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.
Table of Contents

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR .................................................. 3
FINANCIAL SUMMARY ............................................................................. 6
CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT ................................................................. 7
CIVIL RIGHTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS ..................................................... 11
OUTREACH DEPARTMENT ...................................................................... 13
INTERNSHIPS/EXTERNSHIPS ................................................................. 15
COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT .......................................................... 19
THE CHICAGO MONITOR ....................................................................... 21
LETTERS OF RECOGNITION ................................................................. 23
SUPPORT US ............................................................................................. 45
STAFF AND BOARD ............................................................................... 46

TESTIMONIALS

“The mission of CAIR-Chicago remains important to this city – and every city – because it advocates for civil rights, facilitates important community partnerships, and presents opportunities for cultural exchange and enlightenment.”

RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR OF CHICAGO

“You defend the civil rights of your constituents, encourage their political empowerment, and make strides to foster dialogue about cultural awareness and understanding. I applaud your commitment to promoting tolerance and understanding.”

DICK DURBIN, U.S. SENATOR, ILLINOIS
In its eleven years of service, CAIR-Chicago has handled over 3,300 legal cases of anti-Muslim discrimination, conducted over 1050 mainstream media interviews, and graduated over 530 interns.

Since day one, CAIR-Chicago’s guiding light has been our trademark 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 into a pro-active treatment of the issues.

“CAIR-Chicago is the only specialized, full-time organization in the city of Chicago working to represent the Muslim community in the courthouse and the newsroom, that is in the legal arena in terms of its civil rights, and on the airwaves in terms of its public image.”

2014 saw continued success for CAIR-Chicago.

We applied for and were granted Google news indexing of the Chicago Monitor, gaining added exposure to our flagship news blog that features 85 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, whom we help cultivate into full-fledged writers.

The deteriorating situation in the Middle East has directly affected Chicago Muslim community members and their families. Based on the community’s need for legal assistance to deal with the local repercussions, we debuted our Political Asylum Project with 10 cases, mostly from Syria. The project helps community members who are already here but neither have the finances nor the legal representation. So far, two cases have been won and eight are positively pending.

We continued to be available when and where it matters to address issues that deeply affect our community. Local terrorism allegations prompted us to a multi-pronged approach that included community-wide meetings with Muslim school student bodies and Mosque assemblies across Chicagoland to debunk radical ideologies, online recruitment, and the travails of social media; administering know your rights presentations across the city to advise community members of their rights if contacted by the FBI; and addressing public audiences with a hard-to-miss presence in the media that aimed to combat against the tendency to extend guilt by association, conflagrate ISIS with Islam, and cast aspersions on the community and its youths.

We consistently work 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 citizenship delay and employment discrimination cases. We continued with our landmark Prison Project through which we have advised 277 Muslim inmates on their rights and coordinated food and Islamic literature donations for 550 Muslim inmates to date.

Our state-of-the-art office center in downtown Chicago continues to serve as the home base of bustling Muslim activism serving this great city and state right at its heart. Our influence continues to expand from the local scene into the national and international scenes in terms of alliances, speaking engagements, and media representation.

In 2014, our representatives have been hosted dozens of times on networks such as NPR, FOX News, MSNBC, CNN, Al Jazeera, RT, CBS, NBC, ABC, WGN among 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.

In short, 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 2014 and remember to visit cairchicago.org for more information. We hope that you will continue to support our services.

Sincerely,

AHMED REHAB, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“It is not enough to argue the right messages within problematic frames others have set up. It’s time we contest the problematic frames themselves.”

AHMED REHAB, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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.

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 eleventh year.

Deputy Director Sufyan Sohel was sworn in as President Elect of the Indian American Bar Association of Chicago.

Deputy Director Sufyan Sohel and Finance Manager Mohamed Abdelati review expenses for CAIR-Chicago’s Annual Banquet.
2014 Financial Summary

Total Expenses $725,370.79

(INSIDE) BY CATEGORY

Business & Operational Expenses $113,561.48
Salaries, Benefits, & Payroll Taxes $485,638.41
Contract & Vendor Services $18,074.94
Travel & Meeting Expenses $7,809.90
Litigation Expenses $19,981.46
Events & Fundraising $80,304.60

By Program (OUTSIDE)

Civil Rights Expenses $170,452.35

Total Income $545,133.28

Settlement Proceeds $40,118.28
Direct Public Support $505,015.00
Civil Rights Department

Throughout 2014, 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. Over 400 complaints were reported to the department, exceeding the amount of complaints in any given year during CAIR-Chicago’s history. Litigation Director Kevin Vodak and Staff Attorney Rabya Khan maximized the department’s limited resources to assist the local Muslim-American community in numerous areas, working with government officials, business leaders, and legal counsel to resolve both systemic and individual issues.

Resolutions to cases conducted by the department in 2014 included employment discrimination, immigration-related complaints, denial of religious accommodations for driver’s license applicants, FBI harassment, and school violations. CAIR-Chicago’s work in immigration cases ensured that 6 delayed citizenship applicants were naturalized as U.S. citizens, 6 delayed applicants were granted lawful permanent residency, and 2 asylum applications filed by the department were approved in 2014.

“The Civil Rights Department’s extensive work and advocacy has a direct impact on preserving civil rights of American Muslims – relief for the victims, improving policies to accommodate religious practices and eliminate discriminatory measures, and empowering individuals and institutions to protect their rights.”

KEVIN VODAK, LITIGATION DIRECTOR

ACLU and CAIR-Chicago representatives after a “Know Your Rights” presentation.
EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

The department fully resolved fourteen complaints of employment discrimination in 2014, most of which did not involve any court proceedings. Litigation Director Kevin Vodak successfully worked with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to secure a consent decree with Rizza Cadillac based on claims by three Muslim employees who alleged that they suffered a hostile work environment for two years and were eventually unjustly fired. The consent decree entered an injunction barring Rizza Cadillac from engaging in any employment practice that discriminates against employees on the basis of national origin or religion or retaliating against those who report such discrimination; mandated the payment of $100,000 in compensatory damages to the employees; required posting a notice at the dealership regarding the lawsuit and how to report complaints to the EEOC; ensured that all employees will attend anti-discrimination training annually; and provided that the EEOC will monitor Rizza Cadillac’s efforts to comply with Title VII over the next two years.

ASYLUM PROJECT

In March 2014, CAIR-Chicago started the Asylum Project. Due to the Syrian Civil War and continued strife in many Muslim countries, there continues to be an increasing number of Muslim refugees to the United States. The Civil Rights Department filed eight total affirmative asylum applications with thirteen beneficiaries. The asylum clients from Syria and Egypt include students, physicians, professors and activists. The department also assisted a Syrian family who was placed in immigration detention and currently in removal proceedings. As part of the Asylum Project, the department also files applications for temporary protected status (TPS) and employment authorization (EAD).

To date, two asylum clients have been granted asylum in the United States. Both clients are Syrian physicians who oppose the current Syrian regime and, because of their participation in protests, online activism, and in assisting Syrian refugees, were persecuted and targeted through arrests, interrogations, death threats, and detention. As a result, they were unable to return to Syria safely and had no choice but to flee the country.
Civil Rights Accomplishments

DIRECT RESOURCE FOR VICTIMS

- The Department has handled over 3300 cases of anti-Muslim discrimination.
- In the past seven years, CAIR-Chicago has negotiated the payment of over $1,245,000 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.

CITIZENSHIP/PERMANENT RESIDENCY DELAY

- The Department has directly assisted more than 250 Muslim immigrants to become naturalized as U.S. citizens or gain Legal Permanent Residency after facing extensive delays, and has advised more than 550 individuals on their immigration benefits applications.

FBI HARASSMENT

- More than 180 individuals have been advised by the Department in addressing contacts by FBI agents.

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

- The Department has advised more than 600 Muslim employees regarding their potential claims of employment discrimination.
- CAIR-Chicago has worked both locally and on a national level to improve EEOC policies and procedures to better address Muslim employees’ charges of discrimination.

ZONING DENIALS

- Beginning with the Irshad Learning Center, for which the Department obtained judgment in its favor in 2013, CAIR-Chicago has represented masjids facing zoning issues. Litigation of the American Islamic Center’s denial of zoning relief in the City of Des Plaines continues.

PRISON PROJECT

- The Department has provided more than 290 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 Eid celebrations.

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.
RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION

Due to increasing complaints from Muslim women who wear hijab and through outreach with the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF), the Civil Rights Department identified inconsistent application and non-application of religious accommodation for individuals who cover their hair as part of their faith in taking photos for state driver’s licenses, temporary visitor driver licenses, and identity cards. As a result, the department worked with SALDEF, the South Asian American Policy and Research Institute (SAAPRI), and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) to request religious accommodation policy clarification and implementation with the Illinois Secretary of State’s office on state identity cards and driver’s licenses.

Through the coalition, we were successful in ensuring religious accommodation would be granted without further issue and improved training would be provided for DMV staff. The coalition is currently working with the legal staff of the Illinois Secretary of State’s office in developing updated religious accommodation pamphlets, posters, and educational materials available for the public.

CIVIL RIGHTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

United States Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR) Public Meeting – On June 12, 2014, the Civil Rights Department attended the USCCR public meeting for a briefing on religious discrimination in prisons and a discussion on a hate crime project proposal.

U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Testimony – On August 21, 2014, Staff Attorney Rabya Khan provided testimony before the Illinois Advisory Committee of the Civil Rights Commission addressing hate crimes in a religious context including acts of violence and vandalism against local Muslim institutions.

National Lawyers Guild Convention – In September of 2014, CAIR-Chicago sponsored the NLG Convention, a national event for attorneys, law students, and legal workers focused on human rights. Litigation Director Kevin Vodak presented on a panel with American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) attorneys to address federal law enforcement’s efforts targeting the Muslim community. Staff Attorney Rabya Khan spoke on a workshop providing skills to protect against electronic surveillance.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION

Due to increasing complaints from Muslim women who wear hijab and through outreach with the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF), the Civil Rights Department identified inconsistent application and non-application of religious accommodation for individuals who cover their hair as part of their faith in taking photos for state driver’s licenses, temporary visitor driver licenses, and identity cards. As a result, the department worked with SALDEF, the South Asian American Policy and Research Institute (SAAPRI), and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) to request religious accommodation policy clarification and implementation with the Illinois Secretary of State’s office on state identity cards and driver’s licenses.

Through the coalition, we were successful in ensuring religious accommodation would be granted without further issue and improved training would be provided for DMV staff. The coalition is currently working with the legal staff of the Illinois Secretary of State’s office in developing updated religious accommodation pamphlets, posters, and educational materials available for the public.
Civil Rights Department Cases 2014

- **417 CASES WERE REPORTED**
- **46 CASES WERE RESOLVED***
- **3 LAWSUITS WERE FILED**

### Cases Reported

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Government Agencies</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Bureau of Investigation</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prison</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Custody</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Accommodation</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airport/Airline Profiling</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hate Mail/Hate Phone Calls</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cases Resolved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Resolved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Bureau of Investigation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Offense Against Property</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prison</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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(s).
“CAIR Chicago proudly advocates and litigates on behalf of American Muslims. We stand against hate, in any form, against any group and strive for creating positive change within our community.”

SUFTYAN SOHEL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Outreach Department

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 2014, the Outreach Department expanded its community relations efforts. From the midterm elections and legislative advocacy to presenting workshops and welcoming community members in forums hosted at our downtown office, the Outreach Department ensured that CAIR-Chicago connected to the issues of the year that affect the social justice community.

“A promising future is guaranteed when we learn to appreciate one another’s voices.”

GERALD HANKERSON, 
OUTREACH COORDINATOR
MOSQUE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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

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

Ramadan 2014 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 sixth consecutive year of delighting over two hundred community members and supporters in a record number of dishes, desserts and beverages reflecting cuisines from around the world.

CAIR-Chicago hosted or co-sponsored several events revealing the year’s most discussed sociopolitical issues, as well as forming stronger bonds with organizations and our communities. In light of the Affordable Healthcare Act (ACA), the office partnered with American Muslim Health Professionals (AHMP) to assist community members to learn more about the law and sign up before the deadline. CAIR-Chicago supported the Midwest Region Office of Amnesty International-USA in its national Human Rights Conference, where Robert Greenwald and Edward Snowden were featured keynotes.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & ACADEMIA

CAIR-Chicago staff members from all departments were invited to speak at prominent Illinois educational institutions that included Carthage College, Columbia College, DePaul University, Drake University, Harold Washington College, Indiana University–Bloomington, Loyola University Chicago, Northwestern University, Saint Xavier University (SXU), Stevenson High School, Truman College, the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Wright College.

The topics ranged from basic educational seminars to more nuanced issues such as Muslim demographics and current sociopolitical issues in the U.S., curtailing law enforcement abuses, and identity politics.

CAIR-Chicago sponsored the UIC MSA's annual dinner as well as the annual Islam awareness events at UIC, Loyola, and University of Chicago. The department supported successful efforts by the MSA at UIC to cancel the controversial screening of Honor Diaries, helping to organize a discussion about discrimination, Islam, and women instead.

For years, interns from all departments—with diverse backgrounds, interests and perspectives—have contributed to CAIR-Chicago’s broader advocacy and awareness efforts. Here are some key issues that Outreach and Government Affairs team members have contributed via CAIR-Chicago’s sites and social media:

- The Obamacare Coercion: Corporations and their Religious Freedom
- We Know What You Did: The Adrien Broner and Donald Sterling Case
- Celebrities “Tweet” On Israel-Palestine Conflict
- History of Immigration Reform after 1980
- Are We Living in the Age of Big Brother?
- The City That Never Lets You Sleep: Muslims’ Fight Against Bigotry in NYC
- The Loss of One of Our Own–A Tale of Two Brothers

Outreach Department

INTERNSHIP & VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

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

In 2014, our internship program hosted 42 interns, externs and fellows, along with 9 volunteer activists, from across the United States, Iran, Poland, and United Kingdom.

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

Internships are available through:

- Columbia College
- Columbia University
- DePaul University
- Emory University
- Georgetown University
- Indiana University at Bloomington
- Harold Washington College
- Loyola University Chicago (LUC)
- Marquette University
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Northwestern University
- Robert Morris University
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Missouri at Columbia
- University of Richmond

Externships are available through:

- Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)
- DePaul College of Law
- The John Marshall Law School
- LUC School of Law
- Northwestern University School of Law
- University of Chicago Law School
- University of Illinois College of Law
- University of Notre Dame Law School
- Valparaiso University Law School

New interns at the Summer 2014 Internship Orientation.

Outreach Intern Bayan Takouri follows up with elected officials for CAIR-Chicago’s Annual Banquet.

Volunteers for CAIR-Chicago’s 10th Anniversary Gala.
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.

The Outreach Department released a voter guide for both the 2014 primaries and the general midterm election, as well as a legislative scorecard and referendum guide. The midterms also brought CAIR-Chicago to join over two dozen organizations to form the Election Protection Coalition. This group took strides to inform voters about new pilot policies. Lastly, CAIR-Chicago supported efforts to recruit students as election judges, as well as poll watching and exit surveyors.

CAIR-Chicago renewed its call for members of Congress to support legislation on Capitol Hill that would reinforce civil liberties. The office joined the Illinois Coalition to Protect Academic Freedom and Free Speech and mobilized community members to voice their concerns for proposed state legislation (then later a resolution) that would penalize state universities and colleges for institutional boycotts against sovereign nations (IL SB 3017). Finally, the office joined local coalition efforts that would ensure fair, nonpartisan redistricting that would take into account every Illinois community.

In 2014, Outreach sought positions and pledges from federal, state and local officials to act on the following issues:

- Calling to reform the Dept. of Homeland Security TRIP Program
- Supporting the Hate Crime Reporting Act of 2014
- Supporting the USA Freedom Act
- Supporting comprehensive immigration reform for both the state and nation
- Calling to reform the state redistricting process to ensure equity in representation of all Illinois communities
- Voice disapproval of legislation that would penalize public universities and colleges for boycotts
- Support local measures to improve voting accommodations, including Election Day registration and language accessibility
- Supporting the end of abuse and excessive force by law enforcement in all levels of government

Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson and Deputy Director Sufyan Sohel participated in Advocacy Hill Days in Washington, D.C.
INTERFAITH ENGAGEMENT

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

Interfaith and social justice have always been featured in CAIR-Chicago’s efforts. Through its partnership with the interfaith labor rights group Arise Chicago, CAIR-Chicago stood in support of workers’ rights that reflect local and national fronts. We stood in solidarity with the ongoing “Fight for 15” movement, which brought hundreds of workers and their supporters to the world headquarters of McDonald’s in Oak Brook. We joined strikers from Golan Moving & Storage, Inc. and their faith leaders in Skokie—Hankerson spoke about how justice transcends differences and moves us towards unity.

The Outreach Department also connected with local partners to infuse dialogue amid new tests to halt progress with interfaith efforts local and abroad. With much appreciation to the Niagara Foundation, Outreach met with the InterFaith Tour, a French quintet (Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Atheist and Agnostic) that made Chicago one of their final stops in a global journey for interfaith initiatives. Outreach also participated in the “On the Table 2014” initiative, a partnership with Chicago Community Trust and Niagara Foundation, which gathered thousands of people across the region to generate new ideas, spark new partnerships and shape a plan for building a strong, safe and vibrant community. Finally, our longtime partner, The Catholic Theological Union’s Peacebuilders Initiative brought high school upperclassmen of the Abrahamic traditions for dialogue and interactive workshops on the topic of “the stranger”, where Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson spoke on the panel giving the Muslim perspective.

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

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), the Global Youth Leadership Institute (GYLI), and the Council of International Programs (CIP)-Chicago. All delegates were guests of the U.S. Department of State. Delegations in 2014 included representatives from Denmark, Georgia, Iraq, the United Kingdom, and Yemen.
E V E N T S

Some of the events led by the Outreach Department included:

- CAIR-Chicago hosted students in inaugural Loyola and DePaul job shadow programs
- American Muslim Health Professionals, CAIR-Chicago informed community about the Affordable Care Act
- Released Action Alert to stop passage of state bill restricting academic freedom and free speech
- Outreach Coordinator Gerald Hankerson spoke at UIC MSA Annual Dinner, CAIR-Chicago Sponsored
- CAIR-Chicago sponsored Islam Awareness Month events at the University of Chicago
- Hankerson recited the adhan at the opening plenary of the Interfaith Worker Justice conference at DePaul
- Hankerson was invited to judge for the annual oratorical contest of the Mu Mu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha
- Catholic Theological Union’s Peacebuilder Initiative, Or Tzedek, and CAIR-Chicago hosted an interfaith program for high school students
- Hankerson presented an interactive workshop on bullying to local MAS Youth Intensive Summer Camp
- CAIR-Chicago hosted delegations from the United Kingdom, Iraq and Georgia
- CAIR-Chicago’s Internship & Externship Immersion Day initiative hosted Joe Macaré, Publisher of Truthout
- Hankerson spoke at the Rally for Golan’s Workers
- Hankerson presented a workshop on identity politics at UIUC and Carthage College
- Hankerson presented at Indiana University-Bloomington
- CAIR-Chicago joined the Election Protection Coalition, to gauge efforts surrounding EDR, language accommodation and early voting access for 2014 midterms
- CAIR-Chicago released a voter guide and inaugural legislative-referendum scorecard guide
- CAIR-Chicago sponsored the 2nd Annual Halal Food Festival at the UIC Forum
- Hankerson was invited to judge for the MCC Sunday School 25th Annual Speech Contest
In 2014, the Communications Department continued to evolve. Already serving as a leading resource for producers, editors, and journalists, the Department has redoubled its effort to foster meaningful and constructive dialogue in the digital sphere and local community. By increasing activity on social media and building new relationships with community partners, the Department is influencing the national narrative towards more honest and complete portrayals of Islam and Muslims. These efforts have included everything from publicizing the new permanent gallery on Islamic art at the Art Institute of Chicago to the #CAIRthanks campaign on Twitter where CAIR-Chicago recognizes users creating positive change through social media.

With the rise of ISIS in Iraq and Syria, increasing violence from Boko Haram in Nigeria, and several high profile incidents, including the arrest of a local teen, CAIR-Chicago has been the first call media outlets make. The Department responds quickly and effectively, making sure that Muslim voices are heard and fairly represented in the news cycle and national dialogue.

The Department also works closely with the Chicagoland community, networking with student groups, bloggers, and cultural institutions to empower cross-cultural understanding and media activism.
“New challenges require new solutions, and struggles that began in the streets continue to unfold in comments and tweets.”

RENNER LARSON, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

The Communications Department organizes press conferences and issues dozens of press releases and media advisories annually 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 CAIR-Chicago 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 offer 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 Chicago Monitor writers include CAIR-Chicago staff, interns, and volunteers from around the world and the site has attracted thousands of international and local visitors.

During the first half of the year, the Monitor reported on the Palestinian community response in Chicago to the Israeli assault on Gaza; the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement at DePaul University; and the broad coalition that stopped a proposed Illinois bill that penalized anyone supporting the academic boycott of Israel.

Throughout the year, multiple articles analyzed the impact of revelations of NSA and FBI surveillance on the Muslim and Palestinian American communities.

The Chicago Monitor covered important community organizing campaigns including stopping the Children’s Memorial Hospital redevelopment; protesting the inadequate plans of the University of Chicago for a local trauma center; and the closing of 50 Chicago public schools.

Rasmea Odeh, a celebrated Chicago Palestinian and Arab community leader, was charged with “unlawful procurement of naturalization.” The Monitor offered in depth coverage of her arrest, trial, conviction, and recent release on bail.

In August, the police shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson started the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

“This year the Chicago Monitor continued to follow significant local, national, and international events. This year we published over 120 articles and featured over 50 individual contributors. From interviews with prominent Muslim authors, to media analysis of breaking news events, and ongoing reporting on important stories, this has been another very successful year for the Monitor and I look forward to growing the reach and scope of the site.”

BILL CHAMBERS, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
ONLINE ACTIVISM

In the digital age, stories break on a global scale in a matter of minutes. The Communications Department is quick to respond, anticipating viral stories and being heard 140 characters at a time. When, in early December, a hostage situation perpetrated by a self-declared Muslim cleric grabbed the world’s attention in Sydney, Australia, Communications staff helped draw attention to the trending hashtag #illridewithyou. Using #illridewithyou on Twitter and Facebook, Australians, and then the world, expressed support for Australian Muslims who might fear Islamophobic backlash for the incident.

The Communications Department ensures that CAIR-Chicago’s websites, cairchicago.org and chicagomonitor.com, are up to date and accessible to the community. Utilizing Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Wordpress the Department maintains a strong web-presence that allows for community members to stay informed, contact CAIR, and report Islamophobia in real time.

that has continued to protest racial profiling and police brutality through to the recent Reclaim Martin Luther King Day (#ReclaimMLK) marches.

For all of these important events of 2014, The Chicago Monitor not only responded, but delivered new insights into the human rights aspects and community impact of these stories.

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 campaigns.
February 7, 2015

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 11th Annual Banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations’ Chicago chapter. As you gather to celebrate this year’s theme, you have an opportunity to reflect on CAIR-Chicago’s success working to ensure justice for the Muslim communities and foster understanding throughout Illinois.

For more than a decade, CAIR-Chicago has been a vehicle of change for the Muslim communities in the Chicagoland area. You defend the civil rights of your constituents, encourage their political empowerment, and make strides to foster dialogue about cultural awareness and understanding. I applaud your commitment to promoting tolerance and understanding.

Again, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to tonight’s attendees for your dedication to defending civil rights and building mutual understanding. Congratulations on all your work and achievements, and I wish you best of luck in your future endeavors.

Very truly yours,

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator
Dear Friends,

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, it is my pleasure to extend our greetings to everyone gathered for the first Council on American-Islamic Relations Chicago’s 11th Annual Banquet.

Since its establishment in 1994, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has become the largest nonprofit Muslim civil rights advocacy organization in the nation. Twenty years later, CAIR continues to lead the fight to protect and promote the civil rights and liberties of Muslim-Americans. CAIR-Chicago advances this important work throughout the Midwest, providing a comprehensive array of valuable services to the Muslim-American community in addition to its ongoing work in combating the rise of civil rights violations.

This year’s event serves as another opportunity to celebrate the outstanding example CAIR-Chicago has provided in working for the diverse and democratic future for all residents in the great city of Chicago, through leadership and exemplifying American democracy that has long played an integral role in our city’s standing as a cultural hub. I commend the Council on American-Islamic Relations Chicago for its commitment to the Muslim American community and to inspiring community, culture, and change every day.

On behalf of the people of Chicago, I hope your evening will be an enjoyable celebration and mark continued progress in the future.

Sincerely,

Rahm Emanuel
Mayor
In a world gone global, it is easy to forget our roots and the importance of community. CAIR-Chicago has been a beacon of hope and a voice for the American Muslim community for over 20 years. It is my honor to welcome you all to our 14th Annual Banquet.

As we celebrate another successful year, I would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of the CAIR-Chicago staff and volunteers. Your efforts have made a difference in the lives of many and have helped to shape the future of our community.

Congratulations to all who have contributed to the success of CAIR-Chicago. Thank you for your commitment to making our community a better place to live.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 5, 2015

Congressional Office of CARE Chicago
17 North State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Friends,

Thank you for attending CAIR-Chicago’s 14th Annual Banquet. It is my honor to welcome you all.

CAIR-Chicago is committed to promoting the rights of American Muslims and advocating for their needs. Our staff and volunteers work tirelessly to ensure that the voices of our community are heard.

CAIR-Chicago is a leader in fighting against hate crimes and promoting civil rights for all. We have fought against discrimination and have won numerous cases on behalf of our community.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
February 7, 2016
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Dear Friends,

I would extend my warmest welcome to the attendees of CAIR Chicago’s 13th Annual Banquet.

Your work to ensure civil rights and promote justice and tolerance in our communities is greatly valued and appreciated. Thank you for your commitment to enhancing the dialogue among different cultures, despite a time where sometimes consensus can take a lot of hard work!

As a passionate and longtime supporter of democracy, I applaud your goal of fostering mutual understanding and peace among people of different races, cultures and religions.

Please know that your work is greatly appreciated. I wish you continued success for many years to come.

Sincerely,

John G. Kelly
Member of Congress
R.E. King

---

Mr. Amr Elsokkany
Executive Director
CAIR Chicago
1901 N. State Street, Suite 1400
Chicago, Illinois 60611

February 7, 2016

Dear Mr. Elsokkany,

I would like to extend my warmest welcome to the attendees of CAIR Chicago’s 13th Annual Banquet. The annual report of your organization is a reminder of CAIR Chicago’s commitment to Islam in the United States.

CAIR Chicago has been an important voice for the Muslim community and a leader in promoting civil rights and understanding. Your work is greatly valued and appreciated. I wish you continued success for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Wali Khumalo
Member of Congress
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Directer Rehabs:

Thank you for offering this opportunity to greet and welcome attendees at the CAIR-Chicago 2015 Annual Banquet, Saturday, February 7, 2015. I trust that this year’s event, like events of past years, will be a great success.

The theme of this year’s event, Impact: Advocacy that Matters, references CAIR’s commitment to turn its network of connections with communities, schools, government, law enforcement, and organizations into measurable actions effective against all real and perceived instances of hatred and injustice. If the practice of our democracy is to live up to our vision of democracy, we should remind all Americans that we live in a multi-cultural nation and that in the final analysis, the security and strength of our nation lies in our diversity and our unity. Our mutual commitment to those rights and responsibilities are our birthright in our constitution, and they have been devised, reconfirmed and reaffirmed over time so as to encompass every American. These are the true core principles of our democracy and these principles have been reaffirmed at great cost so many times over our history.

I salute CAIR-Chicago for their commitment to justice and equality for Muslim Americans… and all Americans. CAIR understands that in defending Muslim Americans against employment discrimination, prison abuse, hate crimes and citizenship delays they are also defending our American values for every American.

Once again, welcome attendees. I am certain you are in for a highly worthwhile event, and an unique opportunity to network with community members, leaders and activists from every sector of the Muslim American community in the highest tradition of our grassroots based driven democracy.

Sincerely,

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress
DKD:

Dear Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab,

I am honored to welcome all of those who have gathered for the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) Chicago Chapter’s 15th Annual Banquet. Congratulations on another successful year of work.

“Impact: Advocacy that Matters”, is an appropriate theme for this year’s banquet, acknowledging that CAIR-Chicago is committed to ensuring justice, equality and respect for all. The work of CAIR-Chicago has preserved principles of tolerance, religious freedom, trust and safety throughout the community. I applaud your efforts in the preservation of core American values, such as justice and equality.

Again, I would like to congratulate you on your 15th Anniversary. My best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress
February 7, 2015
CAIR-Chicago 11th Anniversary Banquet

As salam alaikum!

It is an honor to welcome each of you to the CAIR-Chicago 11th Anniversary Banquet. This gathering celebrates CAIR for its work defending civil liberties for all Americans, and I commend each and every one of you for your commitment to this organization and its mission.

CAIR’s advocacy on behalf of our community is unparalleled and I am grateful that CAIR positively showcases American-Muslim contributions in our country and works diligently to address misconceptions throughout the nation. Tonight’s theme “Impact: Advocacy that Matters” is very fitting as we celebrate CAIR’s work and reflect on the coming year. Each of us plays an important role in promoting mutual understanding and equal justice. But, to be effective, our community must demonstrate consistent, strategic and unified engagement on the local and national level. Your presence tonight signifies a willingness to take action and I am confident that our collective efforts can yield lasting and positive impact.

Thank you for being here this evening and please enjoy tonight’s event.

Sincerely,

Andre Carson
Member of Congress

---

January 29, 2015

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehah
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago
17 North State Street, Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mr. Rehah:

As you celebrate your 11th Annual Banquet, I wish to extend my congratulations to the Chicago chapter of the Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) on another successful year of impactful advocacy and community engagement.

This year’s theme, “Impact: Advocacy that Matters,” will encourage further engagement in the political process. Recent expansions of voter restrictions throughout the country attempt to exclude certain voices from the political process. I applaud your efforts to engage with officials on civil rights issues, and I hope the coming year brings additional success to your community.

I also express my gratitude for the outstanding work you do on behalf of Muslims in our country. When Islamophobia unfortunately persists, it is up to our community to react with tolerance, moderation, and sincerity. Your social advocacy and media monitoring are crucial not only for the safety of Muslims all over the country, but for the quality of journalism. I personally thank you for holding our media institutions accountable, and making the world a better place for all.

Again, congratulations on another year of impactful work, and I look forward to seeing where you go in 2015.

Sincerely,

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress
Greetings:

Congratulations to the Chicago Muslim community in celebration of the 11th annual banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago).

CAIR-Chicago’s role is crucial to fostering respect and appreciation of each other’s ideas and opinions. This year’s theme, “Impact: Advocacy that Matters” underscores the importance of working within our communities, schools and government to promote peaceful understanding among people from different backgrounds, faiths and life experiences.

For the hundreds gathered, this event recognizes the significant achievements of CAIR-Chicago and its efforts to promote understanding and ensure justice in the greater Chicagoland area. CAIR-Chicago’s goal of defending civil rights, fighting bigotry and promoting acceptance of the Muslim community is to be commended.

I wish you well in your efforts and best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

Jesse White
Secretary of State
February 7, 2015

Dear Members of CAIR-Chicago, friends and supporters:


I also congratulate you on another successful year of working to ensure justice for the embattled in our communities and to foster understanding throughout greater Chicagoland and Illinois. I commend everyone gathered tonight in celebration of CAIR’s commitment to a better tomorrow for everyone.

On behalf of the Third Legislative District, we give our support and our sincere well wishes to CAIR-Chicago as we celebrate your success this evening.

Sincerely,

Mattie Hunter
Majority Caucus Whip
Illinois State Senator
3rd Legislative District
January 9, 2015

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
17 N. State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60602-3255

Dear Friends,

I would like to congratulate the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations as you gather to celebrate another phenomenal year working to ensure justice and foster understanding in Chicago and throughout Illinois.

This year’s theme at the 11th annual banquet, “Impact: Advocacy that Matters,” continues to demonstrate your efforts to ensure civil and human rights for all. We must remain focused in advocating a promising future where we respect one another and work to enhance the chapter’s goal of defending civil rights, fighting bigotry, and promoting tolerance.

Please accept my best wishes for another successful banquet and your continued success.

Sincerely,

Terry Link
State Senator
30th District


January 7, 2015

Mr. Emad M. Elsanousi
Counsel, 2015 Director
17 N. State St.
Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Mr. Elsanousi,

I would like to officially congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter, as you celebrate your 11th Anniversary in 2015.

The Council-chairs for the year, shows that you understood the importance of building community connections and the mutual respect and appreciation all around the state.

Again congratulations on celebrating another successful year of hard work. Let's keep the momentum this year as you strive to fulfill your goals of fighting illigal and fostering understanding and tolerance throughout the state and the world.

Sincerely,

Jim Durkin
State Representative
65th District
December 30, 2024
Council on American-Islamic Relations
17 North State St.
Suite 3500
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Director Rahal:

As a proudly represent Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Skokie and the 50th Ward in the City of Chicago, I would like to welcome all the attendees to this year’s Council on American-Islamic Relations’ eleventh Annual Banquet.

Your tireless work on behalf of inclusion and civil rights are invaluable in a world with increasing less barriers. As Americans, it is essential that we embrace our diversity as a strength that very few countries can match.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Deputy Majority Leader

ED SULLIVAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 51ST DISTRICT
ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN LEADER

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
17 North State Street, Suite 3500
Chicago, Illinois 60602-3209

Dear Members and Guests,

I want to sincerely welcome you all to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter, 11th Annual Banquet.

The Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations has impacted our area by acting against hatred and injustice through your advocacy in the communities, schools, government, and other organizations. Together, we can take a more promising future.

Congratulations on a successful event and working to achieve the Chapter’s goals in making the next for the next decade of defending civil rights, fighting bigotry, and promoting tolerance.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Assistant Republican Leader
State Representative, 51st District
February 7th, 2015

Dear Friends of CAIR-Chicago,

I am honored to extend my sincere congratulations to CAIR-Chicago on another year of exceptional service to communities across Illinois. Their dedication to promoting social justice is, no doubt, a tireless task, but enhances the lives of Muslim Americans in so many ways: by effectively defending civil rights, promoting personal political empowerment and sponsoring community events that strengthen our society.

There are times when great challenges arise because of the differences between us, whether they are based on race, religion or creed. But organizations like CAIR-Chicago that embrace and strive for diversity instead of sameness enrich the lives of those for whom they advocate and the rest of the community as well. A truly strong and vibrant community doesn’t just tolerate diversity, but thrives because of it. CAIR-Chicago has done so much to help communities across Illinois move forward.

Congratulations on all your hard work and a successful celebration.

Kind Regards,

Daniel Biss
State Senator, 9th District

January 9, 2015

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
17 North State Street
Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60602

Counsel Members:

It is my honor to recognize the work that CAIR-Chicago does to defend civil rights and promote tolerance.

I commend this year’s theme of “Impact: Advocacy that Matters”. As an elected official, I appreciate seeing organizations encourage their members to participate in advocacy on a regular basis. Engaging not only elected officials, but members of the community, is an important way you can have an impact.

I applaud your efforts and look forward to seeing the outcome of your efforts. My best wishes for success.

Sincerely,

William E. Brady
State Senator, 44th District

WEB site
I am writing to express my gratitude for the work your organization does in advocating for the rights of Muslims in Chicago. As a community leader, I am aware of the importance of promoting tolerance and understanding, especially in the current climate of heightened sensitivity towards religious and cultural differences.

Your efforts in organizing educational programs, community events, and advocating for Muslim rights are commendable. They play a vital role in fostering a more inclusive and harmonious society.

Once again, thank you for your continued dedication to the cause. I look forward to continuing to support the important work of CAIR-Chicago.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Title]
January 9, 2015

Dear Senator Hutchenson,

I am very pleased to congratulate you on your election to the Illinois Senate. It is the honor of a lifetime for any Arab American to be elected to the Senate, which is a testament to your hard work and dedication to representing your constituents in the Second Senate District.

Senator Hutchenson, your election reflects the progress of the Arab American community and the growing recognition of the value that we bring to our state. Your election is a win for all of us, and I commend you for your commitment to serving the needs of your community.

I am looking forward to working with you and your colleagues in the Senate to advance policies that benefit all of our constituents.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

To: Senator Hutchenson

cc: [Appropriate contacts]

---

December 16, 2014

Dear Friends,

As State Senator of the 43rd District, I extend my best wishes to all attending CAIR-Chicago's 11th Annual Banquet.

The Muslim Community is an important part of the 43rd Senate District, particularly in Bellwood and LaSalle. Through dialogues, events, voices, the professionals, and businesses, Muslim Americans have much to do and much to accomplish.

I congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations Chicago for another successful year. You have my appreciation for your commitment to justice and opportunity for all.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

To: [Appropriate contacts]

cc: [Appropriate contacts]
Dear CAIR Chicago members and guests:

Congratulations as you celebrate another successful year as the nation's fastest growing chapter of a civil rights organization rightly revered for its success in building bridges and moving our nation closer to achieving the American dream for all. As you gather for tonight's celebration, you can take pride in the valuable contributions you've made - not only for Muslims in the Chicago area, but for people of every faith, everywhere.

Recent events have clarified the importance of your brand of focused, informed, sustained advocacy that matters. As Americans react to incidents of terrorism and racism, as we reflect on the values of free speech and the freedom to worship and as we continue to debate the role of immigrants in our society, we can always look to CAIR to take a balanced and steadfast stand. Thank you for calling us to live up to our ideals, choosing acceptance and partnership rather than fear.

I wish you much success this evening and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Kwame Raoul
State Senator, 13th Legislative District

February 7, 2015

Illinois State Senate
Kwame Raoul
State Senator - 13th District
February 2015
Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to offer this letter congratulating the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago) on another successful year of defending civil rights, fighting bigotry, and promoting tolerance.

As the largest organization dedicated to protecting and promoting the civil rights and liberties of Muslim Americans, CAIR-Chicago has made great strides in engaging all communities to build mutual understanding and trust, and to encourage creation of a nation that appreciates the ideals, values, and experiences of all people, both here and throughout the world. This year’s theme of “Impact: Advocacy that Matters” extends far beyond rituals of charity and good will and aims to generate meaningful policies that are effective against hatred and injustice, and I am honored to be a part of that effort.

I commend CAIR-Chicago on its ongoing efforts and wish for the organization nothing but continued success. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your celebration.

Sincerely,
La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative
– Eighth District

La Shawn K. Ford State Representative – Eighth District

January 20, 2015
Council on American Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
17 North Dearborn, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Friends,

I want to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago for its important work to ensure civil rights and promote justice and tolerance within our community.

As CAIR’s annual celebration enters its second decade, a very appropriate theme has been selected – “Impact: Advocacy that Matters” – which should remind us that while positive rhetoric is important, actual change -- change that leads to less bigotry and more tolerance – is even more important. It is important that we not only set goals, but that we take concrete steps towards achieving them.

Fortunately, we are blessed to have organizations such as CAIR dedicated to reinforcing the need to build mutual understanding and trust among the many creeds, colors, religions, and backgrounds that make up our community and our country. This diversity is our strength.

Again, welcome to all in attendance tonight, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative – Eighth District

La Shawn K. Ford State Representative – Eighth District

January 20, 2015
Council on American Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
17 N. Dearborn, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Friends,

I want to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago for its important work to ensure civil rights and promote justice and tolerance within our community.

As CAIR’s annual celebration enters its second decade, a very appropriate theme has been selected – “Impact: Advocacy that Matters” – which should remind us that while positive rhetoric is important, actual change -- change that leads to less bigotry and more tolerance – is even more important. It is important that we not only set goals, but that we take concrete steps towards achieving them.

Fortunately, we are blessed to have organizations such as CAIR dedicated to reinforcing the need to build mutual understanding and trust among the many creeds, colors, religions, and backgrounds that make up our community and our country. This diversity is our strength.

Again, welcome to all in attendance tonight, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative – Eighth District

La Shawn K. Ford State Representative – Eighth District
February 9, 2016

Arashk, a child,
Executive Director
CHICAGO
17 W. State St., Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Khaleh,

Congratulations on another successful year at CAIR Chicago. As the nation’s largest Muslim civil rights organization, CAIR has been at the forefront of advocating for equality, justice, and freedom for all Americans. The year ahead holds many challenges, but I am confident that together we can overcome them.

Again, congratulations on your continued commitment to defending the rights of all Americans. I wish you and your organization all the best.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Rashid Gabel
State Representative 38th District

January 9, 2015

Mr. Ahmad M. Khaleh
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
17 W. State St., Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60601

Mr. Khaleh,

This letter is to convey my continued support for CAIR and the work they do. The importance of understanding and combating anti-Muslim bias cannot be overstated. Your organization plays a critical role in advocating for the rights of Muslims and promoting tolerance.

Congratulations on your 12th Anniversary. You should be proud of your achievement and I commend you for all of your hard work.

Thank you for your generous time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

[Signature]

Jay C. Hoffman
State Representative 11th District

January 9, 2015

Mr. Ahmad M. Khaleh
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
17 W. State St., Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60601

Mr. Khaleh,

I would like to extend my congratulations to you and your organization. Your 12th Annual Banquet is an important event for our community. The work CAIR does is invaluable, and I am proud to support your efforts.

Thank you for your continued dedication to defending the rights of all Americans. I wish you every success in your endeavors.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Christian L. Mitchell
State Representative 42nd District
January 10, 2015

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
17 North State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois, 60602-3259

Dear Friends:

I would like to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter on your 11th Annual Banquet. I commend you for another successful year in working to promote religious understanding and ensure justice throughout Illinois.

The theme for this year, “Impact: Advocacy that Matters,” resonates close to home for many elected officials, including myself. CAIR-Chicago’s efforts to educate elected officials, community leaders and the general public on religious tolerance have yielded tremendous results. The impact you have had on the greater Chicago area is immeasurable, from prompting acceptance to denouncing hateful political rhetoric, CAIR-Chicago is a leader in ensuring civil and human rights for all.

Once again, I applaud your efforts and look forward to working together to advocate for a world free of bigotry, intolerance and hatred. Congratulations on your 11th Anniversary and please accept my best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Michelle Mussman
Illinois State Representative
56th District
December 22, 2014

Dear Friends,

It is with great honor that I offer greetings and salutations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations of Chicago on the occasion of your 11th Annual Banquet. I applaud your efforts and your mission to defend civil rights, fight bigotry and promote tolerance.

I live by the motto of “Don’t be a part of the problem, be a part of solution.” CAIR has been a part of the solution by creating relationships and connections with communities, schools, government, law enforcement, and organizations that result in measurable actions that fight against hatred and injustice. The services you provide to the American-Islamic Community of Cook County and beyond are immeasurable.

Because of your commendable efforts to encourage equality, enhance cultural knowledge, and promote justice you are protecting the future advancement opportunities of generations to come. Congratulations on another successful year of education, growth and empowerment.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Steele
President Pro Tempore
Cook County Commissioner, 2nd District
Dear Friends,

I would like to extend my best wishes to CAIR-Chicago on your 11th Annual Banquet. What a wonderful opportunity to look back and celebrate the positive impact CAIR has had on Chicago for more than a decade, while also looking forward to the work yet to be done.

With an eye toward the future, CAIR-Chicago has made Impact: Advocacy that Matters the theme of tonight’s celebration. What an important reminder that in order to ensure civil and human rights for all, we must come together to respect one another and the diversity of our ideas, beliefs, and experiences.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to CAIR for the amazing work they do advocating for justice and mutual understanding between the many different religions and cultures in our city. By defending civil rights, fighting bigotry, promoting tolerance, and providing Islamic perspective on issues of importance, CAIR-Chicago is enhancing understanding of the Islamic religion in one of the most diverse cities in the nation.

I hope you all enjoy tonight’s banquet, and I wish CAIR-Chicago much success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

John Fritchey
Cook County Commissioner, 12th District
February 7, 2015

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
17 N. State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL  60602

Dear Friends:

Congratulations on CAIR-Chicago's 11th Annual Banquet. I continued on your
"Impact" theme, which calls on each of us to work every day for mutual respect and justice for all
people.

I think you for your exemplary work on behalf of Chicago’s Muslim-American
community as well as the rest of us who advocate against prejudice. Through outreach activities
and awareness campaigns, may the Muslim-American community continue to develop strong
partnerships that bring us all together as one.

Again, congratulations and have a wonderful evening.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Moore

February 7, 2015

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
17 N. State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL  60602

Dear CAIR-Chicago Members:

Congratulations on your "Impact" theme, which calls on each of us to work every day for mutual respect and justice for all
people.

I think you for your exemplary work on behalf of Chicago’s Muslim-American
community as well as the rest of us who advocate against prejudice. Through outreach activities
and awareness campaigns, may the Muslim-American community continue to develop strong
partnerships that bring us all together as one.

Again, congratulations and have a wonderful evening.

Sincerely,
On behalf of the Village of Bensenville and our Board of Trustees, it is my honor to extend congratulations to the members of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago Chapter) on another successful year.

The Village of Bensenville commends and supports CAIR-Chicago’s mission to defend civil rights, fight bigotry, and promote tolerance. As our country continues to grow and change, it is important that we continue to work together and embrace diversity. Bensenville is a diverse community of residents and businesses, and we continue to grow, support and embrace this.

Once again, congratulations to your organization and best wishes for a successful 2015 and many years to come.

Sincerely,

Frank Soto
Village President
February 1, 2015

Dear Members and Guests of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR):

On behalf of the residents of Rosemont, Ill., and the management and staff of the Donald E. Stephens Conference Center, we are delighted to welcome you at CAIR’s 11th annual breakfast, this year addressing the theme of responsible and impartial advocacy.

You have chosen a formidable task to study and promote. Advocacy is a productive activity that is the natural outgrowth of a free and democratic society.

CAIR continues to focus heavily on advocating for the basic principles that make our nation great. Civil rights, peace and justice for all.

We congratulate you, both on your “Advocacy that Matters” breakfast on Saturday, February 7, 2015, and on CAIR’s annual report, which this letter will appear. We are aware that the annual report presents the insights and accomplishments CAIR has achieved, based upon its vital commitment and ongoing activism.

We extend our ongoing efforts to promote civil rights and justice for all, and we thank you, once again, for choosing the Donald E. Stephens Conference Center in Rosemont for your gala annual banquet.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Mayor

Village of Rosemont

January 9, 2015

Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
17 N. State Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Director Rehab:

Thank you for the opportunity to write a letter of support for your work to ensure justice and foster understanding. Evanston is a diverse community that benefits from everything you do. My thanks go to everyone who is attending your event.

Congratulations on a phenomenal past year and best wishes for the future. You are helping the entire Chicagoland area with what I am sure will be a successful event and another memorable year.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Tisdahl
Mayor
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.

**SUPPORT US**

Scholars have confirmed that CAIR-Chicago is an eligible recipient of Zakat. As always, your donations to CAIR-Chicago are tax deductible.

- Sign up for CAIR-Chicago’s Dollar-A-Day program at [cairchicago.org/dollar-a-day](cairchicago.org/dollar-a-day)
- Make a general donation at [cairchicago.org/make-a-donation-form](cairchicago.org/make-a-donation-form)
- Check to see if your employer has a gift matching program
- Designate CAIR-Chicago as a beneficiary in your will (planned giving)
- Donate stocks, bonds or financial instruments to CAIR-Chicago
- Donate vehicles via Cars 4 Causes by going to [cars4causes.net/charity-car-donation/cair-chicago](cars4causes.net/charity-car-donation/cair-chicago)
- Participate in our Amazon Smile program. Go to [smile.amazon.com](smile.amazon.com)

**JOIN US**

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

**FOLLOW US**

- @cairchicago
- [youtube.com/cairillinois](youtube.com/cairillinois)
- [facebook.com/cairchicago](facebook.com/cairchicago)
- [cairchicago.com](cairchicago.com)
Staff & Board

AHMED REHAB
Executive Director

SUFIYAN SOHEL, ESQ.
Deputy Director

KEVIN VODAK, ESQ.
Litigation Director

RABYA KHAN, ESQ.
Staff Attorney

RENNER LARSON

AUSTIN HUETTE

AGNIESZKA KAROLUK
Communications Coordinators

GERALD HANKERSON
Outreach Coordinator

MOHAMED ABDELATI
Finance Manager

MILOS MARKICEVIC
Office Coordinator

FAWAD SAYEED
I.T. Consultant

ALAA ABDELATI
Administrative Assistant

NOUR ZEIN

ADHAM SAHLOUL

FATIMA AHMED
Youth Development Fellows (MYLS)

MAZEN KUDAIMI, MD
Chairman

CHRISTINA ABRAHAM
Board Vice-Chairwoman

DR. AISHA EL-AMIN
Board Secretary

DZAFER KULENOVIC
Board Treasurer

DR. HESHAM HASSABALLA

 AHLAM JBARA
REV. PAUL RUTGERS

SUZANNE SAHLOUL
Board Directors

AHMED REHAB
Non-Voting

PROF. M. CHERIF BASSIOUNI
Honorary Chair