



2014



CAIR
PENNSYLVANIA

ANNUAL REPORT





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A Letter from Our Presidents

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As-Salamu-Alaikum. The year 2014 has passed, a year which saw CAIR-Pennsylvania continuing its stellar record of providing legal services to the American Muslim community in our great commonwealth, and advocating for greater understanding of Islam by the media and the American public.

This past year also saw the hiring and integration of three wonderful new staff members: In Philadelphia, Executive Director Jacob Bender and Staff Attorney Ryan Tack-Hooper, and in Pittsburgh, Program Director Alia Schindler. CAIR-Philadelphia's invaluable Office Manager Leena Jaffer continued her dedicated service to our organization.

This Annual Report details CAIR-Pennsylvania's many accomplishments in 2014. But great challenges loom ahead:

- ♦ The proposed placement of virulent anti-Muslim ads on SEPTA buses;
- ♦ Continued biased reporting about Islam and Muslims by the media;
- ♦ The public's association of Islam with terrorism further strengthened by the emergence of ISIS in Iraq and Syria;
- ♦ Increased discrimination and harassment of American Muslims in both the private and governmental workforce; and
- ♦ An epidemic of bullying of Muslim school children by their non-Muslim peers.

We can only respond to these challenges with your help. Please remember that CAIR is the only nation-wide Muslim organization that provides free legal services to American Muslims and advocates on behalf of the Muslim community in the media and in the court of public opinion to correct misinformation about Islam.

We have achieved much in 2014, but there is much left to accomplish. With Allah's Blessings and Mercy, and your support, we can continue to serve the Muslim community of Pennsylvania and the Delaware Valley.

CAIR-PA is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and your donations are tax-deductible and zakat eligible.

Jazak Allah Khair,



Osama Al-Qasem
President / CAIR-Philadelphia



Safdar Khwaja
President / CAIR-Pittsburgh

“Indeed, God does not change a people’s condition until they change what is in their souls...”

QUR’AN 13:11



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Protecting Civil Liberties

Ryan Tack-Hooper Joins CAIR-Philadelphia

Ryan Tack-Hooper joined CAIR-Philadelphia as Staff Attorney in the beginning of 2014. Ryan is a 2009 graduate of NYU Law School, where he was Executive Editor of the Journal of International Law and Politics, and a former law clerk to Hon. Jerome B. Simandle, Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. Prior to joining CAIR, Ryan worked as a Legal Fellow for the ACLU of Pennsylvania and as an associate at the law firm of Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller. This year he also taught a legal writing course at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

CAIR-Philadelphia's Legal Department provided free services in responding to over one hundred reports of anti-Muslim discrimination or Muslims in need of legal aid for reasons connected to their faith. Below are some the significant matters we handled in 2014.

Defending Muslim Youth

CAIR-Philadelphia is especially concerned about mistreatment of Muslim youth. One case this year involved a faculty member in a rural Pennsylvania school who made troubling anti-Muslim remarks to students. CAIR-Philadelphia wrote to the school district urging them to address the issue. The faculty member was reprimanded for his actions, receiving a suspension without pay as a result of his conduct. Another case involved a child in a suburban Philadelphia school who was called "terrorist" and "Osama bin Laden" while school officials told him and his family that "kids will be kids." CAIR-Philadelphia demanded that the school take concrete measures to address the bullying, working with the family and district officials to reach a satisfactory resolution.

In June, we learned of an incident at a local community college concerning outrageous comments a professor made about Islam in a science course. We demanded that the college take appropriate disciplinary action, and the college severed ties with the professor. We are proud of our client and the college for this result.

Lawsuit Over Mosque Refusal

In early December, CAIR-Philadelphia and co-counsel filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of a Muslim congregation called Bensalem Masjid, challenging Bensalem Township's denial of permission to build the first mosque in that township, as well as the discriminatory and burdensome zoning system in use there. Bensalem has more than two hundred Muslim families who currently pray in a fire hall because the township has no mosque.

"Every American has a right to the free exercise of religion on equal terms with other religions, and governments cannot restrict that free exercise without a good reason. Bensalem Township violated those fundamental principles by refusing to allow the construction of a



Ryan Tack-Hooper, CAIR-Philadelphia Staff Attorney, meeting with prospective clients.



Rendering of future Bensalem Masjid.



mosque without any compelling reasons for doing so,” said CAIR-Philadelphia Staff Attorney Ryan Tack-Hooper. The lawsuit is currently pending, and the Department of Justice has launched an investigation into Bensalem Township’s zoning practices.

Religious Rights for Prisoners

Incarcerated persons are among the most vulnerable population in our community, and are frequently the targets of abuse and discrimination. Working to protect the right of free exercise of religion, we represented a prisoner in a county facility who was being improperly denied halal meals. Under threat of a lawsuit, CAIR-Philadelphia successfully persuaded the prison to offer halal meals to its Muslim inmates. In another matter involving a county prison, we secured an appropriate Eid Al-Adha celebration for Muslim prisoners, equal to the celebrations allowed for other religious faiths.

Economic Opportunity

A cornerstone of our work is ensuring that Muslims are free to work and conduct business without discrimination and with reasonable accommodation for religious practices. This year we represented several clients who were asked to change their religious practices for their job – from removing a hijab to shaving a beard. For some we were able to resolve the matter by working with the employer. But in one case involving a security guard required to shave his beard, we were forced to file a civil rights action that is still ongoing.

Fair Treatment of Muslim Immigrants

Many of the Muslims served by CAIR-Philadelphia are immigrants. In addition to working with individual immigrants facing undue delays in their immigration applications or needing help with the asylum process, this year we were also involved in some efforts to systematically protect immigrants.

Staff Attorney Ryan Tack-Hooper submitted testimony to the Philadelphia City Council on the subject of requests by the federal immigration police that local authorities detain someone without a warrant and without charges until the person can be investigated for possible immigration violations. This illegal practice is part of larger abuses of the immigration system that disproportionately impact Muslims living in the United States. Fortunately, in response to the efforts of a coalition of groups including CAIR, Mayor Nutter of Philadelphia agreed to radically limit Philadelphia’s participation in ICE detainees.

FBI Interactions

Our office continues to represent several individuals each year who have been contacted by the FBI for voluntary interviews. Because of the FBI’s recent history of aggressive and discriminatory law enforcement practices focused on Muslim-Americans, we strongly encourage anyone contacted by the FBI to call the CAIR office immediately so that we can provide information about your legal rights and potentially provide legal representation.

CAIR Featured in "Civil Rights in Philadelphia" Exhibit

CAIR-Philadelphia was honored to be included in an exhibition at the Philadelphia International Airport on the history of civil rights in Philadelphia. The exhibition, which opened in Terminal A in July, includes a photograph illustrating CAIR's fight against Islamophobia. In his remarks at the ceremony, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter extensively praised the contributions of CAIR to the ongoing struggle to protect the civil rights of all the city's religious and ethnic communities.

Advocacy on National Policies

In March, we went to Capitol Hill to meet with staffers from the offices of Senator Pat Toomey; Senator Robert Casey, Jr.; Rep. Robert Brady; Rep. Tim Murphy; Rep. Keith Rothfus; Rep. Joseph Pitts; and Rep. Allyson Schwartz. We spoke in support of the USA FREEDOM Act (H.R. 3361/S. 1599), bipartisan legislation designed to rein in the overreach of the federal government's surveillance programs and to support efforts to investigate and reform the Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (DHS TRIP).

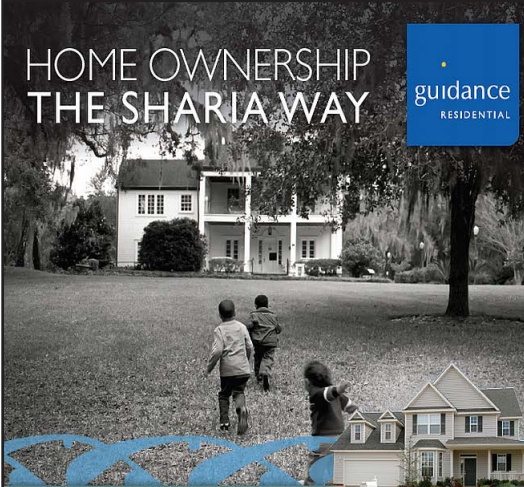


L-R: Katera Moore, CAIR-Philadelphia Executive Committee; Mayor Michael Nutter; Jacob Bender, CAIR-Philadelphia Executive Director, at the opening of an exhibition at the Airport on Civil Rights in Philadelphia.

Jacob Bender on Capitol Hill with CAIR colleagues from around the country, lobbying on behalf of Muslim community concerns.





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Enhancing the Understanding of Islam

CAIR-Philadelphia Co-Sponsors Ramadan Iftar at City Hall

Partnering with Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and City Councilman Curtis Jones during the sacred month of Ramadan, CAIR-Philadelphia co-sponsored an Iftar Dinner at which the Mayor welcomed nearly 200 Muslims and guests to City Hall for the joyous occasion.

Ramadan Food Drive

In conjunction with the City Hall Iftar Dinner, CAIR-Philadelphia helped organize a "Ramadan Food Drive" that collected and distributed hundreds of pounds of fresh food to shelters around the city.

Sharing Ramadan

During early summer, CAIR-Pennsylvania continued its annual tradition of hosting "Sharing Ramadan" events throughout the state that offer opportunities for people of all faiths to experience the Muslim month of fasting. "Sharing Ramadan" allows American Muslims to share and celebrate the importance of the month of Ramadan with people of all faiths.

CAIR-Philadelphia Responds to Anti-Muslim SEPTA Ads

As many may know by now, a virulently Islamophobic hate group (the misnamed "American Freedom Defense Initiative") has purchased ad space on SEPTA buses and bus stops to display their bigoted anti-Muslim message. In response, CAIR-Philadelphia has helped to organize a broad coalition of clergy, scholars, and religious and community leaders in and around Philadelphia to oppose the message of hate spread by these ads.



Mayor Michael Nutter (at podium) and Philadelphia Councilman Curtis Jones at the CAIR-Philadelphia co-sponsored City Hall Iftar Dinner.



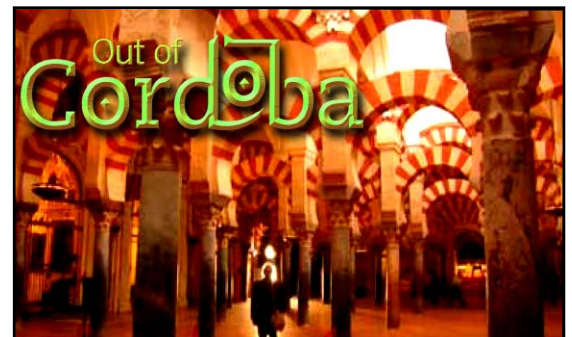
CAIR-Philadelphia's Ramadan Food Drive.



We believe that although the Muslim community must take the lead in combating Islamophobia, defeating anti-Muslim prejudice in the US should not be the sole responsibility of American Muslims, but rather the responsibility of all people who believe in interfaith cooperation and desire to live in peace with their neighbors.

Film Screenings

Executive Director Jacob Bender traveled around the Philadelphia area screening his documentary film *Out of Cordoba*, which explores the legacy of Al-Andalus (Muslim Spain), and its heritage of "convivencia" (religious coexistence). The film also explores contemporary relations between Muslims, Jews, and Christians, the struggle against religious extremism, the revolts for human rights in the Middle East and for justice in Palestine.



Combating Islamophobia Lecture in Delaware

In June, Jacob Bender delivered a lecture on “Combating Islamophobia” at the University of Delaware in Newark, DE. The lecture was sponsored by the Department of Political Science and International Relations, and over 100 students and guest of different ethnic and religious backgrounds came out for the evening lecture. Topics included anti-Muslim prejudice in Western Civilization, the similarity of contemporary Islamophobia to 19th-Century American anti-Catholicism and anti-Semitism, the rise of the Islamophobic network and its funding sources in post-9/11 America, and effective strategies of countering Islamophobia on campus and in the mainstream media.

Messengers of Peace Retreat

CAIR-Philadelphia was invited to participate in the 2014 Messengers of Peace Jewish-Catholic Boy Scout Retreat. The event was hosted by The Cradle of Liberty Council Jewish Committee On Scouting and The Archdiocese of Philadelphia Catholic Committee On Scouting at Camp Briarwood in Bucks County. Nearly 100 Boy and Cub Scouts from all over the Delaware Valley were in attendance.

The Scouts hiked from cabin to cabin—finding a guest speaker from different faith communities at each stop—where they were able to participate in a talk and discussion regarding that faith. The unifying theme was that shared values, as seen in the Ten Commandments and “The Golden Rule,” are greater than our differences.

Engaging the Media

CAIR-Philadelphia had a stellar year in reaching out to, and challenging, the mainstream media—even to those venues openly hostile to Islam—to express our concerns about the misrepresentation of the Muslim community.

The topics covered were ISIS, terrorism, Muslim immigrants in the USA and Europe, the Israel-Gaza War during the summer, women in Islam, and many more.

CAIR-Philadelphia staff were interviewed in 2014 in dozens of TV, radio, and print venues, including the following:

- Aljazeera Arabic Channel
- Aslan Media
- Carbonated.TV
- CBS Philly
- Drexel University TV
- El-Zol
- Haaretz
- Jewish Currents Magazine
- Jewish Exponent
- Jewish Telegraphic Agency
- NBC10
- Philly.com
- Phillymag.com
- Radio Sawa
- Religions News Service
- The Bucks County Courier
- The Dom Giordano Show
- The Jewish Daily Forward
- The Jewish Press
- The Marc Steiner Show
- The New York Times
- The Nick Taliaferro Show
- The Philadelphia Inquirer
- The Washington Post
- Washington Times

*“And do not let
the hatred of
people prevent
you from being
just. Be just;
that is nearer to
righteousness.”*

QUR’AN 5:8



Jacob Bender being interviewed on CBS News local TV during a demonstration protesting Israel's attack on Gaza during the summer of 2014.



Executive Director Profiled in *The New York Times*

Jacob Bender and CAIR-Philadelphia were profiled in an article in *The New York Times* in August. Such wide exposure helps to challenge the Islamophobic canards that the Muslim community is intrinsically intolerant, anti-Semitic, and supports terrorism. Jacob noted, “Engaging with the media, especially the nation’s leading newspaper, contributes to fulfilling our mission statement to ‘enhance the understanding of Islam’ among the American public.”

The New York Times

Guided by History, a Jew Tries to Unite Two Faiths Divided by War in Gaza

By SAMUEL G. FREEDMAN
AUG. 8, 2014

NEWARK, Del. — Shortly after the latest cease-fire expired in Gaza on Friday, Jacob Bender gingerly climbed the steps of the

disagreement over a conflict in the Middle East doesn’t permanently damage relationships in the Midwest?” asked Eboo Patel, a leading coexistence advocate who is founder and president of the Interfaith Youth Core. “The core idea of America for me is that

was a sponsor of an iftar dinner at City Hall during Ramadan and was included in a historical exhibit at Philadelphia’s airport about the civil rights movement.

Much of Mr. Bender’s day-to-day work involves domestic issues — a Muslim pupil

CAIR-Philadelphia staff also wrote and had published Letters-to-the-Editor and Op-Ed articles on issues of great importance to the Muslim community. For instance, the following letter appeared in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* in May 2014:

Muslim Americans condemn in the strongest possible way the kidnapping of Nigerian girls by Boko Haram (“Rescue plan needed,” May 8).

The national headquarters of the Council on American-Islamic Relations has noted: “It is almost impossible to express the level of disgust felt by American Muslims at the un-Islamic and obscene actions of the terrorist group Boko Haram for the kidnapping and threat to ‘sell’ hundreds of Nigerian schoolgirls.”

Muslims in Philadelphia join their fellow Americans in urging the government of Nigeria to do everything it can to immediately return the abducted girls safely to their families and eliminate the threat posed by Boko Haram.

Jacob Bender, Executive Director, Philadelphia chapter, CAIR

“American Muslims view the actions of ISIS as both un-Islamic and morally repugnant.”

CAIR Condemns ISIS/Extremism

In August, CAIR reiterated its condemnation of the “un-Islamic and morally repugnant” violence and religious extremism of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), stating:

“As we have stated previously, American Muslims view the actions of ISIS as both un-Islamic and morally repugnant. No interpretation of Islam allows the torture and murder of civilians, the destruction of churches and other houses of worship or the targeting of religious minorities. We reiterate our condemnation of the violent actions and religious extremism of ISIS and reject the false claim that it in any way represents mainstream Islamic thought or practice. ISIS’s actions are neither Islamic nor humane...”

CAIR also condemned a December attack on a school in Peshawar, Pakistan, that killed 145 people, including 134 children. CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad said in a statement:

“This senseless and bloodthirsty attack on children must be condemned by people of all faiths and backgrounds anywhere in the world. To see such brutality targeting children shocks the conscience and should spur action to apprehend and punish those behind this inexcusable terror attack. We offer prayers and condolences for the families and loved ones of all those killed or injured.”

Empowering American Muslims

Workshops

Through its educational workshops, such as its signature **Know Your Rights Seminars**, CAIR-Philadelphia reaches thousands of adults and children in the Delaware Valley Muslim community every year, providing them with the skills necessary to respond to workplace or school harassment and/or discrimination, and official government intimidation or surveillance.

In September, we introduced our newest educational programming: **Anti-Bullying Workshops** for parents and other adults interested in learning about anti-bullying techniques and the rights of students. Bullying can have devastating effects on a student's self-esteem and academic performance and the media continues to be saturated with negative images of Muslims and Islam.

Our **Muslim Youth Leadership Program** provides students and adults with the platform to address issues that may arise in a child's daily life concerning their Muslim identity, while explaining the rights of students, and how to build a positive American Muslim identity.

Building the Community

CAIR believes that the Muslim community is also strengthened and empowered by building unity between all its different racial and ethnic subdivisions. CAIR consequently co-sponsors a wide range of activities across the multicultural Muslim community, from helping to raise funds for the Syrian American Medical Society, to participating in the dedication of the new Masjidullah Center for Human Excellence.

8th Annual Banquet

Nearly 700 CAIR-Philadelphia supporters and invited guests filled the Springfield Country Club ballroom on March 15, 2014 for our chapter's 8th Annual Banquet. One of the highlights of the banquet was a multi-media program, narrated by a group of nine CAIR staff and activists, on the banquet theme of "Faith and Freedom."

Internationally-known Muslim scholar and community leader Imam Zaid Shakir stirred the hall with his inspired call for social justice. As a finale, comedian Azhar Usman left us laughing uncontrollably with his hilarious routine satirizing everything from Muslim family life to the idiocy of Islamophobia. Due to the generosity of all who attended, CAIR-Philadelphia raised over \$170,000 in donations and pledges.



Ryan Tack-Hooper leading a "Know Your Rights" workshop with the ACLU at the Islamic Community Center of Lancaster, PA.



Executive Committee Member Asheq Fazlullah leading an "Anti-Bullying Workshop" for students at the Islamic Society of Greater Valley Forge.



Jacob Bender and Imam Muhammad Abdul Aleem at Masjidullah.

Building Interfaith Coalitions

In addition to the previously described interfaith coalition responding to the Islamophobic ads purchased for placement on SEPTA buses, CAIR-Philadelphia is involved in several other interfaith coalitions in the Delaware Valley and beyond.

Interfaith Walk for Peace



CAIR-Philadelphia joined the 11th Annual Philadelphia Interfaith Walk for Peace and Reconciliation on April 27. The theme of the 2014 walk was "Side by Side on Sacred Ground: Celebrating Transformations." The Walk began at Al-Aqsa Mosque and participants were treated to musical performances along the way from various groups. The event concluded with some 700 people sharing a variety of ethnic food at West Kensington Ministries on Norris Square.

Partnership with Manna on Main Street

Manna on Main Street is a food pantry, soup kitchen, emergency financial aid and education provider serving the North Penn community. With more than 2,000 volunteers each year, Manna is committed to ending hunger, with the vision "that everyone might be fed."

October 11th celebrated the 4th Annual 5K Race & 1 Mile Fun Run for Manna. Despite the rain, it was an incredible race morning, with 387 participants crossing the finish line. With the support of CAIR-Philadelphia and other organizations and businesses, Manna on Main Street raised more than \$70,000 to help the hungry!



People's Climate March

CAIR-Philadelphia believes that the danger to the planet posed by human created climate change is a profoundly Islamic issue. CAIR helped organize thousands of Muslims to join over a million of their fellow citizens of the world in New York City on Sept. 21, in one of the largest demonstrations in American history.

CAIR-Philadelphia Fiscal Information

2014 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	TOTAL
Banquet	
Banquet Ticket Sales & Advertising	\$32,213.00
Public support	
Direct Deposits	\$36,885.00
Donations	\$204,274.09
Total Revenue and Support	\$273,372.09
EXPENDITURES	
Management and Operational Expenses	
Payroll	
Staff and intern salaries	\$149,247.49
Benefits	\$19,609.28
Operations, Utilities and Office Supplies	
& Rent	\$29,623.82
Legal Dept. Fees	\$4,066.97
Travel and Food Reimbursement	\$6829.32
Programs, Services & Marketing	
2014 Annual Banquet	\$43,673.90
Newsletters & Publications	\$4,940.58
Other Programs, Services & Marketing	\$15,462.70
Professional Services	
Fees	\$6,606.72
Tax service, legal council	\$3,944.00
Misc. Expenses	
Misc. expenses	\$4,107.34
Total Expenditures	\$288,111.82
Change in Net Assets	-\$14,739.73
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$91,000.00
Net Assets at Year End	\$76,260.27

2015 PROJECTED EXPENDITURES

Management and Operational Expenses	
Payroll	\$155,000.00
Benefits	\$18,000.00
Operations, Utilities and Office Supplies	
& Rent	\$27,500.00
Legal Department Fees	\$5,250.00
Travel & Expense Reimbursement	\$3,200.00
Professional services	
Fees	\$3,000.00
Tax services	\$2,000.00
Programs, Services & Communications	
Annual Banquet	\$50,250.00
Communications and Programs	\$20,000.00
Contingency/Misc. Exp.	\$18,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$302,250.00

CAIR-Pittsburgh

Alia Schindler Starts as New Program Director

Alia Schindler was hired as the new Program Director of CAIR-Pittsburgh in October 2014.

Alia grew up in Pittsburgh. She has a passion for spreading a correct sense of Islamic awareness and believes in working hard to ensure that human rights and justice prevail. In addition to her work with CAIR-Pittsburgh, she is working to make strides in the realm of International Education as an instructor of English as a Second Language (ESL) at Chatham University. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh, where she studied Education and Global Studies.

Alia reverted to Islam in her senior year at Pitt, and has since been very active in the Muslim community, serving as the former Secretary for the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh (ICP) Board of Directors, and as the former ICP Sunday School Director.

CAIR-Pittsburgh Activities

This year, CAIR-Pittsburgh organized and participated in a number of community forums. CAIR-Pittsburgh organized a town hall entitled “Provocative Influences – How to Make Enduring Choices” in February, an event focused on protecting Muslim youth from pernicious media influences. CAIR-Pittsburgh also organized a town hall entitled “Investing in Our Youth,” giving concerned parents and community members the opportunity to discuss the lack of successful youth programs in the area.

CAIR-Pittsburgh’s 7th Annual Banquet, titled “Towards Becoming Valuable Members of Society,” featured keynote speaker Dr. Haider Ala Hamoudi presenting ideas on how the community can become more recognized as constructive contributors in American society. An inspirational speech was delivered by Raeed Tayeh, with entertainment by Saad Haroon.

Education and Political Advocacy

CAIR-Pittsburgh has continued to inform American Muslims about their civil rights. In June 2014, CAIR-Pittsburgh collaborated with the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh and the ACLU in hosting a Know-Your-Rights Workshop for mosque administrators. In early 2015, CAIR-Pittsburgh presented a Know-Your-Rights Workshop along with Attorney Mike Healey, at the Muslim Association of Greater Pittsburgh.

CAIR-Pittsburgh participated in a national letter-writing campaign to inform federal officials about some of the Muslim community’s views on the situation in Gaza. President Safdar Khwaja and former Program Director Annie Durrani met with Rep. Tim Murphy, addressing the need to reject profiling. Khwaja and Durrani also met with Rep. Mike Doyle, addressing the Muslim community’s concerns regarding the Ferguson shooting and the need for the US to use its influence to convince allies to adhere to human rights norms, specifically related to Israel’s actions in Gaza.

In November, CAIR-Pittsburgh Board Member Ishfaq Ahmad and Alia



Schindler participated at Building Communities of Trust Round Table with local and national officials including Mayor Peduto. The discussion focused on the NSA and intelligence-gathering. CAIR also had the opportunity to express our concerns about treatment of community members by the police the new Pittsburgh Police Chief, Cameron McLay.

The Chapter President was able to share CAIR's viewpoint in multiple media outlets this year, including a *Jewish Chronicle* Interview - "CAIR Under the Microscope" (9/21/2014), *Jewish Chronicle* Letter to Editor-"With harmonious goal, CAIR speaks up" (10/23/2014), and an op-ed in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* about the Islamic State (10/19/2014).

Interfaith Efforts

CAIR-Pittsburgh hosted its annual Ramadan Iftar in July 2014, with an interfaith panel discussing fasting in the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faiths. In August, CAIR-Pittsburgh collaborated with the Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Area Jewish Committee in an Interfaith Vigil for Peace at Point State Park.

Safdar Khwaja presented an interfaith prayer talk at the Annual Gandhi Day celebration at the Heinz Chapel-University of Pittsburgh. The talk highlighted the connections between Gandhi's Hindu teachings and Islam, including the parallel struggles for social justice, the necessity for selflessness in surrendering oneself to God, and the belief that one should respond to evil with good.

CAIR-Pittsburgh also reinitiated participation with the Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN), an organization that strives to build religious coalitions to improve society.

CAIR-Pittsburgh Civil Rights Cases

CAIR-Pittsburgh assisted several Muslims with civil rights problems this year with advocacy and referrals to legal resources, including several men and women who faced discrimination and undue scrutiny at work, a man discriminated against based on his immigration status, families facing harassment by neighbors because of their Muslim faith, a Muslim woman facing discriminatory child custody arrangements requiring counseling from local Christian Counseling services, and two cases involving improper requirements imposed on women to remove their headscarves.



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VOLUNTEERS

Karim Ali - Permanent Volunteer Accountant
Salma Gul - Banquet Co-Chair

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Jacob Bender, Executive Director
Ryan Tack-Hooper, Staff Attorney
Leena Jaffer, Operations Manager

CAIR-PITTSBURGH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

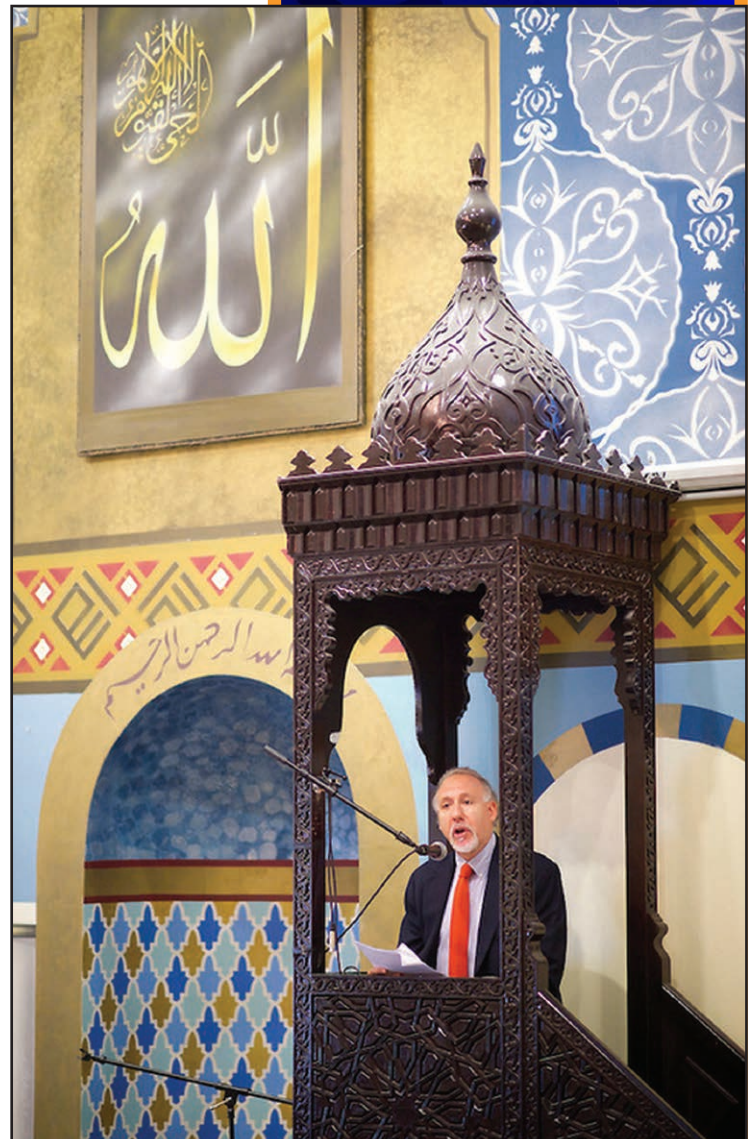
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Jacob Bender speaking at the Islamic Society of Delaware, Aug. 2014



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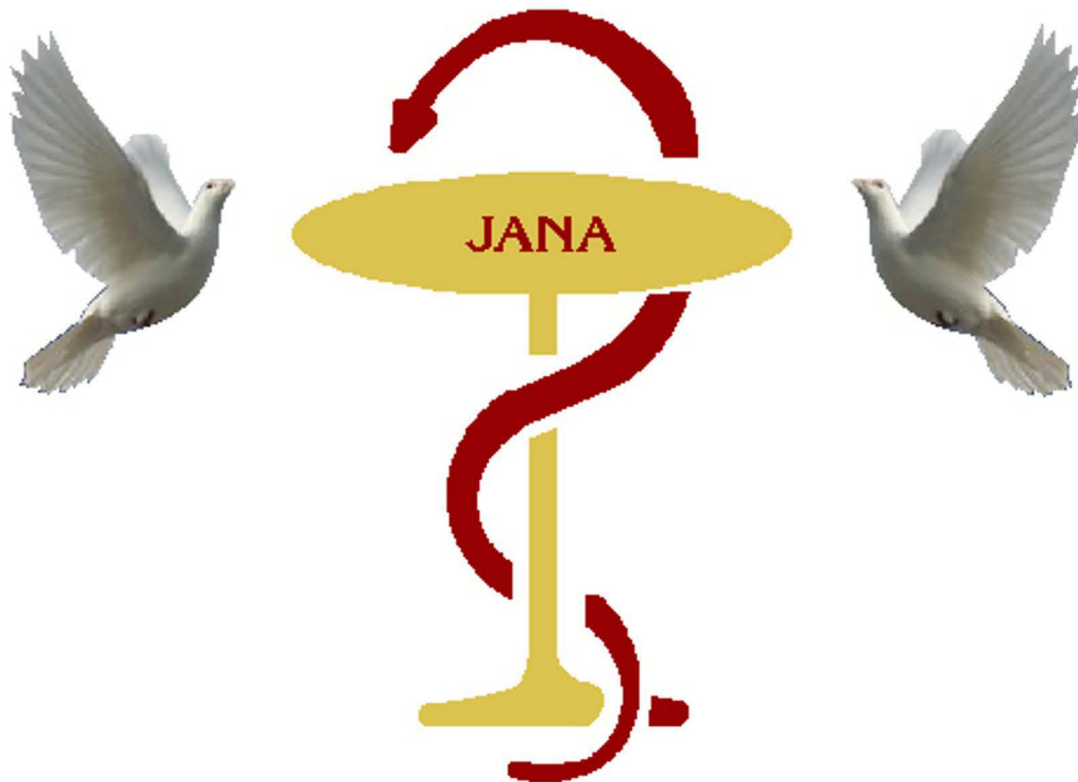
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يَبْتَغُونَ فَضْلًا مِنَ اللَّهِ وَرِضْوَانًا وَيَنْصَرُونَ لِلَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ
الصَّادِقُونَ ﴿٨﴾) وَالَّذِينَ تَبَوَّءُوا الدَّارَ وَالْإِيمَانَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ يَحِبُّونَ مَنْ
هَاجَرَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَا يَجِدُونَ فِي صُدُورِهِمْ حَاجَةً مِمَّا أُوتُوا وَيُؤْثِرُونَ عَلَى
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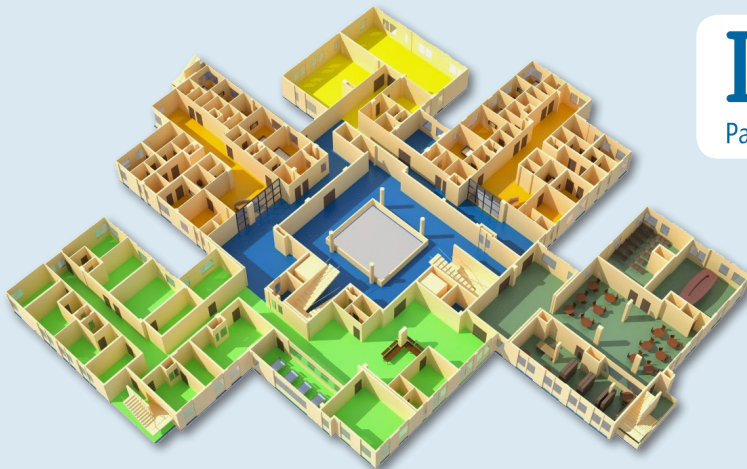
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3-D model of the new department.

Yellow areas are the playroom and cafeteria, green are the medical offices, orange are the patient rooms, blue is the entrance or lobby area and dark green is the library and teaching area.



The place where it all begins.

We will be building on the 4th floor roof of this hospital in hopes of creating a bigger oncology-hematology department with better facilities to provide great care to our young patients.

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Palestine Children's Relief Fund

**Building Hope,
Changing Lives**

**The PCRF Philadelphia Chapter
Announcing Big Plans**

With pediatric cancer becoming more frequent and taking over hundreds of children's lives, the Gaza Strip needs better oncology-hematology facilities to meet the growing need. The siege over Gaza has made our mission challenging. Most of the children are out of reach of proper medical facilities, are trapped indoors and can't travel abroad for treatment. These children, many of which have rare blood disorders and awful cancers, have restricted access to treatment. We want to bring expert medical care and the best of treatments to them. With the Huda Al Masri Pediatric Cancer facility in Beit Jala (Bethlehem) as precedent, we will be building another pediatric cancer department in the Gaza Strip. It is our human obligation to respond to these children's plea for help.

For more information, visit www.pcrf.net and keep up to date with us and our mission on facebook.com/PcrfPhiladelphiaChapter. Any questions? Email us at philadelphia@pcrf.net for answers.

PCRF would like to congratulate CAIR on another year of promoting awareness and love for humanity!



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Upcoming Event - Civics Workshop

April 11, 2015 (West Chester, location TBD). Join us to learn how our government works, how it impacts your life and how you can become a participant in our democracy. For more information please contact wkeslick@emerge-usa.org

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