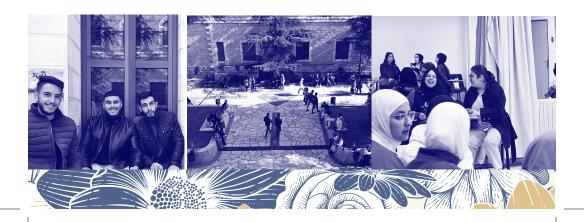
Br. Hernán Santos, FSC Vice Chancellor, Bethlehem University

## **Prayer for Justice and Peace**

Tonight's program featured Pianist Nahed Elrayes a Palestinian composer best known for his work, "A Lover from Palestine."

"... Hope is a way of being in life, where you keep the faith. If you have faith . . . this gives you an instrument to live the present situation with purpose."

Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa



## Bethlehem University Foundation's Archbishop Pietro Sambi "Star of Bethlehem" Award

## Mr. Samer Khoury International Leader and Advocate for Peace



Samer Said Khoury is Chairman of Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC), a multi-billion engineering group and one of the largest construction companies in the Middle East.

Samer is of Palestinian descent from the area of Safad in the Galilee. He holds a BSc in Civil Engineering

from California State University in Chico and an MBA from the University of Southern California.

Samer is at the helm of CCC which today is a large conglomerate with a broad range of activities ranging from its conventional engineering and construction role to the more complex role of an oil and gas and power developer. CCC employs more than 80,000 individuals worldwide. According to the annual Engineering News Record (ENR) surveys, CCC ranks continuously among the top 20 Largest International Contractors.

As the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Bethlehem Development Foundation, Samer inspired business, social, and educational activities ranging from collaborative economic development and peace and conflict resolution dialogues to youth empowerment and social enterprise philanthropies. Most recently, his leadership catalyzed over \$30 million to rejuvenate the iconic Church of the Nativity, as well as beautifying Manger Square and founding community centers, sports complexes, and other critical infrastructure to improve the lives of the Bethlehem community.



#### IN GRATITUDE TO OUR SPONSORS

## **Presenting Sponsor**

Samer Khoury

### **Peacebuilders**

Ghassan and Suava Salameh

#### **Scholars**

George and Rhonda Salem Family Foundation

## **Bridge Builders**

Elias and Annette Aburdene Issa and Doris Baconi Christian Brothers Conference Chris Larsen

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sponsors as of October 31, 2024



#### YOU ARE INVITED TO SPONSOR HOPE TONIGHT

In FY'2024 Bethlehem University Foundation distributed \$2,546,575 in grants from Endowed Funds and Annual restricted

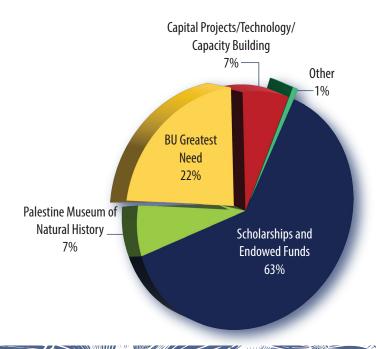
and unrestricted giving to Bethlehem University in Palestine.

Donations for the 2024 Annual Benefit and Awards Reception are still being warmly received. If you have not yet had the opportunity to donate, please consider a meaningful gift in solidarity with our sponsors this evening and with the young Palestinian students attending Bethlehem University.



Proceeds support the Bethlehem University Foundation Annual Fund.

## BUFUSA Grants to Bethlehem University September 2023-August 2024



#### BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION PATRONS

Patrons are individuals or couples who make a qualifying gift to the Patrons Endowment of Bethlehem University Foundation. This endowment is a board-restricted fund that allows the Foundation to respond to the needs of Bethlehem University and the Foundation. A "forever gift" to the Patrons Endowment allows the Foundation to grow the endowment to better fulfill its mission of supporting Bethlehem University.

- Legacy and Honorary Patrons are bestowed by resolution of the Board of Directors of Bethlehem University Foundation to those individuals or couples who have provided unique or enduring support of time, talent, or treasure for Bethlehem University Foundation.
- Gold—for \$100,000 in lifetime gifts
- Silver—for \$50,000 in lifetime gifts
- Bronze—for gifts totaling \$25,000 over a 5-year period

The Patrons have been underwritten by the generosity of Dr. Samir and Mrs. Mary Abu-Ghazaleh.

## **Legacy Patrons**

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The Andreas Foundation)
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†Deceased

<sup>\*</sup>Invested during the November 2024 Reception

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## PROVIDING HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PALESTINIANS

## **Bethlehem University**

Bethlehem University is a Catholic-Christian co-educational institution in the Lasallian tradition whose mission is to provide quality higher education to the people of Palestine.

Established in 1973 as the only Christian university in the Holy Land, and jointly founded by the Vatican and the De La Salle Christian Brothers, the University annually enrolls over 3,300 students in associate, bachelor, master, and professional diploma programs.

Bethlehem University stands for academic excellence and the development of students equipped to assume leading positions in society. As the largest employer in Bethlehem, the University provides professional opportunities and economic stability for the local community.

Bethlehem University is making a unique contribution to building peace and empowering young Palestinians to take responsibility for themselves and for the future of the Holy Land.

## **Bethlehem University Foundation**

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit entrusted with a focus to assist Bethlehem University in achieving its mission and promoting Bethlehem University in the United States. Bethlehem University Foundation allows U.S. citizens to make tax-deductible gifts in support of Bethlehem University's mission.

The Foundation annually supports Bethlehem University's mission through grants.



Bethlehem University Foundation 6001 Ammendale Road, Suite 200 Beltsville, MD 20705-1202 bufusa.org

