Farouk Shami

Farouk Shami is an entrepreneur, employer, manufacturer and problem solver. He came to America in 1965 with $71 in his pocket and through hard work and determination, achieved the American dream. Founder and chairman of Farouk Systems, Inc. - a multinational corporation that manufactures the world renowned brands BioSilk and CHI - Shami has a unique perspective on global business and how to succeed in the 21st century.

Originally, Shami came to the United States to pursue a degree in education, like his father. He began working part time as a hairdresser during college and discovered his true calling when he became a salon owner. Being an entrepreneur and small business owner gave Shami an opportunity to create better, more efficient tools to perfect his craft. In 1986, he invented the first ammonia-free hair care system. From that moment, Shami’s mission became creating a company that was environmentally responsible, promoting education and adhering to the highest ethical standards.

Shami is a humanitarian who fervently believes that generosity is repaid many-fold. He has donated to numerous charities and organizations worldwide and personally assisted with disaster relief after such tragedies as 9/11 and Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ike. With his business partner, Shami founded a diabetes research center at the City of Hope medical facility in California and a school to educate Palestinian women in science and technology, both named in memory of Shami’s father.

In December 2007, Shami made one of the riskiest decisions of his career when he decided to shift his manufacturing to Texas to support job creation. Farouk made a personal and business commitment to manufacturing high quality products in America. One of his three Texas ranches supplies organic olive leaf extract for the CHI Organics product line.

Shami has received numerous industry awards, in addition to the American Patriot Award from the National Defense University, Businessman of the Year by Apollo Alliance in recognition of bringing jobs to America, Arab American Businessman of the Year and the 2003 Ameristar Award. Shami serves on the board of the National Defense University Foundation and the Greater Houston Partnership.