



Arab-American Family Support Center  
المركز العربي الأمريكي للخدمات الاجتماعية

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**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

**AAFSC Welcomes Newest Board Member; Renews Commitment to New immigrants and Refugees**

BROOKLYN—The Arab-American Family Support Center (AAFSC) is proud to announce the addition of Mr. Naseem Haffar to its Board of Directors. Mr. Haffar is Founding and Managing Partner of Minara Investments (his family's investment business). In addition to his service on AAFSC's Board, Mr. Haffar will play an active role on the committee that will oversee AAFSC's New Immigrants and Refugees Fund. The Fund supports Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim and South Asian (AMEMSA) families and individuals in the region who have fled war and conflict in their homelands.

"We are honored to have Naseem join our Board," said Rawaa N. Albilal, the organization's President and CEO. She added, "Naseem is a talented financial executive; he has been a follower and a supporter of our work and mission, and we look forward to his continued involvement in our work."

In addition to Mr. Haffar, the committee overseeing the New Immigrants and Refugee Fund will include, Liz Jebara, a Syrian-American property manager and longtime AAFSC volunteer, Claudia Schiepers, Chief Marketing Officer at Greystone, and Tanzie C. B. Turel, Director for Executive Office Operations at Greystone. The volunteers on the committee will review qualifying cases and expenses to administer aid from the Fund to families in need.

The Fund aims to provide newcomers with essential services and opportunities, including adult education and mental health treatment services. The Fund will also offset major expenses for recently arrived immigrants and refugees to provide assistance towards installments required to pay back the airfare for these individuals' flights to the U.S.

"With donations from generous supporters to the Fund, we are committed to reducing the economic barriers for new immigrants and refugees," said Joseph Botros, AAFSC's Board Chair.

Many recent newcomers that qualify for this fund, especially children, have experienced events related to war or persecution that may affect their mental and physical health long after those events have occurred. In their countries of origin, many have experienced and witnessed violence, suffered from a lack of food, water, or shelter, experienced physical injuries, infections, and diseases, torture and forced labor, sexual assault, a lack of medical care, and the loss of loved ones, properties and life savings. According to the Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, from October 2016-April 2017, 361 Syrian refugees resettled in NY, 153 in New Jersey, and 117 in Connecticut.

Donations to the Fund are 100% tax deductible. To donate to the New Immigrants and Refugees Fund, please visit <http://www.aafscny.org/donate/>. For more information, please contact AAFSC's President and Chief Executive Officer, Rawaa Nancy Albilal at (718)-643-8000, or at [president.ceo@aafscny.org](mailto:president.ceo@aafscny.org).

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**The Arab-American Family Support Center** is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, non-sectarian settlement house serving multigenerational immigrant families for almost 25 years. Rooted in the heart of Brooklyn, AAFSC offers multi-services at six locations throughout New York City, and serves as the lead community partner at the Khalil Gibran International Academy (KGIA). Our services are designed to empower and support the Arab, Middle-Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (AMEMSA) immigrant communities, while creating an environment of tolerance and understanding for all nationalities and beliefs. Annually, we serve over 6,000 low-income individuals through six culturally and linguistically competent, trauma-informed programs.