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Dear Friends,

As we reflect on this past year and look forward to the promise of the next, we are proud of our team and the opportunity to assist individuals and families with life enhancing services.

We’ve had an incredibly busy year at the Chaldean Community Foundation. In June, we transitioned from remote work to in-person service, with numerous safety precautions in place. Throughout 2021, we continued our COVID-19 assistance through the distribution of personal protective equipment such as masks, hand sanitizer, gloves, and sanitizing wipes to thousands in the community. More than 583,000 kits were supplied.

Nearly 50,000 individuals were served this year, and through an incredible partnership with FEMA and the Macomb County Health Department, 3,225 COVID-19 vaccinations were administered at our site, providing protection and relief for the community.

Project Bismutha, or “The Act of Healing,” provided approximately $147,500 worth of in-kind services, with nearly 600 physician appointments, more than 2,000 prescriptions, and in excess of $20,000 in lab work this year through our partnership with Ascension.

Project Light, our mental and behavioral health program, saw licensed social workers fluent in three or more languages provide much-needed therapy sessions to nearly 1,100 individuals, both in-person and in a virtual setting. So many people are currently struggling with mental health issues, and we are blessed to be able to provide that service.

The Breaking Barriers program for special needs individuals and their families was also busy this year, assisting more than 3,000 with respite, counseling, and advocacy services. It is a difficult time to have special needs, and our program treats clients with respect and dignity, using a holistic approach to work with entire families.

The Michael J. George Loan Fund closed out the year with $350,000 in outstanding loans, which means that many in our community will have a new (to them) vehicle to drive to work and school, or wherever they and their families need to go. Transportation is a big issue to those who don’t have any.

Looking to the future, through our partnerships and generous donors, we awarded more than $60,000 in scholarships to 24 students seeking higher education this year. We applaud and encourage the perseverance and hard work that goes into obtaining a degree or certificate.

Toward the end of the year, we broke ground on the Van Dyke Housing Project, an affordable housing development that has been in the planning stages for years. We are excited about the progress on that and about the Oakland County campus coming in 2023!

As a community, we have much to celebrate. Staying true to our faith and committed to our families, with your support, we will continue to do God’s work.

May your year be filled with blessings, joy, and peace,
Thank You to our 2021 Supporters!

The Chaldean Community Foundation launched its Mission Campaign in August 2017. The goal of $8,000,000 was to be used for a much-needed expansion of the CCF center, the Michael J. George Loan Fund which provides loans towards the purchase of vehicles, and a 135 mixed-unit housing development to support long-term housing for new Americans.

The Mission Campaign has raised $9,000,000 as of October 2021 and has added the addition of a west side campus to its mission. The Michael J. George Chaldean Loan Fund has $350,000 in outstanding auto loans.

2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE
- Grants ........................................ $4,509,000
- Mission Campaign ...................... $1,495,000
- Programs & Events ...................... $959,000
- Scholarships ................................ $39,000
Total Revenue ............................... $7,002,000

EXPENSES
- Grants ........................................ $4,508,000
- Mission Campaign ...................... $1,235,000
- Programs & Events ...................... $687,000
- Scholarships ................................ $61,000
Total Expense ............................... $6,491,000

*Unaudited. The Chaldean Community Foundation Financials are audited annually by UHY LLP. 2021 Audited financial statements will be available for review in March 2022
GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING PROJECT
The Chaldean Community Foundation is expanding its outreach to the greater community by addressing one of metro Detroit’s most critical needs - affordable housing. During the past two years the CCF found more than 1,000 families who were seeking and not finding affordable housing.

In October of 2021, the Chaldean Community Foundation held a groundbreaking ceremony for the 135-unit mixed-use development at 43700 Van Dyke Road in Sterling Heights. The new 4-story building will front Van Dyke with 9,000 square feet of commercial space. The building will feature one bedroom and two-bedroom units which will be subsidized to aid clients in need. The development will feature 9,000 square feet of retail space, a surface parking lot for 185 vehicles, a courtyard, and an outdoor recreation area.

Building conveniences include neighborhood restaurants and shops on the first floor, exercise facilities, Wi-Fi lounges, and a community kitchen. Community members can enjoy a community garden, community orchard and walking paths along the Clinton River Trail.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Advocacy work for the CCF begins in the homeland of the middle east, where our leaders advocate for ethnic and religious minorities. According to the American Psychological Association, “Psychological research shows that immigrants experience unique stressors related to the conditions that led them to flee their home countries, the journey to the United States, and the stress of starting new lives away from their family and culture. Many are marginalized from mainstream American society, which can lead to prejudice and discrimination.”

At the Chaldean Community Foundation, we thrive on making a difference for these families by contacting representatives, writing letters, and making phone calls to assist on their behalf. CCF has hosted several U.S. dignitaries, Iraqi dignitaries, and has sat in on congressional hearings to advocate on behalf of our clients. CCF staff sees firsthand how racial/ethnic profiling can affect individuals and are committed to the development of strong community-police relationships and programs to help recognize and overcome this practice.

CCF also works towards racial equity for all those we serve. Eliminating racial disparities and improving outcomes for all by working to reduce systemic economic inequalities is a priority.

In 2021 the Chaldean Community Foundation assisted over 2,000 individuals with advocacy services ranging from eviction to employee stereotyping and religious discrimination. CCF worked hard to advocate for clients navigating through the Unemployment Insurance Agency.

The Foundation developed a Cultural Competency program to educate the greater community about Chaldean history, culture, and demographics. CCF provided cultural competency training to public officials, city employees, corporations and hospitals who serve a large population of Chaldean immigrants. The goal of the program is to increase cultural competency within institutions and organizations that work with our clients and the Chaldean community on a regular basis but have not been educated on the culture and dynamics of these new Americans, hoping to build a better understanding of the culture and end prejudice and discrimination.
ACCULTURATION

CAREER SERVICES
Career Services at CCF include resume writing, job search, job placement and interview coaching. Quarterly job fairs are held at the Chaldean Community Foundation to help create stability for the people we serve. A wide variety of industries participated in job fairs this year with more than 870 job placement services conducted with a 73% employment rate. Job Fairs included Penske, Flex-N-Gate, Warren Consolidated School District, Edustaff, Sterling Heights Police Department, Salem Logistics, Polymer Process Development, Alline Salon Group and Paul Mitchell Schools.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
More than 1.3 million college-educated immigrants are unemployed, under-employed, or working in unskilled jobs throughout the United States. Those who lack English fluency are twice as likely to work in unskilled jobs as their English-proficient counterparts. CCF provided job training courses to our otherwise job-ready, but currently under-employed new American clients with the language and technical skills needed to increase their accessibility to professional-track careers. 2021 programs included cosmetology, administrative soft skills, workplace etiquette, and digital literacy.

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

CITIZENSHIP AND NATURALIZATION
CCF’s Citizenship and Naturalization program is another pathway to prosperity. CCF staff consists of an immigration attorney and four partially accredited Department of Justice representatives. Once a Legal Permanent Resident of the United States for 4 years and nine months, one is able to apply to become a United States Citizen. The naturalization examination consists of 5 components: Reading English, Writing English, English Comprehension, 100 U.S. civics questions and a 20-page application. Those needing assistance in mastering the 5 components of the test attend CCF’s naturalization classes. CCF filed 1,399 immigration applications this year, providing citizenship instruction to over 200 students, helping them achieve their goal of becoming a U.S. citizen.
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Part of CCF’s Pathway to prosperity program, English as a second language classes are offered in 4 sections: basic, beginning, intermediate and advanced. Part of American acculturation is learning the language, which also helps broaden job aspects and navigating everyday life in the United States. CCF provided over 700 hours of language acquisition classes to 175 adult ESL students.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

“Children have systematically unequal chances of getting the experiences they need to grow up healthy due to unsurmountable forces that lie outside a family’s control, like systemic economic inequalities, racial segregation, and soaring cost burdens for raising a family. Unfortunately, not all children in the U.S. are getting the early experiences they need to grow up healthy and to reach their full potential.” (Acevedo-Garcia et al., 2020). In response to these inequities, The Chaldean Community Foundation began early childhood education classes for children ages 0 – 5 years with their parents, to help them gain access to nurturing, developmentally rich early care and learning experiences they need to thrive. The focus is on emergent literacy skills and ensuring they get the crucial and beneficial experiences needed for success in an educational setting.

GED PROGRAM

GED programming began at CCF this year. As part of our Pathway to Prosperity, CCF has offered a multitude of classes taking each client in need along the correct path for their success. Having the equivalency of a high school diploma can lead to further education and higher paying job opportunities for clients, changing their lives and leading families to financial stability.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TOWN HALLS
The Chaldean Community Foundation hosts quarterly town halls to educate the public on important issues. CCF hosted an Internet Safety Town Hall with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, educating parents on what to be aware of when allowing their children to use the internet and subscribe to social media outlets. CCF also partnered with local school districts to help prepare parents for the first day of school and ensuring student success. CCF also hosted an information session on the preschool and Kindergarten class options available in the area.

BREAKING BARRIERS
The Breaking Barriers program was developed to break the stigma related to disabilities and create opportunities for people to flourish in everyday life. Breaking Barriers improves physical and emotional health and facilitates social development for clients with special needs. CCF’s new Life Skills center was developed to teach life skills to those with special needs. The Wild Bills Café provides the opportunity to learn about customer service, stocking and filling inventory, using a cash register, and so much more while Level One bank teaches Breaking Barriers participants the importance of budgeting and the basics of banking including deposits, withdrawals and how to use an ATM machine. CCF’s Behavioral Health team provided assistance and advocacy to over 950 families, also providing respite to their caregivers.

BRAILLE, ESL, ACCULTURATION, MOBILITY (B.E.A.M.)
B.E.A.M. was developed to teach English as a second language and Braille simultaneously to those with visual impairments. The B.E.A.M. program utilizes established curriculum, and all educational materials are produced through printed Braille materials, Braille typewriters, and computers that utilize technology such as JAWS for those with visual impairments. JAWS is an innovative screen reader that enables users to use a computer by providing speech and Braille output for computer applications on your PC and enables individuals to use a computer independently. B.E.A.M. provided 100 hours of instruction this year to the visually impaired.

HARD OF HEARING, ESL, AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE, LIFE SKILLS (H.E.A.L.)
The H.E.A.L. program provides clients with hearing impairments access to services that they would not otherwise be able to access due to lack of transportation or literacy issues, helping them to lead more independent lives. The H.E.A.L. program teaches English as a second language through American Sign Language. It is the first program of its kind in Michigan to teach American Sign Language to individuals who are unfamiliar with the English language. This year H.E.A.L. provided 100 hours of instruction to the hearing impaired.

SENIOR WELLNESS
The Chaldean Community Foundation has developed a multitude of services geared specifically towards senior citizens. CCF’s Senior Wellness Initiative fosters healthy aging, healthy lifestyle choices, teaches medication management, signs of depression, nutrition, and how to avoid substance abuse.

PROJECT LIGHT
Project Light was established to provide a safe therapeutic environment for those suffering from depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. Project Light is managed by professional licensed therapists to inspire hope and improve the quality of life for individuals and families through professional therapeutic assistance. This year, Project Light provided mental health therapy sessions to 195 individuals and assisted 2,661 individuals with wrap around services.

HEALTH FAIRS AND FORUMS
Health fairs and forums were created to address the most critical health needs within the new American community. 2021 Health fairs and forums consisted of educating the community on COVID 19. CCF distributed more than 583,000 PPE kits that included masks, hand sanitizer, gloves, and sanitizing wipes. CCF provided COVID testing as well as vaccination clinics to help keep the community safe, vaccinating almost 4,000 individuals. Covid related resources were translated and provided to the public through social media platforms, CCF’s website, and E-Newsletter.
SCHOLARSHIPS

The Chaldean Community Foundation’s Scholarship Program continues to grow thanks to the generosity of the Yvonne E. Nona Memorial Fund, Drs. Nathima Atchoo and the late Peter Atchoo Family Foundation, W3r Consulting, the Maria Kopicki Scholarship fund, and the Abdul Karim and Jameela Sesi Scholarship Fund. This year, CCF awarded 24 recipients a total of $61,000 in scholarship funds.

**W3r Consulting STEM Scholarship** – Two $5,000 scholarships awarded to current undergraduate (sophomore, junior, senior) Chaldean students at a Michigan college or university enrolled in a program in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics. This year, W3r Consulting awarded scholarships to Safaa Qaryakous and Sinan Ghareeb.

**Yvonne E. Nona Women’s Scholarship Fund** – Ten $2,500 scholarships for women pursuing higher education at a Michigan community college, trade school, university, or graduate program. Open to high school seniors and current undergraduate or graduate students. This year, the Yvonne E. Nona Memorial Fund rewarded scholarships to Amanda Badri, Angelena Youhana, Angelina Adam, Danela Benyamen, Megan Adam, Nadin Razuki, Natalia Zoma, Rogina Ibrahim, Shahad Zaytouna, Wella Yatooma.

**Drs. Nathima and Peter Atchoo Family Foundation Scholarship Fund** – Six $2,000 scholarships offered to Chaldean students looking to attend a Michigan community college, university, or graduate program in preparation for a career in the field of their choice. In 2021, the Drs. Nathima Atchoo and the late Peter Atchoo Family Foundation scholarships were awarded to Anthony Cholagh, Dali Yakoub, Davren Dawisha, Mario Hanna, Mark Kamash, Megan Kajy.

**Abdulkarim and Jamila Sesi Memorial Scholarship Fund** – Five $2,500 scholarships for candidates pursuing higher education including trade school, certification courses, community college, university, or graduate studies. The Abdul Karim and Jameela Sesi scholarship fund was awarded this year to Andrew Samuel, Britney Abro, Emily Kainaya, Jasmine Jarjis, Lexie Jarbo.

**The Maria Kopicki Scholarship Fund** – One $1,000 scholarship to a student in need. This year, the scholarship was awarded to Sara Alkafajy.
Wild Bill’s Tobacco – Mike Samona

Wild Bill’s Tobacco is the Chaldean Community Foundation 2021 Philanthropist of the Year for the path they took to serve the community during the worst outbreak most of us have ever experienced.

Founded in 1994 by Mazin (Mike) Samona, president and CEO, the Troy-based company is the number one tobacco retailer in Michigan, and the second largest in the United States. With more than 150 stores and nearly 1,000 employees, what sets them apart from other retailers is product innovation, offering careers for all their staff, and superior customer service. That’s where the story begins.

When coronavirus shut down stores and closed businesses, including the entire chain of Wild Bills for a month, under the direction of Mike Samona, Chief Operating Officer Nick Konja and his colleagues went to work to see where they could help.

As soon as the pandemic started overwhelming hospitals and first responders, Wild Bills went into action. In March of 2020, by request, they donated more than 10,000 surgical masks and 2,000 pairs of surgical gloves to Ascension Providence in Novi and several other health systems. On April 23, they delivered 200 Meals to Beaumont Troy, 25 meals to the West Bloomfield Police Department, 25 meals to the West Bloomfield Fire Department, 250 meals to the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department, and 75 meals to the Wayne County Sheriff’s Deputy’s Division. Hospitals heard what Wild Bills was doing and started making requests for hard-to-get supplies through the Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce. By April 30 of 2020, when Wild Bills fed the entire staff of 1,000 at Henry Ford Hospital – West Bloomfield, they had donated more than 20,000 masks, 10,000 pairs of gloves, and 7,000 meals to local healthcare workers, first responders, law enforcement agencies, and fire departments. “We can’t thank them enough,” said Mike Samona.

With their resources, they helped Detroit City Hall and their entire police force, along with Westland City Hall and the police departments in Flint, Burton, and Davidson with thermometers, masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers. When The Little Sisters of the Poor, a group of Catholic nuns dedicated to serving the elderly and destitute, lost 9 sisters to the pandemic, Mike Samona was there to help.

In May, Wild Bills teamed up with Hungry Howie’s to deliver 1,000 pizzas to area homeless shelters and fed employees of Karmanos Cancer Institute and Children’s Hospital of Michigan. They joined with International Wholesale to support Enjoy Detroit for A Day of Giving, delivering 600 boxes of groceries, including diapers, baby food, formula, paper towels and snacks to underserved communities in Detroit.

Wild Bills was a supporter of the CCF long before COVID. They underwrote (and named) the cantina in the newly expanded center, not only keeping the staff supplied with healthy options for lunch but allowing the site to act as a training center for Workforce Development. Along with the Konja Family Art Studio, they have helped round out the Life Skills offering at the CCF. The Samona Family also helps refugee families furnish their homes.

Mike Samona immigrated to this country from Iraq with his large family in 1975. He and two of his seven brothers opened one of the first tobacco shops in the state in 1994. Called Smoker’s Outlet, the little store in Roseville is still in operation to this day. In an effort to differentiate themselves, the “Wild Bills” name came along in 2010. Blessed with the opportunity to do good and to help those they loved, Mike and his brothers brought in family to help run the business and recruited Mike’s childhood friend Nick Konja to act as COO. The Konja family arrived in Detroit from Baghdad in 1977.
HUMANITARIAN SPOTLIGHT

HUMANITARIANS OF THE YEAR
Ascension, Beaumont, Henry Ford Health System and McLaren Macomb

How do you say “thank you” to a group of individuals that truly put the lives of others before their own, not once or twice but on a daily basis? They continue prioritizing the community to this day. The four healthcare systems we honor today have all served our particular community in their own way.

Ascension has been a partner to the CCF from the very beginning, teaming up with the Chaldean American Association for Health Professionals (CAAHP) on Project Bismutha, a program that provides healthcare for underinsured Iraqi immigrants. In 2020, Ascension went all-in with the Ascension Primary Health Outpatient Clinic, part of the newly expanded CCF center. The clinic services, attached to Project Light offices, include point-of-care labs, referrals, testing and vaccinations, as well as hospital resources like advanced imaging. The best care is preventive care, and Ascension helps make that possible for individuals who, for whatever reason, are reluctant to go to a hospital directly. The current Chief Operating Officer for Ascension Michigan, Joe Hurshe, serves on the Board of Directors at the Chaldean American Chamber, as did Dr. Nahid Elyas, who diagnosed the first case of COVID in Michigan.

Beaumont Hospital in Troy noticed an uptick in COVID-19 patients with Chaldean-sounding names and correctly assessed that cultural differences such as multi-generational households and larger than normal gatherings may be putting the community at risk for higher levels of infection. They contacted the Spiritual Support Services office, which contacted the Chaldean church. Together with Bishop Francis Kallabat, Beaumont’s president Dr. Jim Lynch released videos to be distributed throughout the community, emphasizing practices such as social distancing, mask wearing, and proper hand washing to keep the spread down and the community safe. After 3 weeks, there was a decline in numbers.

Henry Ford Health System, which has a large number of Chaldean doctors and healthcare workers, has been involved with the Chaldean community for many years. HFHS doctors are regular contributors to the “Dr. Is In” column in The Chaldean News. Recently, in addition to partnering with the CCF and other healthcare systems to host Town Hall events educating the community about COVID-19, they have also released messaging designed to educate the community, including videos on social media outlining the importance of vaccinations and an open letter to the community regarding vaccine hesitation from 150 Chaldean doctors and nurses.

The Chaldean Community Foundation has been a member of McLaren Macomb’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee for years. At their request, the CCF has provided cultural competency about the Chaldean community to their executive leadership and hospital staff. As the impact of the pandemic drew closer to the communities they serve, the McLaren Health Care leadership team quickly launched a system-wide response plan. Their priorities evolved but always included providing high-quality patient care for those with COVID-19 and all other patients, keeping team members safe in the face of the pandemic, and supporting the public they serve.

All of these healthcare systems serve and support our community, and we are pleased to be able to recognize them.
EVENTS

GOLF OUTING
CCF’s annual golf outing took place on July 17, 2021. The event was held at Shenandoah Country Club with 200 golfers in attendance. This event helps raise funds and awareness for the Chaldean Community Foundation.

CCF ANNUAL GALA
The Chaldean Community Foundation’s Third annual gala took place on November 11, 2021, at the Palazzo Grande in Shelby Township. CCF honored Mr. Mike Samona as the 2021 Philanthropist of the year for the tremendous amount of community support listed in our Donor Profile.

CCF’s 2021 Humanitarian of the year award went to the four major health systems for their heroic work and tremendous sacrifice during the pandemic. Ascension, Beaumont Health, Henry Ford Health System and McLaren-Macomb rose to the challenge in our time of need, serving their communities with grace and diligence.

CCF COMEDY NIGHT
CCF hosted comedians Rene Garcia, Nicole Aimee Schreiber, Vincent Oshana and Adam Carolla for a night of comedy at the Sound Board benefitting the Chaldean Community Foundation.
OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

583,000+
PPE ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

3,225
VACCINES ADMINISTERED
THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH FEMA AND MACOMB COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

3,083
INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SERVED

3,616 HOURS
OF RESPITE, COUNSELING, AND ADVOCACY SERVICES PROVIDED

BREAKING BARRIERS

870
JOB PLACEMENT SERVICES CONDUCTED

73%
EMPLOYMENT RATE

EMPLOYMENT

24 SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED WORTH MORE THAN $60,000
586 STUDENTS WERE ASSISTED WITH FAFSA APPLICATIONS FOR COLLEGE
272 ESL, CITIZENSHIP, AND VOCATIONAL STUDENTS ENROLLED

EDUCATION

$147,500 WORTH OF IN-KIND SERVICES
590 PHYSICIAN APPOINTMENTS
2,120 PRESCRIPTIONS VALUED IN EXCESS OF $10,147
$20,065 OF LAB WORK THANKS TO A GENEROUS GRANT FROM ASCENSION

PROJECT BISMUTHA

$8.7 MILLION RAISED FOR THE CCF MISSION
CAMPAIGN THROUGH COMMUNITY DONATIONS

PROJECT LIGHT

1,091
INDIVIDUAL THERAPY SESSIONS VIRTUALLY AND IN-PERSON

COMMUNITY DONATIONS CAMPAIGN THROUGH MILLION RAISED

IMMIGRATION

1,399
IMMIGRATION APPLICATIONS FILED
HELPED 535 NEW AMERICANS BECOME U.S. CITIZENS

THE MICHAEL J. GEORGE CHALDEAN LOAN FUND CLOSED THE YEAR WITH MORE THAN $235,000 IN OUTSTANDING LOANS

For more information call 586.722.7253 or go to www.chaldeanfoundation.org