



The Arab American
Heritage Council

Annual Report
2018

MISSION

The Arab American Heritage Council strives to preserve and celebrate Arab heritage as well as support and unite all Arab Americans in the Greater Flint area. The AAHC works diligently to broaden understanding and appreciation of Arab culture as well as encourage Arab American involvement in civic, economic, and humanitarian efforts.

BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY. TOGETHER FOR GOOD.

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NNAAC FELLOW

Lucine Jarrah
NNAAC FELLOW

Message from the Leadership

Dear Friends of the Heritage Council,

As our country continues to face rising threats to justice and democracy, we at the AAHC have continued to advocate for a real community investment rooted in the values upheld in the founding mission of our organization. In 2018, we have continued to emphasize a need for political and social education, and have provided much needed services to our community members. Additionally, we have continued to place emphasis on unifying our diverse identities so that we may build a better future together.

This past year, In April, we hosted our annual Arab American Film Festival, and in June, we organized the 2018 Arab American Service Day. In October, we organized our 22nd annual Ensure the Legacy banquet where we honored members of our community and the advancements they have made this past year.

Our activities and our vision for the future are made possible by the continuous support from the community. Our volunteers are a wonderful asset to the organization as they continue to give generous amounts of their time, talent and energy. Additionally, we would like to thank our individual donors as well as all partners of the AAHC. It is your commitment and investment that allows our organization to grow and continue in its efforts to uplift our Arab community.



Alex Nassar
PRESIDENT



Devin Bathish
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EDUCATION

Education is the foundation of the AAHC's mission to uplift the Arab American community. Working with members of our community, we facilitate growth by organizing workshops, championing the arts, and establishing partnerships with Arab and non-Arab organizations alike to build a stronger community. Ultimately, we believe an investment in our community's educational goals is an investment in our future.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



The Arab American Heritage Council hosted an educational workshop for The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Flint. Led by our executive director, Devin Bathish, the workshop outlined the basic aspects of Arab culture, including language, fashion, and dance. The children especially enjoyed modeling traditional Palestinian clothing. However, the highlight of the night was getting the opportunity to learn and perform the dabka, a traditional Arab line dance.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

The AAHC was honored to be a part of the annual Unity in Diversity event. This event seeks to build bridges of communication, support, & understanding among the diverse cultures, nationalities, races, genders, and religions that make up our community. Executive Director, Devin Bathish, taught the audience about the history of the Dabke and then had everyone participate in the Dabke together.



FILM FESTIVAL

The AAHC partnered with the Flint Institute of Arts and Arab American National Museum to host their annual Arab Film Festival. A mixed audience of Arab Americans, FIA members, and Flint residents enjoyed learning and engaging in conversation about issues facing the Arab world after watching three short films. The feature film, Hany Abu-Assad's "The Idol," detailed the true story of Mohammad Assaf and the immense obstacles he faced in his rise to become the first Palestinian winner of the Arab Idol singing competition.



AANM FILM FESTIVAL

At this event, the Arab American National Museum showcased several films, and offered special programs such as a screenwriters workshop, panel discussions, reception and an Iftar dinner. Executive Director, Devin Bathish, moderated the film "Wajib" and led a discussion following the movie.

SOUTHWESTERN EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

NNAAC Fellow, Lucine Jarrah, was invited to speak at Southwestern High School in Flint to highlight the Arab experience in the United States for students, as well as discuss the importance of creating spaces to share these experiences. The students greatly enjoyed learning from Lucine and many asked for another workshop with her in the future.



ENSURE THE LEGACY

Arab American Heritage Council held its signature annual banquet October 24, 2018 to celebrate another great year while honoring some outstanding community members

AWARD WINNERS

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Mr. Handy Lindsey, Jr. and the Ruth Mott Foundation



Mr. Handy Lindsey, Jr. is the retired President of the Ruth Mott Foundation, which he has led since September 2014. Under his leadership, the Ruth Mott Foundation enacted a daring new strategic plan to empower and uplift the community of Flint's North side. Handy has over 30 years of leadership experience in professional philanthropy and has served on the board of directors of more than 24 civic organizations, policy institutes, and professional associations of philanthropy.

PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD: Dr. Khalil Katato



Dr. Khalil Katato is a Hematological Oncologist based in Flint and affiliated with many local hospitals, including Hurley Medical Center where he currently serves as the Vice Chair of Internal Medicine. Dr. Katato has held numerous professional appointments throughout his distinguished career in Amman, Jordan, Doha, Qatar, and Flint, MI. Dr. Katato is a member of both the American Society of Hematology, the American Society of Clinical Oncology and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. Additionally, Dr. Katato has spent much time and energy teaching the next generation of physicians as a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at the Michigan State University CHM and is an active member in teaching Internal Medicine at Hurley Medical Center and Genesys Regional Medical Center.

ARAB AMERICAN OF THE YEAR AWARD: Dr. Hiba Wehbe-Alamah



Dr. Hiba Wehbe-Alamah earned her PhD and post-master's certificate in Transcultural Nursing and holds advanced certification in transcultural nursing. In 2011, she was inducted as one of 37 Transcultural Nursing Scholars worldwide by the Transcultural Nursing Society. She is a member of the National American Arab Nursing Association. She co-developed the first prototype for a computer based cultural simulation game (CultureCopia©). She is nationally and internationally recognized for her scholarly and service contributions to the field of transcultural nursing.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Rania Fanous

Rania is the President and Founder of the "Love Your Melon" club where she uses her position to help children battling cancer, including organizing events to register people to donate bone marrow. She has held positions in the Engineering Without Borders club and is a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority. Rania has competed in an international finance, marketing, and management competition called DECA where she has placed 2nd in the state of Michigan for Marketing and ranked 10th internationally for Event Planning and Entertainment Marketing! With her education, Rania hopes to pursue a career in Governmental Affairs.



Lina Abutalib

Lina graduated from Grand Blanc High School and is a current public health student at the University of Michigan - Flint. Lina is the President and Founder of the Sociology Club using her position to facilitate discussions for college students to better serve their communities. She also holds positions as the Vice President of the American Red Cross club and as Social Chair of the Muslim Student Association. An ultra-high achiever, Lina currently has a 3.77 GPA despite taking easy classes such as Chemistry, Biology, Developmental Psychology, and Public Policy & Health Care; and she frequently volunteers at Hurley hospital. With her education, Lina intends to pursue a career in environmental and global health.



Laila Al-Ghanem

Laila Al-Ghanem is a student at Mott Community College where she is majoring in biology as a pre-nursing student. As she concludes her education at Mott Community College, she intends to further her studies in the healthcare field. Laila is very thankful for receiving the AAHC scholarship as it has helped her focus more on her studies and less about tuition costs. It has also increased her interest in learning more about the Arab American community in Flint and discovering more ways for her to give back to her community.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



ARAB AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DAYS

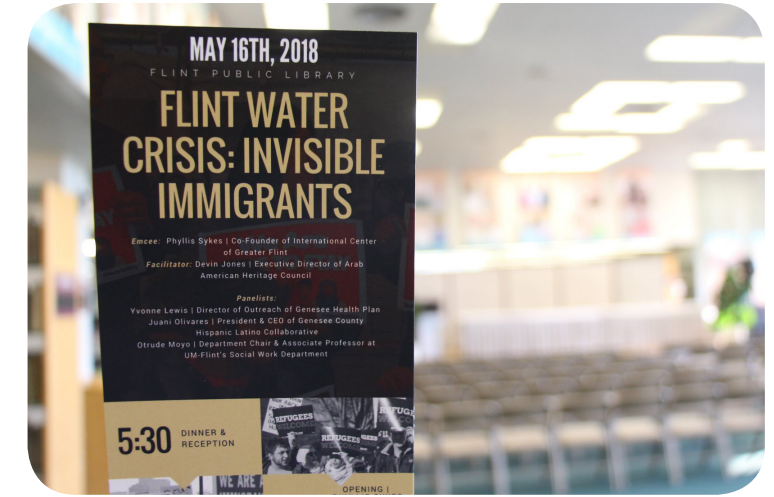
The Arab American Heritage Council, along with Arab American community organizations from across the nation participated in the annual Arab American Leadership Days in Washington D.C. AAHC leaders had the opportunity to learn about the latest updates from policy experts. They were then able to advocate on the issues of healthcare, immigration, & Census 2020 with members of congress.



ARAB AMERICAN SERVICE DAY

The Arab American Heritage Council partnered with the Flint Food Bank. This event distributed food to 12,000 people in Flint. National Arab American Service Day was started by NNAAC in 2004 as a way to engage Arab Americans in community service to create stronger communities and make connections among neighbors. Over the past 15 years, it has grown into a nationwide effort in which 19 organizations across the United States participated.

WATER CRISIS TOWN HALL



On May 16, the AAHC held its first ever Flint Water Crisis Town Hall. Led by Flint Water Crisis Liaison, Mai Eltahir, the town hall highlighted important issues reflecting the Water Crisis' impact on immigrant residing in Flint. AAHC in partnership with the Genesee County Hispanic/Latino Collaborative, the Freshwater Future and the International Center of Greater Flint to host the Flint Water Crisis: Invisible Immigrants. This two-hour event raised awareness on the Flint Water Crisis and its impact, specifically, on immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

TRUTH, RACIAL HEALING & TRANSFORMATION (TRHT) VISION SESSIONS



This project, led by Community Foundation of Greater Flint was a partnership between the AAHC and the University of Michigan Flint. Residents gathered along with a W.K. Kellogg consultant and participated in a guided community visioning session which included small group discussions. The discussion focused on improving neighborhoods, combatting all forms of racism and discrimination, and rebuilding our educational system.

IMMIGRATION AND LANGUAGE SERVICES

General Immigration Services Offered

The AAHC ran a successful immigration and language program throughout 2018. The AAHC served a total of 56 clients from all different racial and ethnic identities. These clients averaged 3 contacts per client, constituting about 150 instances of contact with the AAHC throughout 2018. The yearly breakdown is as follows:

TRANSLATION: Official document translations included marriage certificates, state identification records, and birth certificates. In-person translation was offered in the office or over the phone for social security announcements, insurance letters and doctor appointment notices.

FILED APPLICATIONS: The applications filed included naturalization (citizenship), adjustment of status, removal of condition for Green Card, and family visa.

Activity	Number of Clients
Translations	18
Filed Applications	4
Consultation	34
Trainings & Meetings	23

CONSULTATIONS: We discussed each client's case with them, and then either assisted them in-office, the clients pursued the case on their own following AAHC instructions, or the client was referred to trusted immigration providers in our network.

TRAININGS AND MEETINGS: AAHC staff went through 23 trainings regarding immigration, including numerous webinars, in-person intensive trainings, and online workshops covering all aspects of immigration law and new updates to policies.

IMMIGRATION DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT: Mohammed Alhammadi



Mohammed Alhammadi, an immigrant from Qatif, Saudi Arabia, graduated from Saginaw Valley State University with his Bachelors in Business Management and Administration. While a student, Mohammed was an active member of the Saudi Club at SVSU and a participant in numerous community events focusing on uniting Arabs and non-Arabs alike. Mohammed has a history of managing organizational programming and logistics and is accredited by the Department of Justice to assist immigration clients. Mohammed is fluent in English and Arabic and services all translation clients.

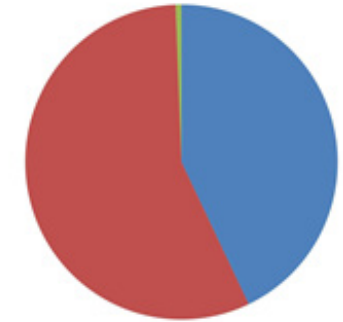
"I have always wanted to help immigrants. When I came to the US in 2011, I had a very negative immigration experience because the lawyer for my case was not equipped to handle it. Since obtaining my Green Card, I have made it my goal to help any immigrant to the US so that they can have a better immigration experience than I did."

FINANCIALS

TREASURER'S REPORT

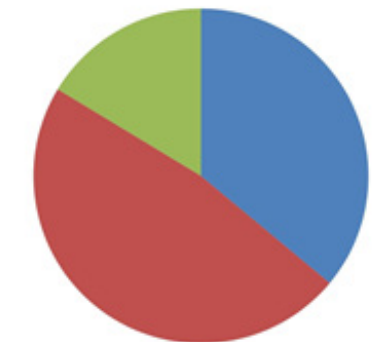
Revenues for Year Ended December 31, 2018

Grants (Restricted)	\$ 56,149.31	43%
Donations/Contributions	\$ 73,888.60	56%
Program Fees	\$ 795.00	1%
Revenue Total	\$ 130,832.91	100



Expenses for Year Ended December 31, 2018

Programs	\$ 41,918.93	36%
Operations	\$ 55,376.88	48%
Administrative	\$ 19,005.71	16%
Expenses Total	\$ 116,301.52	100



Said Farah
AAHC BOARD
TREASURER



Judy Gratsch
AAHC ACCOUNTANT

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Benefactor (\$9,999 - \$5,000)

ACCESS

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Hurley Medical Center

McLaren Flint

NNAAC

Patron (\$4,999 - \$2,500)

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Mr. Said & Mrs. Jeanene Farah

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Houbeck

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Jones

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Mansour

Ruth Mott Foundation

Mr. Khalil & Mrs. Ann Saab

Sponsor : (\$2,499 - \$1,000)

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Contributor: (\$999 - \$500)

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Gebrael Management

Hackney Jones Wealth

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Mr. Anthony Michael

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UM Flint School of Nursing

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Donations: (\$99 - \$1)

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