

بچه کار آیدت ز گل طبقی از گلستان من به بروقتی  
گل بهمن پنج روزوشش باشد این گلستان همیشه خوش باشد

## **Debra and Reza Abbaszadeh Challenge Grant**

*"What use will it be to you a tray of cut flowers?  
Take a page from my Golestan instead.*

*Flowers last but five days or six.  
This Golestan will always be joyful"*

*The Book of Golestan, Sa'di (1259 AD)*

**What are the terms of the grant?** Debra and Reza Abbaszadeh have awarded Golestan Center for Language Immersion and Cultural Education a \$15,000 challenge grant, which *matches, dollar-for-dollar, any donations or grants* awarded to the organization's Heritage Language collaborative (Colab) between June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

The Golestan Board of Directors has accepted this challenge grant at a critical juncture in the growth of the organization. Funds from the grant will support the Colab's work in helping other communities create similar schools, produce high quality teaching materials, and support all families wanting to raise bilingual children.

**What is the Colab?** Golestan is the *only* daily Persian language immersion school of its kind in the country. Dozens of communities have requested help in building similar schools, but there is no designated staff member at Golestan to support them. The Golestan Heritage Language Collaborative (Colab) was established to provide support and expertise to all communities wanting to open a school similar to Golestan. In addition to producing materials toward this effort, the Colab also provides support to families worldwide wanting to raise bilingual children.

**Why is supporting Golestan's Colab important?** This grant and matching donations will fund staffing for the Colab, who will offer pro-bono consulting to individuals or groups wanting to start similar programs, host workshops for educators, and produce books, CDs, audiobooks and teaching materials to share with emerging programs.

**How can community members help?** Community participation in this fundraising effort is critical to its success - the impact of the grant is directly dependent on the amount of funds Golestan is able to raise to be matched by the challenge grant. For this reason, it is imperative that members of the community become involved by either giving or committing to raise funds for the challenge. Family, private, and community foundations are encouraged to support the Colab's work, which is vital in helping preserve Iranian culture in diaspora, for generations to come.

**What is the impact of this support?** This grant not only provides financial support for the Colab, but it helps spread awareness of the organization's community work. It is Golestan's mission to help build autonomous and progressive daily Persian language immersion programs for children across the country. It is our hope that this challenge grant will enable Golestan to continue to provide ongoing support to these communities so that in 10 years, every major metropolitan area in the US will have a school of its own.