ANNUAL REPORT
2013

CAIR
CHICAGO
CAIR-Chicago is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization registered independently in Illinois. CAIR-Chicago raises its own funds from its local constituency and sets its own operational and strategic agenda. Our office, located in the heart of Chicago’s downtown business district, is currently in its tenth year of operation.

OUR VISION
To attain equal opportunity for and normalize the image of Muslims in America.

OUR MISSION
To defend civil rights, fight bigotry, and promote tolerance.

TESTIMONIALS

“I congratulate CAIR-Chicago on another successful year of serving the needs of the Muslim population in Illinois, and for working toward ensuring justice and civil rights for all the communities you serve. Your efforts to reach out to divergent faiths and build broad coalitions are truly commendable. In a state as diverse as ours, every effort to broaden cultural awareness and understanding is truly appreciated...I am certain that CAIR-Chicago will continue to positively impact Muslims for many years to come.”

-Rahm Emanuel
Mayor of Chicago

“CAIR-Chicago has provided a comprehensive array of invaluable services to the Muslim-American community. It has also facilitated important partnerships and civil rights advocacy opportunities for Muslim Americans throughout the Chicagoland area...I commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago Chapter for its commitment to the Muslim-American community.”

-Pat Quinn
Governor of Illinois

See more testimonials on page 23
In its ten years of service, CAIR-Chicago has handled over 2,890 cases of anti-Muslim discrimination, conducted over one thousand mainstream media interviews and graduated over 500 interns.

Since day one, CAIR-Chicago's guiding light has been our unique organizational model of Professional Muslim Activism. This model combines corporate standards in all aspects of our technical work with the Islamic values of human care and social justice in our treatment of the issues.

CAIR-Chicago is an autonomous, grassroots, community-based organization. We have grown from a two-person volunteer staff into an institution served by 14 staff members and dozens of interns, fueled exclusively by local community donations.

2013 saw continued success for CAIR-Chicago. We took our own independent media in the form of the Chicago Monitor to new heights featuring 75 unique columnists who provide fresh and critical perspectives on current events that are often misreported or overlooked by the mainstream media. The writers are young talents we help cultivate into full-fledged writers.

We secured one of the largest settlements for a local Mosque that was unjustly denied its zoning permit, and started a new similar case for another Mosque. We worked with the media, law enforcement, local affected communities, and partner organizations to ensure that Illinois can move closer to being hate free. We are taking the lead on behalf of Illinois Muslims in standing with our interfaith partners and immigrant communities to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform.

We were able to resolve key civil rights cases to the benefit of our clients including a record number of citizenship delay cases. We continued with our landmark Prison Project through which we have advised 250 Muslim inmates on their rights and coordinated food and Islamic literature donations for 500 Muslim inmates to date.

In January, we completed our move into a brand new state-of-the-art office center in downtown Chicago which now serves as the new home of Muslim activism serving this great city and state.

Our influence continues to expand from the local scene into the national and international scenes in terms of alliances, speaking engagements, and media representation. We represented the Chicago Muslim community in US State department trips to Egypt and Germany where we engaged with counterparts in local community activism, education, and law enforcement.

In 2013, our representatives have been hosted dozens of times on networks such as NPR, FOX News, MSNBC, CNN, Al Jazeera, RT, CBS, NBC, ABC, WGN and others. We have brought a lucid Muslim perspective on pressing issues to the Chicago Tribune, the Daily Herald, the Chicago Sun-Times, and the Washington Post among other newspapers and websites. Our staff has led panels and discussions at universities, churches, mosques, and temples in Chicagoland and beyond.

We continue to run Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (MYLS) workshops helping to provide direction and motivation for high school students to become exemplary citizens who positively contribute to the progress of their community and country.

Most importantly, CAIR-Chicago continues to be a rising force in civil rights defense and advocacy both in terms of public opinion and legal representation.

Please continue to read through this annual report for a detailed review of our work in the year 2013 and remember to visit www.cairchicago.org for more information. We hope that you will continue to support our services.

Sincerely,

Ahmed Rehab, Executive Director

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Sincerely,

Ahmed Rehab, Executive Director

“A HATE IS A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.”

-CAIR-Chicago Executive Director, Ahmed Rehab
CAIR-CHICAGO’S CORE VALUES

CREDIBILITY
Gain the trust and respect of all involved.

CONSISTENCY
Our level of motivation and productivity should not waiver with time. The attention given to the various areas of our work should be even.

BEING PROACTIVE
Create programs that predict and preemptively challenge potential problems.

OMNIPRESENCE
Our presence and our programs should enjoy high exposure with members of the Muslim community, the general public, the media, and government.

FOCUSED SCOPE
Well defined problem areas and solutions.

TRANSPARENCY
What you see is what you get.

EFFICIENCY
No redundancies. Putting the right people in the right place at the right time.

EGALITARIANISM
Reach out to support faith based communities who face similar grievances as our own.

ACCESSIBILITY
Easy to find and reach whether by members of our community, or members of the media.

SINCERITY
What fuels our work is not personal ego or a hidden agenda, but rather a genuine desire to effect positive change.

PROFESSIONALISM
Objective and presentable.

2013 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME
- DIRECT PUBLIC SUPPORT $642,903.18
- SETTLEMENT PROCEEDS $268,168.03
- TOTAL INCOME $911,071.21

EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

CIVIL RIGHTS EXPENSES $153,064.23
OFFICE LEASE & UTILITIES $83,669.95
EVENTS & FUNDRAISING $75,437.34
BENEFITS, TAXES, & INSURANCE $75,366.18
COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA $74,156.18
FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT $60,482.56
ADMINISTRATIVE $52,964.57
OUTREACH & YOUTH DEV $48,927.35
RESEARCH $35,469.00

EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

SALARIES/BENEFITS/PAYROLL TAXES $421,605.37
BUSINESS/OPERATIONAL EXPENSES $169,670.41
EVENTS & FUNDRAISING $75,437.34
CONTRACT SERVICES $42,169.90
LITIGATION EXPENSES $20,324.58
TRAVEL & MEETING EXPENSES $12,126.88
TOTAL EXPENSES $741,334.48
Throughout 2013, the Civil Rights Department of CAIR-Chicago continued its critical work of advocating against discrimination of Muslims in America, litigating when necessary to fully protect our civil liberties. Currently, over 200 cases are open and being actively worked on by the Department. The Department’s strategic approach in selecting the best cases for litigation has been very successful. After more than three years of litigation, Litigation Director Kevin Vodak succeeded in overturning DuPage County’s refusal to issue Irshad Learning Center a permit to use its private property as a religious educational center. Vodak secured a monetary settlement, which required DuPage to pay $445,000 for violating the Center’s rights – an unprecedented amount for any of the Department’s clients.

The Department also continued its success in the Citizenship Delay Project, directly participating in ensuring that 12 more individuals obtained their U.S. citizenship. Staff Attorney Rabya Khan has developed a more streamlined approach to resolving these cases, working with senior USCIS officials to address the delays. Resolutions to other civil rights matters in 2013 included FBI harassment, prison issues, and school violations.

Litigation Director Kevin Vodak’s expertise in mosque zoning resulted in the Department partnering with Anthony J. Peraica & Associates, Ltd. to file a complaint against the City of Des Plaines in September 2013 on behalf of the American Islamic Center (AIC), a Bosnian community organization. After seeking a permanent location for its worship and educational services since March 2011, AIC secured a contract purchase for a vacant commercial space in Des Plaines. Despite the Plan Commission’s recommendation that the property be rezoned for religious use, the City Council denied AIC’s petition. The lawsuit alleges violations similar to the DuPage County case, seeking court-mandated approval of the rezoning and damages.

The Department’s Citizenship Delay Project, initiated in April 2005, continues to be a vital asset for Muslims experiencing problems in being naturalized as U.S. citizens. The Department resolved delays of more than 2 years for clients in 2013, and Staff Attorney Rabya Khan has worked directly with senior USCIS officials in the Chicago District Office to expedite the process in lieu of filing lawsuits.

“OVER THE COURSE OF 10 YEARS, THE CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT HAS PROGRESSED INTO A COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE FOR EMPOWERING AMERICAN MUSLIMS TO PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS AND BE VINDICATED.”

-Rabya Khan, Staff Attorney
**CIVIL RIGHTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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**DIRECT RESOURCE FOR VICTIMS**

- The Department has handled over 2900 cases of anti-Muslim discrimination over the past ten years.
- In the past six years, CAIR-Chicago has negotiated the payment of over $900,000 directly to clients of resolved discrimination cases.
- CAIR-Chicago has conducted sensitivity trainings of law enforcement officials, employees and managers of private businesses, faculty and administrators of public and private schools, and offenders of hate crimes.

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**EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION**

- The Department has advised more than 550 Muslim employees regarding their potential claims of employment discrimination.
- In 2009, CAIR-Chicago was the first Muslim civil rights organization to ever successfully litigate an employment discrimination case, obtaining a large compensatory damages award for a corrections officer during a jury trial.

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**ZONING DENIALS**

- In 2013, CAIR-Chicago became the first Muslim civil rights organization to obtain judgment in favor of a religious organization denied zoning authority to establish a worship and education facility, paving the way for other Muslim institutions to receive approval for their zoning petitions.

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**CITIZENSHIP DELAY**

- The Department has directly assisted more than 230 Muslim immigrants to become naturalized as U.S. citizens after facing extensive delays, and has advised more than 500 individuals on their immigration benefits applications.

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**THE PRISON PROJECT**

- The Department has provided more than 240 inmates with legal advice regarding their rights to religious accommodations.
- Beginning in 2012, the Department has coordinated volunteers to provide food donations to Chicago area inmates during the Eid holiday celebrations.

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**POLICE MISCONDUCT**

- More than 150 individuals have been advised by the Department in addressing contacts by FBI agents.

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**TRAVEL FREE PROJECT**

- The Department directly advises Muslim travelers who are delayed, detained, or interrogated by law enforcement officers, primarily due to their names being placed on watchlists by the Transportation & Security Administration (TSA) and other federal agencies. Assistance has included filing Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (TRIP) complaints, issuing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and working with government officials to resolve the problems.

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**CIVIL RIGHTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

- January 21, 2013 - Staff Attorney Rabya Khan was a speaker at the MLK Day event - Civil Rights remembrance - interfaith event at Mosque Foundation organized by Muslim American Society.
- March 15, 2013 - Know Your Rights Presentation at Community Builders meeting in Glendale Heights.
- April 19-22, 2013 - Staff Attorney Rabya Khan was a speaker at the South Asian Americans Leading Together national summit in Washington D.C. on a panel about “Law Enforcement in the Community: Exploring Multiple Strategies for Engagement.”
- September 17, 2013 - CAIR-Chicago hosted DHS Community Engagement Section Office for a Civil Rights and Civil Liberties meeting on countering violent extremism where leaders of the Chicago Muslim community and law enforcement met with their counterparts - leaders and law enforcement members from Germany.
- December 7, 2013 - Idli and Immigration event at Schaumburg Public Library - organized by SAAPRI, and co-sponsored by CAIR-Chicago. The panel focused on the political, legal and policy impact of immigration reform on the South Asian and minority immigrant communities.
- December 8, 2013 - Know Your Rights presentation at Muslim Educational Cultural Center of America. The presentation discussed constitutional rights when encountering law enforcement, and also addressed immigration options of Temporary Protected Status and Asylum in the United States for Syrian nationals.
CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT CASES

2013

- 390 CASES WERE REPORTED
- 43 CASES WERE RESOLVED
- 9 LAWSUITS WERE FILED

CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT CASES

RESOLVED CASES INCLUDE ONLY THOSE CASES IN WHICH WORK HAS BEEN FULLY COMPLETED. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE CASES IN WHICH VERDICTS HAVE BEEN RENDERED OR SETTLEMENTS HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED THAT STILL REQUIRE POST-TRIAL OR OTHER FOLLOW-UP WORK. A "RESOLVED" CASE INDICATES A CASE WhOSE COMPLETION HAS BEEN DEEMED SUCCESSFUL BY CAIR-CHICAGO AND THE CLIENT.

CAIR-CHICAGO IS NOT ALONE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BIGOTRY. HATE AFFECTS US ALL, NO MATTER OUR ETHNICITY. SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF OTHER FAITHS, WE ARE PROUD TO WORK TOWARDS A SOCIETY AND A FUTURE THAT IS HATE FREE.”

-Sufyan Sohel, Deputy Director

CAIR-Chicago’s Summer 2013 Law Clerks
The Outreach Department aims to educate and build bridges between Muslims and diverse communities in the greater Chicago metro region, establish partnerships with other civil rights and advocacy organizations, and bolster CAIR-Chicago’s ability to serve its constituents in Chicago’s Muslim communities. To this end, the Outreach Department leads CAIR-Chicago’s youth leadership programs, internship and volunteer activist programs, interfaith and intercultural initiatives, and educational seminars.

In 2013, the Outreach Department contributed to significant efforts that marked milestones for the organization. CAIR-Chicago moved to its new home—its fifth and largest office space that’s more conducive to offering community events. For the third consecutive year, more public officials shared their support with CAIR-Chicago and the Muslim community throughout Illinois. The office hosted its 500th participant in its coveted internship program, and marked its fifth year in welcoming supporters to what’s now a highly anticipated event during the holy month of Ramadan.

With the new Azima Center, located within the office, CAIR-Chicago has expanded its events and programs by its varied topics and increasing hosting opportunities, as well as enriching new and long-time partnerships with peer organizations and community events.

CAIR-Chicago staff delivered Friday sermons (khutbahs) at some of largest mosques in the city and state an effort to promote key civic and humanist ideas fostered in Islam’s teachings, and to bridge the mosque audience with the resources that CAIR-Chicago offers.

In the summer of 2013, CAIR-Chicago partnered with the Illinois Humanities Council and the Inner-city Muslim Action Network in screening “Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World,” a documentary featuring contributions of Islamic art and architecture.

Ramadan 2013 provided several key events to address unity, diversity, and social justice. The highlight was the annual Taste of Ramadan Iftar & Cook-off, which relished in its fifth consecutive year of delighting over 300 community members and supporters in a record number of dishes, desserts and beverages reflecting cuisines from around the world. The event was featured on WBEZ 91.5 (NPR Chicago) radio broadcast program Afternoon Shift, online radio station Yahala Voice, and Voice of America (VOA)-Bahasa Indonesia website. In addition, the office remembered prisoners who fasted by hosting an iftar for those supporters with the Pelican Bay Prisoners Solidarity Group. And for the second year, CAIR-Chicago coordinated with community members to ensure that Muslim prisoners received over 500 donations at Stateville Correctional Center in Crest Hill near Joliet, Dixon Correctional Center in Moline, and Cook County Jail.

Our office partnered or sponsored with several organizations to host events outside the office. One event was the 2013 Takin’ It to the Streets: Urban International Festival, hosted by IMAN in Marquette Park on Chicago’s southwest side.

CAIR-Chicago is indebted to the interns and volunteer activists (VAs) who assist our staff to empower, mobilize, and engage our communities.

In 2013, our internship program hosted 62 interns, externs and fellows, along with 11 volunteers, from across the United States, the United Kingdom, and Yemen. The year marked the milestone of graduating its 500th alum since 2005.
CAIR-Chicago staff members from all departments spoke at prominent Illinois colleges and universities including the American Islamic College, Carthage College, Columbia College, DePaul University, Drake University, Loyola University Chicago, Northwestern University, Saint Xavier University (SXU), the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The staff also presented at Little Village-Lawndale High School, Universal School, Aqsa School, and the Jewish youth leadership development group Or Tzedek. Additionally, CAIR-Chicago visited Stateville Correctional Center for a Know Your Rights presentation.

The topics ranged from educational seminars to addressing more nuanced issues such as the history and current sociopolitical status of Muslim activism in the U.S.

Since 2011, the Outreach department has led civic engagement efforts in order to educate and mobilize community members to respond appropriately to policies that affect all Americans.

CAIR-Chicago advocated for legislation on Capitol Hill, by meeting directly with Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth and Congressman Rodney Davis, as well as several other offices of the Illinois delegation. After successful passing both houses in the Illinois 98th General Assembly, CAIR-Chicago and community members successfully encouraged Governor Pat Quinn to sign into law drone surveillance being banned throughout the state (Senate Bill 1587).

For 2013, Outreach sought the support of elected federal and state officials to act on the following issues:
- Closing the Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp
- Supporting comprehensive immigration reform for both the state and nation
- Supporting the End Racial Profiling Act of 2013
- Opposing warrantless government spying
- Restricting extra powers of law enforcement agencies with respect to national security
- Amending the Voting Rights Act

The Outreach department continues to hold educational lectures, workshops, and dialogues. Often, Outreach works in interfaith partnerships to engage community members.

Most notably, the City of Elgin invited CAIR-Chicago to present a second installment of “Who’s My Muslim Neighbor” following the inaugural program hosted by the Village of Hanover Park. The event was organized by the Coalition of Elgin Religious Leaders and the Elgin Human Relations Commission, with Elgin Mayor David Kaptain welcoming over 120 community members at Elgin Community College.

CAIR-Chicago interns at an event

ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS

Our interns from all departments—with their diverse backgrounds, interests, and perspectives—have contributed to CAIR-Chicago’s broader advocacy and awareness efforts. Here are some headlines from Outreach and Government Affairs team members whom have contributed to CAIR-Chicago’s publications:

- U.S. war on Syria diverted while war on U.S. Syrians continues
- Mali: Africa’s ground zero in the global “War on Terror”
- Law enforcement strategies in Muslim communities need reform
- The identity of security: NSA surveillance and the media’s America
- Close connections between Latin culture and Islam
- Muslims ve for praying space in Córdoba’s Cathedral
- Addressing latent racism and blatant discrimination in America
- New TV series combats images of Muslim women and superwomen
- A centuries-old Jihad: Women of the Abrahamic faith traditions strive for justice and fight sexism in religion

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

“I WE ARE DEDICATED TO MAINTAINING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH MOSQUES AND THEIR CONGREGATIONS IN ORDER TO APPRIZE THEM OF THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS AND DUTIES.”

- Ahmed Rehab, Executive Director

INTERFAITH ENGAGEMENT

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CAIR-Chicago remains an active partner of the Jewish-Muslim Community Building Initiative (JMCBI), which hosts community events and study sessions on holy texts. One of the initiative’s most successful events is Café Finjan, which regularly draws hundreds for an evening of creative performance and presentation of visual arts. The American Islamic College hosted the 2013 program.

For its third appearance, CAIR-Chicago presented at the annual Saint Xavier University Interfaith Expo.
CAIR-Chicago welcomed international delegations of civic leaders, scholars, educators, students, activists, and law enforcement officials through partnerships with WorldChicago (formerly the International Visitors Center of Chicago) and Governors State University. All delegates were guests of the U.S. Department of State. Delegations in 2013 included representatives from Russia and Turkey.

Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson closed out his participation in the “Professional Fellows Program: An Exchange Program for Emerging Leaders in Egypt, Morocco and the U.S.”, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs with a two week immersion trip to Egypt and Morocco. CAIR-Chicago hosted a fellow from the Qena province in Upper Egypt, and Hankerson mentored the fellow to develop a project his non-governmental (NGO) organization would implement for community development with the focus on youth and economy. The program’s organizational partners were Citizen Bridges International (Chicago), El Sadat Association for Social Development & Welfare (Egypt), and Neighborhoods Association-Idmaj (Morocco).

Other events led by the Outreach Department included:
- Gerald Hankerson Travels to Egypt & Morocco in U.S. State Dept. Legislative Professional Program
- Gerald Hankerson Meets with Congressional Members on Capitol Hill
- Gerald Hankerson Leads Workshop at Little Village-Lawndale High School
- City of Elgin Invites CAIR-Chicago to Present “Who Is My Muslim Neighbor?” at Elgin Community College
- CAIR-Chicago Serves as Community Partner in Hosting Annual “Iftar in the Synagogue” event
- Gerald Hankerson Accepts Invitation to Join the Inaugural African American Leadership Advisory Council at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
- CAIR-Chicago Lobbying Governor Pat Quinn to Ban Drone Surveillance in Illinois
- Gerald Hankerson Speaks at “Story Slam”
- CAIR-Chicago Hosts 5th Annual “Taste of Ramadan” Iftar & Cookoff, and Featured on WBEZ’s “Afternoon Shift”, Yahala Voice, and Voice of America-Bahasa Indonesia
- CAIR-Chicago Hosts Iftar Dinner, “Solidarity with Prisoners in Pelican Bay, Guantanamo Bay and Palestine”
- Gerald Hankerson Presents at UIC’s Mental Health Class
- CAIR-Chicago Presents at 8th Interfaith Expo at Saint Xavier University
- CAIR-Chicago Presents on Muslim Americans at Marquette University
- Russian Interfaith Delegation Visits CAIR-Chicago
- Gerald Hankerson Speaks on “Faith Informed Justice” Panel

CAIR-Chicago enjoys a thriving partnership with over 210 national universities and colleges throughout Chicagoland and the nation to offer their students internship and volunteer opportunities year round.
COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

For the Communications Department, 2013 represented another year of growth and progress in executing our strategy of providing fair, accurate, and diverse portrayals of Islam and Muslims to the public while challenging negative, inaccurate, and unreliable portrayals through various multimedia, marketing, and public relations efforts. To ensure that Muslim voices with new and critical perspectives are presented in public discourse, CAIR-Chicago’s Communications Department develops and maintains relationships with a number of mainstream media outlets.

The department serves as a leading resource for producers, editors, and journalists, and regularly provides media professionals with research and expert analysis to help them understand the nuances and complexities of the Muslim community and Islamic faith. The Communications Department not only monitors mainstream media coverage of Islam and Muslims, it also responds to it by producing powerful analyses that critique negative and misinformed portrayals while praising and guiding the efforts of those who seek to present more fair, accurate and diverse depictions of the Islam and Muslims.

The department also works closely with the Chicagoland community and presents cultural sensitivity trainings and educational seminars at universities, government agencies, and private companies across Illinois. Covering a wide range of topics, Communications conducts original research, releases public reports, delivers presentations on the state of media coverage, and produces the latest in multimedia.

The Communications Department led numerous lectures and workshops for community leaders, students, mosques, and organizations. These sessions trained participants on how to engage the media and become more effective activists and community spokespersons. Presentations were made at institutions like the Asian American Institute Leadership Forum, Carthage College Diversity Summit, Drake University in Des Moines and Marquette University.

“DEFENDING CIVIL LIBERTIES OF AMERICAN MUSLIMS REQUIRES ACTIVELY EXERCISING OUR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS AND PROMOTING MAINSTREAM MUSLIMS VOICES IN THE MEDIA.”

-Agnieszka Karoluk, Communications Coordinator

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING SESSIONS

Previous Communications intern Austin Huette (middle) was hired this year as Communications Coordinator
The Communications Department updates CAIR-Chicago's websites, cairchicago.org and chicagomonitor.com and the organization’s respective social media pages via Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, Flickr and Instagram on a daily basis to provide up to date information on all of the organization’s activities, as well as commentary on current events.

CAIR-Chicago constantly updates its websites to keep them visually appealing, easy to navigate, and more informative. The website’s sections have been designed to reflect the wide breadth of work performed by all CAIR-Chicago departments. The Multimedia page allows users to see a selection of our photos, films, radio, and TV clips. The official site is also interactive and its updates are immediately made available on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Flickr.

Combining professional aesthetics, functionality, and cutting edge technology, cairchicago.org is one of the largest and most tech-savvy, non-profit websites in the United States. Whether providing incident report forms for victims of discrimination or sharing information through video blogs, the website amplifies CAIR-Chicago’s ability to serve the Chicago community.

The Communications Department organizes press conferences and issues dozens of press releases and media advisories annually in order to ensure that Muslim perspectives on vital issues and current events are represented in the mainstream media.

CAIR-Chicago has developed such a strong reputation with media outlets that producers, editors and journalists now come to us regularly seeking story ideas and news leads. The efforts of the Department have been crucial to helping shape a more positive and realistic understanding of the Muslim American community.

The Chicago Monitor was founded in 2012 by CAIR-Chicago Executive Director Ahmed Rehab and Communications Coordinator Aymen Abdel Halim to provide a platform for activists to produce works that challenge mainstream media coverage by providing alternative perspectives on social justice as well as civil and human rights issues. The writers for the Chicago Monitor include CAIR-Chicago staff, interns, and volunteers from around the world, and has attracted thousands of internation and local visitors who are seeking alternative perspectives on important social justice, civil, and human rights issues.

On April 15, 2013, two men set off explosives during the Boston Marathon, resulting in three deaths and numerous injuries. The aftermath of the Sandy Hook shootings in late 2012 spurred a discussion on gun control. In the summer of 2013, George Zimmerman was found not guilty on all counts for the shooting of Trayvon Martin and prompted national protests against racial profiling and the legitimacy of the case.

On June 5, journalist Glen Greenwald published in the Guardian that the NSA has been collecting metadata from tens of millions of Americans. This information was then superseded by a series of articles containing dates when PRISM (a NSA data mining program) collection began for each telecommunications provider, follies within Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC), and biops of the leaker and former CIA technical assistant and NSA employee Edward Snowden.

By April, the #MyJihad campaign was spurring controversy across the nation, including Amitai Etzioni’s article in the Huffington Post which critiqued the series of ads that aim to reclaim the Arabic word ‘jihad,’ and had been posted on buses and in metro stations across Washington DC, Chicago and San Francisco.

At every one of these pivotal moments in 2013, The Chicago Monitor responded and delivered fresh insight into these provocative issues.

The Chicago Monitor’s Chief Editor, Agnieszka Karoluk, speaks on the importance of the news site, “This year the Chicago Monitor began to take its journalism to a much higher standard. We have published over 100 articles and featured over 75 individual contributors on the site since its inception in 2012. From interviews with prominent Muslim authors, to media analysis of breaking news events, this has been an incredibly successful year for the Monitor and I look forward to the future of this site and its growth.”

While CAIR-Chicago aims to fight bigotry, promote tolerance, and defend civil rights, the Chicago Monitor echoes these principles not only by giving voice to new and unique perspectives on critical issues, but also by inspiring activists to participate in social justice, civil, and human rights activism.

The Chicago Monitor Chief Editor Agnieszka Karoluk
Let us together celebrate the achievements of our community.

Dear [Recipient],

Thank you for your support and contributions to our mission.

Sincerely,
[Signature]

Pat Quinn
Governor
LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

UNITED STATES SENATE
Washington, DC 20510

March 13, 2014

Dear Friends:

I am writing to congratulate you on your recent recognition by the Chicago Tribune for your outstanding contributions to the community. Your dedication to promoting justice and understanding has been a valuable asset to our society.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

United States Senator

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2014

Dear [Name],

I am writing to congratulate you on your recent recognition by the Chicago Sun-Times for your outstanding contributions to the community. Your dedication to promoting justice and understanding has been a valuable asset to our society.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Name]

United States Representative
LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

March 15, 2014

CAIR-Chicago 19th Anniversary Gala

An honor declined

Lanita pleased to receive such a letter in the CAIR-Chicago 19th Anniversary Gala. Tonight we celebrated the Council on American-Islamic Relations’ work in defending the liberty of all Americans.

CAIR continues to be a strong advocate for our community through its work to promote equal justice and provide training and understanding of the constitutional rights of all Americans. Their annual celebration reflects on the thousands of lives touched by CAIR’s work. Thank you for your dedication.

We are grateful for the efforts of CAIR and its leadership in promoting equality and civil rights for all Americans. Thank you for being part of this event and for continuing CAIR’s mission.

Best wishes,

Anne Carson
Member of Congress

March 15, 2014

Ca ir-Chicago 19th Anniversary Gala

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

March 15, 2014

Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to announce that the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) will be honoring Congressman Andre Carson of Indiana with the CAIR-Chicago 19th Anniversary Gala.

Since 1994, CAIR has worked to remove barriers to equal rights and opportunities for all Americans. Congressman Carson has been a strong advocate for civil rights and civil liberties, and his work is an inspiration to all Americans. We are grateful for his leadership and for his commitment to promoting the values of equality and justice.

In recognition of his work, the CAIR-Chicago 19th Anniversary Gala will be held on March 15th. The event will feature keynote speakers, presentations on CAIR’s work, and an awards ceremony honoring Congressman Carson.

Thank you for your support of CAIR and its mission.

Sincerely,

John Delaney
Executive Director
CAIR-Chicago

Lisa Madigan
Attorney General

March 15, 2014

Council on American-Islamic Relations

March 15, 2014

Ca ir-Chicago 19th Anniversary Gala

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS

Dear Friends,

As Illinois Attorney General, I am excited to recognize the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) for their 19th Anniversary Gala. CAIR has been a leader in advocating for civil rights and civil liberties for all Americans.

The event will feature special guests, including Congressman Andre Carson, who has been a strong advocate for civil rights and civil liberties in the United States. His work is an inspiration to all Americans, and we are grateful for his commitment to promoting the values of equality and justice.

Thank you for your support of CAIR and its mission.

Sincerely,

Lisa Madigan
Attorney General

March 15, 2014

Ca ir-Chicago 19th Anniversary Gala

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STATE OF ILLINOIS

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Thank you for your support of CAIR and its mission.

Sincerely,

Lisa Madigan
Attorney General

March 15, 2014

Ca ir-Chicago 19th Anniversary Gala

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF ILLINOIS
LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

February 19, 2014

James M. Eschen, Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago)

Dear Mr. Robob and Members of CAIR - Chicago,

I extend my congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations for your great work and your continued dedication to promote cultural understanding and respect for the Muslim community in Chicago and throughout the country.

CAIR-Chicago is a model for how non-profit organizations can make a positive impact in their community. Your leadership has been instrumental in making Chicago a more inclusive and welcoming city. Your efforts to promote understanding and respect have been a model for other communities across the country.

May you continue to serve with honor and distinction.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Deputy Superintendent
Chicago Police Department

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

March 14, 2014

John J. Cullerton

To the members and leaders of CAIR-Chicago:

It is my pleasure to recognize your decade of dedicated service to the Muslim community in Chicago. Your leadership within CAIR-Chicago has played a vital role in building bridges between communities, promoting understanding and respect, and advancing civil rights and individual freedoms.

[Signature]

John J. Cullerton
President of the Illinois State Senate

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

March 18, 2014

John J. Cullerton

To the members and leaders of CAIR-Chicago:

It is my pleasure to recognize your decade of dedicated service to the Muslim community in Chicago. Your leadership within CAIR-Chicago has played a vital role in building bridges between communities, promoting understanding and respect, and advancing civil rights and individual freedoms.

[Signature]

John J. Cullerton
President of the Illinois State Senate

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

February 28, 2013

Lenard A. Schiffman

Dear Mr. Eschen and Members of CAIR-Chicago:

I extend my congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations for their recent dedication and continued efforts to promote cultural understanding and respect for the Muslim community in Chicago.

CAIR-Chicago has been a leader in promoting understanding and respect among communities and has played a vital role in advancing civil rights and individual freedoms.

May you continue to serve with honor and distinction.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lenard A. Schiffman
President of the Illinois State Senate
LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to the officers and members of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) for their valuable service and contributions to the community. This year, you have continued to work diligently to promote peace, understanding, and respect. Your efforts have made a significant impact in our community.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. Our community is grateful for your leadership and commitment.

Sincerely,

[Mayor’s Signature]

January 30, 2014

Dear Ms. Fatih:

I am writing to express my gratitude for your hard work and dedication to the community. Your contributions to CAIR have been invaluable, and we appreciate your commitment to promoting understanding and respect.

Thank you for everything you have done.

Sincerely,

[Mayor’s Signature]

February 2, 2014

Dear Senator:

It is my pleasure to recognize your outstanding work on behalf of the community. Your leadership and tireless efforts have made a significant impact on the lives of our constituents.

Thank you for your continued service.

Sincerely,

[Senator’s Signature]
LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

February 28, 2016

Dear Friends,

I am deeply honored to commemorate the dedication of the Council on American-Islamic Relations Chicago chapter on its 29th anniversary. In celebration of this organization’s vast contributions and their support, I would like to offer public recognition for their contributions.

The theme of “Proud Past, Promising Future” is crucially significant, as we are committed to ensuring that the values of respect and understanding are upheld in our community. I would like to extend my gratitude to CAIR-Chicago for their exceptional commitment to fostering an inclusive society.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Organization Name]

City of South Bend

March 19, 2013

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to congratulate you on the establishment of the Mayor’s Office of Religious Diversity. This initiative is a testament to your commitment to fostering an inclusive and welcoming community. I am confident that this office will be a valuable resource in promoting understanding and respect among our diverse population.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Organization Name]
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CHICAGO
COUNCIL CHAMBER

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mr. William Habib
President

February 18, 2014

Abdul M. Habib
Former President

City of American Islamic Relations
17 South Dearborn Street, Suite 500
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Mr. Habib,

I am pleased to congratulate and welcome the Chicago chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations. Chicago chapter has done an outstanding job of helping our Muslim community realize its dreams, and I encourage them to continue their efforts in the future.

Sincerely,

William D. Burns
Anderson, McNeil

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
VILLAGE OF OAK BROOK

CONGRATULATIONS

TO: Mr. Abdul M. Habib

February 4, 2014

Mr. Abdul M. Habib, Director, Chicago Metropolitan Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Habib,

On behalf of the Village of Oak Brook, I extend my congratulations to your organization, the Chicago Metropolitan Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), on receiving the Chicago Mayor’s Volunteer Award. This award recognizes volunteers who have made significant contributions to the community and to our municipality.

Congratulations on your achievement and on behalf of the Village of Oak Brook, we wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Gopal R. Nanda
Mayor

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

CAIR-CHICAGO ANNUAL REPORT 2013
LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

LETTERS OF RECOGNITION
LETTERS OF RECOGNITION

The image contains a collection of letters of recognition from various individuals and organizations. Each letter is addressed to a specific recipient and mentions the recognition they have received. The letters are formal in nature and typically include language of commendation and appreciation.
HOW TO SUPPORT US

We all have something valuable to learn from and inspire within each other, and Inshallah (God willing), we continue to be granted the opportunity to do so. CAIR-Chicago thanks all the volunteers, interns and staff who have given their time and effort to the advancement of the Muslim Community, CAIR-Chicago, and social justice, and encourages continued involvement in the years to come.

FOLLOW US

1. Sign up for our mailing list (www.cairchicago.org)
2. Respond to action alerts
3. Follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/cairchicago)
4. Follow us on twitter (@cairchicago)
5. Follow us on Instagram (www.instagram.com/cairchicago)
6. Follow us on YouTube (www.youtube.com/cairillinois)

SUPPORT US

(Scholars have confirmed that CAIR-Chicago is an eligible recipient of Zakat. As always, your donations to CAIR-Chicago are tax deductible).
1. Sign up for CAIR-Chicago’s Dollar-A-Day program (www.cairchicago.org/dollar-a-day)
2. Make a general donation (www.cairchicago.org/make-a-donation-form)
3. Check to see if your employer has a gift matching program
4. Designate CAIR-Chicago as a beneficiary in your will (planned giving)
5. Donate stocks, bonds or financial instruments to CAIR-Chicago
6. Donate vehicles via Cars 4 Causes (www.cars4causes.net/charity-car-donation/cair-chicago)
7. Participate in our Amazon Smile program (http://smile.amazon.com/)

JOIN US

8. Apply for an internship/externship/law clerkship (www.cairchicago.org/intern-center)
9. Volunteer with us (www.cairchicago.org/volunteer-center)
10. Participate in one of our many events, rallies, workshops and Annual Banquet

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