



CAIR
PHILADELPHIA

2017

ANNUAL REPORT



*Defending Our Freedoms
Living Our Faith*



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters of CAIR-Philadelphia:

Back on January 21, 2017, the day after Donald J. Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States of America, I marched with CAIR National Director Nihad Award, and perhaps a million other people, through the streets of Washington DC to protest Trump’s election and his politics of fear, division, and bigotry. We came to our nation’s capital to give notice that we would not stand idly by while the President made good on his threat to attack a half-century of progressive legislation on civil rights and racial discrimination, women’s rights, immigration reform, health insurance, and environmental protection.

And indeed, 2017 proved to be a busy and extraordinary year, with millions of people organizing around the country; from “No Muslim Ban” demonstrations which brought thousands to protest at airports in January, to the President’s misguided and dangerous plan, announced in December, to unilaterally move the American Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

The Philadelphia Chapter of CAIR had an exceedingly eventful year as well. Funding was significantly up when compared to 2016, enabling us to hire two new staff members: the learned and dedicated Dr. Ahmed Selim Tekelioglu as our Director of Outreach and Education, and the multi-talented Timothy Welbeck, Esq. as our Civil Rights Attorney. Together with Leena Jaffer, our Director of Operations and “Master of Organization,” and myself, now proudly in my 5th year as Executive Director, CAIR-Philadelphia had a remarkable year, as can be seen on the chart on Page 18.

The year also witnessed the publication of our Educational Offerings booklet that describes the many workshops and courses that CAIR-Philadelphia offers without charge to institutions throughout Philadelphia and the Greater Delaware Valley region.

As you read through this Annual Report, please keep in mind that all of the work and accomplishments of the Staff, Executive Committee and Advisory Board of CAIR-Philadelphia would be impossible but for the generous donations of both Muslims and non-Muslims who recognize the need for an organization such as CAIR, and the invaluable services it provides in these challenging times.

Wishing you a healthy and productive 2018,

Jacob Bender
 Executive Director



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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JAMES F. KENNEY
Mayor

February 12, 2018

Jacob Bender
1501 Cherry Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19102


Dear Friends,


As the Mayor of Philadelphia, I am pleased to welcome you to the 12th Annual Banquet held by Philadelphia Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

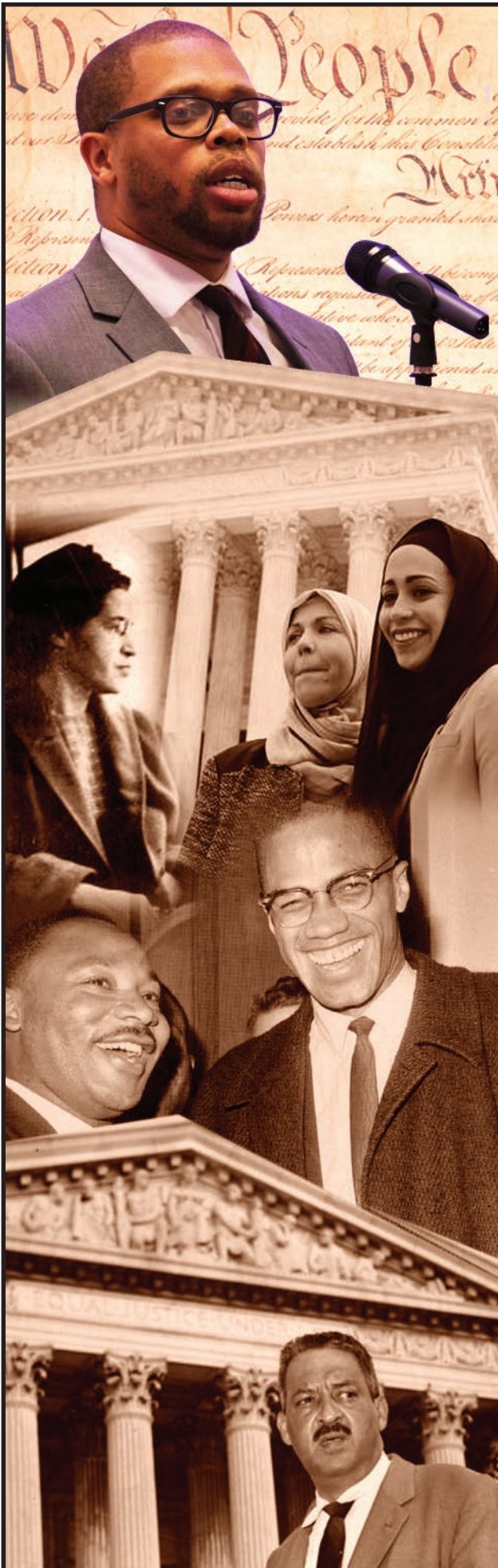
I would like to congratulate CAIR on another year of service to both the Muslim community and the City of Philadelphia. As the largest and preeminent Muslim civil rights organization in the nation, CAIR is dedicated to protecting the civil rights of American Muslims and finding solutions to the challenges faced by the community. Philadelphia, a minority-majority city, values the contributions of organizations like CAIR in their efforts to support vulnerable and diverse populations.

Again, please accept my best wishes for a successful banquet and more accomplishments in the years to come.

On behalf of the City of Philadelphia, we look forward to hosting you.

Sincerely,


James F. Kenney
Mayor



DEFENDING CIVIL LIBERTIES

In CAIR-Philadelphia's most important legal case of the year, we represented the Bensalem Masjid, together with the law firm Storzer Law, to resolve a dispute that prevented the Masjid from building a mosque in the Township. We firmly believed that Bensalem Township was acting out of religious discrimination and xenophobia when it refused to approve the zoning for building of the mosque. Because of this agreement, Bensalem Masjid may now build their house of worship in the town in which they live. The township will also make efforts to prevent further discrimination, such as amending its zoning ordinances to comply with applicable federal law, advising officials of the law's requirements, etc.

Timothy Welbeck, Esq., started working as our Civil Rights Attorney at CAIR-Philadelphia in August 2017. He brings to CAIR his invaluable experience as an African American lawyer fighting for racial and economic justice for his clients, as well as his scholarly and academic career at Temple University, where he is an inspiration to many of his students. Says Timothy, "We at the CAIR remain committed to protecting your civil rights and liberties, such as in the Bensalem case described above. We will continue this fight on your behalf. I see my work at CAIR as part of the great struggle in America to achieve justice for marginalized groups; and in so doing, I stand on the shoulders of the freedom fighters who came before me."

Over the past several months, Timothy has engaged in activities to protect the civil rights and liberties of the Muslim community.

Following are several specific examples of CAIR's free legal services provided to American Muslims.

Workplace Accommodations

CAIR-PA demanded several employers allow women to wear *hijabs* during work hours.

CAIR-PA compelled an employer to allow a Muslim man to make *hajj* after the employer initially refused.

Wrongful Termination

CAIR-PA represented a woman in a wrongful termination hearing who alleged religious discrimination resulted in her losing her job as a faculty member at a local university.

Interactions with the FBI

CAIR-PA counseled numerous men and women repeatedly contacted by the FBI, and represented a Muslim man questioned by the FBI. In each instance, the FBI ceased contact with our clients.

Police Overreach

CAIR-PA represented a man who had become the frequent target of anti-Muslim and racial harassment and discrimination from local law enforcement.

Harassment and Discrimination

CAIR-PA represented a woman involved in an automobile collision who feared she would not receive a fair hearing because eyewitnesses of the accident changed their stories after seeing her *hijab* once she exited her vehicle. She received a favorable outcome because of CAIR's representation.

CAIR-PA represented a family continually harassed by neighbors and falsely accused of assault. The false charges were dismissed because of CAIR's representation.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

With a background combining university teaching, demographic research, community activism, and Islamic scholarship, Dr. Ahmet Selim Tekelioglu (a native of Turkey) has, in a matter of months, made a significant impact upon all who have had the pleasure of meeting and working with him.

Since joining CAIR-Philadelphia in September 2017, Dr. Ahmet has worked tirelessly (as is evidenced by his speaking schedule below) in three main areas defined by CAIR-Philadelphia's mission.

The first of these is enhancing the understanding of Islam in the general population. Towards that goal, Dr. Ahmet delivered *khutbahs* (Friday afternoon sermons at mosques) and conducted *halaqas* (Islamic study circles) in the Muslim community and addressed government, interfaith and media audiences to present an informed and balanced viewpoint about Islam and the Muslim community.

Second, he focused on empowering American Muslims through lectures in mosques and programs with Muslim youth, especially on leadership development and anti-bullying programs.

Third, in order to encourage dialogue and help build interfaith coalitions, Dr. Ahmet conducted anti-bullying presentations at many public schools for students of all backgrounds, and spoke at numerous interfaith events organized by the Muslim community's allies.

Following is a selection of Dr. Ahmet's many activities for CAIR:

Khutbahs

- Islamic Society of Greater Valley Forge
- Islamic Community Center of Lancaster (3 X)
- IQRA Institute (2 X)
- Islamic Society of Chester County (2 X)
- Islamic Society of Greater Harrisburg
- Muslim Youth Center of Philadelphia

Speeches, Mosque Presentations, Halaqa, and Community Actions

- Anti-Bullying Presentation at Iqra Institute
- Civic Engagement Presentation (w/ Timothy Welbeck) in Harrisburg
- Speech at Foundation for Islamic Education in Villanova
- Jewish Voice for Peace Action Against Trump's Jerusalem Plan
- Monthly Talk to children at Iqra Institute
- MYLP Program at Muslim Youth Center of Philadelphia
- Speech at Philadelphia Masjid
- Speech at Sabreen Mosque in Harrisburg
- Speech at United Muslim Masjid in Philadelphia

Participant in Community Forums and Panels

- Forum at Islamic Society of Delaware
- Harrisburg Community Leadership Meetings (2 X)
- West Chester University MSA Dinner
- Sister Clara Cafe
- North Penn Mosque in Landsdale
- #nomuslimban rally in Washington, DC
- Speech at Islamic Society of Delaware
- "We Are One" Action Fair in Norristown
- NAACP/People Power Community Policing Meeting (ongoing)
- Speech at Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission

School Presentations

- Jenkintown School (Presentation on the American Muslim Experience)
- Laura H. Carnell School (Anti-Bullying Presentation)



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sleep.

prophet muhammad pbuh

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ENGAGING THE MEDIA

Challenging the negative, simplistic, and distorted views about Islam and the Muslim community remains one of the pillars of CAIR's Mission Statement. Media ignorance, together with the Trump Administration's more egregious insults against Islam and Muslims, as well as its actual policies, such as the so-called "Muslim Travel Bans," all contribute to making this a time of great anxiety and apprehension, if not outright fear, among Muslims in America.

Whether appearing in TV and radio interviews, or being quoted in major newspapers in the region, CAIR-Philadelphia is the "go-to" source for "all things Muslim" for journalists and media professionals in the Greater Delaware Valley.

Following is a selected list of just some of the media appearances in 2017 by members of CAIR-Philadelphia's Staff, Executive Community, and Advisory Board:

- 01/06 Jacob Bender in The Philadelphia Citizen
- 01/26 Salima Suswell in BillyPenn
- 01/17 Jacob Bender in Philly Metro
- 01/27 Ryan Houldin on CBS3
- 01/30 Jacob Bender on 900AM-WURD
- 02/03 Jacob Bender in NewsWorks
- 02/04 Jacob Bender in the Philadelphia Tribune
- 02/07 Ryan Houldin on PMCM-TV
- 02/16 Jacob Bender in NewsWorks
- 02/28 Jacob Bender in Philly Metro
- 03/06 Ryan Houldin on KYW-1060 Radio
- 03/06 Jacob Bender in Philadelphia Inquirer
- 05/22 Jacob Bender on CBS3
- 05/25 Aaysha Noor featured in "This is Ramadan" doc.
- 06/20 Jacob Bender in the Daily News
- 07/09 Jacob Bender in Tempo Magazine (Indonesian)
- 08/16 Timothy Welbeck on 900AM-WURD
- 08/20 Timothy Welbeck on 900AM-WURD
- 09/22 Timothy Welbeck in NewsWorks
- 09/25 Timothy Welbeck in CBS Philly
- 09/29 Timothy Welbeck in the Huffington Post
- 10/02 Ahmet Tekelioglu in LancasterOnline.com
- 10/06 Timothy Welbeck in Philly.com
- 10/23 Timothy Welbeck in the Philadelphia Inquirer



From top: Jacob Bender, CAIR-Philadelphia Executive Director, participated in a debate on Ch. 69 WFMZ-TV in Allentown about Trump's plan to move the US Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem and recognize Israel's illegal occupation of the entire city. Center: Jacob was interviewed on CBS-Ch. 3 about Trump's discriminatory "Muslim Travel Bans." Bottom: Rabiya Khan, CAIR-Philadelphia Advisory Board Member (above right), featured on the cover of, and profiled in, "Susquehanna Style Magazine."

Right: Timothy Welbeck, Esq., CAIR-Philadelphia Staff Attorney, writes a regular column on civil rights and African American issues for the Huffington Post.



HUFFPOST

Timothy N. Welbeck, Esq.

Believer. Husband. Father. Attorney. University Professor. Hip-Hop Artist.

Timothy Welbeck is an attorney, Lecturer of African American Studies, hip-hop artist, and contributor. Timothy's legal practice has primarily focused on medical malpractice, personal injury, entertainment law, and corporate liability. To that end, Timothy has successfully represented or provided the representation of dozens of individuals and organizations, including, but not limited to: a health nonprofit that provides in-home, skilled nursing to the elderly and disabled, nurses and attorneys

“

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key aspects of
empowerment.



Keith Ellison
U.S. Congressman (D-MN)



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COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

- Islam 101: Intro to Islam and Muslim Civilization
- Islam, Politics, and Violence
- What is Sharia?
- End of Life Care in Islamic Tradition
- Gender and Family in Islam

AMERICAN MUSLIMS

- American Muslims and Their History
- The Legacy of African-American Muslims
- Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism

CIVIL RIGHTS

- Know Your Rights Workshops
- In the Matter of Color: Racial Classifications and American Law
- Out of the Blue: Police Conduct
- Fake News: Mass Media
- American Jews and Political Power: Myth or Reality?

YOUTH AND PARENTS

- Anti-Bullying Workshop
- Muslim Youth Leadership Program (MYLP)



EDUCATION

In 2017, CAIR-Philadelphia—responding to the current wave of intolerance across the nation—launched an educational campaign to expand interfaith understanding in the Greater Delaware Valley, believing that hatred and bigotry can be confronted and defeated by knowledge and understanding.

“To each of you We prescribed a law and a method. Had Allah willed, He would have made you one nation [united in religion], but [He intended] to test you in what He has given you; so race to [all that is] good.”

As you can see in the quote above, the Qur’an [5:48] is quite clear in its positive view of interfaith relations, first by explaining that the multiplicity of faiths around the world is a part of God’s divine plan, and second, by requiring humans of different faiths to get to “know one another” and work together for humankind’s common good.

To support this goal, CAIR-Philadelphia is offering—all free of charge—numerous courses, seminars, and workshops to educational, religious, and social institutions in and around the Philadelphia region. Many of these exciting and timely educational offerings are suitable for both Muslim and general audiences and to a range of age groups.

Our educational offerings (see the complete list to the left) range from our signature multi-session “Islam 101” course to seminars about the diversity of the American Muslim community; from confronting Islamophobia and anti-Semitism to anti-bullying and “Know Your Rights” workshops; and from exploring gender and family in Islam to developing the next generation of Muslim community leadership. Many of these offerings have already been presented dozens of times by our presenters at mosques, churches, synagogues, universities, libraries, community centers, and public and private middle and high schools. There are no fees for any of our programs, and our expert team of presenters look forward to traveling to your institution in the near future. Please contact the CAIR office for further details.

To the right:

CAIR Philadelphia’s booklet with full descriptions of our workshops, seminars, and courses. Download a PDF of the booklet at:

<https://pa.cair.com/education/>



"لِلْفُقَرَاءِ الْمُهَاجِرِينَ الَّذِينَ أُخْرِجُوا مِنْ دِيَارِهِمْ وَأَمْوَالِهِمْ يَبْتَغُونَ فَضْلًا مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرِضْوَانًا وَيَنْصُرُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الصَّادِقُونَ (٨) وَالَّذِينَ تَبَوَّءُوا الدَّارَ وَالْإِيمَانَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ يُحِبُّونَ مَنْ هَاجَرَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَا يَجِدُونَ فِي صُدُورِهِمْ حَاجَةً مِّمَّا أُوتُوا وَيُؤْثِرُونَ عَلَىٰ أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَلَوْ كَانَ بِهِمْ خَصَاصَةٌ وَمَنْ يُوقِ شَحْنَ نَفْسِهِ قَاُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ (٩)" سورة الحشر

"For the poor emigrants who were expelled from their homes and their properties, seeking bounty from Allah and [His] approval and supporting Allah and His Messenger, [there is also a share]. Those are the truthful. And [also for] those who were settled in al-Madinah and [adopted] the faith before them. They love those who emigrated to them and find not any want in their breasts of what the emigrants were given but give [them] preference over themselves, even though they are in privation. And whoever is protected from the stinginess of his soul - it is those who will be the successful." Surat Al-Hashr

*Congratulations CAIR
for another year of achievements!*



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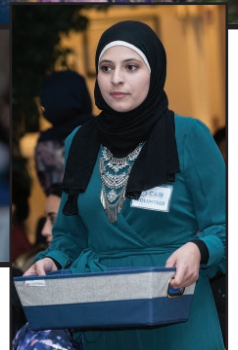
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2017 CAIR-PHILADELPHIA BANQUET

On Saturday March 11th, nearly a thousand CAIR supporters, Muslim community leaders, Jewish and Christian clergy, and elected officials, including Pennsylvania governor Tom Wolf, joined together at our sold-out Eleventh Annual Banquet to celebrate the accomplishments of CAIR-Philadelphia.

With a theme of "Revelation and Resistance," the 2017 banquet stressed the deep connection between our spiritual lives and the movements for social justice. Visitors and speakers included: Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and First Lady Frances, Aliya Khabir, Shaikh Abdul Hadi Shehata, CAIR-Philadelphia Staff and Executive Committee Members, PA State Senator Sharif Street, interfaith community members, and local businessman Michael Rashid. The keynote address was offered by Linda Sarsour and entertainment by comedian Amer Zahr.





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CAIR-PHILADELPHIA:



2017 IN PHOTOGRAPHS



Defending Our Rights



PHOTO CAPTIONS FROM P. 14-15

1. *Jacob Bender, CAIR-Philadelphia Executive Director, marching in Washington the day after Trump's inauguration, with Nihad Awad, CAIR-National Executive Director.*
2. *CAIR-Philadelphia helped to organize an event at Philadelphia International Airport and thousands of people turned out to protest President Trump's "Muslim Travel Ban 1."*
3. *CAIR-Philadelphia at the People's Climate March in Washington, DC.*
4. *CAIR-Philadelphia Staff Attorney Ryan Houlding speaking at a press conference organized by CAIR, with the participation of the ACLU-PA and the Public Interest Law Center, in response to President Trump's executive order about the border wall with Mexico and the proposed ban on immigration from Muslim-majority countries.*
5. *CAIR-Philadelphia Outreach and Education Director Dr. Ahmet Selim Tekelioglu giving a khutba (religious sermon delivered at Friday congregational prayers) at the Islamic Community Center of Lancaster.*
6. *Gov. Tom Wolf with Salima Suswell, CAIR-Philadelphia Executive Committee Member, at an Eid al-Adha Dinner at the Governor's Residence in Harrisburg; Salima was recently appointed to serve on the Pennsylvania Commission for Women, the first Muslim woman so honored.*
7. *CAIR-Philadelphia at a demonstration after white-supremacists marched in Charlottesville, VA, leaving one person dead, and President Trump equated the white nationalists with anti-racist religious protesters.*
8. *Aaysha Noor, CAIR-Philadelphia Advisory Board Member, and Timothy Welbeck, Esq, our Staff Attorney, meeting in Harrisburg with PA State Senator Lawrence M. Farnese Jr., in support of hate crime legislation.*
9. *Iftekhhar Hussain, CAIR-Philadelphia Executive Committee Member, teaching his 10-part "Islam 101" course in Grove United Methodist Church of West Chester.*
10. *Jacob Bender, CAIR-Philadelphia Executive Director, testifying at a Philadelphia City Council session on Islamophobia.*
11. *Rendering of planned Bensalem Masjid.*
12. *Over 30 interfaith clergy and religious leaders from many faiths at CAIR-Philadelphia's "Interfaith Iftar Dinner" at Masjidullah during Ramadan.*
13. *CAIR-Philadelphia and Muslim community members at the Annual Philadelphia "Interfaith Peace Walk."*
14. *CAIR helped organize an interfaith "Speak Up for Unity" event in Harrisburg.*
15. *CAIR-Philadelphia Executive Committee Member Asheq Fazlullah leading a "Know Your Rights" workshop.*

“PEACE AT HOME” SYMPOSIUM

“Peace at Home” is the result of community-wide consultations and collaborations. This symposium was brought forth after a presentation by ICNA Relief’s Dana Winsey-Mohamed at the May 2016 Muslim Leadership Meeting. The presentation (“Domestic Violence, Breaking the Silence”) highlighted various types of abuse, with statistics illustrating how domestic abuse is present in all communities, ethnicities, religions, and socio-economic levels.

Sister Dana’s presentation also brought to light many challenges within the home that negatively impact the relationship between husband and wife, as well as between parent and child(ren). During meetings held in 2016, issues including communication between spouses, between parents and children, and dealing with the often-stressful nature of our daily lives, were identified as significant problems for many Muslim communities. In response, CAIR-Philadelphia, together with ICNA Relief, organized a symposium called “Peace at Home.”

This symposium brought together experts who presented ideas that can easily be put to use in your own home to bring families closer together and build stress-free, strong, healthier, happier relationships where everyone flourishes and even the teenager treasures family time.



Peace at Home

A One-Day Seminar on How to Build Healthy, Happier Families.



**NUMBER OF 2017
ACTIVITIES BY CATEGORY
MADE BY CAIR-PHILADELPHIA
STAFF, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,
AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

115	Legal Department Activities (Intakes, Hearings and Trials)
68	Gave Khutbahs
35	Media Appearances (TV, Radio, Print, and Internet)
35	Organized Interfaith Events
35	Organized Anti-Islamophobia Events
30	Engagements with Mosque Communities
26	Presented "Islam 101" Courses
15	Organized "Know Your Rights" Workshops
15	Meetings with Government Officials
10	Organized Anti-Bullying Workshops
5	Presented "Out of Cordoba" Screenings
3	Presented "American Muslim History" Workshop
1	Organized "Peace At Home" Seminars
1	Presented Seminar on "Engaging the Media"
1	Organized "Gender and Family in Islam" Workshop



2017 STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS

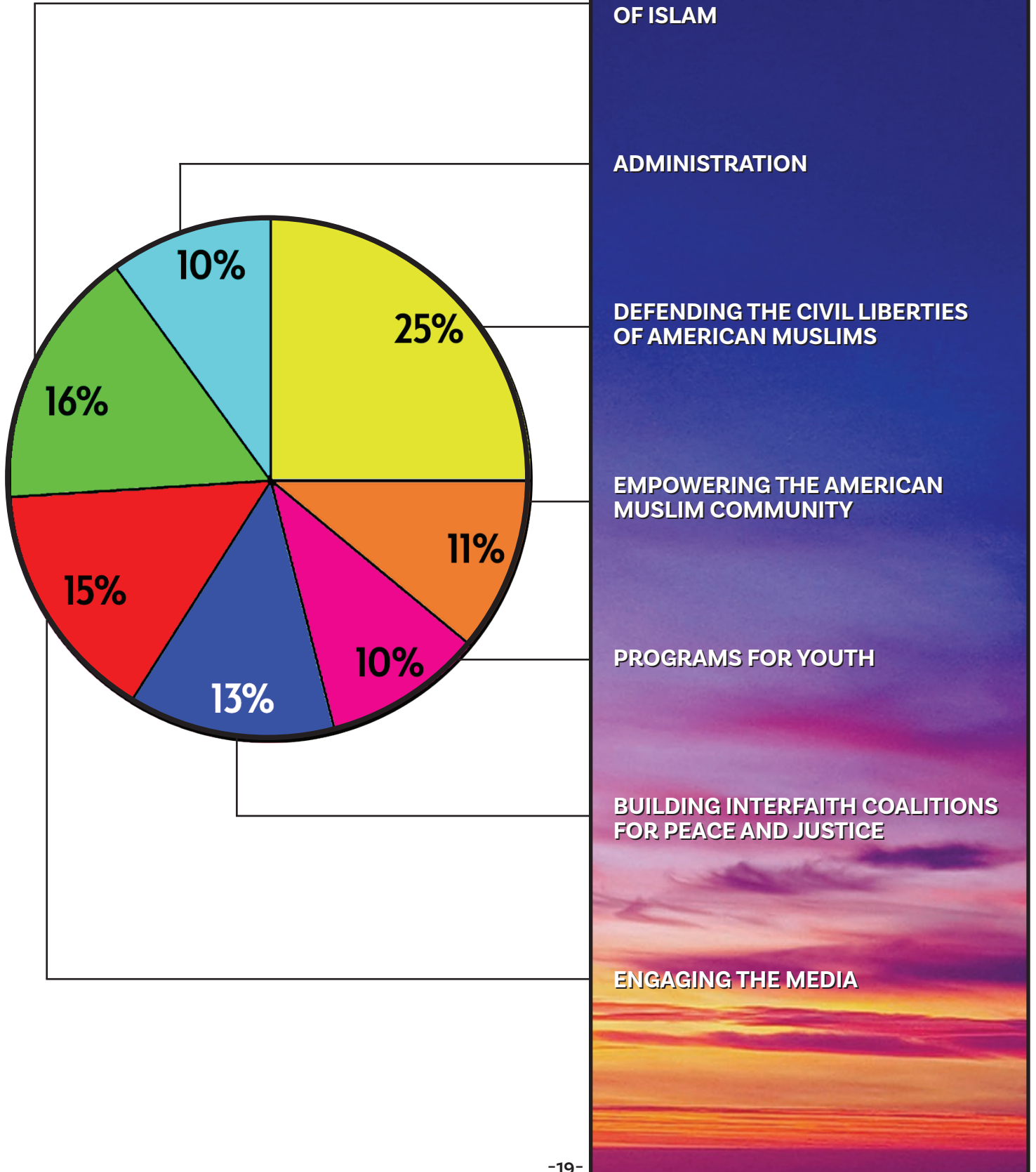
Assets	Total
Banquet	
Banquet Ticket Sales and Advertising	\$61,459.00
Public Support	
Direct Deposits	\$45,000.00
Donations	\$330,011.00
Total Revenue	\$436,470.00
Operating Disbursements	
Payroll	
Staff and Intern Salaries	\$193,318.00
Benefits	\$32,343.00
Operations (Utilities, Office Supplies, Rent)	\$40,695.00
Legal Dept. Fees	\$6,980.00
Travel and Food Reimbursement	\$14,832.00
Programs, Services and Marketing	
2017 Annual Banquet	\$61,258.00.00
Outreach and Networking	\$8,100.00
Other Programs, Services and Marketing	\$8,300.00
Professional Services	
Bank Charges	\$13,299.00
Tax Service and Legal Council	\$6,226.00
Misc. Expenses	
Misc. expenses	4,766.00
Total Expenditures	\$390,117.00
Change in Net Assets	\$98,450.00
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$82,200.00
Net Assets at Year End	\$180,650.00

2018 Projected Expenditures

Management and Operational Expenses	
Payroll	\$200,000.00
Benefits	\$33,000.00
Operations, Utilities, Office Supplies, and Rent	\$44,000.00
Legal Department Fees	\$6,000.00
Travel and Expense Reimbursement	\$15,000.00
Professional Services	
Fees	\$13,000.00
Tax services	\$6,000.00
Programs, Services and Communications	
Annual Banquet	\$63,000.00
Communications and Programs	\$17,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$397,000.00

2017 EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

(TOTAL EXPENDITURES = \$390,117)



CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

CAIR-PENNSYLVANIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Iftekhar Hussain, Chair
Safdar Khwaja, Vice Chair
Osama Al-Qasem, Treasurer
Ishfaq Ahmad, Secretary

CAIR-PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Osama Al-Qasem, President and Fundraising Co-Chair
Iftekhar Hussain, Vice President
Kareem Ali, Treasurer
Carlin Saafir, Esq., Outreach Co-Chair
Asheq Fazlullah, Programs and Workshops Chair
Salima Suswell, Government Relations Chair
Miriam Abuawadeh, Interfaith, Outreach and Youth Chair
Sally Salim, Banquet Chair

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STAFF

Jacob Bender, Executive Director
Timothy Welbeck, Esq., Civil Rights and Staff Attorney
Dr. Ahmet Selim Tekelioglu, Outreach and Education Director
Leena Jaffer, Director of Operations

(No Board member, Executive Committee member, or Advisory Board member is compensated for their volunteer time for CAIR-Pennsylvania. All Board members and Executive Committee members are donors to CAIR-Pennsylvania. Only staff members are compensated.)



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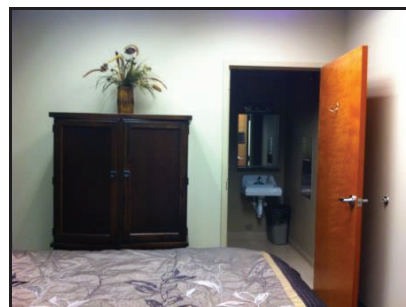
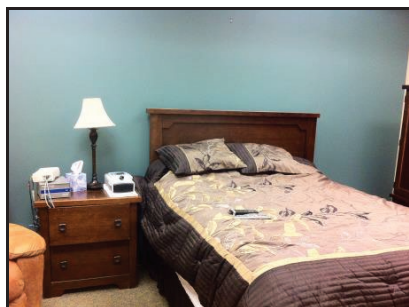
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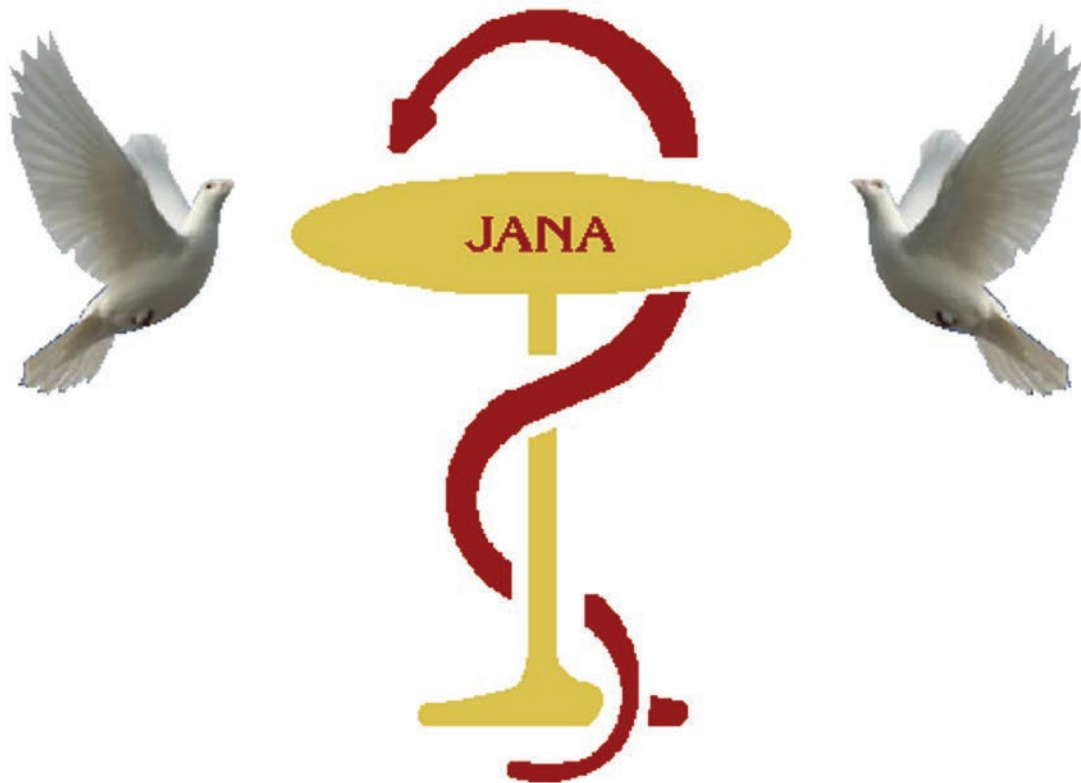


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