We are pleased to share with you the first report of the Center for Arab American Philanthropy (CAAP), a project of ACCESS (the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services). Since our inception in 2005, we have progressed from a pilot project studying Arab American philanthropy to the only national philanthropic institution in the Arab American community following a community foundation model, managing individual philanthropy and making grants to strengthen Arab American and other nonprofit organizations.

2009 and 2010 were pivotal years for CAAP. In June 2009, CAAP awarded $73,900 in its first round of grantmaking to 16 Arab American organizations across the country, increasing their capacity to provide much needed services in their communities. Also in 2009, CAAP granted another $101,900 to Arab American organizations through 30 Donor-Advised Funds. In 2010, CAAP awarded $53,000 to 11 Arab American organizations through our second round of general grantmaking, and additionally, granted $86,915 to nonprofit organizations both within and beyond the Arab American community through individuals' Donor-Advised Funds. In addition to our successful grantmaking, CAAP built its institutional capacity during the past two years, which included creating a mission, vision, values, and code of ethics, launching our website www.centeraap.org, and developing a three year strategic plan. Further, we institutionalized and refined practices and procedures for effective grantmaking and managing Donor-Advised Funds.

By establishing a fund through CAAP, individuals participate in a national movement to increase the visibility of Arab American philanthropy while fulfilling their philanthropic goals within and beyond the Arab American community. By giving through CAAP, donors are empowering the community today and building a legacy of Arab American philanthropy for the future.

Sincerely,

Maha Freij
Deputy Executive Director & CFO, ACCESS

Hussien Y. Shousher
Advisory Board Chair, CAAP
Grant Helps California Group Treat Kids Traumatized by War and Migration

At Access California Services in Anaheim, CAAP awarded $4,500 in 2010 to support a non-therapeutic play-based program to help children ages 4-12 cope with the challenges of migration.

“The grant helps facilitate healing in children who have been traumatized by experiences of war and/or migration and are experiencing refugee trauma, acculturation and migration stress, and relationship issues,” Executive Director Nahla Kayali said.

In 1998, Kayali founded ACCESS California Services with little more than a folding table and chair for her office – but with diligence and determination, the organization grew. Access California Services now assists more than 5,000 clients each year – 51 percent are Arab Americans. The organization continues to launch major programs to meet the needs of the community. For example, recently a mental health clinic was established to provide one-on-one counseling for individuals and families plus prevention-based educational seminars.

CAAP is proud to empower organizations across the country, like ACCESS California Services, to strengthen and enrich their communities. For more information on ACCESS California Services, visit their website www.accesscal.org.

CAAP Helps Music Program Go Community-Wide

Arabic music is spreading throughout Philadelphia thanks to Arab American philanthropy. The $5,000 grant CAAP awarded to Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture in 2010 gave the boost the nonprofit group needed for expansion. Al-Bustan’s music program provides in-depth instruction in Arabic percussion and melody and develops Arabic music schools and community-based musical ensembles! The well-trained students including vocalists, percussionists, violinists, oud players and more earn prestigious performance opportunities including shows with master oud player Marcel Khalife.

“The grant money helped us expand Arabic music education in areas such as colleges, and it introduces music to new ears,” said Hazami Sayed, President of Al-Bustan. “The schools create a sense of community.” Currently one of the community ensembles hosts 20 musicians ranging from ages 12 to 60 years. “We have musicians of varying ages and ethnic backgrounds, but all love Arabic music and the music is becoming more familiar now with people of all backgrounds.” For more information on Al-Bustan, visit their website albustanseeds.org.
Philanthropists Say That Giving is Their American Duty

“To be a true Arab American, you must give to the community,” is the philosophy of husband-and-wife philanthropist team Ghassan and Manal Saab.

The Saabs, who contribute often through their Donor-Advised Fund at the Center for Arab American Philanthropy, and serve on its Professional Advisory Board, think strategically about their donations to ensure they’re satisfied with how their funding is used.

“The reason we work with CAAP is because it educates its constituents about planned giving,” Manal Saab said. “Giving is part of the fabric of America. Arab Americans have succeeded so much from the rich soil of this country, so in return we must do more beyond supporting our own family. To be true Arab Americans we need to give in an organized way.”

Strategic philanthropy through CAAP helps ensure donors that their contributions are used in areas that are most important to them. For the Saabs, those topics are: health care, academia, and arts and culture.

“To protect yourself from over-committing in your donations, choose an area that you are either an expert on or most passionate about,” Manal Saab suggested to those who are willing to join the world of philanthropy. “For us, life would not be complete without song, without culture. For us, we realize one cannot have a good life without good health. We also know that health can be improved with academia – that is why we give to programs in those areas.”

Mrs. Saab’s first job was at a public hospital and there she also got involved in United Way which is how she “got a taste” of public service.

“Giving is addicting,” she said. “Sure we all know that it feels good to ‘take’ but...there is no greater satisfaction one feels once he or she gives,” she said.

2009 & 2010 Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)

Abdel-Karim Sleiman Issa Scholarship Fund
Anthony and Carol Michael Fund
Asfour Scholarship Fund
Ayman Haidar Fund
Benesch Scholarship Fund
Elagha Fund
Faysal and Abeer Mohamed Fund
Flo-Tech Mechanical Systems, Inc. Fund
George Y. Zureikat Fund
Ghaflar and Margaret Kazkaz Fund
Ghassan and Manal Saab Fund
GM Sadat, Concordia Group, LTD Fund
Hasan Museitif Fund
HY Quality International, LLC Fund
Ibrahim Shihadeh Scholarship Fund
Jean Leon Fund
Kamal and Yasmine Shouhayib Fund
Khalil and Ann Saab Fund
KMA Consulting Engineers, Inc. Scholarship Fund
Lubna Batish Jones Fund
Memory of Assaad Matta Fund
Dr. Melhem and Svala Salman Fund
Nationwide Furniture Distributor’s Inc. Fund
PB Americas, Inc. Fund
Richard A. Abdoo Fund
Said Farah Fund
Salah Issa Scholarship Fund
SAM Scholarship Fund
Samir Nakib Fund
Shajih and Ghada Muhamma Fund
The Nuwayhid Family Charitable Fund
Tony Zakhem Fund

♦ DAFs listed were formed between 10/1/08 and 9/30/10.
Our Deepest Gratitude to CAAP’s 2009 & 2010 Major Supporters*

Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Abdoo  
C.S. Mott Foundation  
Ford Foundation  
Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors  
Mr. Hussien Y. Shousher and Dr. Randa Mansour-Shousher  
Mr. and Mrs. Ghassan and Manal Saab  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

*Donors of $10,000 or more

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Financials  
Fiscal Years 2009 & 2010

Revenue:  
Grants—Foundations $375,755  
Contributions—Individuals $210,010  
Total Revenue $585,765

Expenses:  
Salaries and Benefits $172,604  
Grants $315,715  
Other Expenses $97,446  
Total Expenses $585,765

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Fiscal Years 2009 & 2010 Grantmaking Statistics by State

2009 & 2010 Total Grantmaking ($315,715)

2009 & 2010 General Grantmaking ($126,900)

2009 & 2010 Distribution of DAFs ($188,815)

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