

# A New Era of **HOPE**



CAIR-OKLAHOMA ANNUAL REPORT 2009

## Contents

- 1 Message from the Chairman
- 2 About Us
- 3 Financial Report
- 4 Year in Review
  - Civil Rights
  - Communications
  - Outreach
  - Youth Empowerment
  - Government Relations
- 9 Commendations

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends:

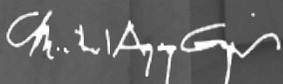
Assalamu Alaikum - Peace be to you

Over the past year, CAIR-OK has worked diligently to serve the Muslim and other minority communities in the areas of civil liberties and social justice. We are grateful that our supporters and friends have worked together to advance our initiatives enthusiastically and sincerely.

It is in this spirit that we embark on a new era of hope, focusing on our role to be a force in shaping our future. The American Muslim community is still challenged by prejudice, discrimination, Islamophobia, and hate crimes by some extremists who seek to divide Americans by spreading fear and hatred of Muslims. It is through our collaborative efforts that we have established relationships that promote freedom, justice, and equality for all, thereby aggressively meeting the challenge to minimize the negative images of CAIR and the greater Muslim Community. We have a proven track record of constructive interaction on every level of the community and we will continue to advance the reality that this is one America and that we all are a part of the fabric of this great society.

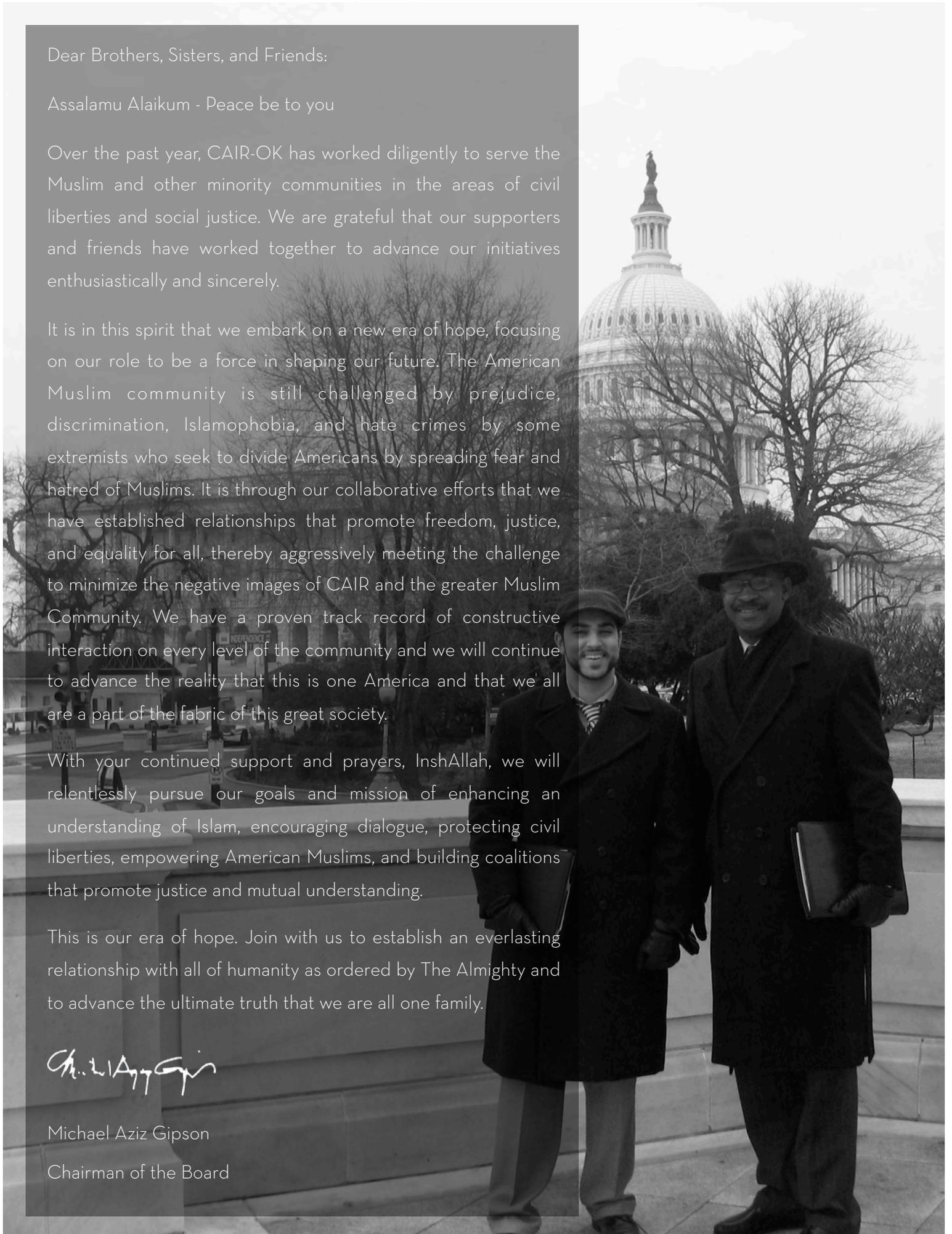
With your continued support and prayers, InshAllah, we will relentlessly pursue our goals and mission of enhancing an understanding of Islam, encouraging dialogue, protecting civil liberties, empowering American Muslims, and building coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

This is our era of hope. Join with us to establish an everlasting relationship with all of humanity as ordered by The Almighty and to advance the ultimate truth that we are all one family.



Michael Aziz Gipson

Chairman of the Board



# vision mission core principles

# About Us

## Vision

to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.

## Mission

to enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

## Core Principles

- ▶ CAIR supports free enterprise, freedom of religion and freedom of expression.
- ▶ CAIR is committed to protecting the civil rights of all Americans, regardless of faith.
- ▶ CAIR supports domestic policies that promote civil rights, diversity and freedom of religion.
- ▶ CAIR opposes domestic policies that limit civil rights, permit racial, ethnic or religious profiling, infringe on due process, or that prevent Muslims and others from participating fully in American civic life.
- ▶ CAIR is a natural ally of groups, religious or secular, that advocate justice and human rights in America and around the world.
- ▶ CAIR supports foreign policies that help create free and equitable trade, encourage human rights and promote representative government based on socio-economic justice.
- ▶ CAIR believes the active practice of Islam strengthens the social and religious fabric of our nation.
- ▶ CAIR condemns all acts of violence against civilians by any individual, group or state.
- ▶ CAIR advocates dialogue between faith communities both in America and worldwide.
- ▶ CAIR supports equal and complementary rights and responsibilities for men and women.



# Financial Report

## Financial Summary

The following statement of activities is for the fiscal year 2009 for the Oklahoma chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

All of CAIR-Oklahoma's support is by the community for the community. All donations are domestic.

## Sources of Funds

Operational Funds Come From Three Main Sources

### 1. Unrestricted Income

Unrestricted income refers to funds which are donated for no specific purpose other than to support CAIR.

### 2. Restricted Income

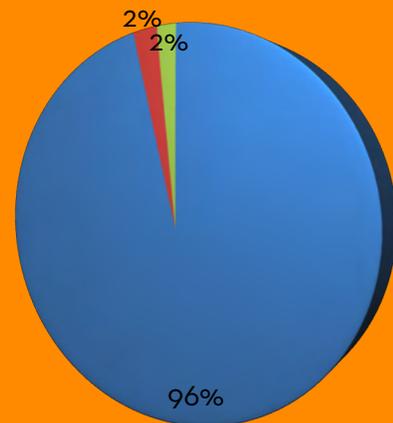
Restricted income refers to funds which are donated to CAIR for a specific purpose, usually specified by the donor.

### 3. Other Income

Other income refers to funds which are obtained by CAIR such as sales, refunds, and membership dues.

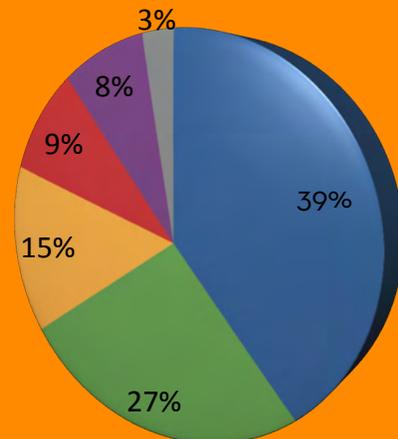
## Profit & Loss 2009

### Contributions



- Donations (\$116,481.97)
- Restricted Income (\$2,589.37)
- Other Revenue (\$2,020.54)

### Expenses



- Payroll (\$50,261.73)
- Events & Projects (\$34,289.33)
- Taxes (\$18,768.86)
- Occupancy & Utilities (\$11,603.44)
- Operational (\$9,989.84)
- Administrative (\$3,521.87)

# Civil Rights

## Department Overview

Our Civil Rights Department counsels, mediates and advocates on behalf of Muslims and others who have experienced religious discrimination, defamation or hate crimes. The department works to protect and defend the constitutional rights of American Muslims, thereby supporting the rights of all Americans.

## Department Highlights

In 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma processed 27 civil rights cases ranging from employment discrimination and harassment to citizenship delays and public accommodation.

- ▶ In 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma hosted "Know Your Rights and the FBI" community workshops to educate the Muslim community on how to legally interact with the FBI.
- ▶ In January 2009, a young Muslim woman went to a local tag agency in Norman to acquire her driver's license and was asked to remove her headscarf (hijab) for the photograph. CAIR-Oklahoma advocated on her behalf to have the Department of Public Safety re-take her driver's license photo with her hijab on.
- ▶ In October 2009, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) filed a lawsuit on behalf of a Muslim girl who was denied employment at Abercrombie Kids.

## Educational Outreach

In order to combat and prevent biases and stereotypes of Muslims, CAIR-Oklahoma engages in educating employers and employees, police officers, students about religious sensitivities. CAIR-Oklahoma also educated Muslim community members on their rights. CAIR-Oklahoma sponsored or delivered speeches pertaining to the struggle for civil liberties in 2009 including:

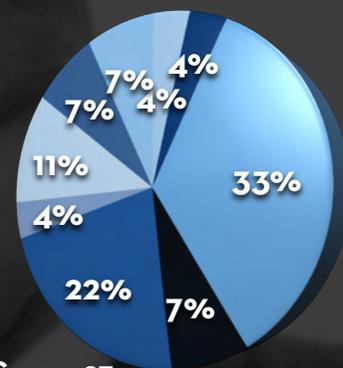
- ▶ Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) Accredited Course Presentation to Oklahoma City Police Department
- ▶ Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC)'s "Day of Peace & Justice"
- ▶ American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Oklahoma's Annual Meeting
- ▶ "Know Your Rights and FBI" community workshop in New Haven, CT hosted by CAIR-CT
- ▶ Criminal Justice class at the University of Phoenix

CAIR-Oklahoma played an active role in maintaining a presence at the University of Oklahoma (OU) and Oklahoma City University (OCU)'s Law Schools to recruit new interns.

In February 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma's Executive Director was a judge at OCU Law School's moot trial on wiretapping and FISA courts.

## Civil Rights Cases Reported 2009

- Airport
- Child Custody
- Criminal
- Employment
- General
- Government
- Hate Mail/Phone Call
- Prison
- Public Accommodation
- School



**Total Cases: 27**

Since its inception, nearly 100 civil rights cases have been reported to CAIR-Oklahoma. The consistent high volume of cases seen by the Civil Rights Department illustrates the need for Muslims to have access to legal representation and the growing trust in CAIR-Oklahoma to do the job.

The high demand underscores the need to expand the Civil Rights Department in CAIR-Oklahoma and hire a staff attorney dedicated to the legal representation of Muslims in discrimination-related cases.

## Religious Liberties Behind Bars

CAIR-Oklahoma has worked to secure the right of prison inmates to practice their religion freely and to be treated humanely. This has included partnering with local mosques to facilitate free copies of the Qur'an to Muslim inmates who have requested a copy. CAIR-Oklahoma engaged in partnering up with other civil liberty groups such as ACLU-OK, OK-Cure, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State and the Interfaith Alliance who have reported similar cases involving religious minorities in corrections.

In March 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma Executive Director Razi Hashmi was selected to be a participant in a first of its kind in the country, the Department of Corrections (DOC) Leadership Academy. It was a nine-week leadership academy that gave community members "a unique opportunity for community, business, and other participants to interact with corrections professionals and learn more about the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in its entirety." The program consisted of a learning experience in which participants visited several correctional institutions around the state of Oklahoma and learned about topics such as the history of corrections, re-entry, volunteer and religious services, and inmate mental health.

# Communications 2009 year in review

# Communications

## Department Overview

Our Communications Department works in conjunction with local and national media to ensure an accurate portrayal of Islam and Muslims is presented to the American public. CAIR monitors local, national and international media in part to challenge negative stereotypes, but also to applaud and encourage positive representations of Islam and Muslims. Over the years, CAIR has become a respected and credible source for journalists and other media professionals. The department also holds press conferences and issues press releases, media advisories, and story pitches in order to ensure that Muslim perspectives on pressing issues and current events are represented in the mainstream media.

## Media Monitoring

CAIR-Oklahoma monitored local media on a regular basis to reinforce positive and accurate coverage of Muslims and Islam, and challenged inaccurate and biased reporting.

## Publications

- ▶ **“Continue the Dialogue”** by Amrish Sengupta, CAIR-OK Communications Intern Summer '09, Letter to the Editor, *Oklahoma Gazette* on June 17, 2009
- ▶ **“Senator Inhofe’s Comments are ‘Un-American’ ”** by Faheem Fazili, CAIR-OK Government Affairs Intern Summer '09, Letter to the Editor, *The City Sentinel* on July 22, 2009
- ▶ **“Ramadan Reflections: Local Muslim Explains Holy Month”** by Razi Hashmi, CAIR-OK Executive Director, *Edmond Sun ‘Building Bridges’* Column on September 17, 2009
- ▶ **“Hijab Explained”** by Huda Abdul-Razzak, CAIR-OK Operations Coordinator, *Tulsa World* on September 22, 2009
- ▶ **“Illegal Delays in Immigration Processing”** by Adam Bates, CAIR-OK Civil Rights Intern Summer '09, Letter to the Editor, *Tulsa World* on November 6, 2009
- ▶ **“And Moses Said to Muhammad...”** by Razi Hashmi, *The Edmond Sun ‘Building Bridges’* Column on November 13, 2009

## Department Highlights

CAIR-Oklahoma was featured, quoted or reported on over 95 times locally, nationally and internationally in the media. These include print media, broadcast news (TV), radio and a number of references online.

News Agencies Include:

- ▶ Newspaper/Print: *America.gov* (Online), *City Sentinel*, *Edmond Sun*, *Nuestra Comunidad*, *The Oklahoman*, *Oklahoma Gazette*, *Time Magazine*, *Tulsa World*, *UK Guardian*
- ▶ Newswire: Associated Press
- ▶ Television: ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, PBS, Telemundo
- ▶ Radio: KGOU Public Radio (Norman), KOSU Public Radio (Stillwater), KRMG News Talk Radio (Tulsa), KTOK News Radio (Oklahoma City), KREF Sports Radio (Oklahoma City)

In 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma’s Executive Director was named a Guest Columnist in the *Edmond Sun*. The column, ‘Building Bridges,’ attempts to bridge gaps of faith, politics, race, class and social issues in hopes of establishing dialogue to building a better community.

CAIR-Oklahoma continued a regular bi-weekly e-Newsletter and quarterly print newsletter for distribution to the community

CAIR-Oklahoma produced two short films on the Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (MYLS) 2009 and “Answering the Call,” a disaster response training.

## Beyond Stereotypes

CAIR-Oklahoma and members of the Muslim community visited the News 9 station in Oklahoma City for a media meet and greet. Community members took a comprehensive tour of the News 9 facilities and got to share our faith with important members of the media. The goals for the meeting were to establish face-to-face relationships with members of the media, discuss issues pertaining to Muslim Americans and how Islam is portrayed in the media.

## Press Conferences

- ▶ In January 2009, following the siege in Gaza, CAIR-Oklahoma hosted an interfaith press conference with civic and faith leaders at the Oklahoma State Capitol and called for a just and lasting peace for both sides and the United States to take a neutral role in the conflict.
- ▶ In October 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma joined faith leaders at the State Capitol calling for Health Care Reform in America.
- ▶ In December 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma in a press conference released its first Annual Report for 2007-2008 titled “Injustice against One is Injustice against All,” and CAIR National’s Report on the Status of Muslim Civil Rights in the United States for 2009 entitled, “Seeking Full Inclusion.”



# Outreach 2009 year in review

## Department Overview

The Outreach Department seeks to forge mutually beneficial partnerships with local and national institutions. It also works to foster an understanding between Oklahoma's Muslims and other communities via educational collaborations. CAIR strives to nurture grassroots activism through innovative strategies to inform Americans about their Muslim neighbors. These strategies include methods such as workshops, forums, conferences, and interfaith dialogues conducted at various mosques, churches, synagogues, schools and universities. Lastly, it recruits and pairs the right talent (volunteers and interns) with the appropriate CAIR-Oklahoma projects.

## Department Highlights

- ▶ In January 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma renewed its accreditation with CLEET, the Council on Law Enforcement & Education Training continuing outreach with Law Enforcement through a diversity training course, "Islam and Muslims - What Law Enforcement Should Know."
- ▶ In January 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma co-sponsored a float with Oklahoma City mosques for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade.
- ▶ During the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, CAIR-Oklahoma volunteered to serve dinner at Jesus House and the City Rescue Mission.
- ▶ In August 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma participated in an interfaith dialogue at the Vedic Hindu Temple.
- ▶ In August 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma held an Open House co-sponsored an Islamic Art Exhibit drawing in media, elected officials, community leaders and members across the OKC metro.

## Continued

- ▶ In September 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma joined with the American Red Cross of Central Oklahoma, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Latino Community Development Agency (LCDA) to host "Answering the Call," Community Disaster Response Training at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. The training was a project of President Barack Obama's "United We Serve" campaign, CAIR's "Muslim Care" initiative and "Muslim Americans Answer the Call." It was held during Interfaith Service Week, recognizing the great contributions that all faith communities make to our country by the White House and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

*"For well over a billion Muslims, Ramadan is a time of intense devotion and reflection. It's a time of service and support for those in need. Indeed, the contribution of Muslims to the United States are too long to catalog because Muslims are so interwoven into the fabric of our communities and our country." -President Barack Obama's September 1st 2009 White House Iftar*

- ▶ CAIR-Oklahoma co-hosted a "Sharing Ramadan" in Oklahoma City and "A Look in On Ramadan" in Tulsa at local mosques drawing in a diverse crowd from the greater communities, which included media, activists and community members.
- ▶ In October 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma attended and spoke at the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) "Leadership in a Religiously Diverse World" Conference in Chicago, IL.
- ▶ CAIR-Oklahoma continued educational outreach with teachers and administrators through participating and attending educational conferences and offering to speak to students. CAIR-Oklahoma staff spoke at local high school world religion classes in the Islam unit.
- ▶ CAIR-Oklahoma's staff were invited to speak at various universities in Oklahoma and surrounding states including Langston University, University of Central Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City Community College, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma State University, University of Phoenix, University of Arkansas and Northwestern University.



# Youth Empowerment

## Internship Program

CAIR-Oklahoma's strength lies with its grassroots support and we are grateful to our interns and volunteers who assist our staff to empower, mobilize, and engage our communities.

In 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma launched its first-ever internship program. CAIR-Oklahoma has partnered with universities across the state of Oklahoma and United States to recruit and host interns from the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Southern Nazarene University, Oklahoma City University, University of Michigan and Cornell University.

"CAIR-OK is doing important work for a community that has few other outreaches. The ardent and vigilant defense of the civil liberties of minority groups, as well as those of all Americans, is the foundation of our Republic and CAIR's most important obligation moving forward. It was an honor to assist CAIR, in whatever small way I could, in defending those liberties for the Oklahoma Muslim community."  
- Adam Bates, Civil Rights Intern (Summer 2009)

## MYLS

In the summer of 2009, students and young professionals across the state of Oklahoma attended the first ever Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (MYLS) on August 7-8, 2009. MYLS was launched by CAIR-Oklahoma to help young Muslims develop leadership skills and work towards social justice by getting involved in their communities. The symposium took place at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK.

The conference provided 38 college students and young professionals throughout Oklahoma with an opportunity to explore their leadership skills. Over one and a half days, the students learned about civic engagement, civil rights, public speaking and communications, trained on leadership and community advocacy skills, and were able to rub elbows with elected officials, media professionals, community activists, leaders and members. The conference sought to inspire the students to pursue public service and become involved to make a difference in their communities.

The attendees spent the weekend creating plans for community outreach and listening to speeches from community activists drawn from around the Greater Oklahoma City metro area and CAIR.

## About MYLS

The Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (MYLS) was founded in 2009 to build new foundations for Muslim youth to become involved in community and public service in Oklahoma. The strength of MYLS comes from volunteers who give selflessly of their time and energy, and serve as role models for the leadership conference.

The core mission of the Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium (MYLS) is to provide American Muslim youth with a proactive agenda for positive activism; empower them to guide their communities from the margin to the mainstream; and foster a healthy American Muslim identity that fits comfortably within pluralistic American society while true to its faith values.

## Testimonials

MYLS:

- ▶ "MYLS provides beneficial stepping stones for younger generations to become leaders in their respective communities."
- ▶ "I feel honored to be a part of this pioneering experience. It was tons of fun."
- ▶ "MYLS has inspired me exhibit Islam within my character."
- ▶ "An influential program to lead the youth!"
- ▶ "The MYLS event was engaging and informative. The experience was positive and the environment is a healthy one, which I'd recommend to all youth."



# Government Relations

## Department Overview

Our Government Affairs Department seeks to organize, mobilize, and empower Oklahoma's Muslim community with long-term civic participation. Its educational initiatives help community members understand the political system and utilize it to work for their issues. Projects include voter registration drives, community workshops, know-your-rights educational campaigns, and training sessions at mosques and community centers on how to contact and engage local and national politicians. The department also systematically works to educate local political representatives about their Muslim constituents while ultimately engaging these representatives with the Muslim community's unique issues and concerns.

## Department Highlights

CAIR-Oklahoma engaged state, local, and federal officials to strengthen Oklahoma's Muslim community's presence in civic life. Throughout 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma conducted meetings with congressional representatives, state senators and representatives locally and in Washington, D.C. to raise awareness on issues that affect the Muslim community. CAIR-Oklahoma's Executive Director and Board Chairman traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Oklahoma's U.S. Congressional Senators and Representatives to discuss the Gaza Humanitarian Crisis, Profiling and Fighting Hunger.

In January 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma collected and sent hundreds of constituent letters to all members of Congress during the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and urged both Israelis and Palestinians to call an immediate cease-fire. CAIR-Oklahoma hosted a Peace Rally at the Oklahoma State Capitol urging the United States to send humanitarian aid to all victims of the conflict and take a leading neutral role in bringing both Israelis and Palestinians to a just and lasting peace.

## Legislation

### Anti-Religious Headcovering Bill

Following the successful advocacy work and resolution of a civil rights case by CAIR-Oklahoma involving a young Muslim woman who retook her driver's license photo with her hijab on at DPS, some state legislators advocated a ban on all religious head coverings in House Bill 1645. After it passed the Oklahoma House of Representatives and went to Oklahoma State Senate, CAIR-Oklahoma mobilized hundreds of Muslims, Jews, Christians, Sikhs and other faith traditions to petition members of Senate. Through CAIR-Oklahoma's grassroots work, a Senate Committee dismissed HB 1645.

### Health Care

- ▶ CAIR-Oklahoma attended Town Hall meetings on Health Care Reform in America with U.S. Congressmen in Oklahoma.
- ▶ CAIR-Oklahoma participated on a nationwide conference call with Faith Leaders and U.S. President Barack Obama on Health Care Reform.
- ▶ In October 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma joined faith leaders and the Oklahoma Council of Churches in a press conference at the State Capitol on Reform for Health Care in America.

## Coalition Building

CAIR-Oklahoma has taken a proactive stance towards forging and joining partnerships with other organizations over common goals and issues critical to government affairs work. These issues and goals have included immigration reform, banning ethnic, racial and religious profiling, advocating on behalf of religious minorities in correctional institutions, fighting for equal pay and social justice in Oklahoma.

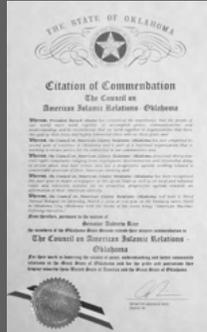
Throughout 2009, CAIR-Oklahoma continued to reach out to local, state and national elected officials to ensure that Muslim voices are represented and heard by their government representatives. CAIR-Oklahoma received 17 letters of commendation from elected officials and other government individuals in 2009. Governor Brad Henry and members of state and local government recognized CAIR-Oklahoma as a leading Muslim civil rights organization advocating for social, racial, religious and economic equality for all through a message of peace, multiculturalism, equal opportunity and inclusion.



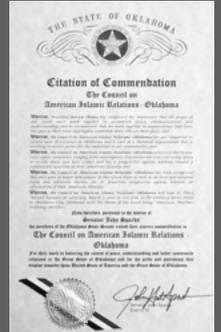
# Letters of Commendation 2009

## Commendations

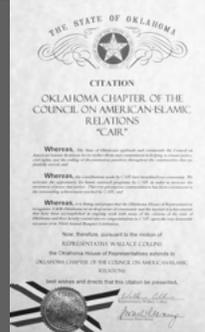
State Senator Andrew Rice



State Senator John Sparks



Governor Brad Henry



State Representative Wallace Collins

Norman Mayor Cindy Rosenthal



State Representative Mike Shelton



State Senator Constance Johnson



ACLU Deputy Director Chuck Thornton



OCCJ Executive Director Nancy Day



NAACP President Anthony Douglas



### Board of Directors

Michael Aziz Gipson >> *Chair*  
M. Shafi Chaudry >> *Vice-Chair*  
Saad Mohammed >> *Treasurer*  
Sheryl Siddiqui >> *Secretary*  
Dr. Amir Khaliq  
Kamran Alam

### Office Staff

Razi Hashmi >> *Executive Director*  
Huda Abdul-Razzak >> *Operations Coordinator*

### Address

1112 NW 23rd Street, Suite 207  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

### Contact

*phone* >> 405.415.6851  
*fax* >> 405.246.9442  
*email* >> [info@ok.cair.com](mailto:info@ok.cair.com)  
*national website* >> [www.cair.com](http://www.cair.com)  
*chapter website* >> [www.cairoklahoma.com](http://www.cairoklahoma.com)

