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**DEFENDING CIVIL RIGHTS
FIGHTING BIGOTRY
PROMOTING TOLERANCE**

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CAIR CHICAGO

ANNUAL REPORT

2008

www.cairchicago.org

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IGNORANCE IS THE ENEMY

***“CAIR-Chicago...
makes our city a
better place to live,
work and raise
families.”***

***~Mayor Richard M.
Daley***

***“CAIR [is] defending our Ameri-
can values for every American.”***

***~Congressman Danny K. Davis
(D-IL)***

***I want to commend you ...for
working toward ensuring justice
and civil rights for all the com-
munities you serve.”***

***~Governor Pat Quinn (Letter of
Support, 2009)***

***CAIR-Chicago will play a critical
role in enhancing American-Mus-
lim relations and enabling [Mus-
lims] to reclaim their rightful
place in the fabric of our great
nation.”***

***~Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr.
(D-IL)***

***“Through the resilience of organi-
zations such as [CAIR-Chicago],
the message of peace, multicult-
turalism, equal opportunity and
inclusion continues to have a
meaningful and positive effect on
our nation.”***

***~Illinois Secretary of State Jesse
White***



THE FUTURE.

Carving out a better tomorrow

CAIR (the Council on American-Islamic Relations) was founded in 1994 and is a Muslim civil rights organization based in Washington DC. 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 the Chicago's downtown business district, is currently in its fifth year of operation.

CAIR-CHICAGO's Mission

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

CAIR-CHICAGO's Vision

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

CAIR-CHICAGO's Core Values

CAIR Chicago is a Muslim organization that employs a trademark "professional activism" model in pursuit of its simple but important mission (see above). For five years, CAIR-Chicago has been committed to the following ideals coined on our first day:

- **Credible:** Gain the trust and respect of all involved.
- **Consistent:** Our level of motivation and productivity should not waiver with time. The attention given to the various areas of our work should be even.
- **Professional:** Level-headed, objective, presentable, attractive.
- **Proactive:** Create programs that predict and preemptively challenge potential problems.
- **Omnipresent:** Our presence and our programs should enjoy high exposure both with members of the Muslim community, the general public, the media, and government.
- **Targeted/Focused:** Well-defined problem areas and solutions.
- **Transparent:** What you see is what you get.
- **Efficient:** No redundancies. Putting the right people in the right place at the right time.
- **Egalitarian/Fair-minded:** Reach out to support non-Muslims who face similar grievances as our own, or who see similar values to our own being challenged.
- **Accessible:** Easy to find and reach whether by members of our community, or by members of the media.
- **Sincere:** What fuels our work is not personal ego or a hidden agenda, but a genuine desire to effectuate positive change.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As CAIR-Chicago proudly marks its fifth year of well-documented contributions to our great community and our great city, we present you with the 2008 Annual Progress Report.

In 2008, CAIR-Chicago continued its track record of attracting top talent and skill with the addition of Kevin Vodak as staff attorney, Amina Sharif who joined Reem Rahman as communications coordinator, Daniah Elharezi who joined Azam Azeem as operations coordinator, Reema Ahmad, new government affairs coordinator, and Mokaram Rauf, youth coordinator. Kevin, who has eight years of litigation experience, has helped elevate the reach of our civil rights work while Amina is yet another graduate of CAIR-Chicago's internship program to return as a leader in the department in which she once interned.

In 2008, our **civil rights department** received 307 cases. A staggering 291 cases were actively pursued by department personnel throughout the year. The cases comprised a wide range of categories including employment, government, airport, public accommodation, prison, and child custody. The department also continued the administration of ongoing projects like the Citizenship Delay Project. Overall, 396 cases of citizenship delay have been reported since 2005. Of those cases, 270 have been resolved! The department continued to train law students from Chicago and beyond through its highly-acclaimed law clerk externship program. Throughout 2008, department staff led a broad mix of workshops, presentations, and events. Christina Abraham, civil rights director, travelled as far as the Philippines to lead a civil rights workshop as part of a US delegation that was sponsored by the State department.

Under the auspices of our **outreach department**, 2008 saw the expansion of MYLS, the Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium, and the launch of its dedicated website, www.mylschicago.org. Gerald Hankerson, outreach coordinator, and Mokaram Rauf helped extend the mission of MYLS - empowering youth to guide their communities from the margin to the mainstream - to hundreds of students from 8 schools around Chicago, through seasonal seminars at university campuses, workshops, and on-site follow-up sessions at the participants' schools. Special guest speakers included Congressman Keith Ellison - the nation's first Muslim elected to the House - and renowned imam, Zaid Shakir.

In 2008, the outreach department continued to oversee CAIR-Chicago's powerful internship program that brought in dozens of diverse and highly-qualified students into our workforce each semester. It also coordinated various important interfaith meetings, community outreach programs, and volunteer opportunities for community members.

In 2008, CAIR-Chicago's **government affairs** department joined forces with ICIRR and the Mosque Foundation to coordinate a successful "Get out the Vote" operation during the presidential election



Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium participants.

among other races. The department also issued a voter education guide for that year. Reema Ahmad, who commutes to our downtown Chicago office all the way from Milwaukee, and her predecessor, Sadiya Ahmed, continued to work hard to forge positive relations with our elected officials in order to educate them on the issues affecting our community. In 2008 like the year before it, CAIR-Chicago received over 20 letters of commendation on the occasion of its annual dinner from the governor, mayor, members of congress, and others with whom we have built positive community relations.

2008 was a busy year for the **communications department**. CAIR-Chicago was featured, quoted or reported on over 231 times locally, nationally, and globally. These included over 79 times in print media, 20 times on broadcast news (TV) and 10 times on radio, in addition to numerous references online. 2008 also saw an increase in the number of our published op-eds. CAIR-Chicago also presented on Muslim issues at numerous media panels including the annual UNITY conference where Imam Zaid Shakir teamed up with Reem and myself.

The communications department continued to actively monitor the local media for fairness and accuracy in reporting, and to write letters with valued feedback where merited. The department also worked to further streamline and professionalize CAIR-Chicago's internal communication and documentation mechanisms to even higher standards. 2008 witnessed a significant expansion of our web and online marketing services.

In 2008, CAIR-Chicago's staff extended its message beyond Chicago speaking at Mosques and Universities from Arizona to New York, and California to Florida.

In 2008, Yaser Tabbara, board member of CAIR-Chicago and former executive director, and myself travelled to Scotland for a speaking tour on Islam and the West that included talks at universities and a visit to the Scottish Parliament. Earlier in the year, I had travelled to England to present a Muslim perspective at a conference exploring the relations between law enforcement and minority communities in the West, as well as to France with ICIRR's Josh Hoyt to undergo a comparative study of new immigrant patterns and attitudes.

CAIR-Chicago continues to boldly address the most sensitive issues facing our community. In the face of the recent attacks against the people of Gaza, we took a strong and uncompromising stance for justice and humanity both in the media and in grassroots organizing.

Lastly, the final month of 2008 saw CAIR-Chicago secure a new office three times its former size at minimal impact to our overall budget. The expansion has since enabled our organization to accommodate its fast but healthy growth. For more detailed updates on our work and progress, please visit our award-winning website: www.cairchicago.org. We hope that you will continue to support our services and projects.

Ahmed Rehab, **Executive Director**



CAIR-Chicago participates in interfaith dialogue.



CAIR-Chicago clients swearing in to become American citizens.



CIVIL RIGHTS

we deliver
justice.

we ensure
equal opportunity.

The Civil Rights Department at CAIR-Chicago fights for equal rights and opportunities on behalf of Muslims in America and works to defend Muslims who suffer discrimination or are victims of hate crimes. The department takes up complaints ranging from bigoted gestures to religious discrimination at the hands of institutions. Our expertise in the area of civil liberties affords us the ability to resolve incidents ranging from employment to governmental to housing discrimination. We pursue the appropriate remedying measures which can range from cultural sensitivity training for the perpetrating party to all out legal measures.

CAIR-Chicago ensures that every incident is also logged and recorded. This research is subsequently published by CAIR-Chicago in reports that aim to educate the public on the plight of American Muslims' civil rights.

The Civil Rights Department has experienced tremendous successes in the past year.

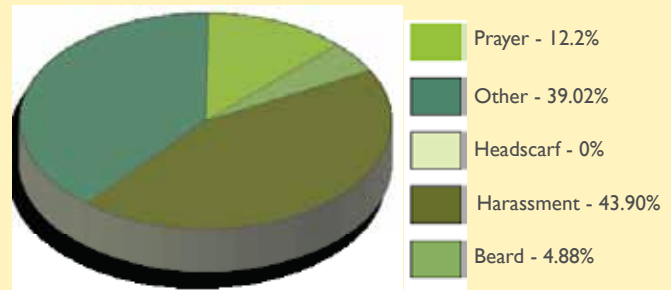
In 2008, 307 cases were reported to CAIR-Chicago with 291 cases actively pursued by department personnel.

The consistently high volume of cases seen by the Civil Rights Department illustrates the continuing need for Muslims to have access to legal representation when facing discrimination and the growing trust in CAIR-Chicago to do the job.

This high demand underscores the need to expand its Civil Rights Department in order to meet the ever-growing needs of the Muslim community.

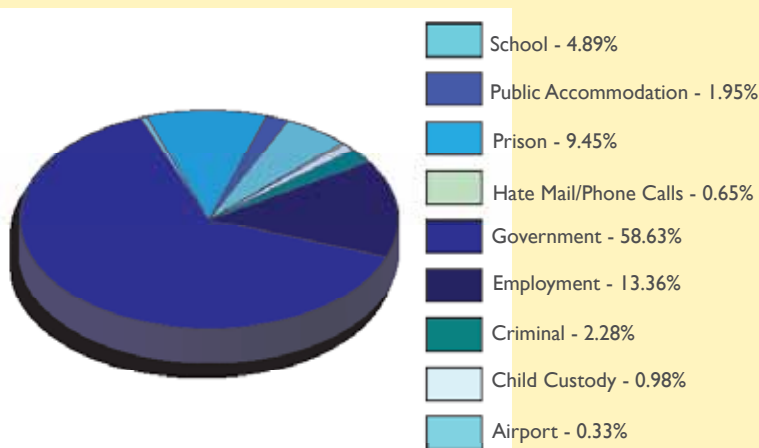
EMPLOYMENT CASES IN FOCUS: 41 TOTAL

Beard	2
Harassment	18
Headscarf	0
Other	16
Prayer	5



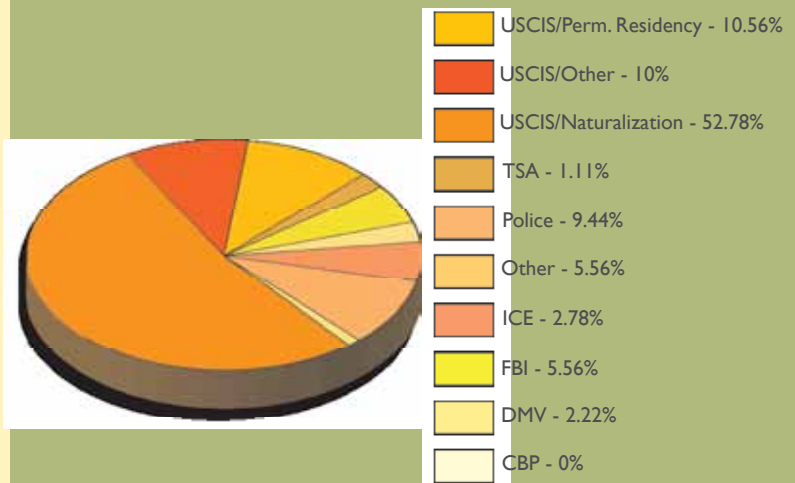
CASES REPORTED IN 2008 - 307 TOTAL

Airport	1
Child Custody	3
Criminal	7
Employment	41
General	23
Government	180
Hate Mail/Hate Phone Calls	2
Prison	29
Public Accommodation	6
School	15



GOVERNMENT CASES IN FOCUS: 180 TOTAL

Customs and Border Protection (CBS)	0
Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)	4
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	10
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)	5
Other	10
Police	17
Transportation Security Administration (TSA)	2
USCIS /Naturalization	95
USCIS/Other	18
USCIS/Permanent Residency	19





Dr. Ghaffarpour, visiting the CAIR-Chicago office after becoming a U.S. citizen.

“Citizenship Truly Sweet” - Despite Long, Bitter Fight

After a long legal battle, University of Illinois Professor Mohammed Ghaffarpour was finally sworn in as a U.S. citizen this past summer. Immigration authorities sought to paint the Iranian-born chemical engineering professor as a potential threat to national security, an argument that was dismissed by a judge. CAIR-Chicago attorneys fought on behalf of Ghaffarpour, who waited six years for his citizenship. “USCIS’s allegations stemming from his visits to Iran and identity as a Muslim reflect increasing concerns about discriminatory citizenship practices,” said CAIR-Chicago Civil Rights Director Christina Abraham. Ghaffarpour’s case is among several thousand court challenges filed by immigrants frustrated over long delays in their citizenship applications, some stretching back eight years with few or no updates from Immigration authorities.

COUNTERING POLICE MISCONDUCT

Over 17 cases of police misconduct were reported to CAIR-Chicago in 2008. In these cases, CAIR-Chicago attorneys represented and advocated on behalf of individuals who were victims of violations such as police profiling or abuse.

FBI INTERVIEWS - LEGAL REPRESENTATION

2008 saw a large number of Muslims who report having been contacted by the FBI for interviews. CAIR-Chicago represented these individuals to ensure that none of their rights were violated and remains in communication with the FBI regarding any possible misconduct by agents.

INMATE RIGHTS

CAIR-Chicago has worked to secure the right of prison inmates to practice their religion freely and to be treated humanely. This has included facilitating free copies of the Quran to Muslim inmates who have requested a copy, sharing presentations with state prison officials on the religious accommodation of Muslims, and challenging discriminatory policies.

“All they want is the right to pray. It’s not an undue burden.” -Rima Kapitan, CAIR-Chicago Volunteer Attorney commenting on the Swift Meat Packing Co. case.

ONGOING DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

FREE CAMPUS COALITION

The Free Campus Coalition aims to protect and advocate for the right to engage freely in intellectual exploration and discourse in American universities. As the founder of the coalition, CAIR-Chicago continues to provide a network of support to faculty, staff and students whose academic freedom is in peril.

CITIZENSHIP DELAY PROJECT

A part of the Civil Rights Department’s most successful work has been to employ political and legal means to end the lengthy delays in the citizenship process for Muslims. 396 cases of citizenship delay have been reported since 2005. Of those cases, 270 have been resolved.

In 2006, CAIR-Chicago filed a class action law suit with the National Immigrant Justice Center and Competition Law Group. As a result of the class action and dozens of additional law suits we filed on behalf of individuals delayed in obtaining citizenship, many who had been delayed unjustly were granted citizenship.

The Civil Rights Department continues to work to meet the growing demand for legal representation in citizenship delays. The project’s next major focus will be to address issues of delay in the administration of the citizenship interview and exam.

ONGOING DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

The CAIR-Chicago Civil Rights Department has sponsored or delivered speeches in several events pertaining to the struggle for civil liberties in 2008 including:

- State Department Conference on Civil Rights in the Philippines.
- Department of Homeland Security Community Roundtables
- Chicago Bar Foundation Panel on Legal Advocacy
- United Nations Hearing on Racial Discrimination
- “Know Your Rights and the FBI” Community Workshop
- Teaching Constitutional Rights at Senn High School
- DePaul University Social Justice Teach-In
- Northwestern University Lecture on Muslim Americans, Civil Rights, and the Legacy of Dr. King



CAIR-Chicago “Know Your Rights” workshop.



Workers from the Swift plant strike outside the factory.

CAIR-Chicago Defends 120 Muslim Workers Fired From Plant

More than 120 Muslim employees received counsel from CAIR-Chicago when they were fired from a plant in Greeley, Denver. The dispute began when workers requested their short breaks to coincide with prayer times. Many of the employees needed the work to support their families, but the company refused the reasonable accommodation. CAIR-Chicago is leading similar negotiations at Swift’s plant in Nebraska as well.

YOUTH EDUCATION

CAIR-Chicago is a part of the educational “Acting Free” project, which educates high school students about constitutional rights through creative means. Spearheaded by the Chicago Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights and Pegasus Players, students demonstrate their knowledge at the end of each term by producing plays. These plays are also submitted to the Chicago Young Playwrights Festival. CAIR-Chicago has signed-on to continue to work with youth in the classroom as a part of this project next year as well.

TRAVELING FREE

CAIR-Chicago works to ensure that individuals can move freely without fear of discrimination or undue detention. 2008 cases included incidents involving the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Transportation and Security Administration (TSA). For example, CAIR-Chicago assisted individuals who have been profiled and detained due to their names appearing on the TSA “watch list” and ensured that proper procedures are taken to become safe-listed.

THE RIGHT TO WORK

41 cases of employment discrimination were reported to CAIR-Chicago in 2008. The cases involved issues such as harassment (43.9%) and failure to accommodate prayer (12.2%) or the choice to have a beard (4.89%). Many were resolved positively through negotiations and mediations with employers while several were resolved by law suits filed on behalf of the victims. Fighting for equal opportunity and fair treatment in the workplace remains a critical part of CAIR-Chicago’s civil rights work.



Local media attend press conference at CAIR-Chicago's office.



MEDIA

we stand for
truth.

we promote
understanding.

we add
balance.

The Communications Department's mission is to help project a fair and accurate image of Islam and Muslims in the media, and to challenge bias, bigotry, and prejudice in America's public discourse. We monitor the local media on a daily basis with the purpose of producing original commentary and analysis to reinforce positive and accurate coverage of Muslims and Islam, and challenge simplistic, imbalanced, or biased reports. CAIR-Chicago holds press conferences and issues press releases, media advisories, and story pitches in order to ensure that Muslim perspectives on pressing issues and current events are represented in the mainstream media. Covering a wide range of topics and issues, the CAIR-Chicago Communications department, conducts original research, releases public reports, and produces the latest in new media including audio, video, graphics, web design, blogs, and other multimedia.

In 2008, The Communications Department was able to expand its ability to capture and produce a wide range of multimedia designed to strengthen Muslim voices and perspectives in the public discourse. It was a year of firsts in many areas, not the least of which was the launch of our print-newsletter.

CAIR-CHICAGO IN THE NEWS

2008 was a busy year for the Communication Department. CAIR-Chicago was featured, quoted or reported on over 231 times locally, nationally, and globally. These included over 79 times in print media, 20 times on broadcast news (TV) and 10 times on radio, in addition to numerous references online.

News Agencies Included:

Newspapers: Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, USA Today, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, New York Post, Daily Herald, Washington Post, International Herald Tribune, Washington Times, Huffington Post (Online), Southtown Star, San Francisco Chronicle, Denver Daily News.

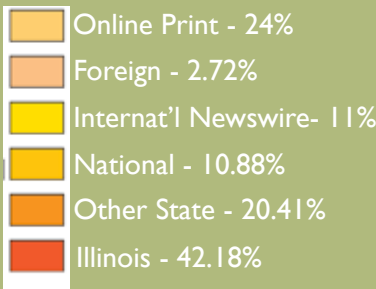
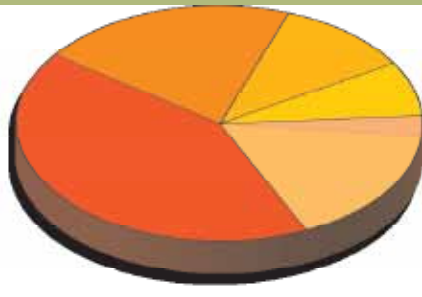
Newswires: Associated Press, Reuters, Chicago Breaking News, AFP, Medill

Television: ABC, CBS, NBC, BBC, CNN, FOX News

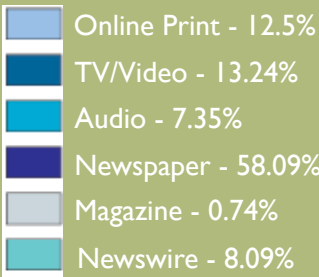
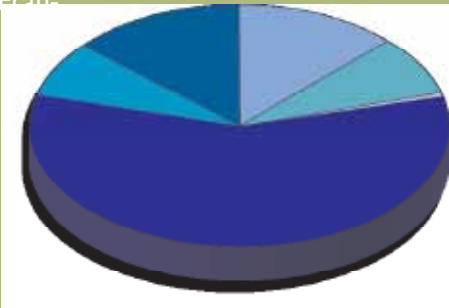
Radio: WGN Radio, WBEZ Chicago Public Radio, KBOO Radio, KLIX News Radio, Berkeley Public Radio, Leslie Marshall Show, FOX News Radio, Lars Larson Show

QUOTED IN THE NEWS

LOCATION



TYPE OF MEDIA



From left: Imam Zaid Shaikr, Reem Rahman, Ahmed Rehab

CAIR-Chicago Hosts UNITY Workshop

CAIR-Chicago hosted a workshop at the UNITY 2008 Convention titled "Presumption of Guilt: Media Treatment and Coverage of Muslims in America." The annual conference was the nation's largest gathering of journalists of color, drawing over 7,000 media figures, including journalists and executives.

The presentation aimed to dispel misconceptions of Muslims and provide a clear basis through which journalists can subjectively report on issues pertaining to Islam in America. It covered pertinent media themes and shed light on ways to reverse current trends of negative and biased reporting on Muslims.

CAIR-Chicago's Reem Rahman and Ahmed Rehab and New Islamic Direction's Imam Zaid Shaikr presented a case study and discussed the importance of context, breadth, and nuance in covering Muslim stories.

ONGOING DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

MEDIA MONITORING

CAIR-Chicago continued to monitor the local media on a daily basis with the purpose of reinforcing positive and accurate coverage of Muslims and Islam, and challenging simplistic, inaccurate, or biased reports. Numerous articles, opinions and commentary pieces were written by CAIR-Chicago and printed in mainstream press and credible online sources. Bigoted positions against Muslims were countered by writers coordinated through the Communications Department.

MEDIA OUTREACH

CAIR-Chicago led press conferences and issued press releases and media advisories in order to ensure that Muslim perspectives on pressing issues and current events were represented in the mainstream media. We also worked closely with journalists to support positive, balanced stories on the American-Muslim community and provided feedback to major Chicago newspaper editors on their coverage of Islam and Muslims.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING SESSIONS

The Communications Department led numerous lectures and workshops for journalists, community leaders, students, mosques, and organizations. These sessions trained participants on how to engage the media and become more effective activists and community spokespersons.

WEBSITE

In 2008 the Communications Department redesigned the CAIR-Chicago website, cairchicago.org, in order to make the site more visually appealing while packing more information in each webpage. The website's sections have been designed to reflect the wide breadth of work performed by all CAIR-Chicago departments, and the new homepage can now be read in over 16 different languages and includes a video-cast in the top right corner of the screen featuring our latest announcements and short films. Web content can also be easily e-mailed, printed, or shared at a click of a mouse. Whether providing incident report forms for victims of discrimination or sharing the latest media and voter education guides, the improved functionality of the new website amplifies CAIR-Chicago's ability to serve the Chicagoland community.



Workshop attendees.

Telling Our Stories

In 2008, CAIR-Chicago hosted a media seminar entitled "Telling Our Stories" for activists from Muslim organizations and Mosques around Chicago. The presentations offered practical tips on how to communicate with the media effectively, send clear messages to the public, and produce stories that relate to American Muslims.

MULTIMEDIA

The Communications Department continues to use new and innovative media and the latest technology to balance the public discourse on Muslims. This includes an in-house studio capable of capturing and producing original audio, video, blogs, graphics, and other web content.

PUBLICATIONS

The Communications Department launched its first regular print newsletter for distribution at mosques and venues around the Chicagoland area while continuing its biweekly e-newsletter. Alongside reports and pamphlets, these publications showcase important updates on the organization's work and provide information and analysis on the latest issues affecting American Muslims. Both forms of the newsletter include a Civil Rights Digest detailing CAIR-Chicago's work on behalf of victims of hate-crimes and discrimination.



CURIOSITY.

Satisfying hungry minds



Volunteers phone-banking at “Get Out The Vote” headquarters.



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

we coordinate
grassroots mobilization.

we enable
political empowerment.

Our Government Affairs Department seeks to organize, mobilize, and empower Chicagoland’s Muslim community through long-term civic participation. Its educational initiatives help community members understand the political system and utilize it to address their issues. Projects include voter registration drives, community workshops, “know your rights” campaigns, and training sessions at mosques and community centers on how to contact and engage politicians. The department also works to educate local political representatives about their Muslim constituents and to engage them with the Muslim community’s unique issues and concerns.

In 2008 the Government Affairs Department continued its commitment to empowering Muslim communities and mobilizing effective coalitions. From organizing educational workshops for local community members to mobilizing new voters as part of the New American Democracy Project, the Government Affairs Department took crucial steps to advance the status and representation of the Muslim community at large.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

On Election Day, November 4, 2008, CAIR-Chicago closed its office for staff to take part in mobilizing Muslims at local precincts to Get Out the Vote (GOTV). The campaign focused on the southwest and marked the culmination of a long campaign to urge the Muslim community to let their voices be heard with a strong voter representation for the candidates of their choice. Cities covered by the GOTV campaign included Bridgeview, Lyons, Palos Hills, Worth and Oak Lawn.

To help get out the Muslim vote in Chicago, CAIR-Chicago:

- Held candidate forums
- Authored and distributed voter and civic participation guides
- Organized voter registration drives
- Hosted political participation workshops in mosques
- Sponsored meetings with elected representatives
- Led Get-Out-the-Vote (GOTV) drives
- Urged American Muslims to vote as a positive response to the anti-Muslim bigotry in the election campaign.



May Day Rally 2008.

For months, CAIR-Chicago and its partners in the New American Democracy Project (NADP) conducted voter registration drives, canvassed door-to-door, trained volunteers, held phone banking sessions, and set up workshops for first-time voters to help them understand the process.

The project registered close to 1,200 mostly Muslim and Arab voters in the southwest suburbs alone through the work of our NADP fellow Nadia Abusumayah. Overall, the Chicago-wide Get Out the Vote campaign registered 25,000 voters from 19 different immigrant communities.

Volunteers knocking on doors, reminding local community members to vote.



Every Vote Counts

On November 4, 2008, over 100 volunteers worked from 8:00am to 6:00pm reminding area Muslims and Arabs to vote in the Bridgeview area. Along with CAIR-Chicago's staff, the volunteer team also included dozens of students from the nearby Islamic schools, Aqsa School and Universal School.

Volunteers monitored polls, canvassed neighborhoods, left hanging pamphlets on over 1,000 door knobs, and called over 2,000 registered voters. When they encountered registered voters unable to drive to the local polling place, volunteers literally drove voters to the polls. Volunteers also stood watch at seven different precincts counting the numbers of Muslims and Arabs who turned out.

"It really empowered individuals to know that their vote is their voice." ~Nadia Abusumayah, NADP Fellow

Their hard work was certainly reflected in the results: in Bridgeview's precinct 44, for example, 420 Arabs and Muslims came out and voted this year as opposed to the 180 in 2004.

COALITION BUILDING

Partnerships forged with other organizations over common goals and issues have been critical to CAIR-Chicago's government affairs work. The New American Democracy Project (NADP) fellowship program, for example, was made possible by a joint sponsorship with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) and Mosque Foundation.

Other coalition work has included fighting for equal pay, social justice, and union rights along with the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs (JCUA), organizing voter information sessions in coordination with Congressman Luis Gutierrez and Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, and working with a variety of Mosques and community centers throughout the Chicagoland area.

Along with the Mosque Foundation in Bridgeview, CAIR-Chicago and ICIRR established a fellowship to organize the Third Congressional District and encourage first-time voters to seize their civic responsibilities.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

Throughout 2008, the Government Affairs Department continued to reach out to local, state, and national elected officials to ensure that Muslim voices are heard by their government representatives. As a part of this work, CAIR-Chicago regularly researched legislation of special relevance to the Muslim community and continued to build databases on Muslim political trends.

In an effort to ensure the voices of Chicago's Muslim community are heard and recognized, delegates from CAIR-Chicago visited Capitol Hill along with CAIR members from across the nation.

A number of state offices and senators were engaged to discuss citizenship delays, racial profiling, food shortages, interfaith relations, and law enforcement relations. CAIR-Chicago spoke with senatorial staff from Senator Obama, Congressman Roskam, and Senator Durbin's office and also had the opportunity to speak with Congressman Davis.

CAIR-Chicago receives over 20 letters of support from elected officials and other government individuals each year. Members of Congress from throughout the Midwest praised CAIR-Chicago and its efforts to educate and mobilize Muslim communities across state lines. These included Congressman Danny Davis of Illinois and Congresswoman Gwen Moore from Wisconsin. Officials from state and local government such as Governor Pat Quinn, law enforcement representatives, Mayor Richard Daley as well as numerous other mayors from various cities have also recognized CAIR-Chicago as a leading Muslim civil rights organization that is benefiting minority communities across the state and region.



CAIR-Chicago joins the 2008 May Day Rally calling for social and economic rights.



27	WONG	151	
28	WONG	151	151
29	LYONS	88	
29	LYONS	88	
29	LYONS	88	

FINISHED
PHONE BANKING
LIST

ACTIVISM.

Democracy is full time work

VOTE IS
POWER!
008



Participants enjoy workshops at Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium.



Outreach Coordinator,
Gerald Hankerson

OUTREACH

we promote
education.

we develop
youth.

we build
community.

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 dialogues, and educational seminars.

This past year, the Outreach Department formed new and exciting relationships on a local, national and international level while continuing to solidify existing ties with partners. Vital CAIR-Chicago programs were expanded such as the Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (MYLS), Internship Program, and Volunteer Activist (VA) Program. The infusion of talent by the involvement of youth, volunteers, and interns plays a critical role in CAIR-Chicago's ability to enact professional activism.

ONGOING DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

MUSLIM YOUTH LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM (MYLS)

The Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium Initiative (www.mylschicago.org) is a year-long leadership training program designed to provide young American Muslims with a proactive agenda for positive activism. MYLS aims to empower youth to guide their communities from the margin to the mainstream and foster a healthy American Muslim identity that fits comfortably within pluralistic American society. The program is focused on serving high school students and offers several after-school cohort workshops throughout the year designed to help students develop key leadership skills.

This year, the MYLS-Initiative hosted three Muslim Youth Leadership Symposiums. CAIR-Chicago also participated in Muslim youth leadership trainings in other states such as those held in Princeton, New Jersey, Sacramento, California, and Ohio.

The conference workshops and projects inspired students to be proactive and left them eager to engage with their communities as constructive citizens. Participants created projects such as a variation of the “Big Brother & Big Sister” program

“The symposium taught me about helping people, standing up for something and making my own identity.”

~Sidrah Khalid,

Youth Symposium Participant Fall ‘08

for college students to mentor high school students, a student exchange program designed to break down barriers across Chicago school districts, and the “Got Water?” initiative aimed at ensuring the accessibility of clean water for all people.

SAVING LIVES THROUGH CHARITABLE GIVING

As a part of the Muslims Care campaign (www.muslimscare.org), a national campaign promoting community service, CAIR-Chicago sponsored blood drives with LifeSource and the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago. Each of the blood drives was hosted in the heart of Chicago’s financial district, at the Downtown Islamic Center, with each unit of blood donated potentially saving three lives.

“We have to channel our ideals into service.”

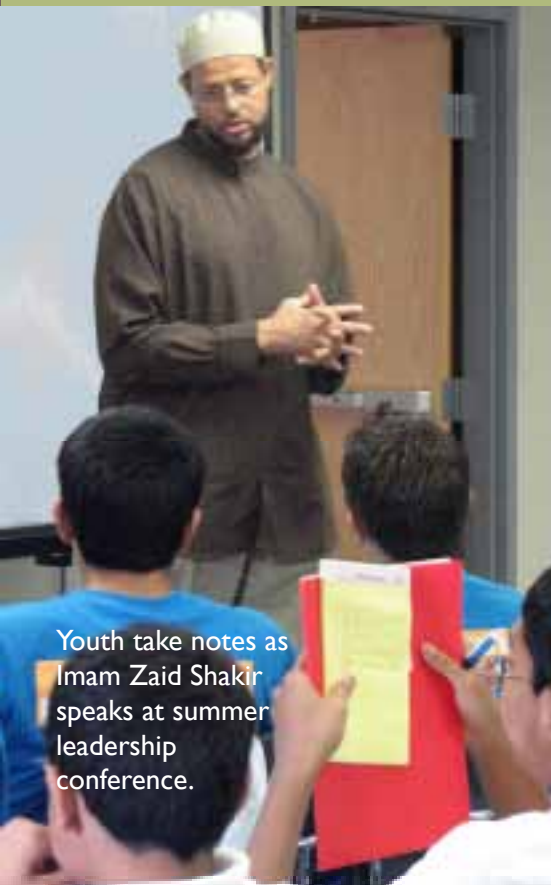
*~Mokaram Rauf
Youth Coordinator.*

MOSQUE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CAIR-Chicago’s executive director delivered Friday sermons (khutbahs) at some of the largest mosques in the United States (Illinois, New York, Arizona, Florida, and elsewhere) in an effort to promote key civic and humanitarian ideals fostered in Islam’s teachings, and to bridge the mosque audience with the resources that CAIR offers.



First Muslim U.S. Congressman, Keith Ellison, takes questions from youth.



Youth take notes as Imam Zaid Shakir speaks at summer leadership conference.

INTERNSHIP & VOLUNTEER ACTIVIST PROGRAM

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

This year, the Outreach Department recruited over 100 volunteer activists, utilizing uniquely varied backgrounds, skills and professional interests to serve the greater Chicagoland Muslim Community.

In 2008, our internship program hosted 38 interns from across the United States, one intern from China, and fellows from two separate programs:

- A New American Democracy Project (NADP) fellow served in the Government Affairs Department as the Voter Mobilization Coordinator in the Get Out The Vote (GOTV) campaign.
- Two Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) fellows served in the Civil Rights Department. The PILI Fellowship is an international program designed to promote human rights worldwide through public interest advocacy. The program pays new law school graduates to work at a public interest agency in Chicago while they complete their bar exams, after they have already been hired at a law firm.

CAIR-Chicago continues to expand its internship program, with now over 100 national universities and colleges across the United States that may accept for-credit internships including Columbia College, DePaul University, Harold Washington College and Loyola University Chicago.

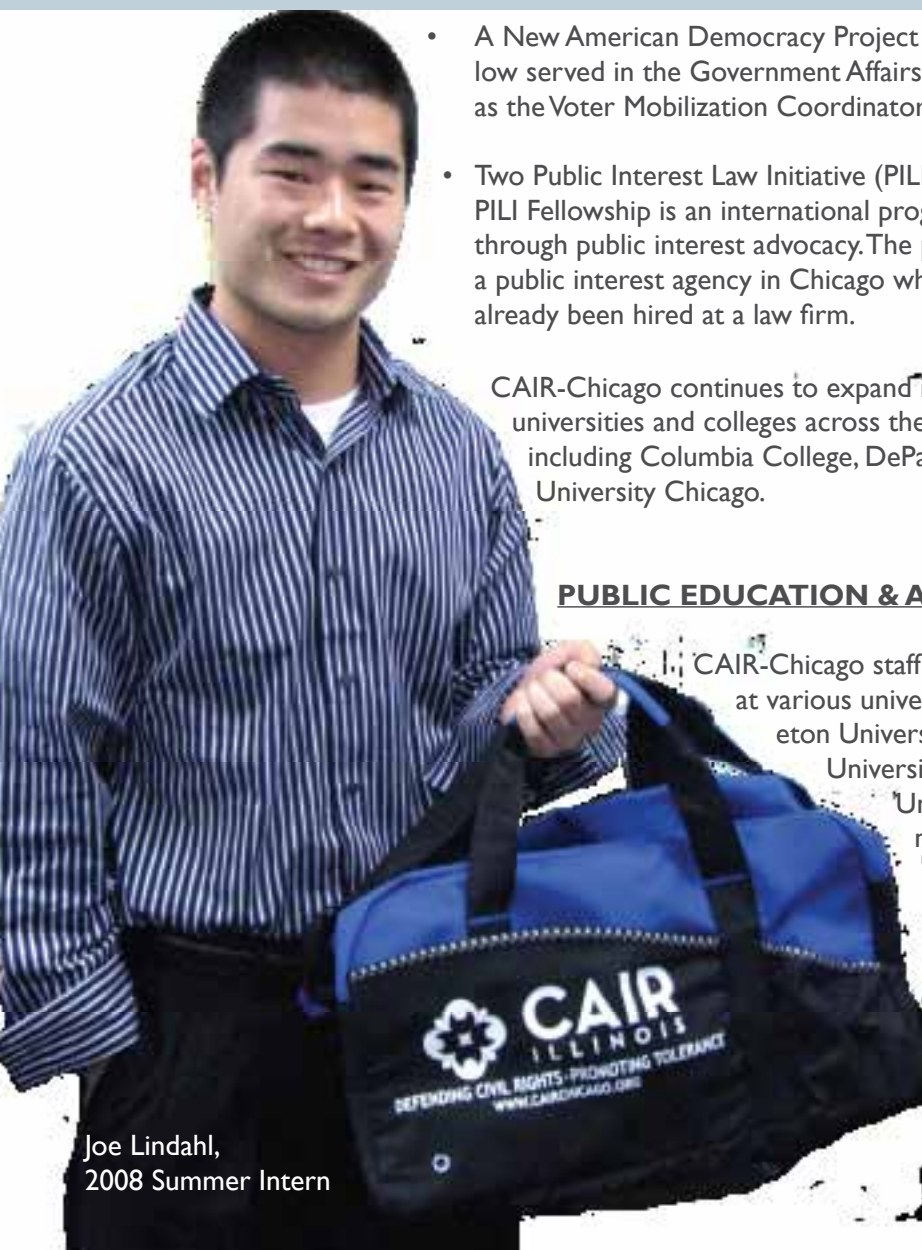
PUBLIC EDUCATION & ACADEMIA

CAIR-Chicago staff members from all departments were invited to speak at various universities throughout the United States including Princeton University, Northwestern University, DePaul University, Loyola University Chicago, Marquette University, Minnesota State University at Moorhead, and the University of Arizona, to name a few. The topics ranged from basic educational seminars to more nuanced issues such as the history and current landscape of Muslim activism in the U.S..

CAIR-Chicago hosted international delegations, scholars, and diplomats including a United Nations dignitary interested in learning more about our civil rights and advocacy work.

“My internship helped me decide what I wanted to do with my life.”

*~Loraine Slimp
Communications Intern*



Joe Lindahl,
2008 Summer Intern

INTERFAITH ENGAGEMENT

The Outreach department continues to hold educational lectures, workshops and dialogues. 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 initiatives most successful events is Café Finjan, which regularly draws hundreds for an evening of creative performance and presentation of visual arts.

This year, CAIR-Chicago also participated in a three-part interfaith forum of the Abrahamic traditions, entitled “In Good Faith.” The forum is led by the Catholic Theological Union and steering committees representing Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

CAIR-Chicago welcomed international delegations of Muslim scholars, educators and activists through partnerships with the International Visitors Center of Chicago, Heartland International, Chicago Sister Cities Program, and Institute for Training and Development in Amherst, Massachusetts.



CAIR-Chicago volunteers participate in the Martin Luther King Days of Service.

Delegations included representatives from Azerbaijan, Egypt, France, Jordan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Tajikistan and the City Council of Milan, Italy.

The year was capped with several CAIR-Chicago presentations abroad in the United Kingdom, Scotland, Egypt, and the Philippines.

EVENTS

Some of the events led by the Outreach Department included:

- Blood Drive with American Red Cross
- CAIR Collects More Than 16,000 Letters on Gaza Blockade
- Jews and Muslims Break Bread together at “Iftar in the Synagogue”
- Lecture on Islam at the Eisenhower Library
- Presentation on Muslims to Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company
- Lecture at Loyola University: “American Muslim Political Activism”
- Cleric Delegation from Kosovo and Macedonia Welcomed
- Civic Engagement Workshop at Bosnian-American Community Center



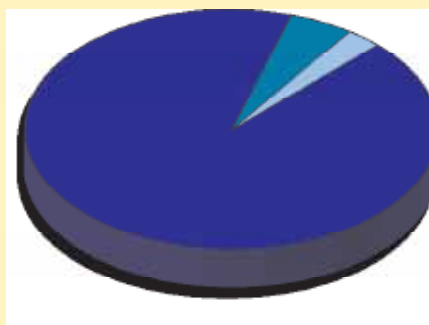
A delegation from the Philippines visits the CAIR-Chicago office.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

YEAR IN REVIEW

INCOME

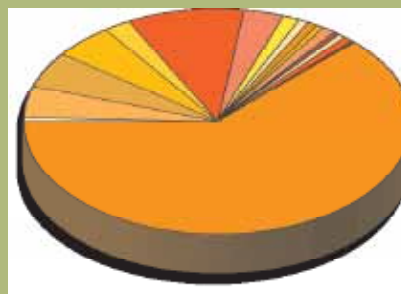
Direct Public Support	\$466,707.30
Grant: Development	\$25,000.00
Legal Services	\$13,966.17
Total	\$505,673.47



Legal Services - 2.76%
Grant: Development - 4.94%
Direct Public Support - 92.3%

EXPENSES

Salaries/ Payroll	\$315,097.10
Bank Charges	\$2,706.47
Employee Benefits	\$23,764.37
Office Lease & Utilities	\$25,674.12
Office / Supplies	\$25,617.58
Printing & Mailing	\$11,072.21
Events/Projects	\$48,432.52
Legal / Court	\$17,065.82
Travel & Meetings	\$7,071.76
Accounting Fees	\$4,690.00
Fellowships	\$2800
Liability Insurance	\$2,816.00
Media/ Marketing	\$5797.77
Meals & Social Events	\$1,757.52
Books & Subscriptions	\$1,439.44
Consulting Services	\$1,858.12
Other	\$6298.64
Total	\$503,959.44



Other - 1.1%
Consulting Services - 0.4%
Books & Subscriptions - 0.3%
Meals & Social Events - 0.3%
Media/Marketing - 1.2%
Liability Insurance - 0.6%
Fellowship - 0.7%
Accounting Fees - 0.9%
Travel & Meetings - 1.4%
Legal/Court - 3.4%
Events/Projects - 9.6%
Printing & Mailing - 2.2%
Office/Supplies - 5.1%
Office Lease & Utilities - 5.1%
Empolyee Benefits - 4.72%
Bank Charges - 0.54%
Salaries/Payroll - 62.52%



DEVELOPMENT.

Building a generation of leaders

RECOGNITIONS



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR

March 7, 2009

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Boulevard
Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Greetings!

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the 5th Annual Banquet of the Council on American Islamic Relations - Chicago.

I want to commend the Council on American Islamic Relations for your ongoing commitment to serving the needs of Chicago's Muslim population and for working toward ensuring justice and civil rights for all the communities you serve. Your efforts help Muslims integrate into their communities and give them a sense of belonging in this large, multicultural city. With that said, I thank everyone in attendance for your dedication to advancing the wellbeing of Muslims throughout Illinois and across the country.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,

Pat Quinn
Governor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

March 7, 2009

GREETINGS

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I extend my warmest greetings to all those gathered for the Council on American-Islamic Relations - Chicago Chapter's (CAIR-Chicago) Fifth Annual Banquet.

With a theme of *Beyond Islamophobia: The Opportunity in the Challenge*, tonight's event highlights CAIR-Chicago's commitment to ensuring civil rights, diversity and freedom of religion for all of our residents. CAIR-Chicago works to present a balanced and accurate media portrayal of Islam and Muslims and makes our city a better place to live, work and raise families.

Chicago is the proud home of a strong Muslim American community that contributes greatly to the cultural, economic and social development of our city. I commend CAIR-Chicago for its efforts to promote cultural understanding and religious tolerance and offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event and much future success.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Daley
Mayor



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

Danny K. Davis
7th District - Illinois

February 5, 2009

Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations - Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Boulevard - Suite 1410
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Director Rehab:

Thank you for offering this opportunity to greet and welcome attendees at the CAIR-Chicago fifth annual Banquet, Saturday, March 7, 2009. Illinois has one of the largest Muslim populations in the United States and I trust that this year's event, like events of past years, will be a great success.

The theme of this year's event: *Beyond Islamophobia: The Opportunity in The Challenge* reminds 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 commitment to those rights and responsibilities are set forth in our constitution, and have been deepened, reconfirmed and reassessed over time so as to encompass every American. These are the true core of our democracy and these principles have been ratified 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 conference, 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 and driven democracy.

Sincerely,

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

DKD:ic

JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.
2nd District - Illinois

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE:
LABOR-HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION
FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING,
AND RELATED PROGRAMS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1302

January 23, 2009

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab
Governmental Relations Coordinator
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Boulevard #1410
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab:

I congratulate the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations on the 5th Annual Banquet and commend you on this year's theme, "Beyond Islamophobia: The Opportunity in The Challenge."

America, I believe, is entering a new period of tolerance where we as a nation embrace our diversity rather than fear it. As we do, CAIR-Chicago will play a critical role in enhancing American-Muslim relations and enabling your members to reclaim their rightful place in the fabric of our great nation.

Once again, congratulations and please send my best wishes to every person at the event.

Sincerely,

Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress

JLJjr.:BL:bl

2419 HAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1302
(202) 225-0772

2120 EAST 71ST STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60649
(773) 241-6500

17928 SOUTH HALSTED
HOMERWOOD, IL 60430
(708) 798-0000

WWW.HOUSE.GOV/JACKSON
THIS MAILING WAS PREPARED, PRINTED, AND MAILED AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE

RECOGNITIONS

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COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAR, COMMERCE, TRADE
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE INTERNET
CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY
CAUCUS



BOBBY L. RUSH
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
1ST DISTRICT, ILLINOIS
WEBSITE: <http://www.house.gov/rush>

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2415 RAYBURN HOB
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4272
(202) 225-0333 (FAX)

CHICAGO OFFICE:
700-706 E. 78TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60619
(773) 224-6050
(773) 224-9624 (FAX)

MELOTCHAN OFFICE:
3225 WEST 147TH STREET
MELOTCHAN, ILLINOIS 60448
(708) 385-9550
(708) 385-3860 (FAX)

March 7, 2009

Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1410
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the people of Illinois' First Congressional District, I am pleased to welcome you to CAIR-Chicago's 5th Annual Banquet.

Illinois takes great pride in its vibrant Muslim community here in Chicago, and throughout the state. This year's celebration, much like in previous years, will be a fitting tribute to all Muslims who call Illinois home. I salute the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations for their ongoing efforts to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and building coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

I am pleased that CAIR-Chicago remains a national leader in highlighting the richness of Muslim traditions and heritage. In the words of the Quran, Chapter 2, and Verse 195: "And spend in the way of Allah and cast not yourselves to perdition with your own hands, and do good (to others); surely Allah loves the doers of good."

My friends, let us continue together to do good works, collaborate for justice, and work for stronger understanding in our community and our nation. I applaud your efforts thus far and look forward to our united work in the future. Please accept my sincere congratulations on tonight's festivities and my best wishes for a festive and memorable celebration.

Sincerely,

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

BLR: ys



219 N Milwaukee St., STE 3A
Milwaukee, WI 53202-5818
(414) 297-1140



1239 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4972

February 17, 2009

Ahmed M. Rehab, Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations-Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Blvd., Ste. 1700
Chicago, IL 60604-2276

Dear Director Rehab,

I am truly honored to be nominated for the Courage Award by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)-Chicago at its upcoming 5th Annual banquet being held on Saturday, March 7, 2009. Although I am unable to join you in person, I want to extend well wishes for a most successful program and thank you for your organization's support.

As the largest Islamic civil and human rights organization in America, you are to be commended for your work, not only on behalf of the Muslim community, but for all embattled communities here in the United States as well as abroad. Your organization plays an important role in ensuring that the human rights on the part of all nationalities, countries, states, communities, religions, and faiths are not supplanted. Please know that I stand with you in your efforts to raise the consciousness of people everywhere, that injustice anywhere is unacceptable, and defeats our American values for every American.

I applaud your advocacy efforts and leadership in tackling issues of discrimination, basic civil liberties and hate crimes against Muslim individuals. All of us who stand on the side of justice, freedom, liberty and equality appreciate your commitment and dedication to human rights for all individuals.

Again, thank you for this great honor and I wish you all an enjoyable and rewarding evening.

Sincerely,

Owen Moore
Member of Congress

GSM/rs



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Springfield, Illinois 62756

Jesse White
Secretary of State

March 7, 2009

Council on American-Islamic Relations,
Chicago Chapter (CAIR-Chicago)
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1410
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Greetings:

As Secretary of State, it is my great pleasure to welcome each of you to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter's 5th Annual Banquet.

This year's theme, "Beyond Islamophobia: The Opportunity in The Challenge," perfectly describes CAIR-Chicago's mission. You have remained committed to empowering Muslims here in Illinois, while fostering education throughout the surrounding communities. This banquet will offer the perfect opportunity to reflect upon past accomplishments, enjoy fellowship with friends and family, and prepare for another successful year.

I would like to offer my thanks to your loyal members and supporters. Your combined efforts have helped to build better lives and a stronger Illinois.

Best wishes for a wonderful and memorable banquet.

Sincerely,

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State



Maria Pappas

Cook County Treasurer

March 7, 2009

Ahmed Rehab
Executive Director
Council of American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1410
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab:

Please convey my greetings and respect to all attending the 5th Annual Fundraising Banquet presented by the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Thoughtful people must welcome consideration of "Beyond Islamophobia: The Opportunity in the Challenge," this year's theme. Indeed, "Muslim" must not become a negative label in our society.

It is heartening to know that so many persons interested in justice and understanding will attend this event. I applaud your efforts to involve the Muslim community in the social, cultural and economic life of Chicagoland.

I offer my congratulations and best wishes to CAIR and its mission.

Sincerely,

Maria Pappas
Cook County Treasurer

:bb

RECOGNITIONS



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY

118 NORTH CLARK STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
(312) 603-6400
TDD (312) 603-5255

TODD H. STROGER
PRESIDENT

March 7, 2009

Ahmed M. Rehab, Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Boulevard, Suite 1410
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab:

Please accept my warm greetings to you and the members of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter, as you gather together to hold your Fifth Annual Banquet on March 7, 2009.

I wish to commend you for the vital work you continue to do in assisting the Muslim-American community in areas such as civil rights defense and advocacy, media outreach, public relations and voter registration. Through this service, you help empower the Muslim-American community, and contribute to its vibrancy.

I further commend you and your colleagues at the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter, on the deep sense of mission you bring to your efforts, which results in myriad achievements on behalf of many of the residents of Cook County.

On behalf of the residents of Cook County, I wish you a memorable and enjoyable Banquet, and best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Todd H. Stroger
President



DISTRICT OFFICE:
410 MAIN ST.
LEDMONT, IL 60439
(630) 243-0800
FAX: (630) 243-0808

CAPITOL OFFICE:
309A STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
(217) 782-9407
FAX: (217) 782-7818

CHRISTINE RADOGNO
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER - 41ST DISTRICT

January 29, 2009

To My Friends at CAIR:

It's hard to believe that another successful year of your continued commitment has gone by and it is time once again to congratulate the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) - Chicago on the organization's annual event. Your commitment to serving the needs of the Chicago Muslim population is to be commended.

I encourage the dedicated men and women on the Council of American Islamic Relations to carry on with their commitment to making this state and nation a better place to live. CAIR's ongoing effort to engage Muslim Americans in the political process, while fighting against persecution and injustice, is deserving of the most sincere respect and accolades.

I look forward to working with CAIR to help accomplish their mission and goal.

Sincerely,

Christine Radogno
Illinois Senate Republican Leader
41st District

CR:mlf

RECYCLED PAPER • SOYBEAN INK

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE OF ILLINOIS

CHAIRPERSON:

HEALTH CARE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS

VICE CHAIRPERSON:

SMART GROWTH & REGIONAL PLANNING

MEMBER:

DCFS OVERSIGHT

DRIVER'S EDUCATION & SAFETY

HIGHER EDUCATION

HUMAN SERVICES



Mary E. Flowers

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
31ST DISTRICT

CAPITOL OFFICE:

251-E STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
817/782-4207
817/782-1130 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE:

2505 W. 79th STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60652
773/471-5290
773/471-1036 FAX

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

mflowers@hds.iga.gov

February 19, 2009

Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab:

Congratulations to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago) for yet another year of outstanding service in the promotion of peace, and justice and in encompassing the theme of this year's event "Beyond Islamophobia: The Opportunity in The Challenge."

I applaud CAIR for your efforts to allay the fears of those who may tend to allow their lack of understanding to cloud their opinions regarding a totality of people, organizations whom they have prejudged. CAIR's renowned impact on society generated by the Muslim community in Chicago and nationwide is one that should be respected and as cited in your subject matter this year, one which your organization is committed to the challenge of further emphasizing and promoting the goodwill of our Muslim neighbors in Chicago and Muslim communities worldwide.

It is my honor and pleasure to lend this letter of support for your annual banquet and offer my best wishes for the continual success of your wonderful organization, CAIR-Chicago.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Flowers
Mary E. Flowers
State Representative 31st District

MEF/ej

RECYCLED PAPER • REFRIG INK

CITY OF CHICAGO
OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

MIGUEL DEL VALLE

January 9, 2009

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
Council on American – Islamic Relations
28 E. Jackson Blvd. – Suite 1410
Chicago, IL. 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab:

Thank you for your invitation to attend the 5th Annual CAIR-Chicago Banquet on Saturday, March 7, 2009. I am honored to be included and extend my warmest greetings to you and all the attendees.

I commend the Chicago chapter of the Council on American – Islamic Relations for its exceptional work to educate the community and encourage civic engagement and participation. CAIR-Chicago's success in providing outstanding service to one of the largest Muslim populations in the United State is remarkable.

As City Clerk of Chicago, I strongly support CAIR – Chicago and the theme of this year's event, "Beyond Islamophobia: The Opportunity in The Challenge."

I extend my best wishes for the continued success of CAIR, Chicago.

Sincerely,

Miguel del Valle
City Clerk of Chicago

MdV/mm



CITY HALL, ROOM 107 - 121 NORTH LA SALLE STREET - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602-1295
PHONE 312-742-5375 - FAX 312-744-0283 - TTY 312-744-2939
WWW.CHICITYCLERK.COM - CITYCLERK@CITYOFCHICAGO.ORG

RECOGNITIONS

DOROTHY BROWN
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT



Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, Illinois 60602, Room 1001
312-603-5030
FAX 312-603-4557
www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY

March 7, 2009

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations, Chicago Chapter
28 E. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1410
Chicago, IL 60604



Dear Mr. Rehab:

Greetings to you and everyone attending the Fifth Annual banquet for the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). The selected theme, "Beyond Islamophobia: The Opportunity in The Challenge," presents a concept that is not only critical to current world events, but also may inspire us as a nation to rise to our greatest potential for understanding and compassion for our fellow man and woman.

Each year, I welcome the opportunity to commend CAIR-Chicago for its commitment to ending practices of defamation and discrimination in our communities, and its efforts to unite individuals from various backgrounds in support of its mission to ensure justice for all. The CAIR organization works tirelessly to promote understanding across racial, religious and cultural lines, and thereby serves to enhance the quality of life for all Americans.

For its dedication to inclusiveness, civic responsibility, human rights and public safety, I extend best wishes for continued success to the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Dorothy Brown
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR VILLAGE OF HARWOOD HEIGHTS

January 5, 2009

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

On behalf of the Village of Harwood Heights, I wish to extend congratulations to everyone gathered together for CAIR-Chicago Organization's 5th year event to celebrate the community titled "Beyond Islamophobia: The Opportunity in The Challenge." It is my sincere pleasure to join you and your colleagues in celebrating Muslims in American leadership and civic participation. In protecting constitutional and human rights, CAIR-Chicago promotes tolerance and inspires all of us to form a strong and safe community bond. Your goal to redefine for yourselves how you are perceived around the world is a goal every ethnic, civic, and religious group can join with you in your efforts.

Although Harwood Heights is a small town separate from Chicago, I believe that a real community has no borders. We are all friends and neighbors. We are all working for a greater understanding and treatment of each other, for peace and for justice to all. What greater way to define ourselves than to be civic minded and participate in local, state and national government.

My wish to all of you, my friends, is continued progress in all your very important work.

Sincerely,

Margaret Fuller
Village President
Village of Harwood Heights

7500 WEST WILSON AVENUE HARWOOD HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60706
TEL (708) 867-7200
e-mail: fullerm@harwoodheights.org

THOMAS S. MAZAIIKA
Mayor



City 630-941-8300

17W275 Butterfield Road
Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60161

January 10, 2009

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations,
Chicago Chapter
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1410
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab:

The election of Barack Obama as president of the United States clearly signals that the world as many have viewed it is truly changing. His election hopefully will help bring about positive change in how we view people of color and ethnicity that may be different than our own.

I support most whole-heartedly the effort that CAIR-Chicago does to promote peace, opportunity and inclusion for all people.

Wishing you a most successful banquet with continuing support for all your notable goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas S. Mazaika".

Thomas S. Mazaika,
Mayor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

GERALD R. BENNETT
Mayor

January 19, 2009

Mr. Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
Council on American-Islamic Relations
28 East Jackson Blvd., Suite 1410
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Rehab,

As Mayor of the City of Palos Hills I send warm greetings to you and all those attending the 5th Annual Banquet of the Chicago Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-Chicago).

Over the past five years, CAIR-Chicago has accomplished an outstanding record of service in educating and communicating the values and cultures of the American Muslim community. Your efforts to engage and become part of the political process, has resulted in greater understanding and recognition by many political leaders in the Metropolitan Chicago area.

As Mayor of my City, with many Arab and Muslim American citizens, and with mayors throughout the metropolitan Chicago area, we look forward to working with you to continue the efforts of embracing diversity in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gerald R. Bennett".
Gerald R. Bennett
Mayor
City of Palos Hills

GRB/mh

RECOGNITIONS

CAPITOL OFFICE:

105K CAPITOL BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217/782-9463
FAX: 217/557-3908



Carole A. Pankau
STATE SENATOR • 23RD DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE:

ONE TIFFANY POINTE, SUITE G
BLOOMINGDALE, ILLINOIS 60108
630/582-0390
FAX: 630/582-0391

CAIR Illinois
Chicago Chapter
28 E. Jackson Blvd.
Suite 1410
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear CAIR-Chicago chapter members,

It is my great honor to bestow upon you and your council my sincerest congratulations for your outstanding advocacy work on behalf of the Muslim Community in Chicago and Illinois.

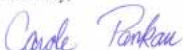
Your goal of ensuring justice for embattled Muslims who face ignorance and intolerance because of their religious beliefs is laudable. And your work to advance the civil rights of Muslims is a shining example for all of us, no matter our religious beliefs or our race or background.

Violence, racism and hate are never the solutions to the world's problems. Your efforts to identify and eradicate discrimination against Muslims and all people should be rewarded and recognized. I know as a state Senator that people should use the political system to work for them and CAIR has a record of achievement in teaching Muslims to stay politically active and positively engaged in government. I commend your organization for the excellent work you perform for the public including voter registration drives, community workshops, "know your rights" educational campaigns, and training of mosques and Muslim centers on how to contact local and national politicians.

CAIR's work to empower the Muslim community and to foster an understanding between Chicago's Muslim and non-Muslim communities should serve as a model for the rest of the world to learn how to live together in peace and harmony.

Thank you for the opportunity to dialogue with the Muslim community and congratulations for the fine public service you provide.

Sincerely,


CAROLE PANKAU
State Senator
23rd Senate District

RECYCLED PAPER • SOYBEAN INKS



VILLAGE OF BRIDGEVIEW

7500 SOUTH OKETO AVENUE
BRIDGEVIEW, ILLINOIS 60455
708-594-2525

VILLAGE PRESIDENT
STEVEN M. LANDEK

February 13, 2009

CLERK
JOHN C. ALTAR

TRUSTEES
MICHAEL J. PTICEK
MARY M. SUTTON
CLAUDETTE STRUZIK
NORMA J. PINION
JAMES A. CECOTT
PATRICIA A. HIGGINSON

Congratulations

Once again it is my pleasure to extend my best wishes and congratulations to Cair-Chicago on its 5th Annual Banquet. This event continues to build bridges and bring together people that care about the ideals that our nation was founded on.

I continue to watch, with pride, Bridgeview coming closer to embodying its Motto, "A Well Balanced Community", with the coming together of diverse and hard working constituents that include Arab and Muslim Americans to make our Village a model community to work and raise a family. This gives me hope that the work of organizations like Cair-Chicago is bearing fruit.

I applaud Cair-Chicago for its work encouraging Arab and Muslim Americans to be proactive and to participate in the daily life of their communities while standing up for their rights and projecting a positive picture of their faith and heritage.

On behalf of myself and the Board of Trustees I wish you a most successful annual event.

Sincerely,



Mayor, Steven M. Landek

A WELL BALANCED COMMUNITY



VILLAGE OF
ROSEMONT

Dear Friends,

What a delight it is to welcome you and the membership of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) to your 5th Annual Banquet.

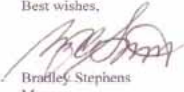
Even more noteworthy is the fact that CAIR is growing substantially and significantly, so that on Saturday, March 7, 2009 you host your annual banquet, attracting more than 1,000 guests to the "Beyond Islamophobia: The Opportunity in the Challenge."

We admire your education quest. Learning is the pathway to understanding; understanding is the gateway to communication and communication unlocks the door to peace.

Congratulations on your courage and tenacity as you seek to enlighten both the Muslim community here and the general American public through education and the nurturing of understanding. Such activity enriches our culture, bringing people together in growth and progress.

We toast you and wish you a successful banquet.

Best wishes,


Bradley Stephens
Mayor

3301 West Dixon Avenue
Rosemont, Illinois 60018
Phone 847 825-4334
Fax 847 696-2717



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

VILLAGE OF OAK BROOK

JOHN W. CRAIG
PRESIDENT

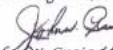
*Welcome to the
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Chicago Chapter*

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the residents of the Village of Oak Brook, it is my pleasure to extend a hearty welcome the members of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Chicago Chapter to our fine community.

Your 5th Annual Banquet, "Beyond Islamophobia: The Opportunity in the Challenge", promises to be yet another successful event and we are pleased that you have chosen to return to the Oak Brook area.

We hope you have an enjoyable event and that you will have an opportunity to sample the many scenic, historical, culinary, sporting and shopping attractions that Oak Brook has to offer.

Best Regards,


John W. Craig
Village President

CAIR-Chicago joined thousands in downtown Chicago to call for the U.S. government to act justly overseas.



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