



CAIR
OKLAHOMA

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



ABOUT US

Our Purpose

Defending Rights, Defeating Intolerance

Our Vision

To be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.

Our Mission

To enhance the understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.

CAIR-Oklahoma is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) grassroots civil rights and advocacy group. Established in 2006 by a group of local Muslims, CAIR-Oklahoma serves the entire state of Oklahoma through its Oklahoma City office. CAIR-Oklahoma is a chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), America's largest Islamic civil liberties group with chapters nationwide. The national headquarters is located on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.

CAIR Oklahoma partners regularly with community and social justice organizations from around the state in working together towards the common goal of improving the quality of life for all Oklahomans. To that end, CAIR Oklahoma has been a proud member of the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits since 2012 and CAIR Oklahoma board members and staff regularly participate in trainings and discussions led by the Center for Nonprofits.

We're excited to share that our organization has earned a 2022 Gold Seal of Transparency with Candid! Now, you can support our work with trust and confidence by viewing our Nonprofit Profile at [Guidestar.org](https://www.guidestar.org/profile/01-50130000).

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful,

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Over the last decade, I have been honored to serve as your Executive Director for the Oklahoma Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR Oklahoma). When I first stepped foot into the CAIR Oklahoma office in July 2012, I was unprepared for the challenges that would arise. From the continued fight against the Anti-Shariah Amendment to the Oklahoma Constitution to the challenge of getting the Edmond Mosque expansion approved, there was little time to set my foundation in those early years. With your love and support, we not only survived but thrived, and in 2014 we were finally able to start building one of the most successful CAIR chapters in the country. Looking back at it, I find it almost impossible to believe that I did any of this alone and can only attribute any success to God's blessings.

As we look towards the future, we also reflect on the reality that our world is struggling to determine what the new normal of life looks like following a global pandemic. CAIR Oklahoma is likewise trying to figure that out as we engage with our community and offer our services in-person, virtually, and in hybrid settings. Nevertheless, our commitment to our community remains as strong as ever. Our team works around the clock to ensure that Muslims in Oklahoma can enjoy the best quality of life possible. We envision a future in which our children and grandchildren will not have to face the same challenges we have lived with for the entirety of our lives. Together, we can get there.

In this moment of contemplation, I want to take the opportunity to thank you, our generous and committed supporters that we call friends. Your continued support of CAIR Oklahoma enables us to continue our daily inspirational work. For that, I am genuinely appreciative, and I pray for God's infinite blessings in the lives of you and your loved ones.

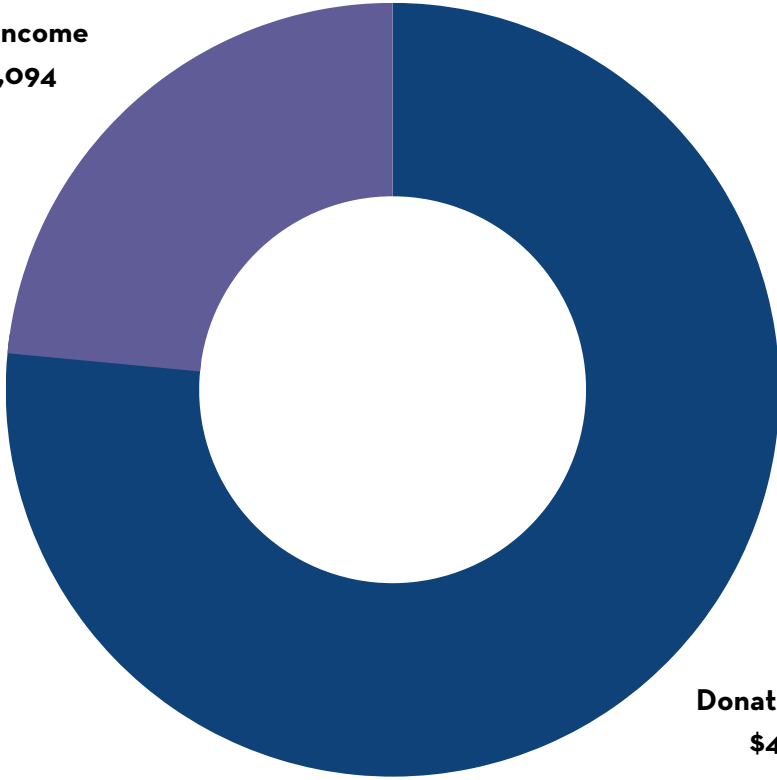
With love and respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Adam Soltani'.

Adam Soltani

2022 INCOME

Grant Income
\$133,094

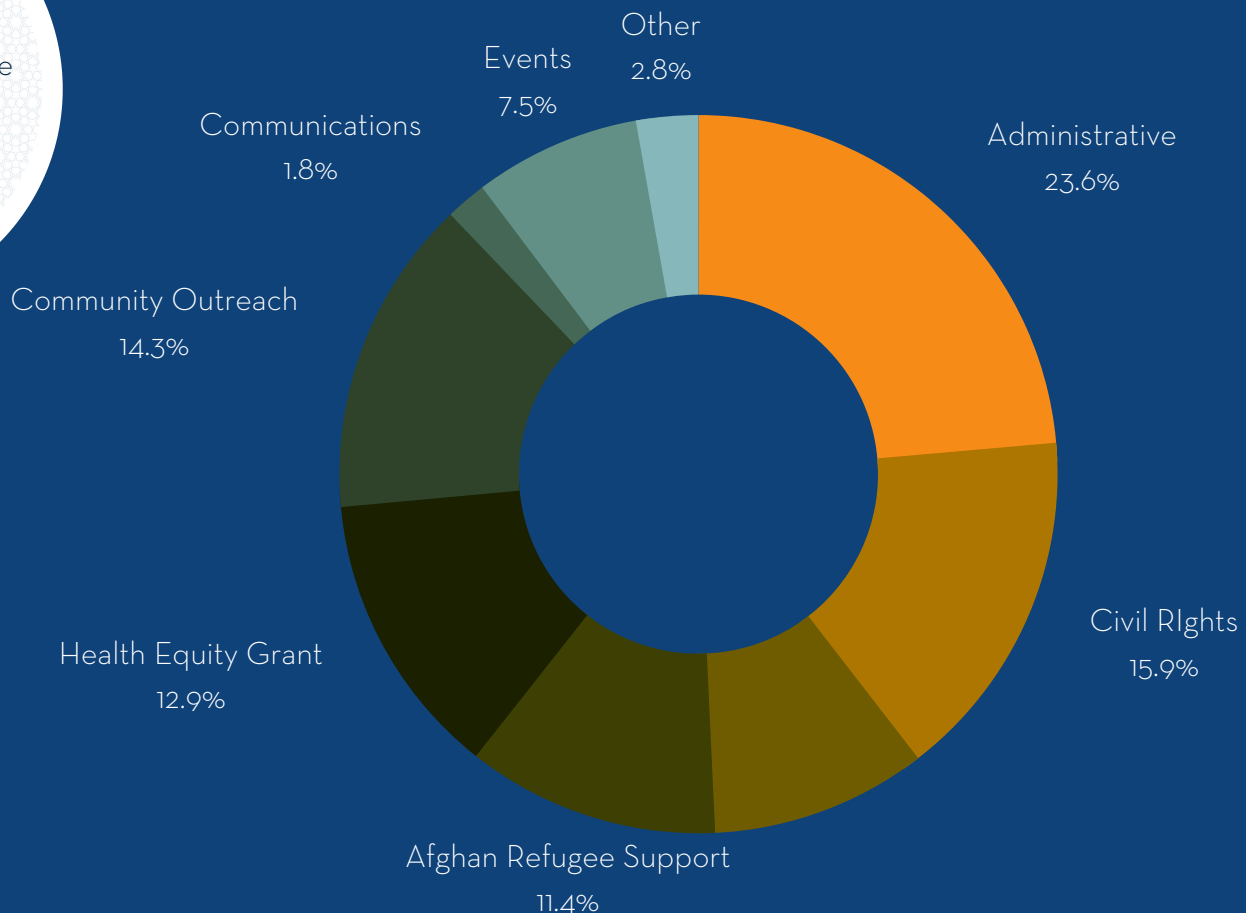


Donation Income
\$433,377

**TOTAL
INCOME:**
\$566,471

EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

CAIR Oklahoma is a community funded organization. All funds are raised in Oklahoma and spent on Oklahoma programs.





Muslim Day at the Capitol



March 10, 2022



Ramadan Iftar with Our Elected Leaders



April 8, 2022



16th Annual Awards Banquet



October 22, 2022

2022 IN PICTURES



Early in 2022, Natasha and Jen were still packing welcome kits for new Afghan arrivals



The CAIR-OK team attends the Oklahoma Conference of Churches Gala Dinner, November 2022



Rep. Mickey Dollens visits the Refugee Resource Center, one of many elected leaders who support our work



Veronica joins immigration attorneys and advocates to rally support for the Afghan Adjustment Act (April 2022)



The Ramadan Day of Service is a longstanding tradition for all ages. (April 2022)



Adam and Ruslan at a community event (October 2022)



The team finds time to have fun as well as work hard at the Annual Awards Banquet (November 2022)

REFUGEE SERVICES

A salaam alaikum from CAIR-OK's Refugee Services Department!

Thank you for your generous financial and volunteer support for Afghan neighbors who are making a home in Oklahoma City. We're looking forward to a continued expansion of our interfaith and community partnerships that have made our robust support possible. In 2023, we'll be shifting into more comprehensive and sustainable opportunities for relationship-building and ways for Afghan households to interact with other members of the Oklahoma Muslim community as well as with the larger Oklahoma community. Family, faith, and friendship are part of the social framework of Afghan culture, and we're excited about the mutual learning and opportunities for friendship that grow when all Oklahomans serve together, socialize together, and tackle challenges together.

I look forward to your continued support in 2023!

Jen Hund, Refugee Services Coordinator

2022 was an exciting year in the Refugee Services Department!

We continued our work from 2021 and in February welcomed the last Afghan households arriving in OKC through Operations Allies. We assembled 235 welcome kits and volunteers delivered them with halal meals to Afghan households when they first arrived in OKC.

Throughout the year, our partners, donors, and volunteers supported school and winter drives, including donating and delivering 111 prayer rugs to schools; donating, assembling and delivery 226 filled backpacks to Afghan children enrolled at Putnam City Schools; and, donating, sorting, and distributing over 4000 new winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves, and socks.



In April 2022, with a generous donation from APPNA (Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America), CAIR-OK opened a Resource Center at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Throughout 2022, roughly 80% of Afghan households who moved here under Operations Allies Welcome have visited the Resource Center to choose clothing, hygiene items, and household goods for their families and homes.

It is also a place where friends get reacquainted, meet the newest (and littlest) members of families, and get connected to resources and services provided by other agencies, organizations, and one another.

Interfaith, community, and corporate supporters have donated resources (financial as well as in-kind items) and time as volunteers and to keep the Resource Center open and stocked with much-needed items.



RESOURCE CENTER

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



289 UNIQUE HOUSEHOLDS SERVED



126 SEWING KITS DISTRIBUTED



UNLIMITED MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

PROJECT EMPOWERHER
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF OKLAHOMA CITY



www.cairoklahoma.com

None of this incredible work could have been done without continuous support from Muslim supporters, interfaith and community groups, and individuals.

RESOURCE CENTER

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



259 DELIVERIES TO 65 HOMES
FEEDING 367 PEOPLE



176 RAMADAN
MUBARAK KITS



245 PRAYER RUGS



279 BACKPACKS



www.cairoklahoma.com



In March, 12 volunteers helped run our Ramadan Clothing Bazaar, which was attended by 32 Afghan families who chose Desi clothing for 180 family members.



During Ramadan, we distributed 176 Ramadan Mubarak kits, and CAIR Oklahoma supporters donated prayer rugs, 107 of which were dispersed throughout the OKC metro area.

CAIR Oklahoma, The Spero Project, and Catholic Charities hosted the first Eid party for close to 600 Afghan adults and children at the local hotel housing families. The celebration included prayer, a meal, games for kids, a toy giveaway, and spontaneous dancing among the men and the women.

CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT

Salaam alaikum and greetings:

As I ended my eighth year as your Civil Rights Director, I've been reflecting on the growth of the organization as well as how I've grown as an attorney, an advocate, and an ally to my beloved Okie Muslim community. It has been an incredibly rewarding time for the CAIR Oklahoma family - a time of change and expansion as we re-imagine what it means to be social justice advocates in the 21st century.

In early 2022, in addition to my ongoing work running the Civil Rights Department, I took on some additional work in government affairs and branched out into policy analysis and communications. This has been tremendously rewarding to get a front-row view of how policy is written and how it moves through the complicated legislative process. Continuing into 2023, I'll remain in leadership in the Government Affairs Department, sharing duties with our new Advocacy Coordinator to ensure that we stay on the cutting edge of political advocacy and education.

Of course, the work of defending civil rights has not slowed or ceased. In 2022, I worked with a number of clients facing unprecedented challenges to their security and safety, with employment discrimination cases again on the rise. In addition, we have seen a troubling rise in housing discrimination, as well as issues in the family law system that need addressing. The unlawful profiling of American Muslims is an ongoing violation of civil liberties, and CAIR Oklahoma remains at the forefront of the fight to ensure privacy and due process for all Americans.

It's truly been an honor to serve as the Civil Rights Director. You may have heard that I'll be changing my title in 2023 to that of Deputy Director, reflecting some additional duties and responsibilities that I'll be taking on, but don't worry: I'll remain in position at the head of the Civil Rights Department as well, and will always be firmly committed to defending justice for the Oklahoma Muslim community.

Sincerely,



Veronica Laizure



Our strength in the world of policy and advocacy shone throughout the year as we helped our new Afghan neighbors to rebuild lives as members of the Oklahoma community. We delivered over 15 presentations throughout the community on refugees, immigrants, and the Afghan community's needs, culminating in six presentations for World Refugee Day in June, hosted by Oklahoma City's Metro Library System. We also worked on the federal level to push for the Afghan Adjustment Act, including letter-writing parties at local churches and organizations and a digital advocacy campaign that brought Muslim community members in touch with national advocates, veterans, and former refugees to ask our leaders to do the right thing. We continue to speak out at every level of government to ensure that the rights of all communities, especially those vulnerable and marginalized, will be protected.



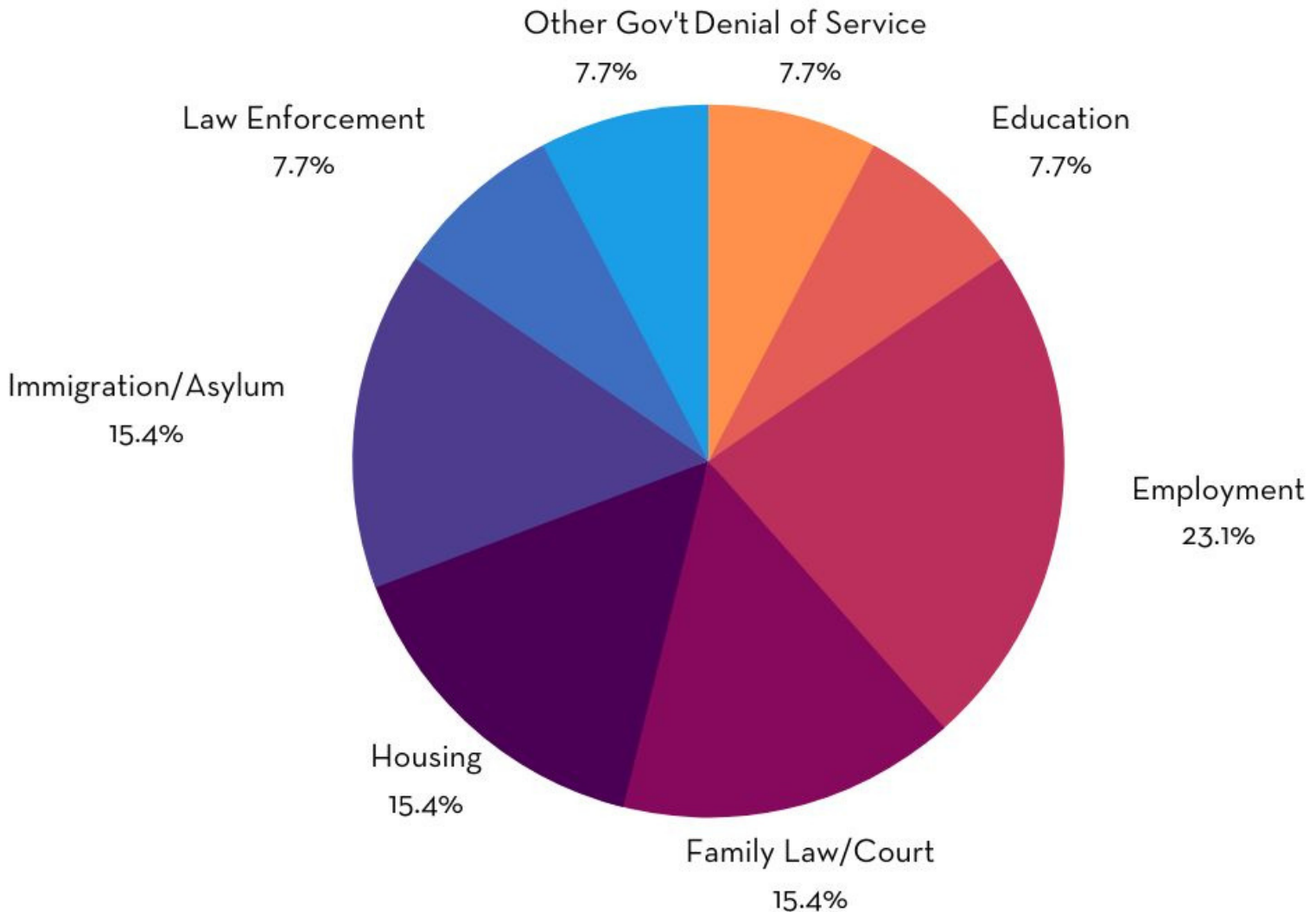
Afghan Adjustment Act

letter writing party

First Unitarian Church
600 NW 13th St.

Wednesday, Sept. 28
6:00PM

DISCRIMINATION CASES

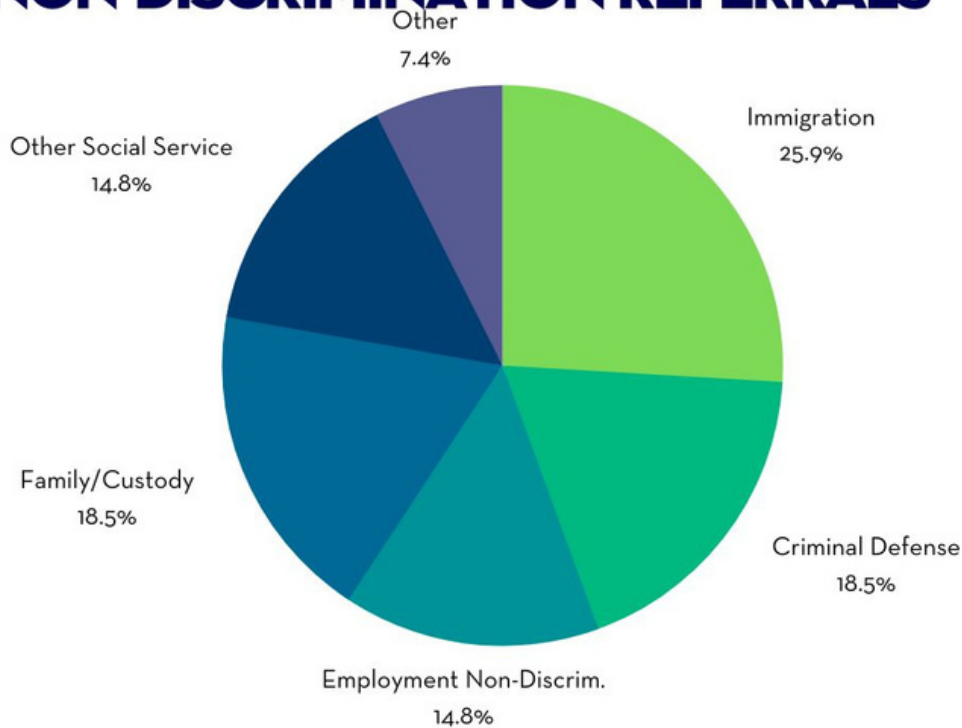


CLIENT WORK AND REFERRALS

After years of seeing employment discrimination cases go down, we have unfortunately noticed an uptick in these types of complaints. Failure to hire, wrongful termination, and hostile work environments are the most common types of employment-related issues that Muslim employees report. Triggering factors include Muslim names, asking for uniform accommodations for facial hair for men and hijabs for women, and breaks for prayers. We frequently assist clients through the reporting process at the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) and advocate for their rights as we help negotiate with their employers.

Other commonly reported issues revolve around inappropriate conduct by law enforcement agencies, such as harassment or profiling, and denial of service. In addition, keeping Muslim students safe and supported in the classroom remains a high priority. While Oklahoma has not experienced many incidents of violence, we remain vigilant against threats to the safety of our community.

NON-DISCRIMINATION REFERRALS



When cases are not within the scope of what the Civil Rights Department can provide, we refer out to a network of qualified legal service providers. The most consistent areas for referrals are for immigration, criminal defense, and family matters such as divorce or child custody. We also commonly refer out employment issues which center on matters other than religious discrimination. Finally, we also refer clients out who require other social services, such as housing assistance or connections to nonprofits that serve other needs in the community.

The first step to increasing voter participation is getting people registered to vote in the first place. Since our state does not have same-day registration, people who wish to participate in the civic process must be registered well in advance of an election. National Muslim Voter Registration Day (NMVRD), hosted by national grassroots network MPowerChange, encourages Muslims across the country to register to vote, check their registration status, and share information about how and why they are voting.

For the first time ever, CAIR Oklahoma coordinated NMVRD efforts at five mosques across the state; Lawton, Tulsa, Stillwater, Greater Oklahoma City, and Crossroads mosques all hosted tables, registered people to vote, and shared images of their constituents eager to participate in the democratic process.

NATIONAL MUSLIM VOTER REGISTRATION DAY



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Assalam Alaikum and Greetings of Peace,

This has been my fifth year as your Community Outreach Director, and each year I am more and more grateful to serve the amazing Oklahoma Muslim community! This department's exponential growth has reached outstanding limits - from hosting our annual, traditional events to creating new ones and expanding our social media presence with more videos, more giveaways, and more opportunities to get involved. We introduced the Noor Fatima Leadership Development Center, a space I designed for our interns and volunteers to work, learn, and grow together. I also took the initiative to become an interpreter for the OU Legal Clinic and serve as the Urdu interviewer for OU's Foreign Language Assessment test. Last November, I was fortunate enough to win my second consecutive NextGen 30 Under 30 award from the NextGen Oklahoma Foundation. Overall, 2022 was a wonderful year for CAIR Oklahoma and the best is yet to come! I am appreciative of your generosity and your support as we continue to grow the Community Outreach Department - the sky is the limit and I thank you for allowing me to serve our community and our state.

Sincerely,

Natasha Saya
Community Outreach Director





2022 was a busy year for the Community Outreach Department! In the earlier half of the year, CAIR Oklahoma continued the yearly tradition of hosting Muslim Day at the Capitol and our annual Ramadan Iftar with our Elected Leaders – both events were a hit! During the month of Ramadan, we planned our Young Professionals Iftar and our Day of Service with the Regional Food Bank and for Eid ul-Fitr, we threw a huge celebration for our Afghan neighbors! Partnering with Catholic Charities, The Spero Project and others, CAIR Oklahoma hosted an Eid party with catered food, food trucks, a toy drive sponsored by Kalidy Kia, games, music, henna and balloon artists, and more. In the summer, we celebrated Adam's ten-year work anniversary with our first ever Halal Happy Hour, including "mocktails" and an open house welcoming our recurring and new supporters, friends, and allies. In the fall, we hosted our 16th Annual Awards Banquet. Overall, it was a wonderful year reconnecting with our Okie Muslim community celebrating our return to in-person gatherings and the ongoing success of the CAIR Oklahoma community.



The Community Outreach Department continued their partnership with the Suraltul Nur Foundation, an organization focused on supplying educational materials to incarcerated Muslims. We also worked closely with Catholic Charities and The Spero Project in assisting with Afghan resettlement. CAIR Oklahoma handmade 950 welcome kits for Afghan neighbors and continued to supply other necessities through the Refugee Resource Center. We connected with Oklahoma City Public Schools and attended Parent Nights, where we shared our outreach and resources for Afghan families and how to make a welcoming space for the children. CAIR Oklahoma formed new alliances with the Oklahoma City Police Department and attended a State of the City event hosted by the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. Both meetings were networking opportunities to build bridges of justice and mutual understanding. The staff continued statewide mosque visits each month throughout the latter half of 2022 to distribute a Muslim health assessment survey. Lastly, the Community Outreach Department continued to be a member of the Religions United Committee and hosted interfaith panels throughout the year and the Interfaith Youth Tour in the Fall.



The Community Outreach Department continued our exclusive monthly donor update email, along with our weekly Muslim Memo newsletter. We designed two social media campaigns: World Hijab Day in the earlier half of 2022 and World Refugee Day later in the Fall. Executive Director Adam Soltani created the “Halal Things Considered” video series on our YouTube page, which highlighted local news, politics and upcoming events in an entertaining and engaging way. We also released a video encouraging Muslims to vote and why it is crucial to exercise our right to vote for National Muslim Voter Registration Day.

In the summer, the Community Outreach Department hired a marketing intern to help digitize our Islam and Muslims in Oklahoma Guide to post on our website.

Furthermore, we created more than 50% of our graphics and flyers in-house that featured our upcoming events, social media campaigns, needs for the Refugee Resource Center, guest speakers and more. Our online outreach continues to increase as we expand our presence on our social media pages and our website.



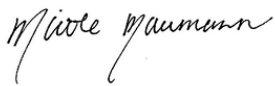
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Salaam from the Government Affairs Department!

I joined the CAIR Oklahoma team in October and am continually inspired and humbled by the incredible examples of civil rights leaders around me. As the Advocacy Coordinator, I am honored to serve the Oklahoma Muslim community at the state and local levels. Since starting, I have created and conducted a text-banking drive to encourage the community to get out and vote and gauge community concerns in voting. I am eager to continue meeting with elected leaders and building opportunities for these individuals to meet with community members. From individual coffee meetings to larger events like mosque visits and upcoming iftars, I am excited for representatives to engage with our incredible community.

With our policy platform published, and legislative session about to start, I am ready to advocate for our Oklahoma Muslim community and build better bridges of respect, acceptance, and dignity for all.

Sincerely,



Nicole Baumann



The GAD brought on a new team member in October 2022, following the departure of Lani Habrock in December 2021.

Nicole Baumann will be filling the role of Advocacy Coordinator, allowing for CAIR Oklahoma to have a consistent presence at the capitol and for further opportunity for community engagement with legislators.

A key component of the CAIR Oklahoma Team, the Government Affairs Department serves to educate, connect, and advocate for the Muslim community with local officials at all levels. It also monitors legislation that would infringe on civil rights and liberties at the state legislature.

Throughout the legislative session, which runs from late January to the end of May, thousands of bills are filed, debated, and changed. We combed through the more than 1,200 bills that were filed in advance of the legislative session, using our Policy Platforms to determine which policy initiatives we would be following and where our community stands on the key issues being debated at the Capitol. Through weekly updates, we kept our community connected with the movement of bills in their complicated process from filing, through committee hearings, to floor debates, and eventually to the Governor's desk for signature. When advocacy efforts were needed, we drew on our close friends and allies to help us push for better policy that would not create harm for our community or marginalized Oklahomans.

While we saw some positive policy changes, particularly in the areas of criminal justice reform that will help address our draconian punitive system and provide true rehabilitative opportunities for offenders, other bills passed which indicate our state's leadership moving in some troubling directions. Our coalition work remains a vital component in the fight to defend civil rights and promote justice for all of Oklahoma's communities who find themselves under attack.

One of the most popular and important events at CAIR Oklahoma is our Muslim Day at the Capitol (MDAC), a day which brings hundreds of Oklahoma Muslims to the State Capitol building to learn about advocacy and meet face-to-face with lawmakers, in addition to seeing the legislative process at work. In 2022, we focused on issue-specific training for advocates to get a closer look at how the state leadership is addressing prison reform, criminal justice, and public health issues. As always, we were met with a few noisy anti-Muslim protestors, but our community is always focused on learning and education, meeting intolerance with grace and fortitude.



Prior to the midterm elections in November, we developed a unique and innovative way to connect candidates for political offices to their community. Our first Candidate Open House brought over a dozen candidates for offices at the local and state level to their community in a science-fair style event, with tables for each candidate to share their positions on key issues and for local nonprofits to share their approaches to local advocacy.

Following the midterm elections, it was possible to start advocacy meetings with newly elected officials and incumbent partners. These serve to educate legislators on the work of CAIR Oklahoma and the incredible community we serve. Since the beginning of December, we have conducted 12 one-on-one advocacy meetings with several elected officials, community leaders and members. These meetings have focused on education on our work and faith and opened conversations on opportunities to connect and support the community.



An important aspect of the Government Affairs work is voter engagement and Get Out the Vote efforts. This year, for the first time we participated in two rounds of text-banking in advance of the General Election in November. The first was a smaller model targeted to evaluate voters participating in early-voting, while the second one used VAN data and was conducted the night before the November midterm elections.

Text banks are a form of voter outreach where individual volunteers or staff members can send texts to supporters' phone numbers. It allows for a small number of people to reach a large number of recipients in a short amount of time, because almost everyone can communicate via text messaging. It is quicker and more succinct than emails and the data will help us build better ways to target our efforts and see what the community wants and needs.

Early Voting:

We found through our early voting text bank that while many voters were aware of their options to early vote, they planned to vote in-person on election day. We also learned that many voters had already exercised their right to vote through absentee ballots. Finally, we were able to remove people who responded that they had moved out of state and would not be voting in Oklahoma.

- Contacts: 590**
- Reached: 546**
- Replies: 62**
- Responses: 15**

Although Election Night always presents a wealth of opportunities for people to keep track of election results, we always bring the Muslim community a watch night focused on the key races, candidates, and issues that affect us most. Our Virtual Watch Party featured special guests who called in from other events across the city, as well as live coverage on races that ranged from the hotly contested Oklahoma County District Attorney race (won handily by Vicki Behenna, who defeated Kevin Calvey) to national races that featured Muslim candidates or that presented high stakes for important federal work. While Election Night results may not have been as heartening, we remain encouraged by high rates of voter participation in the Muslim community, as well as an elected leadership that is increasingly reflective of the diversity of our state and beyond.

Pre-Election Night:

For our second text bank, we had a contact list from the Voter Access Network, which has a filter based on religion – essentially, we could reach all registered Muslim voters in Oklahoma. While the software is not perfect, it provided a much broader base to work with. We even made contact with one respondent who first learned about CAIR Oklahoma through our text bank!

Since we had more contacts and support, we focused first on asking if they were going to vote on election day and then inquiring if they had a particular area of concern that motivated them to vote. Many respondents were focused on some of the key issues for Oklahoma voters, such as abortion, crime, taxes, inflation, and public schools.

- Contacts: 2,870**
- Reached: 2,653**
- Replies: 496**
- Responses: 70**

HEALTH EQUITY GRANT



Assalamalaikum from CAIR Oklahoma's Health Equity department!

In this past year, I have been honored to serve as the Health Equity Coordinator. Beginning in the Summer of 2022, CAIR Oklahoma earned a sizeable grant from the Oklahoma State Department of Health which has allowed us to build, leverage, and expand infrastructure support for COVID-19 prevention and control among populations that are at higher risk and are underserved.

I have been able to conduct educational training, workshops for immigrant and incarcerated communities, and address general healthcare disparities among the Muslim community. I've also addressed the needs for religious and cultural sensitivity training for healthcare providers and updated the print and online Guide to Islam and Muslims for Health Care Providers, which was initially released in 2019. Given there has been an identified lack of availability of PPE items at Islamic mosques and institutions throughout the state, I have also been distributing PPE items and kits, completely free to those who receive them.

Although there is an overrepresentation of physicians in the Muslim community, we have yet to see health screenings and awareness fairs hosted by our Islamic institutions. Given that we have positive working relationships with all Islamic institutions in our state, which collectively serve more than 40,000 Muslims in Oklahoma, this is a unique and excellent opportunity to host health screening and awareness fairs from an organization that the community trusts. We will also seek to take these events to the Afghan community where they live, given that transportation is a challenge, and work with the Department of Corrections to get these events to incarcerated individuals. In doing so, we can implement evidence-based policies, systems, and environmental strategies to address COVID-19. These activities will also allow us to mobilize partners and collaborators to advance in health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate health disparities among populations at higher risk and that are underserved.

Very rarely do we come across an organization like CAIR Oklahoma, who always put the community's needs and interests as their top priority. CAIR Oklahoma have always gone out of their way to assist and serve the needs of the underserved and marginalized communities in Oklahoma. I was delighted when I heard about CAIR Oklahoma's involvement in Public Health and would like to thank everyone for giving me the chance to help this community by working in a field I am so passionate about.

Ruslan Ahasan

OKLAHOMA STATE DEPT. OF HEALTH COVID DISPARITY GRANT

Financial Report:

2022 Grant Income

\$73,094 out of an approved \$250,000; the remainder will be disbursed in 2023.

2022 Grant Expenses

Health Equity Coordinator Salary
and Benefits: \$45,503

Supplies: \$21,160

Admin Expenses: \$4,476

Travel: \$455

Other Expenses: \$1,500

In mid-August, CAIR Oklahoma was approached by our partners at The Spero Project and Catholic Charities regarding the need of USCIS-required vaccinations for the children in the new Afghan community. Several Afghan children attending schools in different areas of Oklahoma were notified about the need of vaccination in order to attend and continue their classes. The students and families were also given a deadline to complete the procedure. Our partners were warned that if the students did not get their vaccines in time, they might face being barred from coming back to school.

In order to complete the whole vaccination process, a systematic approach was needed. CAIR Oklahoma met with our partner organizations and assessed a need for a collaboration with the Oklahoma City County Health Department. As a result, we were able to bring a mobile health van from OCCHD to a number of sites where Afghan neighbors were living. We visited apartments (Candlewood, Lakewood, Highland Oaks, Residence Inn) and set up mobile vaccination tents.

Through our combined efforts, 116 children, accompanied by their guardians, were assisted and given the required vaccinations. Records were upload into the required state databases, and the Afghan students were allowed to continue their semester.

The OSDH grant allowed CAIR Oklahoma to purchase and distribute PPE kits among our Afghan neighbors and the general Muslim community. CAIR Oklahoma met and negotiated with several vendors and ordered 4,000 KN95 masks, 1900 bottles of hand sanitizer, 4000 pairs of nitrile gloves. We also created a PPE info sheet and had it reviewed by medical professionals to be distributed with the kits. CAIR Oklahoma staff and volunteers hand-packed the kits based on family makeup and sizes. PPE kits are being distributed on-site in apartment complexes, giving the Health Equity Coordinator an opportunity to interact and assess the health needs of the Afghan neighbors.



As per the requirements of the OSDH grant, CAIR Oklahoma was required and responsible for creating and conducting surveys for the general Muslim community, incarcerated Muslim community, and for the Afghan community. Three different surveys were created using a software called SurveyMonkey. Each survey contains 29 questions, including demographics and other health assessment information, which will help CAIR Oklahoma address the health disparities in the Muslim community in Oklahoma City. Approximately 200 responses have been collected as of late 2022.



Many of our Afghan neighbors filing for an immigration process are required to complete a medical exam mandated by USCIS. The medical form, known as an I-693 medical exam form, can only be performed by an authorized civil surgeon or nurses by working for an organization licensed for I-693. The immigration network serving the Afghan community reached to us, asking if CAIR Oklahoma could help facilitate these crucial examinations and help our Afghan neighbors in their process towards permanent residency. Through our efforts, partnerships have been formed that will allow these newest members of the Oklahoma City community to get the assessments they need to continue the process of rebuilding their lives as our neighbors.

Many of our Afghan neighbors have reached out to CAIR Oklahoma asking for specific Mental Health resources, particularly services prepared to help them cope with the severe trauma they have experienced. We have met with a number of experts in the field of mental healthcare, including the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health (ODMHSAS), Red Rock Behavioral Health Services, North Care, Mental Health Alliance of Oklahoma (MHAOK), to discuss areas for collaboration. So far, North care has had assisted many of our Afghan neighbors with counseling and therapy, and other organizations stand ready to help them build healthy lives mentally and physically.

PRISON MINISTRY PROGRAM

In 2022, CAIR Oklahoma continued our partnership with Suraltul Nur Foundation, which focused on providing support to Muslims incarcerated in Oklahoma prisons. Through this partnership, we have been able to provide educational services and resources for incarcerated Muslims and work to protect their religious and civil liberties against abuses by the Oklahoma prison system. Thanks to a working partnership with state and local prisons and jails, Suraltul Nur staff and volunteers can enter correctional institutions, work directly with incarcerated Muslims, and negotiate with DOC staff to ensure that inmates' needs are met.

- Distributed more than 500 copies of the Holy Qur'an to Oklahoma prisons and county jails.
- Raised more than \$2,500 in funds before Ramadan 2022 to purchase and provide dates for Incarcerated Muslims to break their fast.
- Raised funds to purchase and distribute Eid Al-Fitr gifts to the more than 1,400 Incarcerated Muslims in Oklahoma.
- Continued the distribution of recorded sermons, educational lessons, and supporting print materials to all Oklahoma Department of Corrections facilities for their respective Muslim populations.
- Continued distributing prayer rugs, hijabs, and kufis, along with prayer instruction posters and pocket guides.



Volunteer Muslim Chaplain DeBorah Boneta picks up boxes of dates from Halal Mart to distribute to all Prisons in Oklahoma for incarcerated Muslims to break their fast

INTERNSHIPS

Policy & Advocacy

In the spring of 2022, our Policy & Advocacy Interns were instrumental in keeping our Government Affairs Department up to date on the movement of bills through the Capitol. Bailee Tanguma and Bree Johnson both worked remotely throughout the legislative session, even joining us for events like Muslim Day at the Capitol to get hands-on experience with local political leadership.

Penelope Hughes, an OKCU student, and Ava Hiser, an international relations Master of Arts candidate at OU, contributed as a Policy & Advocacy interns for the summer, helping with voter guides and civic engagement in preparation for the fall's election season.



Summer Interns

During the summer months, CAIR Oklahoma enjoys the opportunity to bring on interns from a wide spectrum of schools and fields of study.

The Community Outreach Department hosted Akbar Ali, a senior at Mercy School Institute, and Emad Khan, a UCO Communications major, who helped with website updates and social media outreach, among other programs.

In the Civil Rights Department, Faija Islam from OCU Law and Taylor Stamp from OU Law joined Civil Rights Director Veronica in assisting clients and drafting legal research on key civil rights issues.

Executive Director Adam Soltani also had the support of intern Mateen Shah, who helped with a variety of projects in all departments – much like his mentor, Adam, whose work contributes to every part of the CAIR Oklahoma team's success.



Community Engagement Exchange



Lamis Ben Aiyad, a peace and conflict researcher from Libya

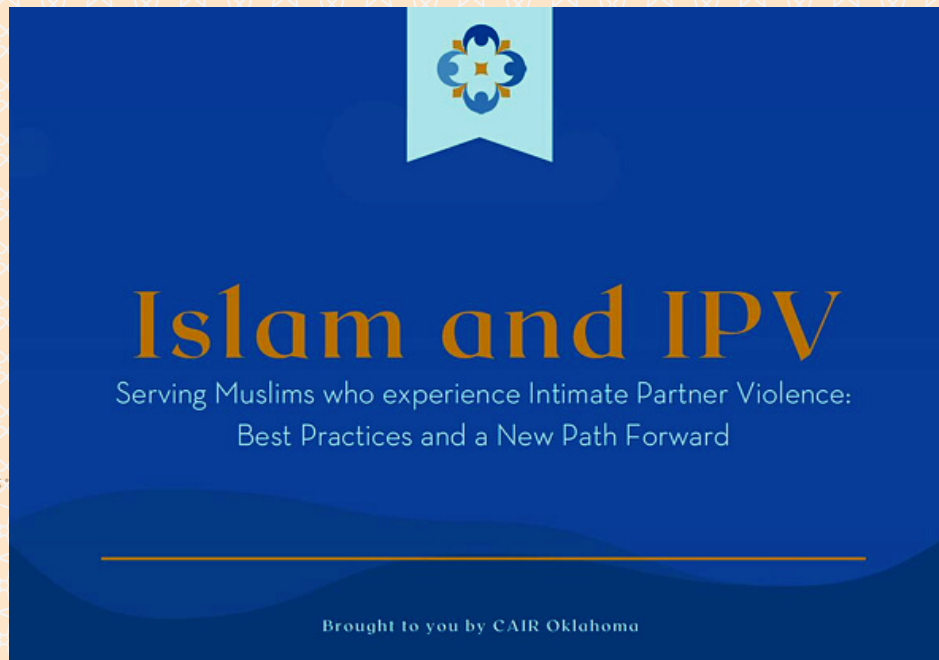
CAIR Oklahoma was selected as one of a few Oklahoma nonprofits to receive interns through the Community Engagement Exchange (CEE), a U.S. State Department-sponsored program bringing talented young people from NGOs across the world to work in U.S.-based organizations. Lamis Ben Aiyad, from Libya, and Assem Neama, from Egypt, joined the CAIR Oklahoma family to learn alongside our team, traveling to mosques across the state and taking part in educational opportunities throughout the community. We were proud to host these wonderful young professionals and for them to bring new skills and knowledge to their important work in their home countries.



Assem Neama, a women's rights researcher from Egypt

FALL INTERNS

In the fall, Mikayla Maiahy, a UCO student seeking a graduate degree in gender and sexuality studies, began her work on gender equity and discrimination among Muslim women, researching aspects of gender bias in the community. She, along with CEE Fellow Assem Neama, presented to the Palomar Family Services team on providing appropriate services to Muslim survivors of domestic violence.



VOLUNTEERS

CAIR Oklahoma remains one of the most accomplished and prolific organizations in the Oklahoma social justice network, as well as across the wider CAIR network. Much of our work is made possible due to our dedicated team of volunteers, who give selflessly of their time and energy for special events as well as regular programming such as the Refugee Resource Center. Many of our current interns and even staff members began as CAIR Oklahoma volunteers!

In 2022, we were especially grateful for some particularly dedicated volunteers who stepped up to help us fulfill our promises to the Oklahoma Muslim community. By honoring their service, we highlight Oklahoma Muslims whose compassion and care makes them extraordinary, and we provide an example for the whole community of true service to the world.



2022 CAIR Volunteers

283 VOLUNTEERS
107 INDIVIDUALS
15 GROUPS

1,918.5 HOURS SERVED

A VALUE OF
\$47,962.50

WWW.CAIROKLAHOMA.COM



Our CAIR partners, donors, and volunteers supported school and winter drives, including donating and delivering 111 prayer rugs to schools; donating, assembling and delivery 226 filled backpacks to Afghan children enrolled at Putnam City Schools; and, donating, sorting, and distributing over 4000 new winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves, and socks.

thank you!





CAIR GAVE AWAY 226 BACKPACKS!

THANKS TO:
ALL SOULS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CHURCH OF THE OPEN ARMS
CATHEDRAL OF HOPE
THE SPERO PROJECT





OKLAHOMA