

ARAB COMMUNITY CENTRE OF TORONTO



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2017-2018

ANNUAL REPORT



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ACCT Message

From **Board President & Executive Director**

The 2017-2018 fiscal year has been a time of great change at the Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT). We are providing more services than ever, expanding and adapting our programs to meet the changing needs of the communities we work with. Our staff, students and volunteers continue to grow, innovate and expand our partnerships and engagements, bringing fresh perspectives to keep pace with the ever-changing field of (re)settlement.

Working within a social justice framework, we are dedicated to inclusion and committed to the lives of the people we work with. In the spirit of sharing best practices, expanding resources and building capacity, this year we collaborated with many individuals and organizations on exciting new projects that emphasize the work we do and the diverse voices of newcomer communities we serve. We utilized new approaches to both ongoing and emerging issues and prioritized (or focused on) more meaningful and long lasting impact. The ACCT is beginning a new chapter with our new Scarborough office becoming a buzzing activity hub, our youth programs are undergoing exciting transformations, to the vibrance of Walima, a program with socio-economic impact tailor-made to fit the needs and ambitions of limited income, newcomer women. This report showcases the new and innovative efforts, energies and achievements we are all so proud of.

Sadly, this year we were also shook by a heartbreaking tragedy. In March, we grieved the sudden loss of one of our valued staff members, Asim Osman, one of our Youth Counsellors. An extraordinary genuine, kind-hearted, and hard-working young man, Asim had been part of the ACCT family for the past five years. He always went above and beyond what was expected of him, and we continue to build and do our work in loving memory of his giving spirit.

This year was our 46th year of serving newcomers across the Greater Toronto Area. We would like to sincerely thank all our partners and sponsors for their kind, generous and continued support. We could not do what we do without them We also extend a heartfelt thank you to our many volunteers: we rely on you to support our work and for this you are part of the ACCT family. Finally, thank you so much to our dedicated staff, the leadership of our wonderful Board of Directors, and our funders.

Rania Younes President Jan 2018-Present

Abdallah Snobar President April 2017-Dec 2017

A. Snobar

Huda Bukhari Executive Director

Board of Directors

April 2017-April 2018



Rania Younes President Jan 2018-Present



Abdallah Snobar President April 2017-Dec 2017

Rania Younes holds inspiring and motivating ability which crafted 20 years of her progressive market research and marketing experience. Under her belt she has 7 years of experience on social justice and economic opportunity while working with various NGOs and her role as Programs Drector at the Canadian-Arab Institute.

Rania is the co-founder of the grassroots initiative WelcomeHomeTO that works closely with local community groups to bring attention to their settlement challenges. She also co-founded a professional networking organization with a mission to empower newcomers through professional development: programs. She is a mother of three and is equally as involved in their education as much as she is committed to her career.

Abdullah Snobar is the Executive Director of the DMZ, a leading tech accelerator that helps high-potential startups scale to world-class businesses and pushes Canadian innovation to the forefront. Under his leadership since 2015, the DMZ was named the number one universitybased incubator in the world by UBI Global, and opened its first U.S. office: in New York City.

Abdullah also held roles at Ryerson University, the Canadian Armed Forces, Fairmont and Marriott Hotels and Resorts and co-founded a non-profit foundation in Kenya. He's an avid community builder with a longstanding history of working with marginalized and undeserved communities at home and abroad. He is a board member with the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and a member of the Forbes Tech Council.



Mohamed Hamouda **Vice President**



Fathi Abu-Farah **Treasurer**



Malika Mounir Secretary



Ahmed Afheel Member



Osman Hamid Member



Richard Szudy Member



Sarah Razzouk Member



Shirin Mandani Member



Jehad Aliweiwi **Secretary & Treasurer**



Said Henry Member Term ended Dec 2017 Term ended Dec 2017

About US



The Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT) was established in 1972, and become a non-for-profit organization in 1974. ACCT's mandate during the early years was to serve all Arab Canadians residing in Canada. However, due to growing needs of vibrant communities for settlement and social services, ACCT expanded its outreach and services in the last two years to include more than 10,718 newcomers of all ethnic and religious backgrounds 47.5% of which are females. ACCT advocates for self-sufficiency and cares about the well-being of its clientele. This is achieved through clients' empowerment and through providing them with innovative programs and services that best meet their changing needs. This couldn't be done without the support and efforts of our funders, donors, partners, team members and volunteers.



OUR VISION

We envision a healthy, equitable, inclusive and welcoming society that works together to **engage** with and **integrate** newcomers and other community members into the **Canadian lifestyle**.



OUR MISSION

The Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT) strives to **enable** and **empower** individuals, families, and communities to lead informed, productive, and culturally sensitive lives. As a non-profit model of excellence, we honour our Arab Canadian heritage through community building and service to those in need of every heritage.



OUR VALUES

At the ACCT, we are committed to:

- Working within a social justice/anti-oppression framework that demonstrates our respect for newcomers and the broader community of individuals who seeks our services;
- Recognizing our board, staff, and volunteers as individuals who are client-centered and results oriented;
- Being accountable;
- Engaging in continuous learning and improvement to incorporate best practices and remain responsive.



ACCT Team 66 We would like to te



We would like to thank the ACCT staff for all their hard work and for going above and beyond all expectations to provide support and services to our clients and with our partners.







Zeena Al Hamdan Programs Manager



Davaadorj Sengee Grants Developer



Ebti Nabag Project Coordinator



Elham Nabag IT Support



Ferdie Alvarez Bookkeeper



Nermine Zohdy Community Liaison Counselor



Osman Hassen IT Consultant



Rasha Mehyar Social Networking Facilitator- Women



Hebah Emran Volunteer Coordinator Assistant



John Yohannes **Project Coordinator**



Sadek Laajimi Administrative Assistant



Samar Hayder Volunteer Coordinator



Yasser Badin Intake Assistant



Omar Ainanshe EMSC Project Coordinator



Asim Osama Youth Counselor



Daniel Jabbour Youth Intake Counselor



Kasia Knap Social Networking Facilitator Youth



Mari Kozak Youth Counselor



Rola Jarjour Youth Counselor

Settlement Counselor



Armen Seroup Settlement Counselor



Ismail Elnour Settlement Counselor



Khalid Guiliana Settlement Counselor



Kholoud Khafaja Youth Program Assistant



Loae Almously Settlement Counselor



Lodi Awad Settlement Counselor



Lubna Shaban Settlement Counselor



Maysoon Alrawi Settlement Counselor



Mohammad Naseem Settlement Counselor



Muna Butros Intake Counselor



Mustapha Moughallab Settlement Counselor



Najat Mansur Settlement Counselor



Roula Ajib Trauma Counselor



Taghrid Abdulrahim Disabilities Counselor



Zainab Shebeita Settlement Counselor



Sally Ishag Administrative Assistant



Shadi Shami Community Engagement Counselor



Raj Chaka Accountant



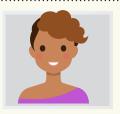
Darin Saeed Summer Student



Samaa Kazerouni Summer Student



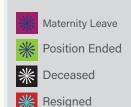
Thea Z. Alvarez Summer Student



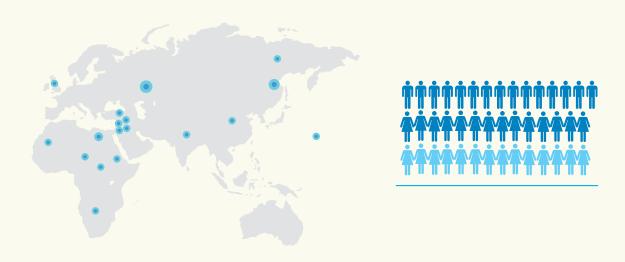
Sarah Hamad Summer Student



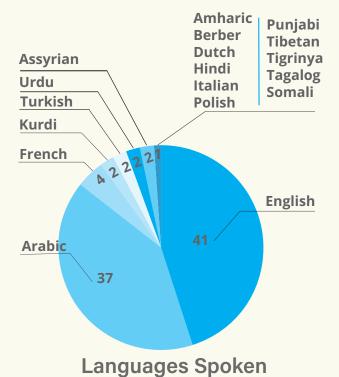
Nudrat Karim Student Placement



ACCT Team Diversity





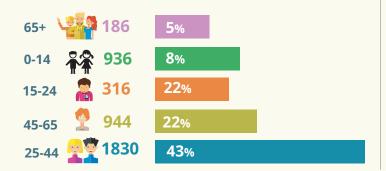


Our Impact & Outreach

TOP TEN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



AGE GROUP



CLIENTS BENEFITTING FROM OUR SERVICES

4,221





53.1% 2.241

46.9% 1,978

0.00%

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SERVED

183

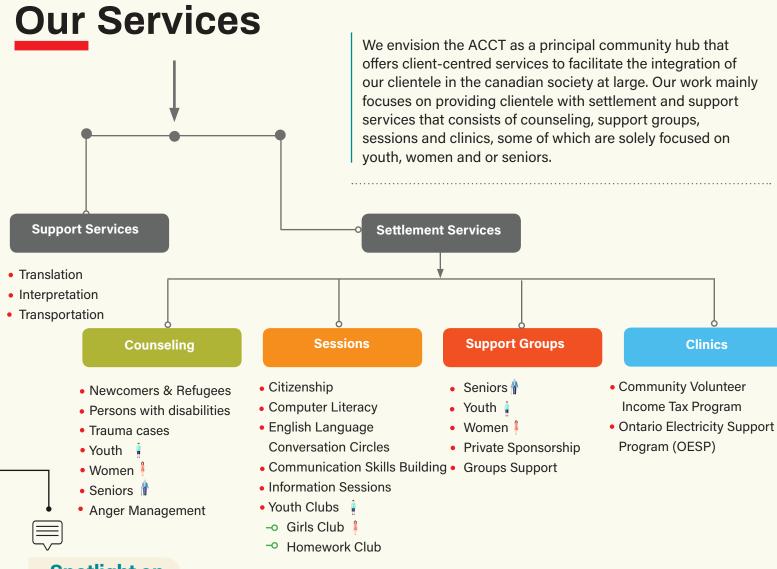


52.5% are



TOP TEN LANGUGES

ARABIC	69%	3468
ENGLISH	12%	625
ASSYRIAN	4%	- 185
KURDISH	3%	= 131
URDU	2%	86
ARMENIAN	2%	7 2
TURKISH	1%	47
TIGRIGNA	1%	4 3
FRENCH	1%	3 4
FARSI(PERSIAN)	0.4%	■ 18
		0



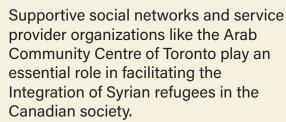
Spotlight on

Private Sponsorship Groups Support Sessions:

As of the end of January 2017, 40,081 Syrian refugees resettled under the Syrian Resettlement Model. Today, Canada remains the only country across the world that has a private refugee sponsorship program where the community is directly involved in the resettlement of refugees from abroad.

Spotlight on





Over the past two years, and with the great support of our donors, funders and partners, the ACCT has been able to build a network with and provide

services to approximately **241** sponsor groups. Amongst these services were a set of interactive information sessions discussing several topics including but not limited to:

- Month 13
- Employment
- Education
- Health
- Managing expectations
- Importance of clear communication between the sponsor and the family sponsored.



The biggest relief for me at ACCT was being able to express my feelings clearly.

Our Programs

Capacity Building for grass-roots organizations

Internships & Canada Summer Jobs

Community **Engagement program**

- East Mall Steering Committee
- Canadian Arab Orchestra

- Social Activities
 - Annual Picnics
 - Tours
- Volunteer Program



Acknowledging the importance of community engagement, capacity building and community empowerment, ACCT, through its programs works at three fronts. Through the first front, ACCT offers students with Internship & Canada Summer Jobs to help students develop professional skills in the settlement field. The second program is derived from ACCT's lead role in supporting grass-root organizations. The third program focuses on community engagement whether through ACCT social activities or through ACCT's volunteers program which is considered to be the backbone of ACCT's work. In the past fiscal year, volunteers spent 7663 hours of service assisting ACCT in providing targeted services to our newcomer community. Therefore, our volunteers' dedication and contribution were celebrated at the Volunteer Recognition Day held on April 27th, 2018 at ACCT head office. Each volunteer received a certificate of appreciation for his/her efforts and support.



Spotlight on

Capacity Building of grass-root organizations - East Mall Steering Committee:

In order to address the legacy of forced migration, ACCT - as of January 2017- entered into a trusteeship with the East Mall Steering Committee (EMSC), a grassroots Somali group that facilitates capacity building opportunities for youth and adults in their community.

We collaborate on projects together and serve as a hub and resource for the EMSC.

East Mall Steering Committee emsc



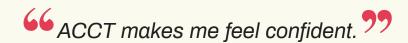
Omer Ainanshe

Omer Ainanshe is a Business student and the Executive Director of the EMSC. With inspiring energy and enthusiasm, Omer has been actively involved with the ACCT since January 2017, working with staff to write proposals and initiate exciting projects for the youth involved in EMSC.

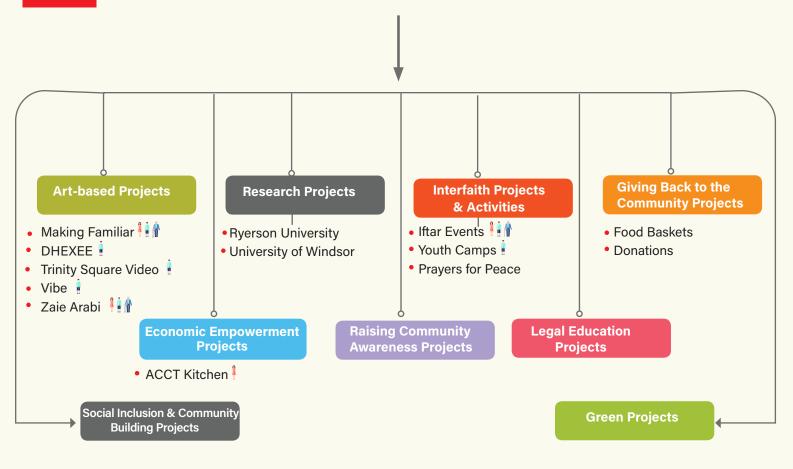


Guled Isse

Guled Isse is a Civil Engineering student and the Vice President of the EMSC. A strong advocate for the Eastmall Somali community, he is interested in the intersection of social justice and city planning. Guled was the Youth Facilitator for Dhexe ee: Somali experiences of community space in the Eastmall, Etobicoke.



Our Partnerships & Joint Projects







For more tangible and widespread impact and success, ACCT is always keen to work with new and existing partners on joint projects that vary in nature, target audience and scope of work based on the needs and interests of our clientele & as per following categorization:



- Research Projects
- Art-Based Projects
- Legal Education Projects
- Raising Community Awareness Projects
- Interfaith Projects & Activities
- Giving Back to the Community Projects
- Economic Empowerment Projects
- Social Inclusion and Community Building Projects
- Green Projects

Spotlight on

Art Based Projects:

Art-based approaches can be an effective and meaningful ways of engaging communities on issues that are important to them. This year, we collaborated on many art-based projects that emphasized the voices of youth and seniors, including:

- Making Familiar: Perceptions of Belonging in Syrian Newcomer Youth in Toronto Conducted over a period of two months (June-August 2017) four Syrian newcomers took part in a two-week participatory photography research project on their perceptions of belonging and what is important to them. The project culminated in an exhibition at Charles Street Video with the youths' photographs.
- **DHEXEE:** Somali experiences of community space in the Eastmall, Etobicoke DHEXEE- meaning "in the middle" in Somali- is an intergenerational participatory project that brought together Somali youth and adults residing at the East Mall Toronto Community Housing Complex in Etobicoke to showcase and exhibit their Somali experience of community space. Twelve photographs were featured at the exhibition and took part at the 2018 Myseum of Toronto Intersections Festival: Arrivals and Departures.
- **Zaie Arabi:** Zaie Arabi was a photography and video installation created by Arab youth and senior women that prompted an intergenerational conversation about tradition. The photographs and videos speak to the heritage of Arab newcomers coming to Canada and their contribution in enriching the cultural mosaic.

Spotlight on







Economic Empowerment Project

ACCT Kitchen Project:

Acknowledging the importance of women empowerment through promoting the notions of self-reliance, entrepreneurship and income generation, the ACCT launched its pilot project "ACCT Kitchen" in partnership with Roncesvalles United Church on March, 2017. With the participation of **20** women from the community, the Kitchen turned into a fun and healthy space where newcomer women addressed pre-migration trauma with the counseling team, gained financial independence and enhanced their English language while interacting with each other. This was achieved while serving Middle Eastern food to their clients. The Kitchen operated every Friday from 10:00 AM - 06:00 PM and lasted for a year.



ACCT gave us access to information and services needed to settle down in Toronto.

Spotlight on .







Interfaith Projects and Activities

To foster a sense of belonging, reach out to other communities and offer opportunities for newcomers to socially connect with the larger community, the ACCT engaged in a number of interfaith projects and events:

- To honour the fallen victim of the Quebec mosque shooting, the ACCT in collaboration with Islington United Church, hosted a Prayers for Peace Event attended by a representative from the Quebec mosque and 120 other local community members.
- In partnership with Islington United Church, ACCT organized a 4-day camp program for more than 20 of its newcomer youth (ages 11-17) and their peers from the larger Canadian Community. The main focus of this camp is to encourage youth to interact with each other, acquire leadership skills, have an inter-faith dialogue and appreciate the diversity of the Canadian community at large. They learn this through connecting with nature, conducting fun activities and playing sports.





Success Stories

STORY

LGBTQ Quandary: From dead body to pursuing dreams of becoming an author

Imprisoned, tortured, considered dead and thrown with a pile of dead bodies, 38 year old fled from Syria to neighboring countries to experience further physical assault.

With zero knowledge in English language the client arrived in Canada to start a new life. Unfortunately, he suffered from lack of communication and interpersonal skills. Inappropriate professional support added further misery and isolation.

The client came across ACCT and found it a culturally appropriate service provider speaking in Arabic. In support with ODSP (Ontario Disability Program) and ACCT the client received trauma counselling needs along with food, clothing, shelter, and transportation assistance, basic and English language learning skills.

Configured with a new set of plan, the client is now positively connected with Arabic LGBTQ support group and all set to start English classes. Already stepped into a new life, the client shared with ACCT the passion for writing and dreams of becoming an author and advocate for the LGBTQ and all the marginalized and vulnerable people.

STORY 2

Originating from Syria, she spent a few years in Lebanon before moving to Canada with her family during 2017. Traumatized since childhood and inundated with low self esteem, fear and stiffness was her prime foe which stopped her from flourishing in life. Despite having boundless inner qualities- her low self esteem and fear to initiate concealed all hopes. This created a horrific impact on her psychological, social and personal life, which gave rise to severe health problem related to stress.

"I feel my dreams about life were ruined during my childhood then things got worse again during my youth age, and after living a long dreadful life, I was on the right track to put an end to the dreams of my children as well. But, something good happened to me when I came in touch with ACCT. I burst out my inner misfortune and distress to this person at ACCT. I was listened to, guided, nurtured and encouraged in a best possible way. Then I felt a soothing transformation in my life. It was comforting and pacifying. Life is better since then, my children have joined school, which I skipped during my childhood. I joined Basic English classes, and trying to convert my love and passion for planting vegetables and flowers, sewing and fashion designing into life supporting income generation earning skills. I am slowly growing into a confident entrepreneur now."



I already started writing again. ACCT will be the highlight of my experience while settling in Canada.



66 I will recommend ACCT to newcomers without any hesitation.

Acknowledgement

The ACCT Board of Directors and Executive Director would like to acknowledge the contributions and support of our respected government, donors, funders and partners. Without their support, our work would not be possible.

Abdullah Alzahrani Adonis Supermarket Agha Khan Museum Al-Qazzaz Foundation

Allied ACPs

Amal Foundation (Quick Response Security Inc.)

Ann McKenzie **Anonymous**

Brampton Islamic Centre.

CHUM Fund Canada Helps

Canadian Arab Institute Canadian Arab Orchestra

Canadian Council of Citizenship

Canadian Online Giving

Charles Coffev **Crown Pastries Dalhousie University** Dwarka Mahadeo Elite Home Realty Inc.

Evad Kattini Fathi Abu-Farah

Google

Islington United Church

Janet Petrie

Jehad Aliwewi Kids Up Front MabelleArts

Maple Lodge Farms

Nargis Isphani

Nona L. Macdonald

Patrick Bromfield (Bromfield Reno)

Philip Cheifetz

Roncesvalles United Church **Roncesvalles United Church**

Royal Auto Collision Royal Ontario Museum Rverson University Science Centre

Social Planning Toronto The Body Shop Canada The Revue Cinema

Together Project - Tides Canada

Tri-Church Refugee Alliance, c/o Kingsway Lambton

Tzu Chi Foundation. **United Church**

United Way

University of Windsor

York University















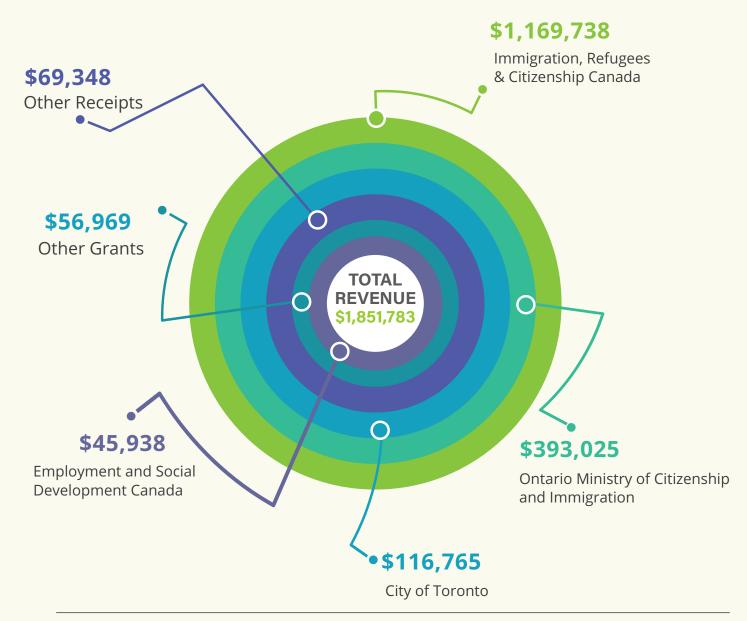




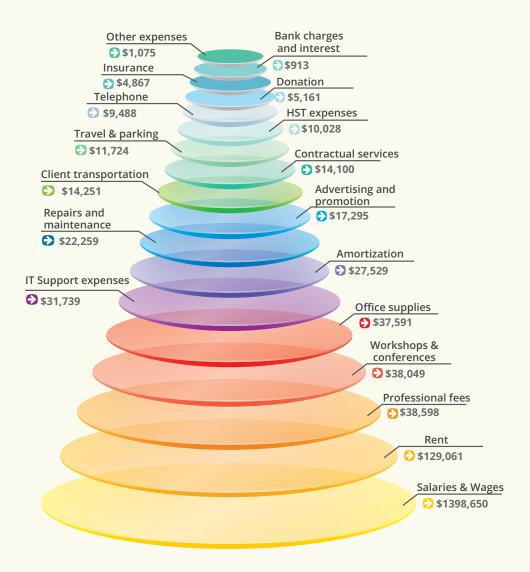


Financial Statement

Revenue



Expenses



Excess of revenues over expenses \$39,405

ACCT in Pictures



45th & Thanksgiving Celebration



Multi-Faith Youth Camp



Youth March Break



Canada 150 Celebration







Thanksgiving Event



AGM 201



TD Picnic



Cleaning Broadacres Park 2017

ACCT Members

From July 2017 - March 2018

Ahmad Abouisteite Ahmed Afheel Aida Graff

Al Athameen Hisham

Al Raed

Alice Youkhana Amr El Naghi Ashwaq Alareedhee

B. Khouia

Basem Ra'ad Chutiva A.

Dr. & Mrs. Abdulfatah Elzawi

Dr. Esmat Dessouki Dr. Menat Osman

Dr.Omar Sahan Essam Bouji Farid Al-Kufaishi Faten Tayara Fathi Abu-Farah

Hifza Musa Intenan Abd-El-Razik

Jana Al Zaibak Jehad Aliwewi Joseph Dableh Karen Scott Laila Al Ghazawi Lamees Audeh

Leen Al Zaibak

Magdi Hassouna Maady Salama Maha Tawash Malika Mounir Marvam Al nazer Mohammad Al Zaibak Mr. & Mrs. Ali Shamli Mr. & Mrs. Saleh Saleh

Omar Naiiar

Omar Walid Ammaneh

Osman Hamid Raeid Freii Rafat Abu-Zeineh

Rania Younes

Richard Szudy Rima Alnazer Said Henery Sarah Bukhari Sarah Razzouk Sawa George Shadi Alfares Shirin Madani Simon Sabat Suhair Al Bashir

Sultan Al Shannaa Wafaa Mustafa

Yasmin Hag-Khan

ACCT Volunteers

Abdulrahman Al-Mollla`

Adel Hachmi

Ahmed Abdulmajeed

Ahmed Shoblag Alia Al Attar

Alyaa Osman Amani Al Balkhi

Amina Bahiat

Amina Hafez Amira Refaat

Anas Al-Adhami

Anas Ameen Aseel Jarjees

Aysha Fyrooz Azhar Najmuldeen

Bara Abuthwabeh Basheer Al Olabi

Bland Ahmed Carole Dina Georgie

Dalea Naamo Dana Al Balkhi Dania Al-Sa'd

Danish Shaikh Diana Haro

Elravah Ali Eman El Taukhi **Eman Mahmoud**

Evad Kalthoum Fabio Sawuan Gomez

Farah Fatayri Faten El Azizy Fares Khouri Fatina Jbar

Ghada Homad Ghadeer Al-Ogaidi

Ghader Bsmar Ghazwan Toma Gul Celdir

Hanadi Ayoub Hanan Abu Shab Hassan El Jichi

Haytham Elgendy Hazem Issa

Heba Saba Emran Hiba Hinedi Hussein Alaaref

Ihsan Said Imad Aloub John Fanning Joumana Maamar

Kholoud Khafaja Laith Abu Awwad Lana Mohamed Leni Rose

Lina Alkabeer Lina Kabir Lubna Nemeh Madleen Khudhur

Manal Al-Khaled Manal El Edany Manal Al-Khaled

Manal El Miladi

Marem Abdelazez Maria Winna Basco

Marie Aoun Mary-Kay Bachour

Maya Ramadan Mayasa Ramadan

Mhd Mazen Al Nabulsi

Mirit El-Saved

Mohamad Bachar Ramadan Mohamad Ramadan

Mohammad Hai Ali Mona Mathna Mona Subaie Mona Subale

Najwa Al-khawja Noha Noureldin Noon Elsadig

Noor Al-Ogaidi Nour Alhallag Nour El Ghamry

Nudurat Karim Oais Al Abdallah Omar Abu Awad Raghad Al Rubaye

Raghda Botros Rama Al Qudsi Rana Abdelmeguid

Rana Eddin Rasha Mammo Reem Digna Rima Al Nazer

Ruba Aburub Ruba Al-Masri Ruba Mohamed Sabeeh Alvi

Saja Abu Thwabeh

Samer Zaza Sami Soudah Sara Hamad

Sara Zeitoun Sarah Kora Sarah Parvaiz

Shahad Al-Rubaye Suha Ziadeh Sulafa Omer Taha Taha Tambi Ismail

Tamer El-Fouly Tarea Ashour Tatiana Roveri Verena Avad

Walaa Ato Yaman Al Mousali Yara Abdul Daem Yara El Bardisi Yasmine El Bagoury

Yehia Abdelmegaid

Yousef Al Shamari Yusra Ali Zabet Goga Zafer Al Saati

Zahid Khan

Every service is as unique as the communities we serve-Proudly serving newcomers of all cultures, religions, and ethnicities since 1972. خدماتنا متميزة كالجاليات التى نخدمها نفتخر بخدمة القادمين الجدد من جميع الثقافات و الأديان و الأعراق منذ عام ١٩٧٢

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