VISION

ACCESS strives to enable and empower individuals, families and communities to lead informed, productive and culturally sensitive lives. As a nonprofit model of excellence, we honor our Arab American heritage through community-building and service to all those in need. ACCESS is a strong advocate for cultural and social entrepreneurship imbued with the values of community service, healthy lifestyles, education and philanthropy.
The past year at ACCESS brought an unprecedented level of synergy as new programs emerged and existing programs expanded and blended to create better opportunities and build stronger communities in Michigan and throughout the United States.

Internally, we accelerated the review and reform of our human resources and IT systems, enhancing our core capacity across the board to be able to sustain our growth and extend our reach. This has allowed us to eliminate redundancy among departments and optimize the efficient use of our staff and resources.

But what does that mean on the ground, for the families and communities we serve? It means our safety net has grown stronger for all those in need, including women in societies that consider mammograms taboo, who are now screened thanks to our culturally sensitive delivery of health services, and families that are healed thanks to domestic violence counseling. It means programs like the Center for Working Families, which weaves together our Social Services and Employment & Training programs to support and mentor clients as they find work and develop the family skills they need for full financial competency.

An array of youth programs starts in pre-kindergarten and extends through college with mentoring, tutoring and academic skill-building. But because these young people are our future, our work doesn’t end at the schoolhouse door. Our youth dialogues connect young people of different religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. We’re building leadership through a Teen Grantmaking Initiative to instill the idea that philanthropy is for everyone. And our community service days attract hundreds of young volunteers, as well as the young at heart, who work side by side to rebuild challenged neighborhoods and, in the process, build friendships and relationships that last well beyond that day.

The Arab American National Museum’s Patriots and Peacemakers exhibit – which opened in Michigan and is now touring nationally – showcases the contributions of Arab Americans who have served their nation through the military, the Peace Corps or the diplomatic corps. That’s just one example of the way our three national initiatives – the National Network for Arab American Communities, the Center for Arab American Philanthropy, and the Arab American National Museum – are working together more seamlessly by showcasing the contributions of Arab Americans through arts and culture; empowering our communities through voter registration and community service; and providing financial support to grassroots organizations around the country.

What we have learned at ACCESS over our 41-year history is that, while the nature of our work changes, the need for our work does not. As we turn toward a future focused on building community and empowerment, we do so as a smarter, leaner, stronger organization; one fueled with optimism that by working together, our future is bright.
As chief of protocol of the United States from 1982-1989 — longer than anyone has ever served in that position — Ambassador Selwa “Lucky” Roosevelt was in charge of organizing more than 1,000 visits of world leaders to the United States.

Born in Kingsport, Tenn., the daughter of Lebanese immigrants, Mrs. Roosevelt was married to Archibald B. Roosevelt, Jr., a grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt. She is a graduate of Vassar College with a degree cum laude in international relations.

Ambassador Roosevelt traveled widely in her position. She accompanied President Reagan on trips to Europe, the Soviet Union, Japan and Indonesia, and was a state guest of the Chinese government. Previously a journalist, she had traveled on assignment to Europe, South America, North Africa and the Middle East. Ambassador Roosevelt has been on the board and executive committee of the Washington National Opera since 1993, and has been chairman of the board for the Blair House Restoration Fund since 1992. She is a trustee of the White Nights Festival of America; and sits on the board of visitors of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts; the Citizen Advisory Board of the Duke University Comprehensive Cancer Center; the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, S.C.; and the Hariri Foundation. She is actively supportive of the Folger Shakespeare Library and of the Children’s Hearing and Speech Center of Children’s Hospital in Washington, D.C., which she helped to found.

On Feb. 27, 2012, at the White House, she received a presidential commendation for helping to foster “an environment for successful diplomacy at the highest level” and for “championing efforts to revitalize Blair House.”

Ambassador Gabriel has convened multilateral policy forums involving national security, environmental, and trade and energy issues.

Edward M. Gabriel is president and CEO of The Gabriel Company, where he advises a number of U.S. corporations and governments in the Middle East and North Africa on international business projects and complex policy matters.

From 1997 until 2001, he was the United States ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco. In that role, he fostered the U.S. policy of North African political and commercial integration, using Morocco as a regional hub for the U.S. free trade agreement and spearheading a new U.S. policy to settle a major land dispute between Algeria and Morocco.

With his extensive background and expertise in international affairs, Ambassador Gabriel has convened multilateral policy forums involving national security, environmental, and trade and energy issues. He has been involved in matters of Russian and European nonproliferation and safety, and has been active in advising the U.S. government on Middle East, European and Russian policy matters.

He is active with a number of nonprofit organizations. He is a visiting fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, where he chaired a study on America’s post-Cold War relations with the Arab world. He is a founding member of the American Task Force for Lebanon and has made multiple visits to Syria and Lebanon to bring a better understanding of U.S. policy objectives in the region and to solicit Syrian and Lebanese cooperation in supporting U.S. strategic objectives.

He is a board member of AMIDEAST, the Tangier American Legation Museum, the Casablanca American School, the American School of Tangier, and the Keystone Public Policy Center. Ambassador Gabriel grew up in Olean, NY, and now lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife, Kathleen Linehan.
ACCESS Social Services Department works one on one with clients in a holistic way to provide them with the means to achieve economic stability, giving them short-term assistance with a goal toward long-term stability through a variety of programs and services.

With two locations in Dearborn and a satellite office in Hamtramck, the Social Services Department provides advocacy, information and referrals, senior services, translations, immigration and legal services. Our emergency services – help with food, utility shut-off prevention and restoration, and rent and mortgage assistance to prevent homelessness – are essential for the well-being of those most in need, for whom resources are in short supply.

In partnership with Wayne County Department of Human Services, we host a co-location at our One Stop Employment and Human Services Center in Dearborn that includes a full unit of DHS staff, including bilingual specialists and a supervisor.
Every day, Bryan Hawili is grateful to be alive.

It’s not that he doesn’t have any stress. He has survived two major incidents since coming to the United States from Iraq: the loss of his job and a near-fatal accident. Hawili has a wife and four children to support, and he suffers severe back pain. He worries a lot about how to get by.

But he’s happy that he’s alive, and his worries have been eased in part through ACCESS.

Hawili was a nurse at a prominent Detroit hospital, but was laid off and fell behind on rent. Out of desperation he came to ACCESS, where the Social Services Department conducted a full assessment, concluding that he did indeed need help. While applying for unemployment, Hawili received an eviction notice, so ACCESS helped him with one month’s rent and then connected him with Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, which helped with another six months of rental assistance.

But the problems didn’t end there.

One afternoon, Hawili walked to a nearby market for groceries. “I was crossing the street and suddenly I saw a car and the driver wasn’t stopping,” he explained while sitting in his flat with his family surrounding him. “Suddenly she hit me. The car threw me in the air.”

Hawili was hospitalized and in a rehab center for nearly two months. During that time, ACCESS caseworkers visited the family at home and found them to be very much in need. ACCESS social services provided them with food vouchers and paid three months’ rent.

Today Hawili, his wife Fatemeh and their children are hopeful that soon they will be more stable, with permanent housing and a job for Hawili. Until then, ACCESS continues to be there.
ACCESS Community Health & Research Center

Our founding philosophy maintains that health promotion and disease prevention activities are the most humane and effective ways to ensure the health and well-being of the community at large.

Central to our mission is the provision of public health initiatives and the pursuit of research that focuses on the health needs of Arab populations locally and elsewhere. The center also serves as a training site for residents, nurses, and public health professionals in collaboration with the University of Michigan School of Public Health and Wayne State University Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Nursing.
NEGATIVE. It’s a positive word for Linda Mekhael, 62, of West Bloomfield. It’s a word she has heard every year for the past 10 years as she leaves the ACCESS Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program office after her annual breast exam. It means she is cancer free. Her sisters haven’t been so lucky.

Mekhael began visiting ACCESS annually after finding a lump in her breast. She didn’t, and still doesn’t, have insurance. But she knew that getting a breast exam was very important. A friend told her that ACCESS would be able to give her a free exam and a referral for a free mammogram. Since her first visit, Mekhael had been trying to get her sisters to get the exams, too. Eventually, about five years ago, one of her sisters made the visit after finding a lump in her own breast. She was diagnosed with breast cancer, and ACCESS referred her to Karmanos Cancer Institute for surgery.

Last year, after having a test at ACCESS, Mekhael’s youngest sister was also diagnosed with cancer. She underwent a mastectomy, but luckily did not need chemotherapy, and recently had reconstructive surgery. Mekhael is happy that today both of her sisters are cancer free.

As a Chaldean, Mekhael said she feels comfortable at ACCESS because of its staff. “They are from our community; we understand each other,” she said. “I am always worried about something happening because I have two sisters who were diagnosed, but of course I’m happy when I hear (my tests) are negative. Breast cancer is always on my mind.”

RESEARCH DIVISION

The ACCESS Community Health & Research Center participates nationally and internationally in collaborative research programs and forums to gather and disseminate minority health information needed for metro Detroit’s Arab and Chaldean communities. This research, along with activities and events developed in collaboration with our partners, is intended to improve health-care programming for minority populations nationwide and to raise public awareness about the health issues and disparities in our community.

The Biennial Conference on Health Issues in Arab Communities, organized by ACCESS Community Health & Research Center, is a crucial forum for the collection and publication of this health data. We have co-authored more than 100 publications in the fields of behavior and epidemiological research.

MEDICAL DIVISION

The ACCESS Health Clinic is the largest Arab American community-based, one-stop medical facility in the United States. It provides a comprehensive range of services to the community at large and to Arab Americans in particular. Support services include a pharmacy on site, complete laboratory services provided in partnership with GMC University Lab; and radiology to provide conventional diagnostic X-ray exams, mammography and ultrasound.

BR AND CERVICAL CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM conducts research and measures of awareness in the areas of prevention, detection and intervention of breast and cervical cancers. This crucial program includes home visits to provide one-on-one counseling, referrals, support and follow-up.

CHILD AND ADOLESCENTS HEALTH CENTER promotes health and health education programs for adolescents and families in partnership with local schools.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM aims to increase awareness and change social attitudes about domestic violence, to empower individuals at risk for domestic violence and to decrease the incidence of domestic violence in the Arab-American community.

ETHNIC COMMUNITY SELF-HELP PROGRAM empowers refugees to achieve their individual and family goals and become successful in the United States. The program bridges gaps between unmet needs and resources through enhanced knowledge and skills development utilizing personal and family needs assessments, goal identification and action planning.

HEALTHY KIDS PROJECT is aimed at developing sound nutritional, exercise, environmental and mental health habits among Arab-American children ages 5 to 10.

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BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM conducts research and measures of awareness in the areas of prevention, detection and intervention of breast and cervical cancers. This crucial program includes home visits to provide one-on-one counseling, referrals, support and follow-up.

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Sisters Find Hope and Help
After violent physical domestic abuse landed her in the hospital and her partner in jail, Lesley turned to ACCESS for help. With three young children ages 4 to 9, she found counseling and support through the ACCESS Domestic Violence Prevention Program. Thanks to that nurture and care, Lesley was able to get back on her feet, both physically and emotionally. And when local women’s shelters had no room for Lesley and her children, her ACCESS connections helped her find a rent-free apartment.

Founded in 1996, the ACCESS Domestic Violence Prevention Program has implemented bilingual, culturally competent prevention strategies that focus on changing social attitudes toward domestic violence, empowering individuals at risk for domestic violence, and decreasing domestic violence in the community.

One component of the program is the Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, a professional and diverse group of community members committed to creating awareness, promoting domestic violence prevention, and providing assistance to families affected by violence and its outcome. Those efforts start in the schools, where AmeriCorps volunteers hold workshops about bullying prevention for children as young as elementary school.

Another important component of the ACCESS program is Project Connect, a coordinated national public health initiative to prevent violence against women and to change how adolescent health, reproductive health, and home visiting programs respond to sexual and domestic violence.

Today, Lesley speaks out wherever and whenever she can against domestic violence. She hopes that by raising awareness, she can create a brighter future for herself and her family, and stand as a strong role model for all those who have suffered.
COMMUNITY HEALTH & RESEARCH CENTER

COMMUNITY HEALTH & RESEARCH CENTER OF MACOMB COUNTY provides psychosocial and medical evaluation and treatment to refugees and to the community at large. The location of this center was designed to fulfill the needs of the growing number of Iraqi refugees in Macomb County.

HOPE HOUSE provides continuity of care for members diagnosed with a mental disorder. A holistic, psychosocial rehabilitation approach is aimed at fostering independence and self-esteem to allow members to find employment and to integrate into society at large. Hope House offers pre-vocational activities including clerical work, computer lab, gardening, housekeeping, retailing, exercise, resume writing, interview skills, arts and crafts, and related social skills development.

PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE AND WAR serves refugees and trauma victims, many of whom struggle with emotional problems including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and depression. Among those served by this program are refugee families from Iraq, Palestine, Algeria, and other Arab countries; asylum-seekers from Senegal, Togo, Mauritania, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Cameroon, Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and Somalia; and refugees from Afghanistan and Bosnia. Services include psychotherapy, family therapy, marriage therapy, art and crafts group therapy for women, and group therapy in coordination with other ACCESS services including medical assistance, pharmaceutical services, employment and training, immigration and social services.

VICTIMS OF CRIME PROGRAM aims at bringing honor to victims of crime, including domestic violence, sexual abuse and sexual assault, hate crimes, robbery and assault, by providing comprehensive services and necessary resources to restore what a victim has lost. The program adopts a culturally competent, evidence-based approach in serving its clients.

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EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

ACCESS’ highly skilled, multilingual staff serves a broad cross section of the community.

The ACCESS Employment & Training Center is one of a handful of certified Michigan Works One-Stop Employment centers. Our department takes innovative approaches to empower diverse jobseekers with the skills and capacities to work and advance in their careers, and to support employers in meeting their hiring and employee retention goals.

ACCESS’ highly skilled, multilingual staff is able to serve a broad cross section of the community. Training and professional development programs are available to employers and employees to improve occupational skills, employment retention and earnings. Participants not only receive training in employability, but also life skills. Through our intensive case management services they benefit from career counseling, job search assistance, job development/job placement, support services and referrals.
Employment & Training is an integral part of the ACCESS system of wraparound services, working closely with other departments including Social Services to help clients overcome social barriers; with Health and Mental Health on job placement, and with Youth & Education to teach English to workforce clients.

Among this year’s Employment and Training program highlights are the Jobs Education and Training (JET) program and the state welfare-to-work initiative. Through these, we are meeting performance goals in a climate where most others are failing. Our Workforce Investment Act youth program is transformative, as well, offering education, mentoring and leadership development, and employment services to young people who have been failed by traditional education.

Employment & Training Department programs and services include:

**Employment Services** – Providing placement services for jobseekers and employer recruitment services. The program focuses on providing a variety of employment-related labor exchange services including, but not limited to, job search assistance, job referral and placement assistance for jobseekers, re-employment services to Unemployment Insurance claimants, and recruitment services for employers with job openings.

**JET (Jobs Education and Training)** - Receives referrals from the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide assistance and resources to move cash recipients from public assistance toward self-sufficiency. Participants receive job readiness training, educational/vocational trainings, job referrals and placements, and increase earnings capacity through higher paying jobs.

**EARn & LeARn** - Targets at-risk minority males ages 18-24, formally incarcerated, and chronically unemployed adults. The program provides work readiness, supportive services, targeted training and education with the sole purpose of gaining and retaining employment.

**RcAR (Road Construction Apprenticeship Readiness Program)** – Targets unskilled apprentice women, minorities and the economically disadvantaged. This year, 10 people were selected following a rigorous eligibility process including math and reading assessment and drug screening. This is an intensive training in job readiness, safety in the workplace, applied mathematics, computers and construction trades and blueprint reading, basic and advanced welding. Upon completion, participants were offered additional CDL training followed by job placement.

**EntrePREneURShIP SUPPoRt SeRvices** (including small business training) - This program provides technical assistance to increase the success rate of individuals starting or growing a business.

**ACCESS 2012 Annual Report**

Antwan Lee lives in Detroit, where job opportunities are few and far between, especially for people like him – young, urban men. In metro Detroit, 44 percent of those who are unemployed are between 18 and 24.

Since Lee doesn’t have a car, he depends on an unreliable bus system that can take hours to get to jobs in the outlying suburbs. He had to leave one job at Walmart because he couldn’t get there. Because of his transportation issues, Lee was having no luck funding an employer willing to take a chance on him.

Through the ACCESS Earn & Learn program, Lee enrolled in community college, polished his resume and got four interviews.

ACCESS is one of only two organizations in metro Detroit to offer Earn & Learn, a program that connects young men with a history of unemployment with jobs and job training.

After four weeks of intensive work readiness training, participants become eligible for placement in part-time jobs and additional job training.

Today, Lee has a part-time job. He is still in school but has a long commute by bus, but he also has a big reason to keep going: a new baby. Lee plans to transfer to a four-year college where he hopes to complete a master’s degree and one day open his own business. His daughter, he says, will go to college, too.

**Community Spotlight**

**Learning to Earn, and More**

Antwan Lee lives in Detroit, where job opportunities are few and far between, especially for people like him – young, urban men. In metro Detroit, 44 percent of those who are unemployed are between 18 and 24.

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Since Lee doesn’t have a car, he depends on an unreliable bus system that can take hours to get to jobs in the outlying suburbs. He had to leave one job at Walmart because he couldn’t get there. Because of his transportation issues, Lee was having no luck funding an employer willing to take a chance on him.

Through the ACCESS Earn & Learn program, Lee enrolled in community college, polished his resume and got four interviews.

ACCESS is one of only two organizations in metro Detroit to offer Earn & Learn, a program that connects young men with a history of unemployment with jobs and job training.

After four weeks of intensive work readiness training, participants become eligible for placement in part-time jobs and additional job training.

Today, Lee has a part-time job. He is still in school but has a long commute by bus, but he also has a big reason to keep going: a new baby. Lee plans to transfer to a four-year college where he hopes to complete a master’s degree and one day open his own business. His daughter, he says, will go to college, too.
WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS

With 365,000 foreign-born residents — including some of the world’s largest populations of Albanians, Macedonians, Romanians, Lebanese, Iraqis and Yemenis outside of their home countries — metropolitan Detroit is home to the second-largest immigrant population of any Great Lakes regional metro area. The innovative way in which the ACCESS Employment & Training Department works with jobseekers and builds on the assets of the immigrant community has led to the creation of two new programs to serve and integrate the region’s immigrant population.

Our immigrant entrepreneur support center, supported by a grant from the New Economy Initiative, will offer a range of services that support entrepreneurs as they establish and grow their businesses. The center will serve as a resource hub, offering case management services, microenterprise training, small business coaching, access to financing, and networking opportunities. Clients will have access to equipment, technology and organizational services, including social service support, ESOL training, financial literacy coaching and business acclimation classes. The center also will offer specialized microenterprise development programs targeting refugee women and youth.

Welcome Mat Detroit, ACCESS’ second new program supported by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, has created an inventory of services available through state and local government and nonprofit organizations with the aim of building strong connections between existing services and new communities. This searchable online resource will help to create a welcoming environment that can help stabilize “portal neighborhoods” for new arrivals, enabling them to better establish themselves in the United States.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

ACCESS 2012 Annual Report

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

SPECIALIZED WORKSHOPS TO EMPOWER JOBSEEKERS – Resume writing, interview skills, customer service, financial literacy and other services to support those seeking employment.

SELF-CORECTED/RESOURCES ROOM WITH INTERNET ACCESS – Resources to assist both jobseekers and employers with their employment/recruitment needs.

LEARNING LAB – Assessments and self-paced tutorials and computer application training are among the available learning/educational resources (Basic Skills, GED, ESL, Office Skills).

Services to employers include recruitment, screening, consultations, mediation and job fairs.

FOR EMPLOYERS

We strive to build strong relationships with employers across the region; our relationship with employers is as important as our connections with jobseekers.

We administer screening, testing and assessments to ensure well-qualified candidates. Additional services include worksite support, on- or off-site employer/employee mediation, diversity training and consulting.

Three times each year, the ACCESS Dearborn One-Stop Service Center sponsors a major job fair that attracts 35-40 employers and hundreds of jobseekers. We take pride in linking the right people with the right jobs, and believe our success is measured by the success of our clients.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Charter One
Dearborn Public Schools
Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation (DESC)
Focal Point
Lutheran Social Services of Michigan
Local colleges, universities and recreational training institutions
Local recreational businesses
Michigan Community Alliance
Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHS)
Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Michigan Relocation Services
Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center, Eastern Michigan University
Michigan State University
BTC/CAIC – Warren Ford Community College
BTC/CAIC – Macomb Community College
BTC/CAIC – Wayne County Community College
PNC Bank
Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SMCA)
Southeast Michigan Foundation
Target Law Center for Economic and Social Justice
U.S. Department of Justice

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Youth & Education

Our vision is that all children and young people in Metro Detroit will have the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to become tomorrow’s leaders.

The aim of the ACCESS Youth & Education Department is to foster the overall development of our youth and families through comprehensive programming to create a positive vision and to improve opportunities by providing resources that augment academic success and personal growth. Many Youth & Education programs are interwoven with ACCESS’ Community Health and Employment & Training departments, as well as with the Arab American National Museum.

One of the many new initiatives that support teen youth development and leadership, the Aim High Summer Teen Program attracted more than 60 high school students from metro Detroit in its pilot year. Students had the opportunity to develop and complete community service projects by helping the elderly at a retirement home, tour college campuses, learn effective communication techniques, secure summer jobs, and even design spectacular cupcakes, all while creating lasting friendships through team sports. The success of the program prompted us to offer these courses throughout the school year.
YOUTH & EDUCATION

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Our vision is that all children and young people in metro Detroit will have the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to become tomorrow’s leaders. We want to empower youth to develop, explore, and utilize their skills to become happy, well-rounded critical thinkers who will make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

THE 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS program is a free academic enrichment after-school program held at seven schools in Dearborn (Miller, William Ford, and River Oaks Elementary, Lowrey Middle and Salina Intermediate, Fordson High School, and Advanced Technology Academy) and two schools in Hamtramck (Frontier International and Bridge Academy). In addition to tutoring and teaching your child you, as a parent, we incorporate character education and recreational activities in our curriculum. Free hot supper is provided.

SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS are held at the schools in which after-school programs are available during the school year, providing students with an exciting – and free – opportunity to combine academics with recreational activities and field trips.

AIM HIGH SUMMER TEEN PROGRAM offers eight week-long courses during the summer at ACCESS’ Family and Youth Services Center. High school students can register for courses in leadership, how to find a summer job, college preparation, team sports, Cake Boss 101, digital art and photography, Be your Own Make-up Artist, and teen engineers. The goal of the program is to expose students to unique topics and opportunities that will empower them to become creative, happy and successful citizens. The courses promote higher education, leadership, social empowerment, positive social media and civic engagement.

Up PREP after-school program helps students to meet their academic potential through tutoring four days a week in all subjects, along with youth development courses including leadership skills, cultural diversity, civic engagement, study skills, college and career preparation and community service. The program is offered at Melvindale, Fordson and Madison high schools.

Youth Dialogue Groups, in partnership with the University of Michigan Ann Arbor’s School of Social Work, aim to advance dialogues on race and ethnicity among high school-age youth in the neighborhoods and suburbs of metropolitan Detroit. Dialogues are led by trained facilitators from the University of Michigan who help participants develop communication skills, critical awareness, decision-making skills and comfort working with diverse groups.

The Arab American Youth Leadership Course supports Arab American youth as they develop a sense of self and the capacity to live their lives with authenticity and purpose. The course addresses intergroup relations and enhances a participant’s ability to navigate relationships with others. Youth explore identity, culture, dominant narratives in society concerning Arab Americans, geopolitics and contemporary issues. Through a social justice framework, youth are exposed to social movements and change efforts that have been led by young people. A series of exercises, exchanges and education empowers Arab American youth with skills that support their role as leaders within their community.

Help and a Haven – Now He Gives Back

When Wesam Alasi was just 8 years old his mother died from breast cancer. Shortly after she died, Wesam’s sister joined ACCESS’ 21st Century Community Learning Centers after-school programs at Salina Elementary, so Wesam thought he would join, too. In the program, Wesam received help with his school work, which kept him on track with his studies during an emotional time. It also gave him a place to get away from the grief he felt at home, and a chance to get his mind off things with fun activities and field trips.

“It was more fun than I thought it would be,” said Wesam, now 13. “I had other people to look up to. After it was over, I couldn’t wait until the next year to start.” He enrolled every year, and over the summers Wesam joined ACCESS’ basketball and soccer programs. “It helped get my mind off things,” he said.

This year, Wesam began volunteering as a coach for the younger kids on the soccer and basketball teams. ACCESS’ programs have changed his life, he said. “I think my life would have still been full of anger and sadness because of (my mom) passing,” he said. “Having the positive environment helped. I did school work, but fun stuff, too. It helped keep my grades up.”
ALMA HERNANDEZ is a woman with a plan – a plan for her future and her family’s future. The plan has changed throughout her teenage years. In Mexico, her exposure to English was limited. With 30 two-hour classes for parents, friends, families, childcare center staff, as well as family and group home providers, we focus on preschool caregiver skills. Topics include “Gifts of Infancy – Development from Birth to Three”; “Terrific Twos: Helping Toddlers Navigate Conflicts;” and “Kitchen Art.”

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

A Woman With a Plan
These elements propelled the Smithsonian-affiliated Arab American National Museum (AANM) to another successful year, delivering eye-opening experiences to diverse audiences while cultivating an even more vigorous presence in cities nationwide.

On Veterans Day 2011, we were honored to open Patriots & Peacemakers: Arab Americans in Service to Our Country, sharing the inspiring stories of those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, the diplomatic corps and the Peace Corps. Two traveling versions of the exhibition are now being presented in venues across the nation, including Jacksonville, Florida, Houston, Texas, and several towns in California, with support from leading Arab Americans in those communities. While at the AANM, Patriots & Peacemakers was paired with the culturally diverse exhibition from the Japanese American National Museum, Fighting for Democracy: Who is the “We” in “We, the People”?

ARAB AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

COMPELLING EXHIBITIONS AND ENGAGING PROGRAMMING. EXPERIENCED, DEDICATED STAFF FOCUSED ON EXCELLENCE. EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING IMPACT.
Over the past year, we have fine-tuned public programs, moving the Global Thursdays music and performance series to Friday nights to expand the audience, and welcoming a new partner, Midtown Detroit, Inc., to the 20th edition of the free diversity-themed music festival Concert of Colors, thus adding a new venue and another day of curated musical performances to the beloved summertime event.


Core Museum programs and activities have continued to build capacity and improve quality, including group tours, family-focused theme parties, cultural competency trainings as well as the ongoing recording of oral histories and archiving of digital assets such as websites and social media content. The Museum’s permanent exhibits underwent a major technology upgrade. New content includes a panel devoted to New York Times journalist and author Anthony Shadid (1969-2012), recipient of a posthumous 2012 Arab American Book Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Last fall, the Museum honored a request from Dr. Michael Suleiman (1934-2010) to hold an Arab American history conference in his name, uniting scholars and students from across the country for panels, discussions and the public introduction of the Michael Suleiman Collection, a non-circulating research collection. In another national gathering, RAWI – the Radius of Arab American Writers – brought its annual conference to the AANM. And for International Women’s Day 2012, the Museum celebrated dozens of accomplished Arab American women with a festive luncheon.

The Arab American National Museum is a proud Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Read about the Affiliations program at http://affiliations.si.edu.

**AANM PROGRAMS**

**CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING** – Students and Adults for Museum Education (CUAME) is an annual summer program that brings together youth from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, including Arab Americans, African Americans, European Americans, Jewish Americans and Latino Americans. They develop a deeper understanding of racial, ethnic and cultural diversities, and have opportunities to link their museum experiences to their values and relationships with others. Participating youth tour the AANM, the Shalom Street Jewish Children’s Museum, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, and the Henry Ford.

**ACCESS 2012 Annual Report**

**SURA ARTS ACADEMY** is a year round afterschool diversity-themed program for middle-school students in east Dearborn and Southwest Detroit. This award-winning programs uses photography and video to empower young people, giving them the freedom of identity andheightened self-esteem and allowing them to explore and express their creativity.

**FREE CRAFT SUNDAYS**, held quarterly, provide children ages 6-12 with the opportunity to make crafts representative of cultures from around the world and to learn about their cultural significance.

**CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING** includes two-hour presentations, all-day and half-day workshops, and individual and group consultations. Supported by our permanent and temporary exhibits and a rich assortment of educational materials, our presentations help educators develop the cultural competency they need to understand and communicate effectively, especially when dealing with students and parents of Arab and Chaldean descent.

**GLOBAL FRIDAYS** is a monthly multicultural performance series hosted in the AANM auditorium. Since 2005, this series – a sister to the annual summer Concert of Colors world music festival in Midtown Detroit – has offered high-quality musical and spoken-word presentations for fans of traditional and world music, and those with adventurous cultural tastes.

**CONCERT OF COLORS** is metro Detroit’s free annual diversity music festival. It is presented by Arab American National Museum, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Institute of Arts, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Midtown Detroit Inc., and ACCESS with the goal of bringing together metro Detroit’s diverse communities and ethnic groups. Over its 20-year history, the festival has become a beloved highlight of metro Detroit’s summer
festival season, and is one of the few remaining free music festivals.
dIWAn: A foRUm foR the A rtS is a biennial program that unites Arab American artists, scholars and performers representing myriad academic fields and artistic genres for a weekend dialogue that reinforces AANM’s commitment to providing a place for community members and artists to meet, exchange ideas and exhibit their work. DIWAN also encourages audiences to explore the boundaries of art in addressing social issues related to Arab Americans and the community at large.
ARAB AMERICAN BOOK AWARDS, established in 2006, celebrate and support the research and written work of Arab Americans and their culture. The Arab American Book Awards encourage the publication and excellence of books that preserve and advance the understanding, knowledge and resources of the Arab-American community by celebrating the thoughts and lives of Arab Americans. The purpose of the Awards is to inspire authors, educate readers, and foster respect and understanding of Arab American culture.
ARAB FILM FESTIVAL is an annual event that showcases notable Arab and Arab American films. The Festival seeks to present films that offer alternative representations of Arab life; increase public exposure of Arab and Arab American filmmakers; and provide a forum for the discussion of questions raised by Festival films.

ARAB AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

DIWAN: A FORUM FOR THE ARTS is a biennial program that unites Arab American artists, scholars and performers representing myriad academic fields and artistic genres for a weekend dialogue that reinforces AANM’s commitment to providing a place for community members and artists to meet, exchange ideas and exhibit their work. DIWAN also encourages audiences to explore the boundaries of art in addressing social issues related to Arab Americans and the community at large.

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PARTNERS
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
Detroit Institute of Arts
Detroit Symphony Orchestra
Midtown Detroit Inc.
Shalom Street Jewish Children’s Museum
The Henry Ford

MISSION
The Arab American National Museum documents, preserves and presents Arab American history, culture and contributions.
NATIONAL NETWORK FOR ARAB AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

NNAAC’S PRIMARY MISSION IS TO DEVELOP THE CAPACITY OF ITS MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS TO MEET THE NEEDS AND REPRESENT THE CONCERNS OF ARAB AMERICANS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, AND TO COLLECTIVELY ADDRESS ISSUES ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

The National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC), a project of ACCESS, is a growing network of independent Arab American community-based organizations around the country. Established in 2004, NNAAC currently has 22 members in 11 states.

The strength of these member organizations is rooted in the grassroots constituencies they serve through a range of programs, outreach and advocacy.

NNAAC’s primary mission is to develop the capacity of its member organizations to meet the needs and represent the concerns of Arab Americans at the local level, and to collectively address issues on the national level.

NNAAC serves as a forum for knowledge-sharing and collaboration on joint human service programs and advocacy, and a platform for speaking out on issues of concern to Arab American communities around the country.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Arab American Institute
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Ford Foundation
Four Freedoms Fund
Michigan Nonprofit Association
Michigan Voice
Nonprofit Voter Engagement Fund
Open Society Fund
Proteus Fund
Rights Working Group
Youth Engagement Fund

ACCESS 2012 Annual Report
As service providers and grassroots organizations rooted in their communities, NNAAC members are uniquely positioned to tackle the complex issues facing Arab Americans. The network’s Advocacy & Civic Engagement program focuses on immigrant rights, civil liberties, access to human services, and support for national service programs.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: A key element of NNAAC’s mission is supporting the growth and sustainability of our member organizations. Our Organizational Development program helps members through one-on-one technical assistance, an annual conference or training institute, identifying local and online trainings, annual capacity-building grants, and a scholarship fund to attend trainings.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: NNAAC works to engage Arab Americans in community service to create stronger communities and make connections between neighbors. NNAAC’s most prominent community service activities include the annual National Arab American Service Day and the annual A-OK Day of Service.

“Since I was a child I was treated differently because I was a girl. I used to think that this was not right, it can’t be right. As I grew older I decided I needed to do something about it. Until this day, activism is a way of life.”

In Lebanon, Haidar worked with the belief that no one’s rights should be silenced. She and other Lebanese feminists formed a group called Nasawiya, which means feminism, to empower women and others to speak out about domestic violence and other issues. But when Haidar felt she could no longer be open about who she was, she decided to leave.

She came to the United States about a year ago to study at Wayne State University and to continue her activism, hoping to become a stronger leader at home. “The political structure here allows activists to make change if we organize,” she says. “I want to do voter registration because this is a democracy represented by the voice of people – the people who vote.”

She has some real results to show; a month before the November election, she had registered more than 200 voters.
The Center for Arab American Philanthropy (CAAP) is dedicated to building a legacy of giving in the Arab American community, shaping the future of our society through the collective power of our philanthropy and empowering the community to be change-makers and community-builders.

Founded in 2006, CAAP is the only national, full-service philanthropic institution in the Arab American community. Its aim is to develop, support and enhance a culture of giving within the community through education, asset-building and grant-making.

By supporting and celebrating Arab American philanthropy, CAAP helps Arab Americans to leverage their giving in support of the issues, causes and organizations we care passionately about. The choice to give through CAAP helps strengthen the Arab American voice in civil society.
CHRISTMAS 2005 was memorable for Mayla Harp. The 10-year-old was obsessed with glitter glue and expected to wake up Christmas morning to the 18-piece set that she had begged her parents to buy. Instead, she found not a flake of glitter under the tree.

Mayla’s parents didn’t know was that she was going to use that glitter glue in her own philanthropic way – to make crafts for her family and others. Fortunately, her parents surprised Mayla with one last gift that morning – the glue – and she stayed true to her word.

Harp, now 17, thought of the glue as an investment of her parents’ time and money into her own philanthropy. Today, she invests her time with the teen grantmaking initiative (TGI), a group of 20 Arab American teens dedicated to improving their community. Through a grant-making process, these young people are learning firsthand what it’s like to give back to their community.

Started by the Center for Arab American Philanthropy in September 2011, TGI meets once a month during the school year. They start with a needs assessment to prioritize concerns and focus areas, which they use to determine where their grant money will go.

In their first round of grant making this year, TGI awarded a total of $4,600 to 12 nonprofit organizations in the Detroit metro area that serve youth.

Harp said she has learned many life lessons such as considering other people’s opinions, compromise, prioritizing and expressing ideas clearly. “These life lessons not only make me and other TGI members better citizens and well-rounded people, they also help contribute to shaping our leadership skills,” Harp said. “In a way, TGI members are leaders for change in their community … we are the spark to make wide-ranging change and improvement.”

CAAP is developing the power to create meaningful change in our communities and our country. We work directly with individuals, communities, families and businesses to maximize the impact of giving through:

**DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS** that allow donors to determine the organizations and issues they want to support while having access to the knowledge and expertise of CAAP’s professional staff members.

**GIVING CIRCLES** that provide donors with the opportunity to combine their giving with others and to learn more about the organizations they are funding.

**PERSONALIZED EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SERVICES** to individuals, families and corporations interested in developing a giving plan.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR**

**TEEN GRANTMAKING INITIATIVE (TGI)** completed their first round of grant-making, awarding $4,600 to 12 Detroit organizations that serve youth. Programs they funded include a career fair for teen mothers; a youth-led clean-up project of a local river; a program that teaches young people about community gardening and energy efficiency; and more.

**DISASTER RELIEF MATCHING FUND** provides emergency aid to victims of natural and manmade disasters throughout the world. Now, when disasters occur, CAAP will raise money from individuals and then match a percentage of those contributions from the match fund.

**Giving Back Becomes its Own Reward**

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**CAAP BY THE NUMBERS**

| Contributions Received | $526,443 |
| Grants Awarded from All Funds | $374,612 |
| Number of Grants Awarded | 146 |

(2011-2012 Annual Report)
1. We facilitate giving to charitable Arab-American and non-Arab 501c(3) organizations in the United States and around the world.
2. We help people invest in causes they care most about.
3. We provide a personalized approach to giving, operate in an accountable and transparent manner, and provide safe, reliable opportunities for charitable giving.
4. We provide administrative support for your fund, execute grant agreements, monitor the work and progress of the grants, and process grant requests. If you prefer, grants can be made anonymously.
5. We conduct due diligence on charities, screening them for quality and accountability, and verifying that they are in good standing with the IRS and U.S. Treasury.
6. We have expertise regarding issues and needs affecting the Arab-American community locally and nationally.
7. We are a national Arab-American organization with solid funding experience and deep roots in the community.
8. We highlight the impact of Arab-American giving in broader society.
9. We multiply the effect of your giving by leveraging it with other gifts and grants.
10. We build endowed funds and help create permanent legacies of giving for you and your family.
**Statistical Report**

Number of Contacts* in Core Services: 459,323

Number of Contacts† in Youth & Education Services: 482,514

**Total Number of Contacts in Core and Youth & Education Services:** 941,837

Number of Contacts§ in the Arab American National Museum (AANM): 145,991

**Total Number of Contacts:** 1,087,828

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**Client Demographics**

**Clients by Age:**
- 19 and under: 29%
- 20 to 39: 42%
- 40 to 59: 26%
- 60 and older: 3%

**Clients by Household:**
- Under $20,000: 71%
- $20,000–$44,999: 22%
- Over $50,000: 1%
- Unknown: 6%

**Clients by Gender:**
- Male: 44%
- Female: 56%

**Clients by Race:**
- Arab American: 61%
- African American: 18%
- White: 14%
- Hispanic American: 6%
- Asian American & Other: 1%

**Clients by Employment:**
- Unemployed: 47%
- Not in Labor Force: 24%
- Employed: 25%
- Unknown: 4%
## Treasurer’s Report

### EXPENSES FOR YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative:</td>
<td>$2,153,988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising Expenses:</td>
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<td>Depreciation Expenses:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Expenses:</td>
<td>$16,023,578</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of September 30, 2012 (unaudited)

### ASSETS

- **Cash - Unrestricted**: $3,505,226
- **Temporarily Restricted**: $1,483,865
- **Grants & Accounts Receivable**: $1,863,869
- **Prepaid Expenses**: $404,830
- **Inventory - AANM Gift Shop & Library**: $82,060
- **AANM Endowment Fund**: $2,036,555
- **CAAP Endowed Funds**: $143,433
- **Land and Buildings**: $28,566,266
- **Office Furniture and Equipment**: $1,865,390

**Less Allowance for Depreciation**: ($6,366,907)

**TOTAL ASSETS**: $33,584,587

### LIABILITIES

- **Accounts Payable**: $82,695
- **Deferred Income**: $260,308
- **Notes Payable - Short Term**: $314,400
- **Notes Payable - Long Term**: $1,001,539

**TOTAL LIABILITIES**: $1,658,942

### NET ASSETS

- **Unrestricted**: $28,261,792
- **Temporarily Restricted**: $1,483,865
- **Permanently Restricted**: $2,179,988

**TOTAL NET ASSETS**: $31,925,645

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**: $33,584,587

The AANM Endowment Fund consists of five funds, two are invested with the Comerica Charitable Services Group and three are maintained by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSEM). As of Sept. 30, 2012, the market value of the fund reported as an asset on the ACCESS balance sheet consists of the following:

- Funds maintained at CFSEM: $1,049,820
- Funds invested at Comerica Charitable Services Group: $986,735

**TOTAL**: $2,036,555

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSEM) has also accepted gifts from unrelated donors for the benefit of ACCESS. These assets are not reported on the balance sheet since CFSEM maintains variance power with respect to the assets contributed to them for our benefit. The total value of these assets as of Sept. 30, 2012, is $2,348,095.
Office of Refugee Resettlement
Museums & Community
Michigan Primary Care Association
Michigan Department of Community Health
Four Freedoms Fund
Corporation for National and Community Service
City of Dearborn
Chevron
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute
AT&T
Wayne County Health Department
Southwest Housing Solutions
Michigan Department of Human Services
Detroit-Wayne County Community College

2011–2012 DONORS

Mr. and Mrs. Ahmed Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Basem Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Susan Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Aisha Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Amaan Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Kamal H. Hishmeh
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Mr. and Mrs. Iman Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Abeer Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Alaa Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Iman Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Sanaa Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Nada Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Fatma Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Bahaa Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Khaldoun H. Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Khalid Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Iman Hishmeh
Mr. and Mrs. Alaa Hishmeh
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Mr. and Mrs. Nada Hishmeh
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