



e-Council Connection

Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC)

February 2009

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Greetings!

Please note that in observance of Presidents' Day all ACC offices will be closed on Monday, February 16th .

U.S. Presidents Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday of February. Presidents Day was originally designated in honor of George Washington's birthday and is still legally called "Washington's Birthday." The first president of the United States was born on February 22, 1732.

ACC receives 2008 Spirit of Collaboration Award



The Michigan Cancer Consortium (MCC) recently held its 2008 Spirit of Collaboration Awards & Acknowledgments event. As a member of the Michigan Multicultural Tobacco Prevention Network, ACC was awarded the MCC Spirit of Collaboration Honorable Mention Award. The network was honored for its diligence, initiative, and attitude. Mr. Wali Altahif, coordinator for ACC's Tobacco Cessation Program, represents ACC on the network committee.

The Michigan Multicultural Tobacco Prevention Network (MCN) was established to promote awareness regarding the dangers of tobacco use/abuse and secondhand smoke among communities of color. It is comprised of six lead agencies that represent

the five major ethnic/racial populations in Michigan: African Americans, Arab and Chaldean Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans, and Native Americans. This network is funded by the Michigan Department of Community Health.

The Michigan Multicultural Tobacco Prevention Network consists of the following organizations:

Arab American and Chaldean Council (ACC)

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)

The Asian Center

Faith Access to Community Economic Development (FACED)

Latino Family Services

South Eastern Michigan Indians, Inc (SEMII)

ACC Safe at Home Project



ACC's Public Health department has embarked on a new project. In partnership with HAVEN, ACC will be providing help to those who enter HAVEN's shelter or need an advocate. HAVEN is a place where people can go to be safe, get help and join programs to assist them in living their lives without violence, hurting, or abuse.

On Friday, January 23rd ACC and HAVEN kicked off their Safe at Home Project with a bilingual community presentation on Violence Prevention at ACC's Youth Center. The presentation identified what is considered domestic violence and how it relates specifically to immigrants.

Families are important, so is feeling safe at home. Love should not hurt and love should not scare you. We can help. You are not alone. To receive help call HAVEN's 24-hour crisis and support line at (248) 334- 1274 or TTY (248) 334-1290 for the deaf and hearing impaired.

Community Focus Groups

ACC continues to be at the forefront in representing the interests and hopes of the members of the communities we serve. Represented by Mr. Isa Hasan, the ACC has been an active participant in various community focus groups convened by corporate America:

The DTE Community Advisory Group was formed to be a sounding board to carry the concerns of our clients to the corporation and to suggest ways in which various utility delivery concerns can be tackled for the benefit of all.

Fifth Third Bank Community Advisory Forum (CAF) has been holding quarterly meetings to address the Justice Department's mandate of the Community Reinvestment Act. More recently, the CAF has been addressing mortgage foreclosures and inappropriate lending practices that resulted in the economic doldrums we are currently facing.

The ACC will continue to participate in these groups for we believe that we can articulate the concerns of the community in these challenging economic times.

Increasing Communication



On January 20th the ACC-DHS department hosted a monthly community collaboration meeting at ACC's Youth Recreation & Leadership Center. The participants for the monthly meetings include ACC, Lutheran Services, Cadillac Place/Community Resources, ACCESS and the Department of Human Services (DHS).

The purpose of these monthly meetings is to enhance the communication between clients, staff, and the administration of the DHS Greenfield/Joy office. As a result, there has been a significant improvement in quantity and quality of service.

COMING SOON - NEW ACC OFFICE



ACC is excited to announce that it will be opening a Macomb County JET Plus Program. Due to the increasing need for services ACC will be working, in partnership with Macomb County, to serve the growing population.

Making a Difference

ACC's Macomb County JET Program will provide the following services:

- Group and individual orientation
- Job counseling and placement
- Resume writing
- Vocational and classroom training
- Job supportive services
- Job readiness skills
- English as a second language
- Child Care

WIC Program Announcement

The Detroit ACC WIC Clinics (Joy/Greenfield & Youth Center) will be closed for Michigan WIC Training (our new statewide computer system) the week of February 9th. We will re-open to service clients the day after Presidents Day, Tuesday, February 17th.

Clients who need assistance during this time, please contact DHS or Emergency Food Banks for assistance. For infants born during this time, WIC is encouraging moms to breastfeed until a WIC appointment becomes available. Clients may also refer back to

their physician for infant formula samples if a mom chooses not to breastfeed or is having difficulties and is an urgent need for infant formula.

Any questions or concerns during this transition, please feel free to contact ACC at 248-559-1990.

Community News

Chronicles of a Refugee

A documentary film series by Perla Issa, Aseel Mansour, and Adam Shapiro. Chronicles of a Refugee is a 6-part documentary film series looking at the global Palestinian refugee experience over the last 60 years. Please note that the films are independent of each other.

Episode 3: Homeland without ID
Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 6:30pm
Arab American National Museum
13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, MI
To reserve tickets call (586)808-8461, \$10

Proceeds will benefit humanitarian aid and assistance for Palestinian Refugees

Get WISE About Your Benefits

If you or someone you know is on Social Security and wants to work but isn't sure how to get started, the WISE (Work Incentive Seminar Event) is the place to be.

في أرض عامرة بالفرص
هذه واحدة منها ربما لم تخطر لك على بال



Put your language skills to use.

- English language training if needed.
- Expedited Citizenship.
- Combined incentives of up to \$60,000.
- Humanitarian Work, Nation re-building.

For more information call:
Maysoun (313) 574-6011 or Montadar (313) 909-1257
for the Dearborn Area
Mona (586) 719-0787 or Ali (586) 719-0788 Detroit Area
Mona Hanna (248) 904-9387 for the Pontiac Area



ARMY STRONG.

February 25, 2009, 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Macomb Oakland Regional Center (MORC)
1270 Doris Road, Auburn Hills, 48326
For more information and to register please call 877-743-8237.

Put Your Language Skills to Use

Quick Links...

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email: kimberlys@myacc.org

phone: (248) 559-1990

web: <http://www.myacc.org>

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ACC | 28551 Southfield Road | Suite 204 | Lathrup Village | MI | 48076