

Salwa Kader

Our next honoree, Mrs. Sally (**Salwa**) **Kader**, has achieved what so many before her thought unattainable – in the quest for peace in the Middle East and the protection of women and children – for one simple reason. As literate as she is, **she has never understood the meaning of the word “impossible.”**

It is how, as **President and Co-Founder of the United States Federation for Middle East Peace** – she accomplished the first meeting of imams and rabbis – and the first gathering of Muslim, Christian and Jewish women in the history of the United Nations. They came from many countries and left with newly gained mutual respect and understanding.

Just as Salwa rejects the concept of “impossible” – **she does not believe in the word “enemies.”** To her, enemies are merely friends who have not yet met. She has led countless workshops for Muslims, Jews and Christians to foster appreciation of each other’s cultures & beliefs... She hosted and moderated a Muslim/Hindu dialogue in Mumbai during its time of turmoil... and hosted Middle East peace conference at Arab headquarters in Cairo. The results have been so life-altering that her Federation now encircles the globe - from Malasia to Hungary – from Lebanon to Australia.

A tireless crusader for gender equality – she has crisscrossed the world, to countries, like Morocco, to inspire women to learn the skills of entrepreneurship, so they may start businesses of their own and learn, for the first time, the true meaning of independence and self-realization. She has met with mothers who had lost children – and children who had lost parents in war-torn Iraq, to bring them hope, comfort and a belief in a better future.

A recipient of numerous awards for these and other humanitarian efforts, Salwa Kader understands that our youth hold the key to a better and brighter tomorrow. Sadly – **almost exactly one year ago tonight, she lost her own**

son, Sam, to MRSA (“mersa”) – a hospital-acquired infection that would not respond to antibiotics. He entered the hospital, a healthy, abundantly active young man of 30... merely complaining of back pain. Three short weeks later, he was dead.

Though many may not have heard of it, **MRSA will claim more lives in the United States, this year, alone, than either AIDS or Breast Cancer**. With few drugs to treat it – and even fewer in the pipeline – it has quietly and insidiously, become the single greatest disease threat on our planet.

No loss is more devastating than that of one’s own child. However, the indefatigable Salwa Kader is determined to turn her personal tragedy into a triumph for other mothers of the world, by launching -- this day -- the **first-ever global campaign to fight MRSA**. We hope you will join in her fight – and our applause for her lifetime of remarkable achievements.