



Council News

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ACC 31st Annual Gala: Helping Hands, Healing Lives

With more than 800 in attendance ranking from state, federal and local officials including the two main candidates for Michigan governor, ACC celebrated its 31st Annual Civic and Humanitarian Awards Gala Oct. 16 inside the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit.

The ACC's humanitarian mission wouldn't be possible without the help of its partners. The gala is hosted to extend thanks to organizations that have helped provide services to the needy and honors a select group of distinguished individuals for their tireless efforts and unwavering support of giving back to the community through ACC.

This year's awardees are Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel; Nancy Schlichting, Henry Ford Health System President/CEO; Dr. Patricia Maryland, President/CEO, St. John Providence Health System; Azzam Elder, Deputy Wayne County Executive; Louie Boji, Boji Group chairman; and Wally Jadan, President/CEO of Middle Eastern American TV and radio.



Next governor of Michigan Rick Snyder with ACC Chairman Abe Munfakh and President Haifa Fakhouri.

"They are involved with the services of ACC. They are enhancing our operation and helping the refugees and those in need of services," said ACC President /CEO Dr. Haifa Fakhouri.

... "I encourage anyone who has time, talent or money to give. Every one of us can take, but giving is the blessing of thought.

Please if you have time, if you have talent, anything, give. That's the most rewarding. It's an honor and a privilege for me to receive this award. It will stay in my office and my heart for the rest of my life," Boji said.

The 2010 gubernatorial candidates were the night's honored guest speakers. Their speeches were broadcast live by Detroit's local TV news Channel 7 WXYZ.

Vivian Pickard, President of General Motors Foundation and Director of Corporate Relations and Grassroots Initiatives for GM served as the emcee. Additional speakers included Radwan Khoury, Ph.D., ACC Executive Director/COO; Pamela Alexander, Ford Motor Company Fund director of Community Development and Fund Operations; and Byna Elliott, Fifth Third Bank Senior Vice President and Director of Community Affairs.

"When we need a safety net, community organizations such as ACC step up, they make that difference, so Haifa we appreciate all that you do and all the programs you have been able to contribute to," Ficano said. *By Natasha Dado, Arab American News*



Gala Emcee Vivian Pickard
General Motors Foundation

Abe Munfakh
ACC Chairman of the Board

Pamela Alexander
Ford Motor Company Fund

Byna Elliott
Fifth Third Bank

Candidate (D) Virg Bernero
Mayor of Lansing

Dr. Patricia Maryland
St. John Providence Health System

Nancy Schlichting
Henry Ford Health System



Sheriff Mark Hackel
Macomb County Sheriff's Office

Louie Boji, Boji Group
ACC Board Member of the Year

Azzam Elder
Deputy Wayne County Executive

Wally Jadan
MEA TV & Radio

ACC Staff Award: Dr. Zafer Obeid
Physician, Primary Care Clinic

ACC Staff Award: Labiba Radwan
Therapist, Behavioral Health Program

ACC partners with 5/3 Bank for e-Bus and Small Business Expo

On Thursday, August 19th, ACC and Fifth Third Bank hosted an e-Bus Small Business Expo at ACC's Youth Recreation and Leadership Center (62 W. Seven Mile Road, Detroit). "The purpose of the Expo is to not only educate businesses on various financial resources that are available to them, but to also have open dialogue relative to their issues and concerns that will be addressed by a panel of financial experts," said Loretta Humphrey-Cruz, Fifth Third Bank Community Development Marketing Specialist.

"As a bridge of understanding, we continue on a mission of maximizing the skills, resources and expertise of the communities we serve which is why (for the second year) we are excited about our partnership with Fifth Third Bank and its e-Bus initiative," commented Dr. Haifa Fakhouri, ACC President and CEO. "Through the strength of partnership we can help clients better their lives."

A panel of individuals from SBA, CEED, City of Detroit Office of Targeted Business Development, Michigan Small Business and Technical Development Center, Optimum Capital Management, and Michigan Food and Beverage Association (MFBA), addressed local small business owners.

ACC clients and community members boarded the e-Bus where they were provided with community resources along with information regarding banking and their credit report. After the e-Bus, participants visited the Detroit Community Health Connection, which provided free health screenings. Clients also had the option of participating in two workshops "Banking Basics 101" and "Taking a Business From Your Basement to the Consumer."



(Above) The morning kicked off with a "Taste of ACC" continental breakfast and networking session.



The E-Bus includes information from DTE, Michigan DHS, to a list of low-income housing, to how to prevent identity theft, and more.



(ANDRE J. JACKSON/Detroit Free Press)

Making Dreams Come True: ACC Summer Program selected for Detroit Free Press Summer Dreams Campaign

By Patricia Montemurri, Detroit Free Press

Hadeer Jabouri has picked up English, along with American pastimes such as basketball and baseball, in the 18 months since he arrived in suburban Detroit from Iraq. The 14-year-old relishes the new sports he has learned and the friends he has made through a summer and after-school program sponsored by the Arab American and Chaldean Council to help refugee children deal with the aftereffects of war and acclimatize to the United States. . .

When Hadeer was growing up in Baghdad, war was never far away. . . "The No. 1 thing is we try and create a safe environment," said Walid Gammouh, a social worker who supervises the council's effort, which runs in partnership with Oak Park Schools and Oakland Schools. "And

through a safe environment, we can support them academically and behaviorally. You're in awe about what they've been through and the resilience they have and that they want to focus on studies and succeed," said Gammouh.

Written by Milyana Aoro, 9th Grader in ACC's After School/Summer Program

I had the best experience in the afterschool program. When I went there my English was not all that good. The teachers helped me build my English. We do math, reading, writing, spelling, gym and relaxing activities. In the summer we learn and have fun at the same time because we have the best teachers ever. I had learned a lot of things in the afterschool and summer program. I am so thankful to this program, to the teachers, and the people in charge. I hope that this program will stay forever because there is a lot of people that need it.

ACC Oak Park Youth Stay In School Program



Providing a Road to Recovery



ACC is devoted to helping our clients succeed in reaching a stable life regardless the limitations imposed on his or her mental illness and substance abuse. Deborah is one of the many who have struggled with substance abuse and mental health problems throughout her life. However, she did not allow this to stop her from getting the help she needed. Since August 2009, Deborah has been attending ACC and receiving outpatient services for individual and group therapy along with psychiatric services.

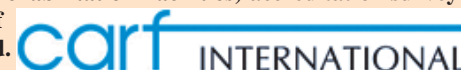
"I am able to cope with my anxiety and I have accepted my mental illness of Bipolar. Thanks to my psychiatrist, therapist and DRA group, my life is more stable," said Deborah.

Deborah came to ACC struggling emotionally and financially believing self medication through alcohol was the key to her problems. She struggled and relapsed several times in her path to recovery.

Today Deborah has been sober for 5 months; she continues to participate in group therapy weekly for Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA), serves as a strong mentor for those in group still struggling with the idea of a sober life, and found employment. "I now have hope by staying sober, I have insured a secure job, and I have better relationships, especially with my daughter."

Deborah is looking forward to what the future holds for her as she continues outpatient treatment at ACC.

In August 2010 ACC's Behavioral Health Division passed its 7th CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accreditation survey with flying colors! To obtain this three year accreditation, ACC met internationally recognized standards of quality in the provision of outcomes-driven programs and services to enhance the lives of the persons served.



Job Fair attended by over 2500 job seekers

ACC's SEMCA Jobs Education and Training (JET) Program hosted its 2nd Annual "Back to Work" Job Fair in Hamtramck on May 26th. Over 2600 people attended the job fair, which featured 41 employers. Resumes were reviewed, applications were filled out and jobs were being offered on the spot. Both job seekers and employers were pleased with the outcome and opportunities resulting from the fair.

"We are incredibly sensitive to the fact that unemployment numbers don't accurately represent those who have stopped looking, who are working multiple jobs, but not making it and not receiving unemployment," said Dan Martinez, program director for SEMCA JET. "These events like what ACC puts on are crucial for folks to have an opportunity to get into something more permanent. To hopefully secure benefits and healthcare and all those issues that are so pressing right now."

The goal of ACC's annual job fair is to provide participants with results that will allow them to obtain employment and sustain them and their families.



"I really appreciated it," said participants about the ACC opening up an opportunity for all in the community.

ACC's Hamtramck SEMCA JET Program has achieved the highest performance score out of the SEMCA Region and the entire State of Michigan. In the final report for the year, placement was at 75%.

ACC opens fourth WIC Program location

In response to the underserved population and high need for a Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program, ACC opened its fourth WIC location in Highland Park, MI. Housed within the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency Head Start building, ACC's new WIC office is located at: **138 Cortland, Highland Park, 48203**. Staff in this office can be reached at **(313) 865-4631 ext 299**.

ACC's WIC Program has been awarded the "Certificate of Excellence" from the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion for demonstrating a high level of service to clients.



The Special Supplemental Food Program for WIC assists in meeting the nutritional needs of expectant, breast feeding and postpartum women, infants, and children through age five. Services include nutritional education and counseling, supplemental nutritious foods, breastfeeding support, infant formula for babies up to one-years-old, health screenings, lead poisoning education, lead testing, hemoglobin testing, and referrals for additional services.

ACC Annual Donation Drive

Each year ACC distributes clothing, toys, food and other much needed items through its many community outreach offices. There is a great need for your support, this year more than ever, and we invite you to be a part of this charitable effort. Your generosity and support will truly make a real difference in the lives of those in need. Thank you for **"Making a Difference."**

ACC is collecting: jackets, clothes, food, household items and monetary donations. To donate today please contact ACC at (248) 559-1990.



Reaching the uninsured and underinsured

Health insurance coverage improves access and quality of medical care and can contribute to the overall health of Americans. According to 2006 data from the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey and the National Hospital Ambulatory Survey, 43.6 million Americans were currently uninsured.

In an effort to reach the uninsured and underinsured, ACC hosts a number of community health fair events throughout the year.

ACC "Back to School" Community Health Fair

On ACC's Public Health Division, in partnership with Connecting the Dots of Michigan, hosted a FREE "Back to School" Health Fair on Friday, August 27, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Bridge Academy in Hamtramck. The purpose of this event was to provide free health services for youth and their families as they prepare to start the school year.

The health fair offered Glucose and Blood Pressure screenings, Vision Screenings, Chiropractic & Massage Therapy, Dental Plans/ Screenings, HIV/AIDS Testing, Back to school vaccines, including H1N1, Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) services and information, Health Coverage Enrollment, Medicare and Medicaid Enrollment, MiChild Enrollment, Healthy Eating Workshop, Lead Testing for Homes Program, free giveaways and much more.



ACC Angels Night Family Fun Fair

Having good health is important for all members of the family. ACC's Angels Night Family Fun Fair, hosted by ACC and the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion on October 30th at ACC's Youth Recreation and Leadership Center in Detroit, provided a safe family environment for fun activities and free health services for those in need.

The health fair provided Glucose and Blood Pressure Screenings, Hearing and Vision Screenings, Lead Testing, Dental Services, Medicare and Medicaid, MiChild, and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) services and information, Children's Games and Activities, Pumpkin Decorating, Cider and Donuts, and other family oriented activities.



8th Annual Swinging for Scholarships

Golf Outing & Scholarship Awards Dinner Sponsors



Photo by: Rothermel Promotional Products

(Above) 2010 Scholarship Award Recipients and Donors

The Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC) held its 8th annual golf outing and scholarship dinner on June 16 at Shenandoah County Club in West Bloomfield.

Scholarships were awarded to high school seniors who excel academically and are in need of financial support for college.

“It’s our commitment to improve the quality of life for students and those who are in need. Financial conditions should not prevent them from pursuing their education,” ACC President and CEO Haifa Fakhouri said.

Scholarship awardees were Talal Aboufakhr, Sahar Adora, Najwan Augustin,

Marwa Boulis, Rose Brewart, Rayan El-Zein, Yarob Fakhoury, Robin Kassiss, Olivia Najor and Tamara Naoum.

“We want to be diverse and represent a cross section of the community. We are pleased to have a diverse group this year.” Fakhouri said.

Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon and Steve Honorowski, regional sales director of Pepsi Beverages Company, served as honorary chairperson for the event.

“Here in Detroit we all know the great work ACC does. It’s a social service agency that helps so many move forward, make their way, and live the American dream. We know it

served the large immigrant population, but it also serves the large population of Detroiters and other folks from around the metro area who have no connection to the Arab and Chaldean community,” Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox said.

The ACC hopes it can raise money for even more scholarships in the future. “I (hope) we can raise more money to give to many other students. The competition was extremely tough. Many students had to be disqualified because we had a minimum amount of dollars for scholars,” Fakhouri said.

By Natasha Dado
Arab American News

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Haifa Fakhouri, ACC President/ CEO
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More information at www.myacc.org



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