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**ARAB AMERICAN AND CHALDEAN COUNCIL'S 35TH ANNUAL
CIVIC AND HUMANITARIAN AWARDS GALA TO HONOR LOCAL
LEADERS**

Governor Rick Snyder to provide welcome at event

LATHRUP VILLAGE, Mich. – Sept. XX, 2014 – The Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC), a premier nonprofit human service organization serving southeast Michigan, will celebrate 35 years of service to the communities of southeast Michigan at its annual Civic and Humanitarian Awards Gala on Saturday, Oct. 4 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. A general reception will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the program and dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Funds raised through sponsorships, contributions and ticket sales at the black-tie optional event will provide the resources, education, training and services needed to empower ACC's clients.

The program, which will be presided over by WDIV-TV Anchor and Reporter Sandra Ali, will begin with a welcome by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder. Next, ACC Chairman Abe Munkakh and President and CEO Dr. Haifa Fakhouri, will present awards to:

- **State Representative Klint Kesto - State Leadership Award**
Representative Kesto, the first Chaldean elected to serve in the Michigan House of Representatives, has represented the city of Wixom, Commerce Township, a portion of West Bloomfield and the Village of Wolverine Lake since 2012. Prior to running for office, he served as a prosecuting attorney with the Wayne County Prosecutor's office and worked for the United States Department of Energy, United States Department of Justice and as a manager of his family's business, Buscemi's Pizza and Sub Shop. Involved with Chaldean and legal organizations, he is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University Law School.

- Southfield Mayor Brenda Lawrence - City Leadership Award**
Lawrence was elected Mayor of the City of Southfield in 2001. The first African American and woman to be selected for the position, she oversees a population of more than 78,000 people. She formerly served on the Southfield City Council, serving as president beginning in 1999. An avid volunteer, Lawrence has initiated numerous community programs during her tenure. The Central Michigan University graduate is the nominee for Michigan's 14th congressional district in the 2014 elections.
- Special Tribute Awards – ACC Founding Member Salman Sesi, Esq. and ACC Board Member Andrew Ansara**
The ACC will honor these individuals' lifetime achievements and contributions to the organization.

“It is fitting that on this momentous anniversary we honor individuals who have dedicated themselves to community service,” said Dr. Haifa Fakhouri, ACC President and CEO. “I am looking forward to seeing both new and familiar faces at this year's gala as we celebrate both our honorees and all those who have supported the ACC since its founding in 1979.”

The program will culminate with a keynote presentation by Ron A. May, executive vice president of Major Enterprise Projects at DTE Energy. May is responsible for major generation construction and environmental projects at the company's power plants, new nuclear power plant development, FERMI 2 modifications, gas projects, and the development of renewable, metering and distribution assets, along with strategic facilities and service projects including business revitalization. He earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan and completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University and graduate course work at Eastern Michigan University, Youngstown State University and Pennsylvania State University. He serves on numerous boards and is a member of several engineering organizations.

The ACC serves more than 70,000 clients in metropolitan Detroit. The organization's programs include Pantry of Plenty – the twice-monthly food distribution event at its Detroit office, behavioral health, employment and training, social services and youth and recreational programs. Additionally, the ACC also operates 40 outreach offices throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties, staffed with bilingual and trilingual staffs.

Dinner will follow the presentations and entertainment throughout the evening will be provided by Saxophonist Kamal Kareem and Mark Randisi and Quartet. To purchase tickets, call 248-559-1990.

About the Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC)

The Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC) is the premier nonprofit human service organization providing services to the Middle Eastern and mainstream communities in Southeast Michigan. Founded in 1979, the ACC provides counseling, health care, social services, employment training, job placement, translation, interpretation and youth services to more than 70,000 clients in metro Detroit. The ACC operates 40 outreach offices in the tri-county area, staffed with bilingual and trilingual professionals to serve the Arab American and Chaldean American populations and offer assistance to the Middle East refugee population. For more information, visit www.myacc.org or call (248) 559-1990.

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