

THE MIDDLEBY CORPORATION

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Selim Bassoul Honored for Refugee Innovation at EY World Entrepreneur of the Year™ 2016

Elgin, Ill. (September 13, 2016) – Selim Bassoul, Chairman and CEO of the Middleby Corporation, received a Special Recognition for Social Impact Award at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2016 Gala held in June in Monaco. Selim received this recognition for the development of an innovative oven used in refugee camps.

“I am honored and humbled to be the first-ever recipient of this honor. Through the creation of this recognition, EY is inspiring others to act and give back,” Selim said. “What’s important to me is that we are making a difference in the world by addressing the needs of refugees and those less fortunate to give them another chance in life. Most people cannot imagine the magnitude of the refugee camps, but I have seen it first hand, and I am committed to making their lives easier.”

Prior to receiving the recognition, a video was played which showed Selim visiting the camps and speaking to the refugees. Upon conclusion, the audience of thousands went silent after seeing the desperate conditions in the camps. The ovens were lowered from above the stage and were “floating” over the stage when Bryan E. Pearce, EY Global Leader, highlighted Selim’s accomplishments for this first-ever EY recognition.



“We first heard of Selim’s idea to help displaced people in refugee camps a year ago. I’m happy to report that this concept is now a reality and just a few short weeks ago Selim’s vision to help refugees came to fruition,” said Mr. Pearce upon presentation of the award at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Gala. “Already, more than 1,000 ovens have been sent to refugee camps for many, through no fault of their own, are living in turmoil. Selim, you are bringing light, heat and pure water to those in need around the world.”

The oven saves on the amount of wood needed to cook and the decreases the time women and girls, the primary gatherers in the camps, need to find wood. It also has a power source to charge a phone or power light.

Through the Bassoul Dignity Foundation, Selim and his family are using their time and their own personal resources to give back to the most vulnerable and needy around the world. Selim, along with his wife, created the foundation to provide a second chance in life to those in dire situations.