



THE AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO

100 YEARS

Celebrating 100 Years of
Service to the
Community

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Driven by a desire to express service to Egypt and address the needs of its community, AUC founding president Charles Watson incorporated community service and civic engagement into the University's mission and academic curriculum 100 years ago.

Since its early beginnings, learning that connects academics with real life was an integral part of the AUC experience. Students were actively engaged in civic processes, including visits to hospitals and orphanages, villages and underprivileged areas, prisons and factories to enhance their understanding of larger social issues and develop their sense of sympathy toward others.

Established in 1920, AUC's first student organization, the Student Union, made community service a top priority, and in 1924, the University launched its first department dedicated to community outreach – the Division of Extension.

During World War II, AUC established a canteen for allied troops and offered special courses to them in Arabic and Egyptian culture. The Red Cross also used part of the athletic field, and the Allied Middle East Supply Center conducted experiments and tests in AUC's science labs. During the 1956 Suez War, AUC organized a major blood donor's program to which Raymond McLain, AUC president at the time, made the first contribution.

Today, AUC has **nine** community service clubs with around **750** student members serving underprivileged areas across Egypt and offers more than **300** community-based learning courses across a variety of disciplines. It is also home to a number of centers involved in service activities and research benefiting our greater community – including the 66-year-old Social Research Center.

Creating a Sustainable Future

From finding sustainable drinking water solutions for Egypt's remote areas to contributing to the nation's citrus industry development, AUC's Center for Applied Research on the Environment and Sustainability (CARES) tackles sustainability from every angle. CARES is a research, education and service unit dedicated to benefiting people and nature through integrated resource management.

Among the center's initiatives that work to improve the conditions in Egypt's public schools is EduCamp III: The Schools of 2030. The project, which was launched in the 2017-2018 academic year, aims to transform schools in informal Egyptian areas to meet the education objectives of the nation's sustainable development strategy, Egypt 2030.

The issues that are addressed range from poor infrastructure and overcrowded classrooms to low quality of teaching and violence in the schools. CARES implemented the project in two schools in Boulaq ElDakrou, particularly taking into account the specific needs of youth, children with special needs, women and mothers in the area.

EduCamp III marks the third phase of Education for Sustainable Development Beyond the Campus (EduCamp), which was initiated in 2010 to introduce education for sustainable development in Egypt.

"If you produce sustainability-literate youth, then you will have created a new generation aware of the problems facing them and can develop suitable interventions for Egypt's unique challenges."

Hani Sewilam

Mechanical Engineering Professor and
Director of the Center for Applied Research
on the Environment and Sustainability



Community-Based Learning at its Best

AUC's community-based learning (CBL) courses engage students in service activities as part of their academic curricula, allowing them to reflect and assess the impact of civic engagement and responsibility on self, others and the world. The program began in 2003 and has been implemented in various courses spanning different disciplines, from English and history to biology and political science. Courses involve students working with various NGOs or providing services to different segments of society, including orphans, cancer patients, refugees and marginalized groups.

In 2010, the Introduction to Engineering CBL course gave AUC students a profound learning experience while delivering a service to the community of Establ Antar in Cairo's Fustat suburb. The engineering students were challenged to design toys for the children of Establ Antar to curb their dangerous habits of rummaging through garbage and chasing after venomous scorpions as a form of entertainment. The students designed products, including scooters and airplanes, and invited the kids to the AUC New Cairo campus to test the toys and vote for their favorite. The whole process not only helped them develop their problem-solving skills using engineering principles and practice, but also raised their awareness about their ethical and social obligation as engineers.

Since 2008, more than **300** CBL courses have been offered at AUC, taught by more than **330** faculty members with enrollment reaching nearly **10,000** students.

"Working with people shows you that projects can be messy, that project management has to be flexible, and that every step of the way, you have to ensure the project is tailored to the needs of the community members who become active participants in the project."

Martina Jaskolski

Assistant Professor of Sustainable Development



Students Leading the Way for Change

Founded and completely led by students, **nine** student clubs at AUC are committed to empowering humanity through service. From supporting cancer patients and their families to providing aid to homeless children and underprivileged women, students are constantly exploring new ways to serve their community.

AUC served as a springboard for several successful NGOs that began their life at the University as student organizations by providing a dynamic student environment and ample resources for these clubs to grow their activity.

Helm Foundation provides a good example for a thriving local NGO that started out as an AUC student club.

Toward a More Accessible World

Helm is dreaming up a more inclusive world for people with disabilities. Initiated by childhood friends Ramez Maher '12 and Amena El-Saie '11 in 2014, Helm raises awareness about disability in Egypt and promotes the employment and full participation of the nation's 15 million people with disabilities in all aspects of life.

Helm has trained more than **5,000** corporate employees and **1,500** persons with disabilities on accessibility in the workplace, installed over **100** ramps on curb cuts and developed more than **400** partnerships in the public and private sectors to build awareness and collaborations.

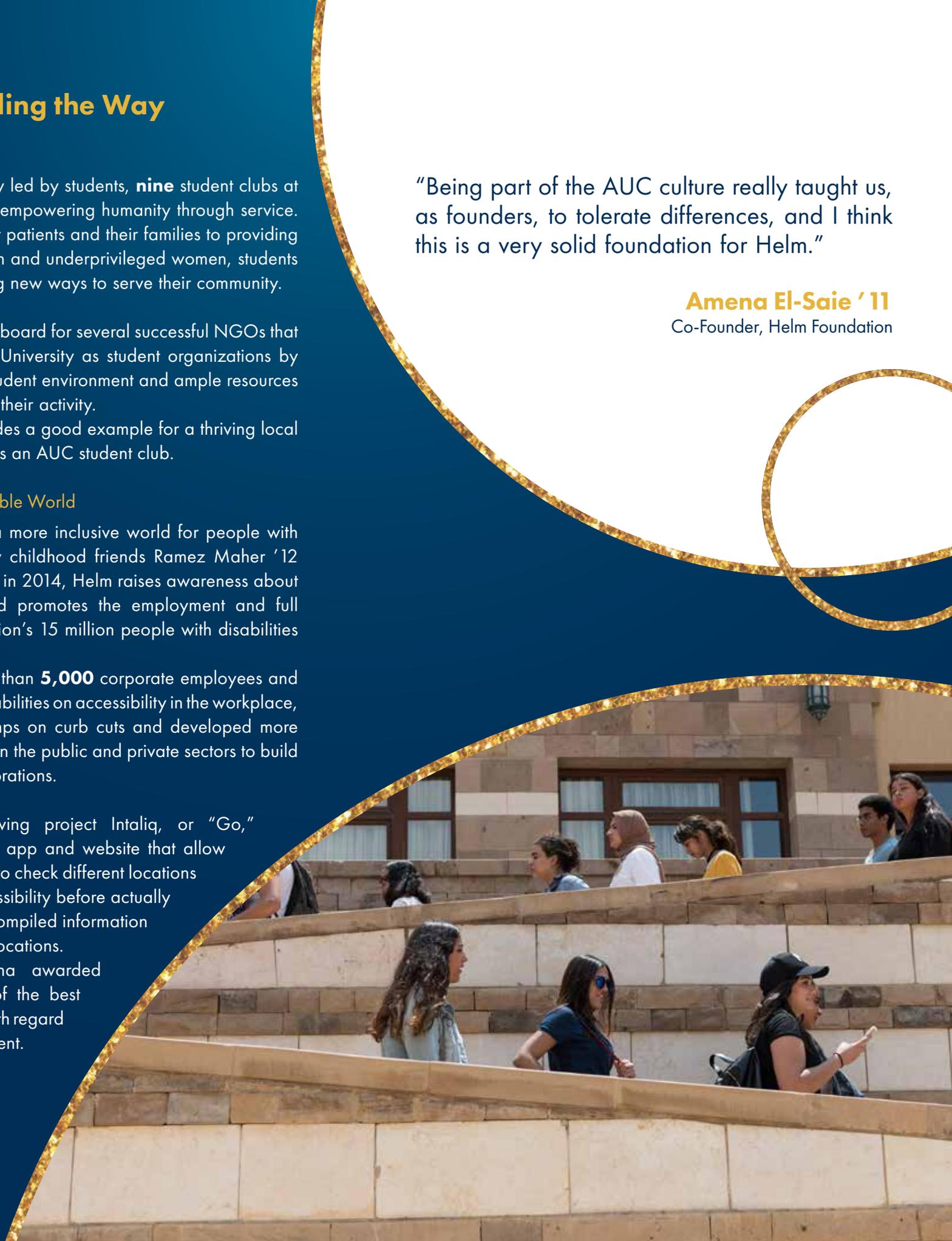
The foundation's growing project Intaliq, or "Go," encompasses a mobile app and website that allow people with disabilities to check different locations to see the level of accessibility before actually going. Thus far, it has compiled information on more than **1,000** locations.

United Nations Vienna awarded Helm for being one of the best practices in the world with regard to disability employment.

"Being part of the AUC culture really taught us, as founders, to tolerate differences, and I think this is a very solid foundation for Helm."

Amena El-Saie '11

Co-Founder, Helm Foundation



Did you **know?**

The AUC Venture Lab has accelerated more than **150** startups in multiple sectors, provided more than **1,700** mentoring and training hours, raised EGP **891 million** in investments, created over **550** jobs and generated over EGP **216 million** in revenues

AUC's Center for Applied Research on the Environment and Sustainability implemented the **first** solar-powered, village-scale drinking water solutions and chicken incubators in remote areas of Egypt

750,000 teachers from Egyptian public schools received government-accredited training through AUC's Middle East Institute for Higher Education

The research findings of a study carried out by AUC's Social Research Center on **women's access to assets and social security** were used by the National Council for Women to ensure **fair distribution of inheritance assets** to women

AUC established **12** of their **20** career development centers in Egyptian public universities through the University Centers for Career Development project, which will prepare around **1 million** public university students for the labor market

AUC awards approximately **\$27.8 million** annually in scholarships and financial aid

A Culture of Philanthropy, Civic Engagement and Responsible Business

Established in 2006 to further AUC's mission of advancing active citizenship and social responsibility through philanthropy, the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy, Civic Engagement and Responsible Business was named after the late John D. Gerhart, ninth president of AUC, whose career provided a model of public service.

The center hosts the **Lazord Fellowship** as part of its commitment to fostering competent and engaged youth. The fellowship, which targets recent graduates from Egyptian national universities, consists of a multi-dimensional program that empowers youth to develop a critical understanding of civic engagement and improve their leadership and technical skills for their future careers. The program developed fellows' skills through yearlong job placements, mentoring, training by local partners and job opportunities in organizations committed to the common good. The fellowship has occurred yearly since 2010 and has graduated **eight** cohorts and **64** alumni eager to make a difference in the world.

"Being part of the AUC community, I actually find that it negates the statement about young people being apathetic and not caring about others. For example, there are many community service clubs on campus, and we are all competing to help people."

Menna Soliman

President, Volunteers in Action Student Club



AUC Community Service Student Organizations



STAR
Student Action For Refugees



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