

## RIMA FAKIH MISS USA 2010

Rima Fakh's road to becoming Miss USA began when she sold her car to support her childhood dream to enter the Miss Michigan USA pageant. Fakh won the state title and, on May 16, 2010 at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, the 25-year-old made history as the first ever Arab American and Muslim to win the crown.

Fakh was born in Sour, Lebanon and immigrated to Queens, New York in 1993. She graduated from St. John's Preparatory School in 2003 at the age of 17. After graduation, Fakh moved to Dearborn, Michigan and began a mentoring program to provide children with caring adult role models.

Fakh continued to give back to her community while attending the University of Michigan, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, with a minor in Business Administration. Active in campus life, Fakh served her fellow students as class senator and president of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE). She also spent time volunteering for various community organizations.

As ambassador of the Pink Fund, a financial assistance organization, Fakh is dedicated to helping remove the short-term financial burden from breast cancer patients. As Miss Michigan USA 2010, Fakh served as one of the first official pageant ambassadors for women's self-defense awareness, educating women on the importance of taking the necessary precautionary measures to best protect and prepare themselves from unwanted situations.

As Miss USA, Fakh is a spokeswoman for breast and ovarian cancer education, research and legislation - a platform that is close to her heart. She will travel nationwide as an advocate for organizations such as Susan G. Komen for the Cure and Gilda's Club, among others.

Since being crowned in May, Rima has had many notable appearances, recently speaking at Ronald Reagan's Centennial Celebration, riding in a float at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and attending an American Chamber of Commerce conference in Cairo alongside former President Bill Clinton. Rima also continues to make many appearances with the World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. (WWE), including a special segment titled "Tribute to the Troops" and a role in the reality show "Tough Enough."

When Fakh manages to find free time in her busy schedule, she enjoys traveling, running, dancing and spending time with her younger brother. She especially enjoys playing sports and watching the NFL, particularly the NY Giants. After her reign, Fakh plans to attend law school and contribute to the Service Nation campaign, an initiative that aims to inspire a new era of voluntary citizen service in America.

### **About Miss USA**

The MISS UNIVERSE® Organization, a Donald J. Trump and NBC Universal joint venture, is a global community empowering role models of beauty, health and leadership for young women of today. As part of the Miss Universe Organization, Miss USA is dedicated to partnering with charities around the world, and to increasing awareness of breast and ovarian cancers. For more information, visit: [www.missusa.com](http://www.missusa.com).

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