



**CHALDEAN COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

Annual Report 2023





**CHALDEAN COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

2023 IMPACT

MISSION

Improving the stability, health, and wellness of those we serve through advocacy, acculturation, community development, and cultural preservation.

MORE THAN

41,000

INDIVIDUALS SERVED FROM **59**
DIFFERENT COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



MORE THAN
20%
OF CLIENTS
ARE NON-CHALDEAN

EMPLOYMENT
2,068
JOB PLACEMENT
SERVICES CONDUCTED
65% EMPLOYMENT RATE

IMMIGRATION
1,782
IMMIGRATION APPLICATIONS FILED
HELPED **311** NEW AMERICANS FILE
AN N-400 TO BECOME A U.S. CITIZEN

PROJECT LIGHT
LICENSED BILINGUAL
SOCIAL WORKERS PROVIDED
1,074
INDIVIDUAL THERAPY SESSIONS

BREAKING BARRIERS
4,148
INDIVIDUALS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL AND/OR
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES SERVED

**THE MICHAEL J. GEORGE
CHALDEAN LOAN FUND**
\$400,000
IN OUTSTANDING LOANS

ATTAINABLE HOUSING
\$60 MILLION
IN ATTAINABLE HOUSING PROJECTS IN
MACOMB AND OAKLAND COUNTIES



COMMUNITY CENTER
\$20 MILLION
COMMUNITY CENTER BEING CONSTRUCTED
IN WEST BLOOMFIELD



EDUCATION
33 SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED WORTH
\$103,500

577 STUDENTS WERE ASSISTED IN SUBMITTING THE FAFSA AND
NAVIGATING THROUGH FINANCIAL AID
639 INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED IN ESL, CITIZENSHIP, GED,
AND PRESCHOOL

PROJECT BISMUTHA
MORE THAN
\$85,000
WORTH OF IN-KIND SERVICES

225 PHYSICIAN APPOINTMENTS
2,044 PRESCRIPTIONS VALUED
IN EXCESS OF **\$12,776.33**
660 LAB TESTS VALUED AT **\$27,287.43**



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Our Mission



CHALDEAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Chaldean Community Foundation is committed to improving the stability, health, and wellness of those we serve through advocacy, acculturation, community development and cultural preservation.

2023 CCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman

Sylvester Sandiha
Pinnacle Management Group

Executive Vice Chairman

Kevin Jappaya
KJ Commercial Real Estate Advisors

Vice Chairman

Kevin Denha
Vision Investment Partners

Secretary

Matt Loussia
Value Wholesale Distributors

Treasurer

Anthony Mona
Spartan Wealth Management

Executive Committee Members

Andy Gutman
Farbman Group

Haley Jonna
Jonna Properties

CCF DIRECTORS

Nora Hanna
Christensen Law

Joe Hurshe
Healthcare Executive

Frank Jarbou
Symmetry Property Management

Jason Najor
Super Fair Cellular

Pierre Nona
Triangle Development

Mike Sarafa
Vision Growth Partners

WELCOME

Dear Friends,

We've had a wonderful and busy year at the Chaldean Community Foundation, aiding our clients on their path to prosperity. Working together, we served more than **41,000** individuals from **59 different countries of origin**. We may be Chaldean in name, but we are worldly in service. And the services we offer are growing.

Project Bismutha provided approximately **\$85,000 worth of in-kind services**, with nearly 225 physician appointments, over 2,000 prescriptions, and more than \$27,000 in lab work this year through the generosity of Ascension Hospital. Many people who would not have sought healthcare benefit from the ability to see doctors at our clinic inside the CCF, and we are grateful for our partnership.

Through **Project Light**, our mental and behavioral health program, we served over **1,000 individuals** this year. Our licensed, tri-lingual social workers provided individual healing therapy sessions wherever needed, whether in person or virtually. Mental health issues have grown exponentially throughout the course of the COVID pandemic, and many are still struggling to cope.

The assistance that we offer through Breaking Barriers serves more than just individuals with disabilities; it serves their families as well. The CCF offered more than **5,500 hours of counseling, respite, socialization, and educational programming** to families enrolled in the program.

Through the Michael J. George Loan Fund, we helped new Americans with **\$400,000 in auto loans** so they can get to work and navigate around their communities. Even while many people continue to work from home, transportation is still a sorely needed asset to most people.

Attainable housing is another need we are able to help with; this year, construction began on the \$30 million Van Dyke project, which will create more than one hundred new, low-cost living units with walkable retail space nearby.

We believe in the future of our community and are willing to invest heavily in it. Through our partnerships and generous donors, we awarded more than **\$103,500 in scholarships to 33** students continuing their education this year. We also added two preschool classrooms to our programming, ensuring that our future generations are well equipped with the skills needed to begin a fruitful educational career.

Our Oakland County Campus, opening in the Fall of 2024, will be a hub for community resources and treasures, including the Chaldean Cultural Museum, TV and Radio studio, a demonstration kitchen event space, business incubator, theatre and so much more. Working together we have made incredible progress, and we look forward to the future with excitement.

May God bless you and fill your life with peace,

Sylvester Sandiha

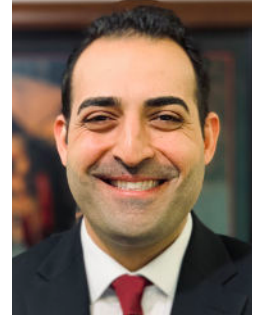
Chairman of the Board

Martin Manna

President



MARTIN MANNA



SLY SANDIHA

MISSION CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thank You To Our 2023 Supporters

The Chaldean Community Foundation launched its Mission Campaign in August 2017. The goal of \$8,000,000 was to be used for a much-needed expansion of the CCF center, The Michael J. George Chaldean Loan Fund which provides loans towards the purchase of vehicles, and a 135 mixed unit housing development to support long term housing for new Americans. The Mission Campaign has raised \$14,000,000 as of October 2023, has increased its goal to \$20,000,000, and has added the addition of a west side campus to its mission. The Michael J. George Chaldean Loan Fund has \$400,000 in outstanding auto loans.



2023 Financial Report

ASSETS

Cash	\$4,482,474
Receivables:	
Grants	\$1,053,078
Pledges	\$307,083
Other	\$141,389
Property	\$17,896,551
Long term pledges	\$99,316
Investments	\$294,666
Intangible	\$526,749
Other assets	\$622,268
Total Assets.....	\$25,423,574

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$1,624,643
Other current liabilities	\$1,025,257
Long Term Debt	\$4,060,882
Total Liabilities.....	\$6,710,782
Total Net Assets.....	\$18,712,792
Total Liabilities & Net Assets.....	\$25,423,574

**Unaudited. The Chaldean Community Foundation Financials are audited annually by UHY LLP. 2023 Audited financial statements will be available for review in September 2024.*

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT



New Oakland County Campus

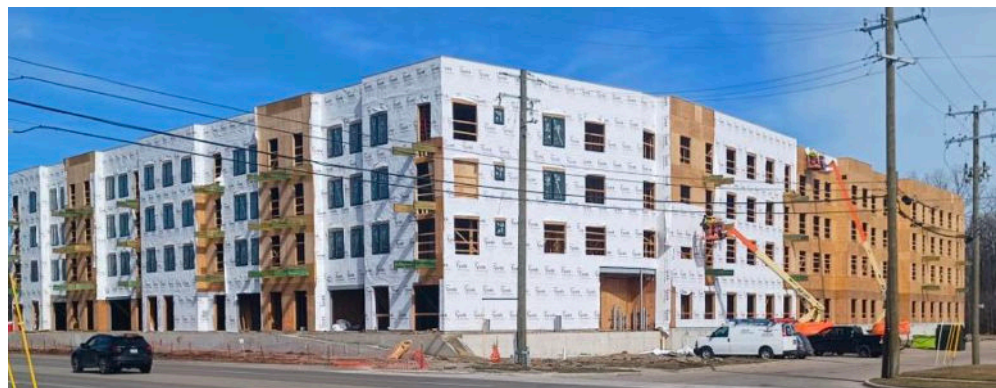
The CCF's Oakland County Campus, which will be located at Walnut Lake Road and Inkster in West Bloomfield, is coming to fruition. Housing the Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce (CACC) as well as the Chaldean Cultural Center, this new campus will provide the community on the west side of Livernois all the services the

CCF and CACC currently provide, plus more. The new center will support the Ark Angel Funds I and II and EDGE, initiatives that help both fledgling and established companies. It will also house a new business incubator, demonstration kitchen, classrooms, gymnasium, 90 seat theater/auditorium for events, and a Chaldean

News studio for CNTV and a radio studio for the Chaldean Voice and Chaldean News. Work on the project has begun and the center is expected to open in 2024. "We want to positively impact the community on the west side in the same way we have on the east side," said CCF and CACC president Martin Manna.

Van Dyke Attainable Housing Development

The Chaldean Community Foundation is building a 135-unit mixed income and mixed-use development at 43700 Van Dyke Road in Sterling Heights. Located in an Opportunity Zone, the new construction 4-story building will eliminate blighted commercial property along Van Dyke Road and replace it with a development that features 135 affordable apartments and 9,000 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor that will employ several special needs adults. The total square footage of the building is planned to be 133,000 square feet, with 153 surface parking spaces located in a central courtyard. The vision is to develop the front 3 acres and establish a wetland area with access



The mixed-use development will include attainable housing and retail space.

and amenities on the remaining 7 acres adjacent to the Clinton River. Total development costs are anticipated to exceed \$30 million with an 18-month construction period that began in June 2023. The project will provide much-needed long term housing for

several hundred new Americans and compliment the City's efforts to revitalize a distressed area. The City of Sterling Heights has initiated a vast streetscape improvement program and created a corridor improvement authority to support the project.

ADVOCACY

Bridging an Understanding Between Cultures

Most immigrants are employed, and about half of all working immigrants say they have experienced discrimination in the workplace, such as being given less pay or fewer opportunities for advancement than people born in the U.S., not being paid for all their hours worked, or being threatened or harassed. About a third (34%) of immigrants say they have been criticized or insulted for speaking a language other than English since moving to the U.S., and a similar share (33%) have been told they should “go back to where you came from.”

Immigrants experience unique stressors related to the conditions that led them to flee their

home countries, the journey to the United States, and the stress of starting new lives away from their family and culture. Many are marginalized from mainstream American society, which can lead to prejudice and discrimination.

At the Chaldean Community Foundation, we thrive on challenging inequality for those we serve through civic engagement, disability inclusion, racial and ethnic justice, and future career pathways. CCF also works towards racial equity for all those we serve.

Eliminating racial disparities and improving outcomes for all by working to reduce systemic economic inequalities is a prior-

ity. CCF staff sees firsthand how racial/ethnic profiling can affect individuals and is committed to the development of strong community programs and relationships to help recognize and overcome this practice.

At CCF, we engage in conversations with those that create policy and laws, making sure even the smallest voices are heard, holding leaders accountable for the greater common good of all. In 2023 the Chaldean Community Foundation assisted over 2,000 individuals with advocacy services ranging from eviction to employee stereotyping and religious discrimination.



Celebrating the Proclamation of World Refugee Day 2023.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES



Early Childhood

"Children have systematically unequal chances of getting the experiences they need to grow up healthy due to unsurmountable forces that lie outside a family's control, like systemic economic inequalities, racial segregation, and soaring cost burdens for raising a family. Unfortunately, not all children in the U.S. are getting the early experiences they need to grow up healthy and to reach their full potential." (Acevedo-Garcia et al., 2020). In response to these inequities, The Chaldean Community Foundation began early childhood education classes for children ages 3 – 5 years with their parents, to help them gain access to nurturing, developmentally rich early care, and learning experiences they need to thrive. The focus is on emergent literacy skills and ensuring they get the crucial and beneficial experiences needed to thrive in an educational setting.

English as a Second Language

Slightly less than half (47%) of immigrant adults report having limited English proficiency, meaning they speak English less than very well. Regardless of ability to speak English, a large majority (83%) of immigrants say they speak a language other than English at home.

Part of CCF's Acculturation program, English as a Second Language classes are offered in 4 levels: basic, beginning, intermediate and advanced. Part of American acculturation is learning the language, which also broadens job aspects and helps navigating everyday life in the United States. CCF provided over 700 hours of language acquisition classes to 150 adult ESL students.

Citizenship and Naturalization

CCF's Citizenship and Naturalization program is another pathway to prosperity. CCF staff consists of one immigration attorney and four partially accredited Department of Justice representatives. Once a Legal Permanent Resident of the United States for four years and nine months, one is able to apply to become a United States Citizen. The naturalization examination consists of 5 components: Reading English, Writing English, English Comprehension, 100 U.S. civics questions and a 20-page application. Those needing assistance in mastering the 5 components of the test attend CCF's naturalization classes. CCF filed 1,782 immigration applications this year, providing citizenship instruction to over 200 students, helping them achieve their goal of becoming a U.S. citizen.

GED Program

As part of acculturation, CCF has offered a multitude of classes taking each client in need along the correct path to their success. Having the equivalency of a high school diploma can lead to further education and higher paying job opportunities for clients, changing their lives and leading families to financial stability.



CCF offers four levels of study for adult ESL students.



The CCF awarded a total of \$103,000 to 33 scholarship recipients in 2023.

2023 Scholarships

The Chaldean Community Foundation's Scholarship Program continues to grow thanks to the generosity of the Yvonne E. Nona Memorial Fund, Drs. Nathima Atchoo and the late Peter Atchoo Family Foundation, the Abdul Karim and Jameela Sesi Scholarship Fund, the w3r Consulting S.T.E.M Scholarship, the DA Advisory Group Scholarship Fund, Alline Salon Group Scholarship, and the Derek Dickow Children's Health Fund Scholarship. This year, CCF awarded 33 recipients a total of \$103,000 in scholarship funds.

Alline Salon Group Scholarship

The Alline Salon Group provides financial assistance to High School Graduates pursuing a career in Cosmetology. This exciting program will assist eligible students applying to, or enrolled in, a Michigan barbering or cosmetology school to achieve their professional goals. This year's Alline Salon Group Scholarship was awarded to Matelda Khami.

Drs. Nathima and Peter Atchoo Family Foundation Scholarship Fund

Six \$2,000 scholarships were offered to Chaldean students pursuing higher education, including community col-

lege, university, or graduate program in preparation for a career in the field of their choice. In 2023, the Drs. Nathima Atchoo and the late Peter Atchoo Family Foundation scholarships were awarded to Bianca Elias, Grace Dakki, Holly Semma, Jasmine Kesto, Jennifer Zora, and Sama Joseph.

DA Advisory Group Scholarship Fund

Provides financial assistance to Chaldean undergraduate students pursuing a degree in the field of accounting. This exciting program will assist students who are residents and attending specific Michigan colleges and universities, to achieve their academic and professional goals. This year's DA Advisory Group Scholarship Fund award was awarded to Rita Matie and Sarah Oraha.

Derek J. Dickow Children's Health Fund Scholarship

Offers five \$5,000 scholarships for candidates pursuing degrees focused in the fields of their choice at Oakland University, with a GPA requirement of 3.0 or greater. This year's Derek J. Dickow Children's Health Fund Scholarship award goes to Riena Jolagh, Terazza Kizy, Aidan Konja, Adele Salan, and Isabella Zakaria.

Yvonne E. Nona Memorial Scholarship Fund

Thirteen \$2,500 scholarships for women pursuing higher education at a Michigan community college, trade school, university, or undergraduate program were awarded this year. This year, the Yvonne E. Nona Memorial Fund awarded scholarships to Angelena Youhana, Danela Benyamen, Lina Faraj, Melak Salim, Melanie Tomas, Merna Baqa, Nadin Razoki, Natalie Dakki, Olivia Denha, Rogina Ibrahim, Sandra Kotani, Shahad Zaytouna, and Wella Yatooma.

Abdul Karim and Jameela Sesi Memorial Scholarship Fund

Offers four \$2,500 scholarships for Chaldean students pursuing higher education including trade school, community college, and undergraduate studies. The Abdul Karim and Jameela Sesi scholarship fund was awarded this year to Alexander Thweni, Kelsie Shammami, Marten Potros, and Samantha Jarbou.

w3r Consulting STEM Scholarship

Two \$5,000 scholarships were awarded to Chaldean undergraduate students at a Michigan college or university enrolled in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM). This year, w3r Consulting awarded scholarships to Andreh Naisan, and Julia Kassab.

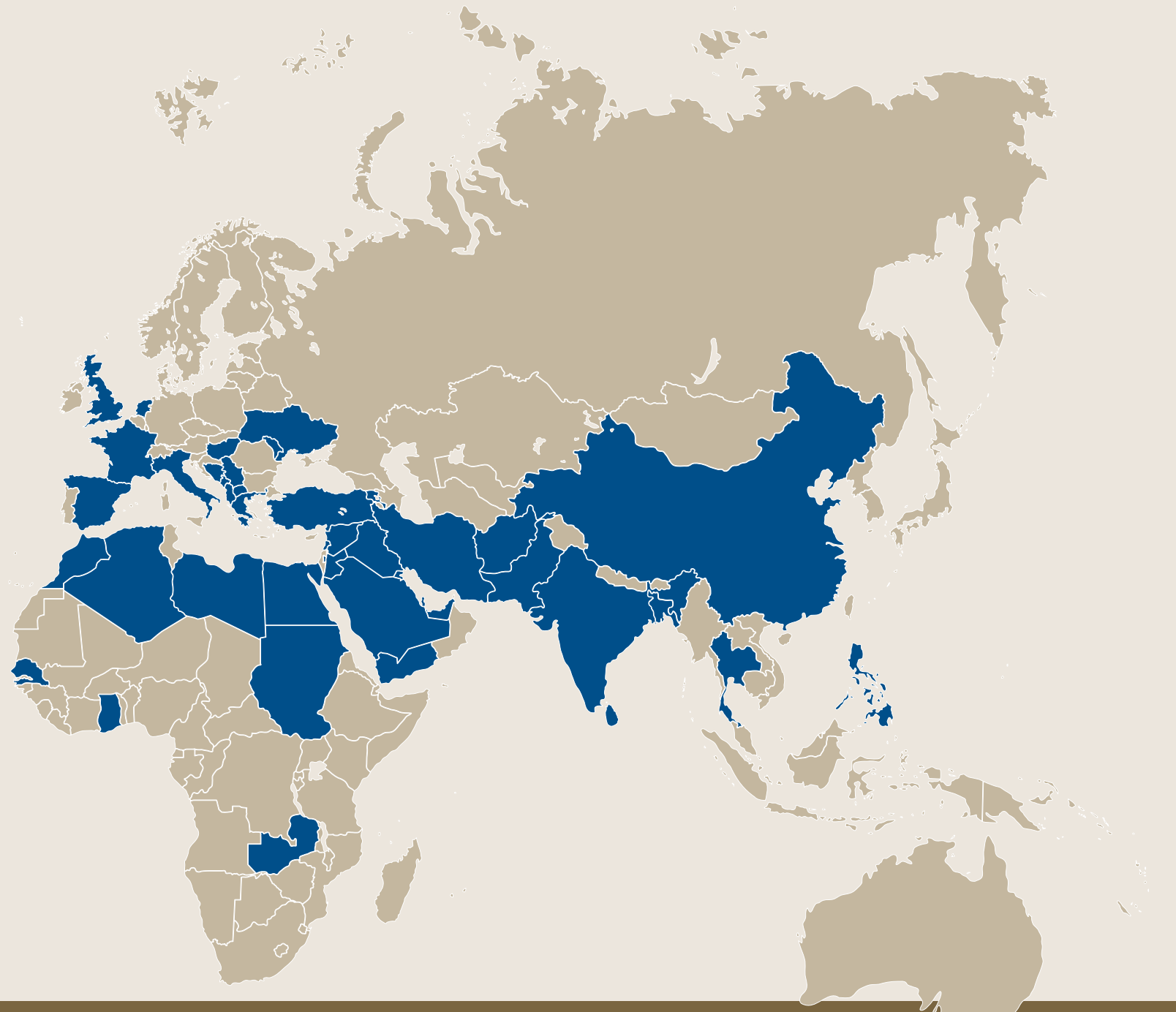
ACCULTURATION

The Chaldean Community Foundation is known for its inclusivity, building racial equity and equality for all those we serve. This year, CCF served more than 41,000 clients representing 59 countries.



Countries Served by the CCF in 2023

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|----------|---|----------------------------------|---|-----------|
|  | Afghanistan |  | Bosnia |  | Democratic Republic of the Congo |  | Greece |
|  | Albania |  | Brazil |  | Eritrea |  | Guatemala |
|  | Algeria |  | Canada |  | Egypt |  | India |
|  | Angola |  | China |  | Eritrea |  | Iran |
|  | Armenia |  | Columbia |  | Eritrea |  | Iraq |
|  | Austria |  | Comoros |  | Germany |  | Israel |
|  | Bangladesh |  | Cuba |  | Ghana |  | Italy |



- | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|---|-------------|---|--------------|---|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|  | Jamaica |  | Macedonia |  | Philippines |  | Serbia |  | United States of America (USA) |
|  | Jordan |  | Mexico |  | Poland |  | Sri Lanka |  | Venezuela |
|  | Kazakhstan |  | Montenegro |  | Qatar |  | Syria |  | Vietnam |
|  | Kosovo |  | Morocco |  | Romania |  | Turkey |  | Ukraine |
|  | Kuwait |  | Netherlands |  | Russia |  | United Arab Emirates |  | Yemen |
|  | Lebanon |  | Pakistan |  | Saudi Arabia |  | United Kingdom |  | Zambia |
|  | Libya |  | Palestine |  | Senegal | | | | |

ACCULTURATION



Career Services

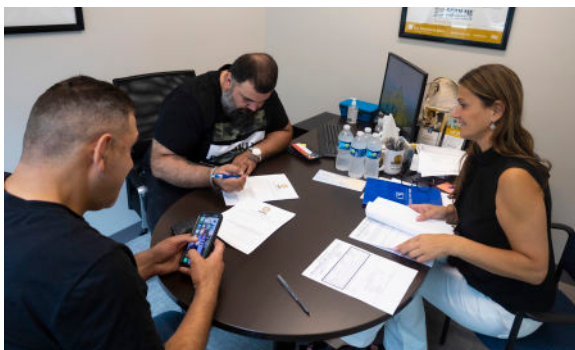
A majority of working immigrants overall (68%) say they have the appropriate level of education and skills for their job, while about a quarter (27%) say they are overqualified, having more education and skills than the job requires. In an indication that some immigrants are unable to obtain the same types of roles they were educated and trained for in the countries they came from, the share who feel overqualified for their current job rises to 31% among immigrants with college degrees. It is even higher among college-educated Black (53%) and Hispanic (46%) immigrants.

To even the playing field and to address the ever-

changing workforce, CCF provided job training opportunities to our otherwise job-ready, but currently underemployed new American clients with the language and technical skills needed to increase their accessibility to professional-track careers. The Chaldean Community Foundation's Career Services department assists immigrants in finding the right jobs for them. CCF career services include resume writing, job search, job placement, FAFSA and interview coaching. Quarterly job fairs are held at the Chaldean Community Foundation to help create stability for those we serve. 36 companies in a wide variety of industries participated in job fairs this year with more than 2,068 job placement services conducted with a 65% employment rate.

Michael J George Chaldean Loan Fund

The Michael J. George Chaldean Loan Fund was created to address the transportation barrier many individuals encounter. The Michael J. George Chaldean Loan Fund provides low-interest loans to qualified individuals to purchase a vehicle, giving them transportation to and from work, and helping them build up their credit score.



Voter Registration Drive

CCF, in partnership with the city of Sterling Heights Clerks Office and APIA Vote provided voting 101 to New Americans. The event included a mock precinct set-up with voting booth and tabulator. Attendees had an opportunity to learn how to complete a sample ballot and submit it through the tabulator.

Community Health Fair

CCF's community wellness initiative focuses on prevention of chronic diseases, healthy living, nutrition, and the social determinants of health. 2023 was the year of the community health fair in partnership with the Chaldean American Association for Health Professionals. The event included access to free resources from medical professionals representing primary care, dentistry, cardiology, pharmacy and many more specialties. Attendees received health screenings such as EKG, cholesterol, blood pressure, glucose, and free home colon cancer screening kits while interactive demonstrations taught CPR, EpiPen administration, and Narcan training. Ascension-St. John Hospital brought their mobile mammography clinic to the Chal-

dean Community Foundation, providing free breast cancer screening to uninsured women.

In the area of Health Equity, diverse ethnic minority communities are underrepresented in dementia research, which limits the availability of culturally appropriate assessment tools and psychosocial intervention practices. CCF partnered with the Michigan Public Health Institute to hold listening sessions with community members. The purpose of the listening sessions was for community members to share their experiences related to dementia care and assisting older adults. The feedback is being used to develop culturally responsive dementia interventions for Chaldean and Arab communities.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mental Health Services Project Light

Chaldean Community Foundation's Project Light was developed to break the stigma on mental health within the Middle Eastern community. With local educational campaigns explaining the benefits of therapy assistance and the underlying effects of what many immigrants and refugees have been through, Project Light brings hope and relief to many. With almost 1,100 therapy sessions conducted in 2023, Project Light has become just that, a beacon of light for those that have been struggling for so long.



Breaking Barriers

Breaking Barriers is a program geared towards individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. CCF's Life Skills Center focuses on the independent abilities of each of these individuals, teaching them the life skills needed to navigate life in the United States. With Programs for the blind, hearing impaired, intellectually disabled, developmentally disabled, and seniors with dementia, Breaking Barriers provides opportunities to both learn and socialize with individuals and families living with similar circumstances, offering support and a sense of community.

Learn with a Leader

Strengthening & growing leaderships skills for emerging talent by connecting them with proven leaders in our communities, the Learn with a Leader program is a collaborative effort by Wireless Vision and the Chaldean Community Foundation. Learn with a Leader's 6-month program is designed to impact the lives of aspiring leaders through bi-weekly development sessions and creating networking opportunities within the community.



CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Celebrating Culture and Diversity

As part of the Chaldean Community Foundation's mission, the preservation of the Chaldean culture is of vital importance, helping to maintain the richness and diversity of our culture. Cultural preservation ensures that the identity and heritage of our community are safeguarded, allowing future generations to understand their roots, traditions, and values, fostering a sense of belonging and continuity.

Cultural preservation celebrates the diversity of human expression, promoting tolerance and understanding among different groups. By preserving various cultural practices, languages, and beliefs, societies can appreciate the richness of human experiences and perspectives.

Cultural preservation fosters social cohesion by providing a sense of continuity, stability, and belonging within communities. It can strengthen social bonds, promote intergenerational relationships, and contribute to overall well-being and resilience. It serves as a source of inspiration for artists, writers, musicians, and creators across various fields.

By preserving cultural artifacts, stories, and traditions, societies can nurture creativity and innovation, enriching the cultural landscape for future genera-



Jeanette Junior High School in Sterling Heights visits CCF for Cultural Awareness Training.

tions. It is also important to merge our present history with our past, ensuring our homeland is a safe haven for future generations.



From left: Ali Tartar visit. Martin Manna meets with Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein, King of Jordan.



Protecting the Homeland

Working to make the Niniveh Plains region a safe place for Christians, the Chaldean Community Foundation has been meeting with members of congress, Iraqi Leadership as well as Leaders of other Middle eastern countries to ensure Iraqi Christians will always have a place to call home.



AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Habitat for Humanity Award

The Chaldean Community Foundation was selected to receive the Macomb County Habitat for Humanity Shining Light award at their annual gala as a result of the excellent work done by Sharon Hannawa and Susan Smith who assisted a family of six from Congo.



Excellence in Supervision Award

Jacqueline Raxter, CCF's Behavioral Health Program Manager, received the Excellence in Supervision Award from Oakland University, given to the field instructor who illustrates dedication and commitment to the success of social work students and their professional growth.



Macomb County Hall of Fame

CCF's Sue Kattula was inducted into the Macomb County Hall of Fame. The Macomb County Hall of Fame honors individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to improving the economic, family, and community life of Macomb County.

Community Engagement

The CCF prides itself in being involved and engaged in the community it serves. CCF staff sat on the following committees this year:

- Breakfast of Nations
- Michigan Non-Profit Association
- Faith in Action
- Macomb Student Diversity Summit
- United Healthcare Community Advisory Committee
- McLaren Macomb Diversity Council
- Detroit Refugee Resettlement Collaborative
- Detroit New Americans Campaign
- West Bloomfield Diversity Task Force
- Engaging New Voters Cohort
- Macomb Health Equity Council



Servant Leadership Award

CCF honored Karam Bahnam with the 2023 Servant Leadership Award during the 5th annual gala that took place on September 22, 2023. A self-described “simple guy,” Karam Bahnam is anything but. He wears many hats, but first and foremost, he considers himself a disciple. While his business focus has been USA to GO, the convenience store “party store” archetype that became an industry disruptor, his inner focus has always been centered on faith. In 2007, Karam made the decision to go back to school and pursue a degree. It became a 15-year journey to get his master’s in theology and an undergraduate degree in philosophy from Sacred Heart Seminary. College gave him the foundational skills to serve and taught him how to be both systematic and analytic. But he credits his success to more than that. It’s one thing really,” he explained, “being open to the Holy Spirit.”

Like the Eastern Catholic Evangelization Center (ECRC) he is involved with, Karam’s mission is to help himself and others have a personal and

intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. “Not only priests and nuns have a calling,” he said, “God has a plan for each one of us.”

Karam’s life work had been heavily influenced by St’ John Paul II, who was the Pope from 1978 until his death in 2005, after which he was canonized a saint. St. John recognized that the future of the Church was in the hands of the youth, and for that reason, he started World Youth Day (WYD) in 1985. Nicknamed “The Catholic Woodstock,” WYD brings together young adults from all over the world and many different cultures to celebrate a day of unity in their faith. 2023’s WYD, the 37th, was held in Lisbon, Portugal, and approximately 1.5 million Catholic Youth were in attendance.

This means a lot to Karam, but more important is what it means to the youth. Over 1.5 million young people from 200 different countries gathering in Christ’s name shows them they are not alone in their journey. “Faith is alive,” said Karam. “The Church is alive, and it’s powerful.”

EVENTS

5th Annual Awards Gala

The Chaldean Community Foundation's 5th Annual Awards Gala, attended by more than 800 people, took place on Friday September 22, 2023, at 6pm at the Palazzo Grande honoring Karam Bahnam with the Servant Leadership Award.



Your event support helps raise awareness for the Chaldean Community Foundation, enhances client care, and supports programming throughout the year.



Golf Outing

CCF's annual golf outing took place at Shenandoah Country Club with 200 golfers in attendance.

SERVICES: Core programs of the Chaldean Community Foundation include:

NEW AMERICAN SUSTAINABILITY ACCULTURATION & TRAINING

Helps New Americans acculturate by providing access to resources and advocacy services.

- **CAREER SERVICES**—provides resume building, job search, training, placement, and FAFSA completion.
- **IMMIGRATION**—helps individuals apply for lawful permanent resident status and become naturalized citizens.
- **U.S. NATURALIZATION COURSES**—instruction and preparation for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) naturalization interview.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Licensed bilingual therapists provide mental health services including individual, group, and family therapy based on individual needs to Michigan residents ages 13 years and up, regardless of insurance status.

One of the core initiatives of this program is **Breaking Barriers**, which provides services and advocacy to those with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities, older adults, and respite to caregivers.

- **B.E.A.M. (BRILLE, ESL, ACCULTURATION, MOBILITY) PROJECT**—helps better equip those with visual impairments to live independent lives.
- **H.E.A.L. (HARD OF HEARING, ESL, AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE, LIFE SKILLS) PROJECT**—helps better equip those with hearing impairments to live independent lives.
- **S.O.A.R. (SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS & RESOURCES) PROJECT**—Programs that aim to help older adults increase their knowledge and their awareness of issues related to health and the aging process.

CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING

Provides education and information to community, health, and government organizations on and about the Chaldean community.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)**—provides individuals English instruction at basic, beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels.
- **EARLY CHILDHOOD**—prepares children for kindergarten through a variety of emergent literacy, early learning and developmental opportunities.
- **GED**—small group instruction for individuals working towards their GED.
- **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**—administrative job training, workplace professional skills and communication skills with the opportunity to job shadow for work experience.

THE LIFE SKILLS CENTER

Thomas Denha Main Street provides space for individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities and their caregivers to have learning opportunities in real life settings to support the advancement of daily living skills, self-determination/interpersonal skill building and employment skill development.

- **THE WIRELESS VISION GYMNASIUM**—allows for fitness programs, recreation for individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities, and offers ample space for community events.
- **THE KONJA FAMILY ART STUDIO**—offers space for music, dance and art appreciation and expression.
- **WILD BILL'S CANTINA**—supports learning related to developing retail skills, marketing and merchandising.
- **FIRST MERCHANTS BANK**—offers space for financial management and knowledge.
- **SUPERCUTS BARBER SHOP**—allows for workplace job shadowing, and programming focused on personal care. Stylists provide complimentary salon services for autistic children and individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities.

AFFILIATES

The Chaldean Community Foundation also administers the following programs, which are funded entirely through community donations.

- **MICHAEL J. GEORGE CHALDEAN LOAN FUND**—provides low interest loans to help individuals in need to purchase a vehicle or start a small business.
- **PROJECT BISMUTHA "THE ACT OF HEALING"**—provides free or reduced cost healthcare to Iraqi Christian and Chaldean individuals without medical insurance through the Chaldean American Association for Health Professionals.
- **ACADEMIC AND ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS**—provides financial assistance for Chaldean students to help meet the escalating cost of education.
 - *w3r Consulting provides scholarships to Chaldean undergraduate students in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).*
 - *The Drs. Nathima and Peter Atchoo Family Foundation scholarship provides financial assistance to Chaldean students pursuing higher education.*
 - *The Yvonne E. Nona Memorial scholarship provides financial assistance to women pursuing higher education.*
 - *The Abdul Karim and Jameela Sesi Memorial Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to anyone pursuing education beyond high school in preparation for a career in the field of their choice.*
 - *The Karim & Bernadette Sarafa General Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance to Chaldean undergraduate students pursuing education beyond high school.*
- **GIVING HEARTS**—philanthropic Chaldean women's collaboration in memory of the late Vivian Eshshaki Shouneyia. Helps to alleviate the financial duress related to medical care expenses.
- **JOHN LOUSSIA CANCER FUND**—in memory of the late John Loussia. Provides financial assistance to those impacted by the high cost of medical expenses.
- **WAAD MURAD ADVOCACY FUND**—in memory of the late Waad Murad. Offers a reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the assailant(s) of violent crimes perpetuated against Chaldean businesspeople.



**CHALDEAN COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

3601 15 Mile Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48310

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Join us in making an impact!

Making a gift to the Chaldean Community Foundation can provide essential services to individuals in need, assist in advocacy efforts to support immigrant rights, foster a sense of belonging and integration to those we serve, provide scholarships and educational opportunities for our youth, and ensure individuals in need have access to essential resources during challenging times. Overall, making a gift to the Chaldean Community Foundation can make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families striving to build better futures in their new communities.

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