

# CANMP Opens Opportunities



## Kennebec New Mainer Scholarship

With the generous support of Hoang Realty, CANMP launched the Kennebec New Mainer Scholarship. **Each year, we award two \$1,000 scholarships to immigrant students who graduate from local high schools.** Rafeef Al Abbas (left) was one of this year's winners and is pursuing a degree in cosmetology from Aveda Institute.

## Activity Fund

CANMP's Activity Fund helps immigrant kids enjoy summer camp, sports, and other extracurricular activities. **This year, we supported 69 kids!** We also partnered with the Kennebec Valley YMCA to hire Arabic-speaking counselors (including Mohammed Aljendi, right) to work at Camp KV.



## RefAmerica Leadership Program

CANMP helps young people learn about and pursue great learning opportunities. This year, we helped Fatimah Halwah (left) apply for and win a fellowship with RefAmerica. **She spent a month in Washington, D.C.,** for a program of leadership and public-speaking training, cross-cultural exchange, team-building, and learning about the United States and its American immigrant stories.



## How you can help

You can help CANMP open more opportunities to immigrant families.

- \$50 will pay for one child to spend a week at summer camp
- \$200 will pay for a part-time language lab assistant for a week
- \$500 will pay for one teenager to participate in our Teen Adventure Group

**You may send a check or donate online:**  
[www.newmainersproject.org/donate](http://www.newmainersproject.org/donate)



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*The Capital Area New Mainers Project is a cross-cultural organization that welcomes immigrants and works to build a thriving, integrated community in central Maine.*

Dear CANMP friends,

**Opportunity.** It's at the heart of the American Dream. It's what immigrants – whether Syrians in 2019 or French Canadians a century earlier – have always sought in this country. And it's central to what CANMP is doing here in Maine every day.

**CANMP opens opportunities.** For kids – to enjoy summer camp, take field trips, and get homework help. For families – to learn English, live in better homes, and connect with helpful people. And for the community – to grow, share, and learn about each other.

At CANMP, we believe that Maine can be – and must work hard to be – a land of opportunity, a place where immigrants can settle, thrive, and contribute to their new communities. **Your support makes it possible** for us to create opportunities for the newest Mainers.

Thank you,

Chris Myers Asch, Executive Director

**P.S. – Your donation today will help CANMP open opportunities tomorrow!**

## CANMP's new home



Come visit CANMP's new home, the **Augusta Multicultural Center!** The Center features an iEnglish digital learning lab and hosts community classes, events, and programs that celebrate the diverse cultures of central Maine. A hub of learning, it gives people of all backgrounds an opportunity to expand their horizons.



## Exploring What It Means to Be American

This fall, CANMP launched a cross-cultural **Teen Adventure Group** to study American history and culture. Nine high school girls (four Americans and five immigrants) meet every other week for all kinds of fun learning experiences — discussions, meals, readings, speakers, and movies. They also take field trips to explore America for themselves. On their first trip, they visited the mills and trolley cars at Lowell National Historical Park (above). **In the spring, they will tour New York City and Washington, D.C.!**



# "They are with us in good times and bad times."

— *Syrian woman describing CANMP*

During a recent interview with the Maine Community Foundation (one of CANMP's funders), Yasmin, a Syrian mother of four, talked about how CANMP sponsors fun events such as holiday celebrations and the **International Kids Festival** (right) to help bring people together and build a sense of community. But she also appreciated how CANMP sponsored a solidarity rally after a terrorist murdered 50 people at two New Zealand mosques. At the March event, **nearly 200 city officials, clergy, and other local people stood together with the local Muslim community** (below). "They are with us in good times and in bad times," Yasmin said.



## Making an Impact on the Community

CANMP's work has earned recognition and support from across central Maine. Our recent awards include:

- **2019 United Way Norm Temple Community Volunteer Award** (accepted by CANMP co-founders Hasan Alkhafaji and Ahmed Al Abbas, below)
- **2019 Mayor's Recognition of Excellence Award** from Augusta Mayor Dave Rollins
- **2018 Gerda Haas Award for Excellence in Human Rights Education and Leadership** from the Holocaust and Human Rights Center

# "Without a good home, it's hard to do anything."

— *Syrian high schooler in Augusta*

Finding decent, affordable housing is a major challenge for immigrant families in central Maine. "Without a good home, it's hard to do anything," said Fatima, a Syrian high schooler. Through our **Better Housing Program**, CANMP offers grants and micro-loans to help families pay for security deposits and other costs associated with moving to more appropriate housing. CANMP volunteers also help paint, clean, and fix up homes for incoming families, such as little Ghazal's family (left). To date, **CANMP has helped 15 families (92 people) move to better homes, including 6 families (48 people) who rent homes directly from us.**

