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**ARAB AMERICAN AND CHALDEAN COUNCIL TO HONOR
SALMAN SESI AND ANDREW ANSARA WITH
SPECIAL TRIBUTE AWARDS AT UPCOMING GALA**

LATHRUP VILLAGE, Mich. – Sept. XX, 2014 – The Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC), a premier nonprofit human service organization serving southeast Michigan, will honor Salman Sesi, Esq. and Andrew Ansara for their lifetime achievements and contributions to the organization at the ACC’s annual Civic and Humanitarian Awards Gala on Saturday, Oct. 4 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

Early pioneers in supporting local services to their respective communities, both honorees are credited for helping to make the ACC what it is today. The organization is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year.

“Salman and Andrew have been integral members of the community, providing knowledge, expertise and support to the ACC, as well as other organizations,” said Dr. Haifa Fakhouri, president and CEO of the ACC. “They are an inspiration to our board, staff and those we serve.”

A founding member and former chairman of the board of the ACC, Sesi arrived in Detroit in 1950 shortly after graduating from the University of Baghdad Law School. He received his juris doctor from the Detroit College of Law and now runs a successful private practice, Sesi & Sesi, P.C, in Farmington Hills with his son.

Sesi has given much of his time to serving the community, working closely with Arab American and Chaldean organizations, as well as several presidents since 1950, on political and cultural

issues. Currently, the West Bloomfield resident serves on the boards of Omnicare of Michigan, The American Arab Chamber of Commerce, The Arab and Jewish Friends and others.

Board Member Ansara immigrated to the United States from Lebanon in 1951. He started working in grocery stores, later saving enough money to open a small market in West Detroit and restaurant in Allen Park with his brother George. In 1961, the brothers opened a Big Boy franchisee and founded Ansara Restaurant Group, which now includes 22 Red Robin locations, 2Booli, Burgrz, Portofino and 25 Degrees Restaurants. In all, the company, which Ansara's son now runs, employs about 2,500 people in Michigan, Ohio and Illinois and has a revenue of nearly \$70 million.

The Farmington Hills resident is well known for his faith in Detroit and love for what he does, despite the long hours.

“What these two entrepreneurs have done for the local Arab American and Chaldean communities is nothing short of remarkable. They have shown new immigrants, as well as native Detroiters, that anything is possible with hard work and dedication,” added Dr. Fakhouri.

Other award recipients during the evening include State Representative Klint Kesto, who will receive the State Leadership Award, and Southfield Mayor Brenda Lawrence, who will be honored with the City Leadership Award. Ron A. May, executive vice president of Major Enterprise Projects at DTE Energy, will be the evening's keynote speaker.

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.

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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