



**2011
ANNUAL
REPORT**



**CENTER FOR ARAB
AMERICAN PHILANTHROPY**



CENTER FOR ARAB AMERICAN PHILANTHROPY

A Note from the CAAP Board Chair and ACCESS Deputy Executive Director/CFO



Hussien Y. Shousher
CAAP Board Chair



Maha Freij
ACCESS Deputy Executive Director/CFO

The Center for Arab American Philanthropy (CAAP), a project of ACCESS, is the only national institution that supports philanthropy in the Arab American community. CAAP celebrates this philanthropy by providing Arab Americans the opportunity to leverage their giving in support of the causes they care passionately about, and to leave a legacy of giving for their children and grandchildren.

The year 2011 was an impactful year for CAAP. We empowered communities through our third round of grant-making, providing \$53,000 in general operating support to 12 Arab American organizations across the country. Through our donor-advised funds we offered pathways for anyone to become a philanthropist, and granted \$181,645 to nonprofits working in advocacy, arts and culture, education, international aid, and more.

CAAP also began housing endowed donor-advised and field-of-interest funds in 2011, such as the Jack G. and Bernice M. Shaheen Media Scholarship Fund and the Bustan Al-Funun Fund for Arab Arts in America, creating a permanent legacy of Arab American giving.

We are helping young people realize the power of philanthropy through CAAP's Teen Grant-making Initiative, a group of 20 high school students with a mission to "make a difference in our community through grant-making."

The stories on the following pages highlight some of CAAP's great work. With the help of friends and supporters like you, philanthropy can give our community the strength and power to more firmly plant our roots in American society.

Making an **Impact** Leaving a **Legacy**

Art classes for underprivileged children; English classes for Arab women who want to apply for citizenship; films that dismantle stereotypes and offer a glimpse into Arab culture; even a warm home and food to eat for refugees. This is how the Center for Arab American Philanthropy makes a difference.

CAAP has been strengthening the impact of Arab American philanthropy and leveraging individual giving locally and nationally since 2005. The effects of these efforts are evident across the nation. Thanks to funding through CAAP's general and donor-advised grant-making, groups such as the Arab American Association of New York and the Arab American Community Development Corporation in Philadelphia are able to better assist their communities through vital programs and efforts.

The only national Arab American philanthropic support organization in the United States, CAAP builds on the tradition of Arab American giving by working with donors to invest their charitable dollars in organizations and programs that make the greatest impact. Through these philanthropic efforts, donors are leaving a lasting legacy of Arab American philanthropy.

Arab American Heritage Council

Whether it's financial or physical, educational or enjoyable, the Arab American Heritage Council (AAHC) has been assisting and empowering Arab Americans, as well as the greater Flint and Genesee County communities, for the past 23 years.

This multiservice agency's programming includes advocacy, cultural engagement, educational classes and workshops, providing direct services and promoting cultural diversity and understanding. That work continues, thanks in part to grants in 2010 and 2011 from CAAP.

The organization promotes culture through an annual Arab Film Festival in collaboration with the Flint Institute of Arts. AAHC convened discussions and forums on racial profiling after 9/11, and educational discussions with businesses, schools and organizations on what it means to be an Arab American in the community. The group also provides much-needed immigration and translation services. Through all of its programs, AAHC reaches about 5,000 people annually.

"We are the face of the Arab American community," said Mona Sahouri, AAHC executive director. "We show [the greater community] who we are; we show them the positive people we are and the positive things we do."

Thanks to the direct services AAHC provides, Sahouri said "there isn't a better feeling than the gratification of helping others, reuniting families and helping people with immigration" and other issues.

GRANTEE PROFILE



Youth at Arab American Heritage Council participate in a team-building activity, Flint, Mich.

Community Grant-making Empowering Communities



CAAP's grant-making empowers Arab American organizations across the country to more effectively meet the critical needs in their communities by improving the lives of thousands of Arabs and non-Arabs every year. In 2011, CAAP granted a total of \$53,000 to 12 Arab American grassroots organizations whose work focuses on human services and arts and culture.

Human Services



Our human services grantees provide the most vulnerable members of their community with culturally competent services including immigration assistance, health care, housing, employment services, youth education and leadership, domestic violence prevention, and advocacy. These organizations know how to stretch their funding, finding ways to use grants in the most effective ways. Here's how the 2011 grants made a difference:

With CAAP funding, the **Arab American Association of New York** in Brooklyn hired a young adult coordinator to work at their Bay Ridge Opportunity Center, which offers high school students SAT prep classes, college admission assistance, and trips to local college campuses.

Students in the Youth Organizing Committee at the **Arab American Action Network** in Chicago conducted research on racism against

Arab youth in their community and initiated a series of focus group discussions to combat stereotypes.

Also in Chicago, the **Arab American Association of Engineers and Architects** ran an ACT review course for 37 students and gave presentations at local schools on careers in engineering.

The **Arab American Heritage Council** in Flint, Mich., served 3,000 clients through direct services including immigration services, the only such program in Genesee County accredited by the U.S. Justice Department.

CAAP funding also helped organizations with development and collaboration skills. The **Arab Cultural and Community Center** raised \$17,000 through new individual donor cultivation efforts funded by CAAP, and the **Philadelphia Arab American Community Development Corporation** partnered with local organizations to increase breast cancer awareness among Arab American women.





Al-Bustan's Philadelphia Arab Music Ensemble at DIWAN: A Forum for the Arts, NYC. Photo by Jed Brandt

Arts and Culture

CAAP funding supported arts and culture through the Philadelphia Arab Music Ensemble at **Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture**. The ensemble includes Arabs and non-Arabs of all ages. In March, they performed a sold-out concert featuring famed Lebanese musician Marcel Khalife.

CAAP also supported the **Boston Palestine Film Festival**, which reached more than 3,000 people at its fourth annual event and included more than 40 Palestine-related films. The **Center for Arabic Culture**, also in Boston, used CAAP funds to offer new cultural and educational programs including Arabic calligraphy, dabke, oud, colloquial Arabic and “Mommy and Me” playgroups.

CAAP 2011 grantees also included: the **Alif Institute** in Atlanta that offers Arabic classes for children and adults. The institute runs an annual Atlanta Arab Festival, which attracted more than 1,500 people in 2010 with Arabic food, educational exhibits, storytelling, games, and live music and dance performances; **Alwan for the Arts** in New York City, which hosts one concert a week and one dance performance a month featuring classical and contemporary Middle Eastern music and innovative cross-cultural and cross-genre collaborations; and the **Arab Film Festival** in San Francisco, now in its 15th year, which attracts more than 11,000 audience members annually.



Audience members viewing a film at the Arab Film Festival, San Francisco

Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture

Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture was started in 2002 to promote Arabic language, arts and culture. It began with a summer camp for first- through fifth-graders. Today, Al-Bustan has programs in public schools for students of all ages, a community music ensemble and concert series, and visual and literary art programs. The organization has even developed a curriculum for teachers to use in their classrooms.

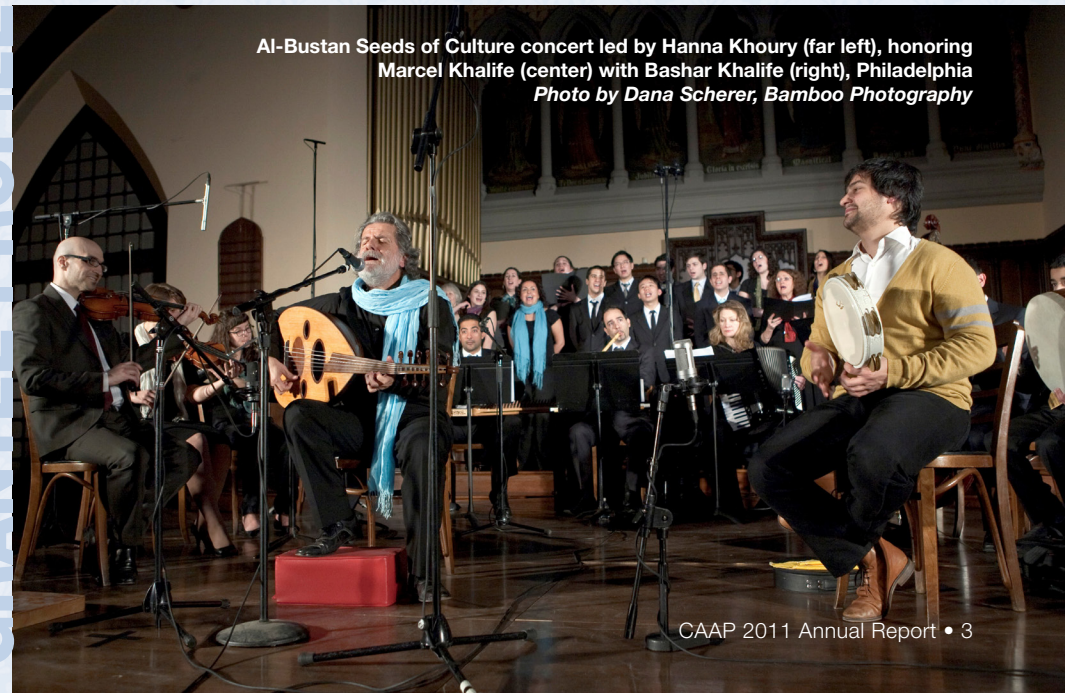
“We serve the Arab and non-Arab community,” said Hazami Sayed, executive director. “We constantly strive to serve non-Arabs through cross-cultural activities. It’s important, and I feel we’ve been able to portray an enriching Arab perspective on the arts.”

Through public school programs, Sayed noted, the organization is helping Arab children understand themselves and their heritage. Al-Bustan programs reach between 500 to 600 children, teens and adults. CAAP has helped the organization move forward in its efforts through grant funding. “The CAAP grant supports our educational programs,” Sayed said. “Because of this economic climate, every bit counts. Resources are tight all around; any support we get we are so grateful for.”

2011 Grantees

- Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture
- Alif Institute
- Alwan for the Arts
- Arab American Action Network
- Arab American Association of Engineers & Architects
- Arab American Association of New York
- Arab American Heritage Council
- Arab Cultural and Community Center
- Arab Film Festival
- Boston Palestine Film Festival/MECCS
- Center for Arabic Culture
- Philadelphia Arab American Community Development Corporation

GRANTEE PROFILE



Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture concert led by Hanna Khoury (far left), honoring Marcel Khalife (center) with Bashar Khalife (right), Philadelphia Photo by Dana Scherer, Bamboo Photography

Students receive
Russell J. Ebeid
Scholarships

Donor Services – Celebrating Arab American Giving

In 2011, Arab American donors granted more than \$180,000 through various funds at CAAP. These grants promoted new art exhibits, fought cancer and autism in children, provided college scholarships for Arab American students, supported relief efforts for Japan earthquake and tsunami victims, ensured that neighbors had food on the table, and much more.

Why did our Donor-Advised Fund holders choose to give through CAAP? Because CAAP facilitates giving to charitable Arab American and non-Arab organizations in the United States and around the world, helping people invest in the causes they care about most while telling a powerful story of the impact of Arab American giving in broader society.

2011 Donor-Advised Funds

(Oct. 1, 2010 – Sept. 30, 2011)

Expendable Funds

- Arava Institute Arab Student Scholarship Fund
- Betty H. Sams Fund
- David and Colleen Allen Fund
- Demashkieh Fund
- Ghaffar and Margaret Kazkaz Fund
- Ghassan and Manal Saab Fund
- Lina Hourani-Harajli Fund
- Lubna Bathish Jones Fund
- Richard A. Abdoo Fund
- Roy and Maha Freij Fund
- Saed and Mona Sahouri Fund
- Saksouk Fund
- Wisam Qasem Fakhoury Fund

Endowed Funds

- Bustan Al-Funun Fund for Arab Arts in America, *supporting charitable programs that create, develop, or present Arab world and Arab American art in the U.S.*
- Jack G. and Bernice M. Shaheen Media Scholarship Fund, *supporting scholarships for Arab American college students in the U.S. majoring in journalism, film, and/or mass communications.*
- Lubna Bathish Fund, *supporting general charitable purposes.*

Children at Al-Bustan Camp perform Lebanese Dabke, Philadelphia
Photo by Dana Scherer, Bamboo Photography





Basem and Muna Hishmeh

Enhancing children’s lives through the arts is the focus of charitable giving for Arab American philanthropists Muna and Basem Hishmeh, who sit on the CAAP Professional Advisory Board.

The Hishmehs, who are originally from Palestine, said they believe exposure to the arts is especially important for children. Having grown up without art or music lessons, Muna Hishmeh said she wants to provide that for children now. Her husband shares her sentiment, highlighting how the arts can break down barriers and unite people of all backgrounds.

Last summer, the Hishmehs’ family foundation brought the rich culture of Palestine to the United States with the Palestine Strings with the Palestine Strings of the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music and the Danadeesh Dance Group. The young performers took to the stage in six cities across the country, delighting Palestinian Americans and non-Palestinians alike.

As CAAP board members, the Hishmehs also contribute to CAAP’s general grant-making fund, which pools individuals’ donations to benefit Arab American organizations across the country. “We do whatever we can within our capability,” said Basem Hishmeh, “but if there are 10 people like us ... we can do 10 times more, maybe even more. That’s where CAAP offers an opportunity that is unique.”



Walid and Rasha Demashkieh

Dr. Walid and Mrs. Rasha Demashkieh have been actively involved in their community for more than 30 years. Their two passions, education and their Arab American heritage, converge through their philanthropy. The Demashkiehs have funded visits to the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn, Mich., for all local seventh-graders and their teachers in the Port Huron, Mich., school district.

The Demashkiehs believe philanthropy has the power to alter the perceptions people have of Arab Americans. They have seen firsthand how visits to the museum have changed the views and attitudes of teachers and administrators toward Arab Americans.

Despite these successes, the Demashkiehs felt they did not have a strategic plan for their philanthropy, so they established the Demashkieh Fund at the Center for Arab American Philanthropy. This allowed them to become more focused and strategic about their giving.

“We want to leave a legacy with our giving, and CAAP helps us focus and leverage our giving with others to make a greater impact,” Rasha Demashkieh said. The Demashkiehs leveraged their own giving with others to support the Jack G. and Bernice M. Shaheen Endowed Media Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships for Arab American students majoring in mass communications, journalism and film.

The Demashkiehs’ strategy also includes support for organizations in their Port Huron community. “By giving through our fund at CAAP, the organizations we support see firsthand the charitable contributions of Arab Americans in this country,” Walid Demashkieh said. “We are proud of our Arab American heritage, and by giving through CAAP, we introduce others to the generosity of the Arab American community.”



Teen Grant-making Initiative

On a Sunday afternoon in a small room at ACCESS, about 20 high school students discuss the major issues facing their peers. “Some kids, youth, I find them defensive,” said 17-year-old Hassan Elherchi. “But we have the power to give them something to help them overcome whatever problem they have – autism, drug abuse, anything.”

Elherchi is a member of Teen Grant-making Initiative (TGI), an emerging youth group in Dearborn, Mich. Under the CAAP umbrella, TGI was formed in September 2011 to begin developing youth-targeted grants in the metropolitan Detroit community.



“This is why we are bringing them together: to see the impact that youth have if we give them a chance to speak.”

The group is based on successful models from community foundations across the state, and meets once a month during the school year. The members’ first task was to develop and perform a youth needs assessment to help prioritize neighborhood concerns and key issue areas – factors that will guide their grant-making.

“They want to know what’s going on in their community and the needs of the youth,” said Rachid Elabed, one of TGI’s adult coordinators. “This is why we are bringing them together: to see the impact that youth have if we give them a chance to speak.”

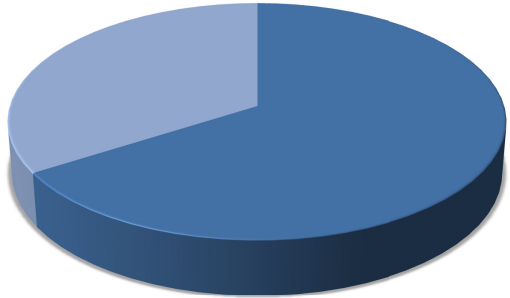
In the first round of grant-making, TGI will award up to \$5,000 to nonprofit organizations, including school groups, in the Detroit metro area that serve young people up to age 19.

Sarah Mokh, 14, said TGI has helped her develop listening and decision-making skills that she will take with her into adulthood. Mokh and her peers will raise money to make their own contribution to the grant funds. “If we don’t do it, who is going to, you know?” she asked. “I try to stay involved as much as I can because it’s good karma. You give back, and you get back.”



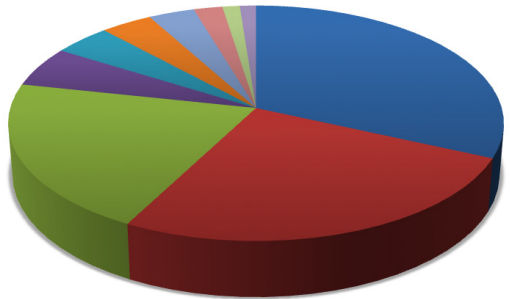
2011 Grant-making Demographics

(Oct. 1, 2010 – Sept. 30, 2011)



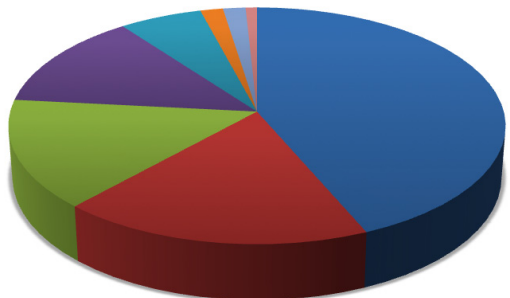
Total Grant-making by Organization Type

Arab American/Arab	\$154,850	66%
Non-Arab	\$79,795	34%
Total	\$234,645	



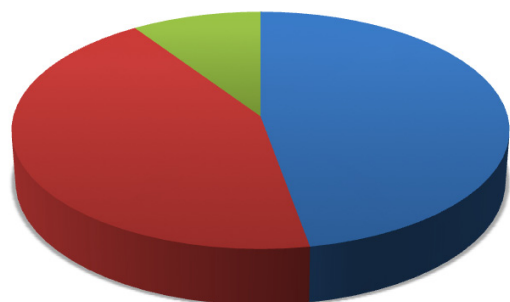
Total Grant-making by Geographic Impact Area

Michigan	\$74,500	32%
National	\$60,800	26%
International	\$48,545	21%
Massachusetts	\$13,000	6%
California	\$10,000	4%
New York	\$9,000	4%
Pennsylvania	\$8,000	3%
Illinois	\$5,000	2%
Georgia	\$3,000	1%
District of Columbia	\$2,800	1%
Total	\$234,645	



Donor-Advised Fund Grant-making by Impact Area

Arts and Culture	\$79,100	43%
Education	\$33,050	18%
International Aid/Development	\$27,045	15%
Advocacy	\$23,950	13%
Human Services	\$11,000	6%
Health Services	\$3,000	2%
Professional Association	\$3,000	2%
Religious Institution	\$1,500	1%
Total	\$181,645	



General Grant-making by Impact Area

Arts and Culture	\$25,000	47%
Human Services	\$23,000	43%
Professional Association	\$5,000	10%
Total	\$53,000	

Our Deepest Gratitude to our 2010-2011 Major Supporters

(Oct. 1, 2010 – Sept. 30, 2011)

Gifts of \$5,000 or more to CAAP's operations
and/or general grant-making fund

Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Abdo

C.S. Mott Foundation

Ford Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Basem and Muna Hishmeh

Mr. and Mrs. Ghassan Saab

**Mr. Hussien Y. Shousher and
Dr. Randa Mansour-Shousher**

Gifts of \$5,000 or more to the Jack G. and
Bernice M. Shaheen Media Scholarship Fund*

Anonymous

Mr. and Mrs. Basem and Muna Hishmeh

Olayan Group

Dr. and Mrs. Jack and Bernice Shaheen

**For a full list of donors to the Shaheen Fund, please visit
our website at www.centeraap.org*

2011 Financials

(Oct. 1, 2010 – Sept. 30, 2011)

REVENUE

Grants-Foundations	\$ 105,000.00
Contributions-Individuals	234,732.00
Total Revenue	\$ 339,732.00

EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 76,891.00
Grants	234,645.00
Legal and Professional Contractual Services	16,824.00
Printing, Supplies, and Publicity	6,269.00
Travel, Conferences and Meetings	4,666.00
Total Expenses	\$ 339,295.00

CAAP Professional Advisory Board

Wadad Abed	Ann Arbor, Mich.
Dr. Ghaleb Daouk	Boston, Mass.
Basem Hishmeh	Montvale, NJ
Muna Hishmeh	Montvale, NJ
Ghassan Saab	Fenton, Mich.
Manal B. Saab	Fenton, Mich.
Sam J. Saad III	Naples, Fla.
George Salem	Washington, D.C.
Hussien Y. Shousher	Toledo, Ohio
Dr. Randa Mansour-Shousher	Toledo, Ohio
Nareman Taha	Chicago, Ill.
<i>Honorary Member</i>	
Richard Abdo	Milwaukee, Wis.

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Jeanette Mansour , Program Consultant jrmansour@sbcglobal.net



CENTER FOR ARAB AMERICAN PHILANTHROPY ONLINE

CAAP Website



NEW

CAAP's Teen Grantmaking Initiative (TGI) announces the availability of grant funds of up to \$1,000 to support youth serving projects. Please see our TGI page for details.

FROM OUR BLOG

Trending: philanthropic social communities

centeraap.org




Center for Arab American Philanthropy | CAAP

Community Page about Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services · Dearborn, Michigan

Philanthropy In AAction: A Blog of the Center for Arab American Philanthropy

The current economic situation offers a double-edged sword for most charitable organizations. On one hand, some regular donors may feel more cash-strapped than usual, and may feel the need to restrict their annual giving. However, with the rise of new media (blogs, Facebook, Twitter, etc.), crowdfunding...

facebook.com/centeraap



CAAP @CenterAAP

The Center for Arab American Philanthropy uniquely features philanthropy & nonprofit news, views, and tools relevant to the Arab American community. Dearborn, MI <http://www.centeraap.org>

Tweets

CAAP @CenterAAP Teen grantmakers in Metro Detroit release RFP up to \$5K, read our latest [news](http://www.centeraap.org)! [centraaap.org](http://www.centeraap.org)

CAAP @CenterAAP @DanCitizen Hi Dan! We'd like to read your blog on HuffPost Detroit, but we can't get the link to work! Help, please!

CAAP @CenterAAP We want to democratize philanthropy, technology helps! bit.ly/philsocial #paga

CAAP @CenterAAP How is technology simplifying and democratizing #philanthropy? bit.ly/philsocial

CAAP @CenterAAP "Stand for something" and volunteer for #MLKday this weekend! #TGF #inspiration pic.twitter.com/SY5CmP [view photo](#)

CAAP @CenterAAP Wish there was more diversity in philanthropy? bit.ly/infGr7 @WV_Kellogg_Fdn's new report details emerging 'identity philanthropy'

ACCESS Community @ACCESS1971 Attention all youth projects in the Detroit metro area: up to \$5K funding through our Teen Grantmaking... fb.me/1DhJABN4 [is sponsored by CAAP](#)

twitter.com/centeraap

(Philanthropy in AAction Blog)



CENTER FOR ARAB AMERICAN PHILANTHROPY

Philanthropy In AAction

HOME ARCHIVES RSS HAVE A QUESTION

Saying "shukran": Proper donor stewardship

Yes, I'm involved with a lot of organizations, but to me CAAP ties everything I do together. Giving back to the community doesn't necessarily mean giving money. It can mean giving your time, or even just learning about giving.

-Rita Mansour

centeraap.tumblr.com

Mission

The Center for Arab American Philanthropy strengthens the impact of strategic Arab American giving through education, asset building and grant-making, in order to improve lives and build vibrant communities.

Vision

The Center for Arab American Philanthropy is building a legacy of giving in the Arab American community, shaping the future of our society through the collective power of our philanthropy and empowering the community to be change makers and community builders.



CENTER FOR ARAB
AMERICAN PHILANTHROPY

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A Project of ACCESS