



## e-Council Connection

Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC)

January 2009

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**Greetings!**

**Happy New Year!**

### ACC In the News



Arab American News  
Community News

#### **ACC opens hearts to Iraqi refugee children**

*By Khalil AlHajal*

Group forgoes annual executive party to help children have a good holiday

OAK PARK - The Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC) skipped its annual Board of Directors holiday party this year and instead offered help to a group of Iraqi refugee children.

ACC president Haifa Fakhouri said the group redirected money for a party for executives in order to put on a celebration and give gifts to newly arrived Iraqi families "to make their lives easier."

ACC Chairman Abe Munfakh said a large number of recent refugees from Iraq have



settled in Oak Park, creating a need for special attention in the schools there.

"It's a big adjustment for the children. They have to get into the American way of doing things," Munfakh said. "So we decided to forgo our celebration so we could buy gifts for each child for Christmas."

The group partners with the Oak Park school district to provide an after school program for 36 1st-12th graders, offering help with homework, English, computer skills, life skills and counseling, three hours a day, four days a week.

On Thursday, ACC and school administrators presented gifts and held a party for the students at Oak Park High School.

[Read Full Article](#)

### *Gearing clients towards success*



Making a Difference

Our dear member Khadija Harb came to the ACC Network Clubhouse in July of 2008 without any knowledge of how to apply for the citizenship test and its requirements. ACC Clubhouse staff assisted Khadija in enrolling in the citizenship class. She studied very hard with the help of Ikhlas Kerma, ACC Clubhouse staff, and Deborah Odocha, Clubhouse member. Nene from the ACC

Immigration Department assisted her in filling out the Form N-400 and was also able to get the fees waived.

On September 29, 2008 Khadija successfully passed the citizenship test and on October 5, 2008 she took the Oath of Allegiance. Khadija Harb is now an American citizen. She is truly grateful to ACC for its help and would like to especially thank the clubhouse and the behavioral health department for their assistance and support.

### *February is Heart Health Awareness Month*



**ACC's Public Health Department invites you to join the American Heart Association in making a difference and raising awareness for heart health.**

The American Heart Association invites churches and other faith-based organizations to conduct "Go Red Sunday" heart-health awareness activities on a weekend in February or any other time of your choice. The downloadable kit includes posters, church bulletin inserts, pulpit announcements and

other tools.

[Have Faith in Heart Toolkit](#)

[More information](#)



## Community Announcement

DEARBORN - The Congress of Arab American Organizations (CAAO), in Michigan, is calling for community participation in a candlelight vigil on Friday, January 2, 2009 at 5 p.m. in front of the Dearborn City Hall at Michigan and Schaefer Rd. The vigil will show the community's support for the Palestinians in Gaza.

CAAO urges community members to bring their own candles and lighters and Palestinian flags and to wear kuffiyehs to the vigil. The Congress is made up of representatives of 43 organizations, all of whom urge participation in the vigil.

For more information please CAAO at 313.505.4889

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