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November 5, 2023

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THE COUNCIL OF ISLAMIC ORGANIZATIONS OF GREATER CHICAGO CELEBRATES 31 YEARS OF UNIFYING MUSLIM AMERICAN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT ILLINOIS

Muslim nonprofit commemorated years of civic engagement, diversity and inclusion at Together Towards Tomorrow Annual Gala

OAKBROOK, IL - Today, the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC) celebrated 31 years at its Together Towards Tomorrow Annual Gala. This event not only marked the nonprofit's enduring presence but also recognized the remarkable accomplishments of the organization and its valued partners over the years. Elected officials, community members and the coalition of nearly 70 partners joined CIOGC at the Drury Lane Banquets, where they enjoyed remarks from keynote speaker Ubaydullah Evans, Illinois State Representative Nabeela Syed, CIOGC Chairman Abdulghany Hamadeh and CIOGC Executive Director Abdullah Mitchell.

"Today is more than just commemorating our 31 years as a federation of Muslim organizations; it's a celebration of a community that has come together after enduring years of hardship and being underserved, all to forge a more inclusive and diverse Illinois," said Chairman of CIOGC Abdulghany Hamadeh. "The Council was able to see our mission come to life this past year, a testament to the dedication and resilience of our incredible community."

Known as the largest federation of Muslim organizations with nearly 70 partners, CIOGC has been at the forefront of creating opportunities for Muslim Americans to thrive across all sectors. In the past year, the organization has provided numerous avenues for partners and community members to actively participate in civic activities, advance their careers, and contribute to their communities.

"'Together Towards Tomorrow' signifies our commitment to investing in the Muslim community," explained CIOGC Executive Director Abdullah Mitchell. "As an organization, we take pride in offering a platform for one of the most diverse communities, striving to eliminate any obstacles to their success. This is made possible through the unwavering support of our committed partners, allies, and community members."

Earlier this year, CIOGC led its partners and community members to the state capital for its annual Illinois Muslim Action Day press conference. During the event, the organization met with Governor JB Pritzker, Speaker of the House Chris Welch, and representatives from the office of Attorney General Kwame Raoul to discuss its initiatives. This collaborative effort resulted in CIOGC championing bill HB 3768, a groundbreaking achievement as it made Illinois the first state to officially recognize Arab Americans in its data collection. Additionally, the nonprofit hosted multiple successful fundraising dinners and organized a teachers' training seminar. This seminar enabled aspiring educators to enhance their classroom effectiveness and earn a certification, thereby expanding their professional opportunities.

Just last year, the organization **administered \$693,000 in state grants for rental and utility assistance** to families in need, **distributed 15,600 pounds of food** to combat the food insecurity crisis and **engaged with over 100 mosques**. With the proceeds fundraised at the 31st Annual Gala, CIOGC hopes to have an even larger impact than it did in 2023 to further its mission of strengthening bonds within its diverse communities to promote understanding and cooperation.

About The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago

For over two decades, the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC) has served as the unifying force that brings together over 400,000 Muslim Americans in the greater Chicago region, and now increasingly all of Illinois. With over 60 member organizations, ranging from mosques to Islamic schools and community organizations based in the Chicagoland region, the CIOGC is made up of a very large and diverse body. Muslims are represented by a wide array of ethnicities, races and cultures including African Americans, Nigerians, South Asians, Arabs, Bosnians, Albanians, Turks, Latinos, Caucasians, and many more. The Council brings these extraordinary communities together in cooperation and collaboration to engage and work with the interfaith community, government, media, and the public in general.

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