



to broaden the base of the Nation's entrepreneurial culture.

TCF was established with a Royal charter in Saudi Arabia in July 2004 under the auspices of Prince Abdulaziz Bin Abdullah and operates in close cooperation with the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA) whose governor, Mr. Amr Dabbagh is the Vice-Chairman of Miawiyah's Board of Trustees & the chairman of its Board of Directors.

From its head office in Riyadh, the fund actively seeks to cover the whole country. TCF has managed in a very short time and with a small team of volunteers led by The Centennial Fund's General Manager to establish firm alliances with all the regional Chambers of Commerce, and to lay the foundations of a model that can easily be implemented as a start up package in all new programmes all over the world.

TCF relied heavily on technology to spread the operation all over the Kingdom and to take the program to where it's most needed. The program has just finished its pilot phase, but since its inception TCF has helped almost 30 young entrepreneurs start their own businesses and some of them are ready for expansion less than six months after starting trading.

There are a number of wonderful examples of how TCF is helping change people's lives.

Abdo Mehdawi, the young man from the Al-Lith on the west coast of Saudi Arabia whose ambition was to start a provision delivery service to the farms in his area, and in the process helps feed his family. He is now the proud owner of a truck which The Centennial Fund bought for him and of which he is making full use of.

Another example is Yahya Aal Jahdal, the young man who was smart enough to identify that there was not a single mattress retailer for miles around his village, and is now with the help of financing and mentoring from TCF, the sole retailer and distributor of mattresses in the area capturing a ready and available market.

But without doubt the example that shines through is Ghalia Banafea a young TCF beneficiary and a future star of Saudi Arabian fashion. Her story is truly an inspiration to all young people regardless of boundary or nationality.

Ghalia is a young, talented, hardworking and well educated girl. Born and raised in Makkah, like any other girl in the world she had a dream! Her dream was to

be a famous designer and to own her own business for dress design and tailoring.

Colours and shapes had always fascinated her and this tempted her to explore further and to discover that she had a talent for detail. "The more I knew or did the more curious I became. I couldn't wait to grow up; I wanted to become an adult so that I can make my dreams come" She said.

She studied fashion design at the University in Makkah where she learned about traditional folklore of the region and the intricacies of fashion and design. She



found out about the components of her profession, such as raw materials, tailoring style, embroidery and artwork. "Our ancestors had a special way of preserving their art and skills and passed it on from generation to generation." She said "When I graduated in 2002 I felt that I was ready to make my own impact in the profession; I wanted to modernize the traditional fashions of our country into dresses that young Saudi women would find appealing."

Ghalia took the first steps towards putting her ideas into practice, and in order to do that She worked hard with very little return simply to familiarize herself with what women expected, and to test their acceptance of her ideas. At last she was ready to start her own business, but could not provide either the financial capital or the skills needed to run that business."

One day whilst training at the Computer Training Institute she saw brochures distributed by The Centennial Fund advertising the program and inviting young people to send their ideas. She was overjoyed especially about the mentoring program that the TCF promised her.

She applied to the fund for a loan, and had to