



Council News

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Arab American and Chaldean Council | SUMMER 2010

Swinging for Scholarships

ACC's Golf Outing supports scholarships

By Natasha Dado, Arab American News

The Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC) held its 8th annual golf outing and scholarship awards dinner Wednesday at the 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. "We would like to support students who are in need of scholarships. 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 Dr. Haifa Fakhouri said.

Golfers began playing at 11:15 a.m. followed by a silent auction at 4 p.m. and the awards dinner ceremony at 5 p.m.



Golfers enjoyed a fun day of golf in support of education and scholarships.

... "When you read some of the stories about the scholarship applicants it's just amazing what these students are doing," Ghannam

said.

Scholarship awardees were Talal Aboufakhr, Sahar Adora, Najwan Augustin, Marwan Boulis, Rose Brewart, Rayan El-Zein, Yarob Fakhoury, Robin Kassis, Olivia Najor and Tamara Naoum.

Fakhouri hopes more women get encouraged to submit their requests and credentials for scholarships to continue their education.

Scholarship donors included Stephan Honorowski of Pepsi, ACC board members Salman Sesi, Louie Boji, and Fr. John Badeen, the CIA, Detroit International Bridge Co., Abe Munfakh of Munfakh & Assoc., ACC President and CEO Dr. Haifa Fakhouri and Michigan Food and Beverage Association (MFBA) and Michigan Business Professional Association (MBPA) President Ed Deeb.

Awardees were a diverse group. "You see the awardees are (both) Muslims and Christians from different countries," Jawad Marzook said.

"We want to be divers and represent a cross section of the community from Lebanese, Syrian, Iraqi Chaldeans, Yemenis and others. We are please to have a divers group this year." Fakhouri said.

Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon and Steve Honorowski, regional sales



Photo by: Rothermel Promotional Products

Above: 2010 Scholarship Award Recipients and Donors

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," guest speaker Michigan Attorney General and Republican candidate for governor 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, but I hope and I promise we will double that number," Fakhouri said.

Welcome new board members

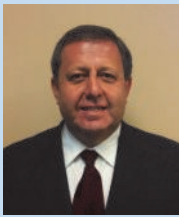
It is with great pleasure we welcome Mayor Abdul Haidous from the City of Wayne, Chief Ronald Haddad of the Dearborn Police Department, and Arkan Jonna of AF Jonna Development to ACC's Board of Directors.



Mayor Abdul "Al" Haidous was elected to serve the City of Wayne in 2001. Haidous' previous public service is as broad as his business experience. Aside from Mayor, Haidous serves as chair for Wayne's Downtown Development Authority, which has completed projects such as a new fire station, police station, and Department of Public Works.



Announced as Chief of Police for the City of Dearborn in October 2008, Ronald Haddad is a retired Deputy Chief of the Detroit Police Department and a law enforcement professional of over 34 years. Chief Haddad's distinguished career within the Detroit Police is exemplified by the number of positions and titles that he held.



Arkan Jonna was Born in Baghdad, Iraq, Arkan Jonna immigrated to the United States in 1963 along with his parents and siblings. He and his wife Yasmine, and their three children reside in Bloomfield Twp., Michigan. Mr. Jonna has been in the development business for well over thirty years. He develops, owns, and manages many shopping centers and office buildings in the Southeastern Michigan area.

Blues President addresses ACC

ACC, its Board of Directors, and Advisory Board hosted guest speaker Daniel Loepp, President and CEO for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, on Monday, March 8, 2010 at ACC's Youth Recreation and Leadership Center in Detroit.

Mr. Loepp's presentation highlighted the Blues mission of offering access to health care coverage for everyone, regardless of circumstances, never dropping coverage for health reasons, partnering with the state to cover more than 32,000 children through MICHild, providing financial support to 30 free clinics statewide, contributing more money than any other company to provide Michigan with better health and health care, and advocating and educating through Alliance for Advancing Nonprofit Health Care.



Please note the following DHS location updates:

Macomb County District - Sterling Heights Office is now located at 41227 Mound, Sterling Heights, MI 48314. To contact ACC, please call (586) 254-8112.

Wayne County District - Hamtramck Office is now located at 12140 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212. (313) 366-1955.

ACC hosts 5th U.S. Swearing-In Ceremony



ACC and the Department of Homeland Security-Office of Citizenship and Immigration hosted an official U.S. Citizenship Swearing-In Ceremony in

December at St. George's Cultural Center in Troy. It was a memorable day for hundreds of immigrants and their families from all over the world as they take an oath and become American citizens.

ACC Executive Director Dr. Radwan Khoury provided welcoming and inspirational remarks. William Salaita, ACC's Director of Immigration and Employment Programs, served as Master of Ceremony. Nearly 300 individuals were sworn in by Judge Arthur J. Tarnow, U.S. Eastern District of Michigan. Keynote speaker Major General Scott G. West, Commanding General US Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, emphasized the privileges and roles and responsibilities of being an American.

ACC is proud to work jointly with the Department of Homeland Security-Office of Citizenship and Immigration to promote cross-cultural understanding and respect for the diversity of cultures residing in the State of Michigan.

Breaking down barriers

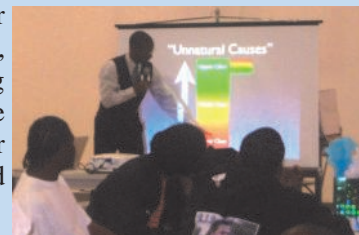


Census Road Tour

On April 7th ACC's Youth Center served as a stop on the U.S. Census Bureau's Portrait of America 2010 Census Road Tour. Participants learned about the 2010 Census and the positive impact their participation can have on their local community and the nation.

Man Up for Health - Community Health Fair

In recognition of Minority Health Awareness Month, on April 1, 2010 ACC hosted a community health fair in partnership with the American Cancer Society, Detroit Community Health Connection, and Karmanos Cancer Institute at its Youth Center in Detroit. The health fair, focused on empowering minority males to adopt more of an active role in their personal health and raised awareness for health factors.



Bing, ACC push Census participation

By Zlati Meyer, Detroit Free Press - March 19, 2010



The stack of photocopied mazes that read "help Nadia find her way home where she will be counted," in English and Arabic, lay on a U.S. Census information table set up Thursday night at the Arab American and Chaldean Council's town hall meeting with Detroit mayor Dave Bing on the city's west side.

...Bing, U.S. Census Bureau partnership coordinator Vincent Kountz, Father Jacob Yasso of Detroit's Sacred Heart

Chaldean Catholic Church, and ACC president and CEO Haifa Fakhouri were among those who told the estimated 200 people at the ACC Youth Recreation and Leadership Center how census data is used for determining federal funding allotted and congressional representation.

"I impress upon you how important it is to make sure we can stand up. . . and say. "Detroit counts. I count," Bing said. "A lot of Chaldeans want to come into this country. . . We have to make sure the life-

styles they want to live are available."

The ACC is offering census assistance for those who can't understand the forms, Fakhouri said. For adults attending the organization's language classes, the help has begun.



Tutorial project improves job marketability

By: Crystal Mayo, ACC Detroit JET Program

On March 9th, ACC's City of Detroit JET (Jobs, Education and Training) Program partnered with the Detroit Public Library to kick off its much-needed math and literacy tutorial project. This cutting-edge collaboration is aimed to improve literacy and math skills for welfare recipients who have scored low on mandatory TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) testing. Statistically, welfare recipients with low education skills stay on welfare the longest while those with stronger education skills quickly become more self-sufficient.

"As we were working through some of the problems, suddenly the light

went off, and I got it, I finally understood the procedure for completing 2 digit multiplication problems," said Danielle Loving

The TABE test assesses clients' reading and math levels for placement in training that would lead to employment opportunities and job marketability. Once test scores are improved, options of higher training levels will become available, as well as boost self-confidence for clients. Hopefully, higher TABE test scores will also further encourage and motivate clients to reach for higher levels of education, if only to obtain their GED or high school diploma. Almost 50 percent of



adults on welfare do not have a high school diploma or GED.

"I loved it," commented Jamie Bounty. *"It's not just good for me, but I can also pass my new math skills on to my three daughters."*

Tutorial classes are held every Tuesday, from 10:30 to 11:30 A.M. (Math), and 11:30 to 12:30 P.M. (Reading/Reading Comprehension).



Raising awareness, youth tackle issues

On March 16, ACC's SEMCA Substance Abuse Prevention Program partnered with Global Education Excellence and Students Against Alcohol Drugs and Violence (SAADV) to host a City of Hamtramck Town Hall Meeting on underage drinking at Bridge Academy. This event was part of a national campaign to increase understanding and

awareness of underage drinking and its consequences, and to encourage the community to address the problem.

Underage drinking continues to be a leading health problem in the United States. Alcohol use threatens the safe and healthy development of more young people than any other substance—even more than tobacco and illicit drugs!

Wayne Cnty. Executive Robert Ficano, Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon, and Hamtramck Mayor Majewski spoke on the consequences both at home and with the law when consuming alcohol and other drugs. In addition to community leaders, students provided testimony on the effects and concerns associated with underage drinking.



ACC would like to recognize and thank the following businesses for their generous donations to our Refugee Assistance Programs, thank you for "Making a Difference."



Celebrating a long awaited reunion

Thanks to the efforts of ACC's dedicated Behavioral Health staff a family was reunited after almost 7 years. On January 29, 2010 ACC hosted a Unification Celebration in honor of a long awaited reunion between a father and his two young daughters.

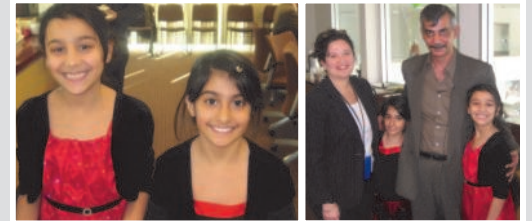
In June 2003 this refugee family was separated. Imad Jasim, a single father who was unaware of his rights and the government system, had his two daughters ages 2 and 3 taken away as a result of the mothers actions. ACC case manager Labiba Radwan

worked diligently to raise funds and provide resources and advocacy on the family's behalf. As a result of this unwavering support the oldest daughter was returned to her father after one year. However the battle for custody of the second daughter took another five years. Throughout this extensive process ACC supported this family.

On Thursday, December 17, 2009 Mr. Jasim won the custody battle for his two daughters, now ages 8 and 10. It was a day filled with tears of happiness.



(Above): Imad Jasim stands with his daughters Maasuma and Aiha as they join in celebration with friends and supporters.



31st Annual Civic & Humanitarian Awards Gala

Saturday, October 16, 2010

Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center

For additional information and to reserve your sponsorship, contact ACC at (248) 559-1990 or visit www.myacc.org.



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