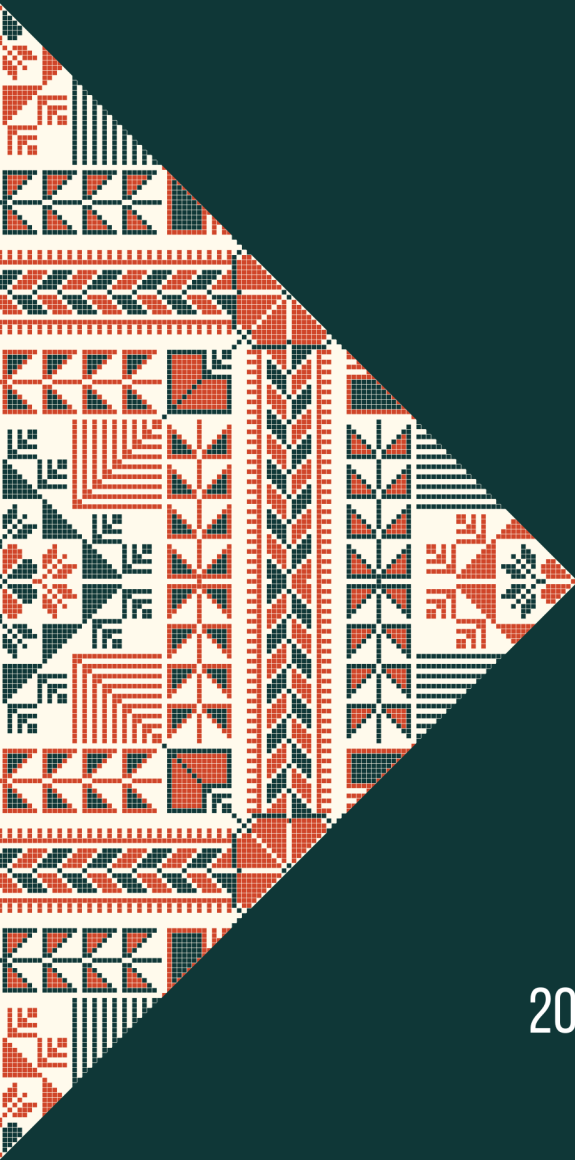


MAJDAL

Arab Community Center of San Diego



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION

Majdal, the Arab Community Center of San Diego, is a grassroots institution committed to uplifting the Arab community in San Diego. Our mission is to support community members in overcoming any social, economic, and political challenges they may face in pursuit of their goals.

We seek to foster an environment rooted in trust and support and to cultivate a communal identity based on a deep understanding of our rich histories and cultures present among us.



VISION

We seek to build a foundation for political power that can achieve a just and dignified future and a continued right to individual and collective self-determination for all members of the Arab community in San Diego, including youth, women, workers, families, and elders.



Support our work by donating online at majdalcenter.org/donate or by mailed check to:

Mission Edge San Diego
c/o Majdal Center
PO Box 102894
Pasadena, CA 91189-2894

DEAR COMMUNITY,

جاليتنا العزيزة

In 2016, a group of Palestinian and Syrian youth took the initiative to respond to the arrival of Syrian refugees to San Diego, and my family was among them. Together, we began coordinating services as well as recreational, educational, and social programs.

في العام ٢٠١٦، أخذت مجموعة من الشباب الفلسطينية والسورية على عاتقها في الإستجابة لإغاثة اللاجئين السوريين في سان دييغو وكانت أسرتي من بين الأسر اللاجئة. وعلى غرار ذلك، قمنا بتقديم شتى الخدمات والبرامج الترفيهية والتعليمية والإجتماعية.

These efforts led to the official opening of the center in 2018 with a celebration, during which we recited poetry, danced our folkloric dance "dabka," and enjoyed authentic food. We gave an overview of the center's mission to offer various free services to families, immigrants and new refugees from Arab countries, particularly Syria, Palestine, and Iraq.

وبعد جهد جهيد، فتحنا ولأول مرة أبواب مركزنا في العام ٢٠١٨ بحفلة تعارف تضمّنت حضور الجالية العربية التي القينا فيها شِعراً ورقصنا الدبكة وقدمنا بعض الأغاني وتناولنا بعض المأكولات. ثم قدّمنا شرحاً مفضلاً عن الخدمات المجانية التي يقدمها المركز للأسر والمهاجرين واللاجئين الجُدد من البلاد العربية خاصة من سوريا وفلسطين والعراق.

Five years later, we have made great stride in overcoming many of the difficulties we initially faced. The center's direct support and impact has gained the love and constant support of the people.

وبعد خمسة سنوات، قمنا بتذليل الصعوبات التي كانوا يواجهونها من خلال المساعدة في الترجمة وأخذ مواعيد لزيارة الأطباء وتعبئة الاستمارات وترجمتها وتوعية الجالية بالقوانين الجديدة، وبذلك إستقطبت خدماتنا قلوب الناس وإقبالهم الدائم للمركز وهذا ما جعلنا أن نكون سعداء للغاية.

At the Majdal Center, we are dedicated to improving the socioeconomic, environmental, and health conditions of the community. Our mission is to have a voice in San Diego County so that we can achieve justice and dignity for our communities.

وفي مركز مجدل، نبذل قُصارى جُهدنا لتحسين ظروف الجالية لذلك نسعى جاهدين لتهيئة ظروف سكنية وبيئية وصحية ملائمة لهم ونحاول أن يكون لنا نُقلاً سياسياً في مقاطعة سان دييغو لتحقيق العدالة ومستقبل مُشرق لجاليتنا.

Your ongoing presence and support makes our efforts immensely fulfilling, and we are deeply grateful.

وبحضوركم الدائم، يغمُرنا فرح عظيم ويجعلنا نعمل بشكل دؤوب مع جزيل شكرنا.

Sincerely,
Asmaa Kheirallah
Advisory Board Member



المخلصة،

أسماء خيرالله
عضوة المجلس الاستشاري

STAFF & FELLOWS



Ramah Awad
Programs
Manager



Mohammed Alkubaisi
Resource
Coordinator



Doaa Alazzawi
Community
Health Worker



Subrein Damanhoury
Youth Programs
Coordinator



Farida Erikat
Youth Organizer



Rima Alkhateeb
Economic
Justice Fellow

Read more about our team online:
majdalcenter.org/our-team

ADVISORY BOARD



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Lallia
Alalli

YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Our youth leadership council is a space for high-school and college-aged youth to develop leadership skills and build community.

The group leads monthly educational, social, and cultural events while participating in active campaigns.

In 2022, the group grew to **12 core members** and planned **8 youth events** with participation ranging from **20 to 100 youth** and their family members!



- ◆ **FEBRUARY**
"Road to Understanding" A Conversation on Mental Health
- ◆ **MARCH**
Live cultural performance with musicians Omar Offendum & Ronnie Malley
- ◆ **MAY**
Film screening of "The Tower" in honor of the Palestinian Nakba
- ◆ **JUNE**
Retreat & Planning Meeting
- ◆ **JULY**
Graduation Celebration
- ◆ **AUGUST**
Back to School Carnival
- ◆ **SEPTEMBER**
Open Mic, Talent Night!
- ◆ **OCTOBER**
Halloween Movie Night
- ◆ **DECEMBER**
Arab Youth Social

“

I joined the group to develop my leadership and public-speaking skills and to gain more knowledge about how we can help our community.

- Tasnim



“

Through this program, I learned how to express my true self and how to be more confident in myself, and this is really important for life here in the U.S.

- Sidra

YOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

We launched the second round of our mentorship program for newcomer youth in partnership with License to Freedom.

We offered one-to-one support to **10 young women** to further their personal, professional, and academic growth through college visits, resume-writing, and more.

Our goal is to support them with navigating the challenges of their new lives as resettled refugees.

BOYS SOCCER PROGRAM

We launched a new boys soccer program! Our program is led by Sulaiman who coordinates soccer practices on a weekly basis at a local park. We have **15 team members** and growing, with ages ranging from 13 to 18.

For updates on our youth programs, visit: majdalcenter.org/youth-programs



DIRECT SERVICES



HEALTH ACCESS

We support community members navigate the healthcare system by helping them identify affordable and appropriate medical care, schedule appointments, and translation. Since the pandemic, we have supported access to COVID-19 information, testing, and vaccination.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The majority of new refugees in the U.S. rely on income from public assistance programs. We support with applications and case management for food stamp programs, MediCal, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), unemployment (EDD), the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), and more.

HOUSING

We support community members access rental assistance, subsidized housing through Section 8, and low-income housing programs. We also advocate for tenants' rights through education and mediation.

OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS



12 WORKSHOPS

In 2022, we co-hosted or attended **12 educational workshops** on topics including COVID-19, banking, tenants' rights, taxes, resume-writing, and student financial aid.

65 WOMEN

We supported an estimated **65 individual women** gain access to employment, domestic violence resources and legal support.

350+ HOUSEHOLDS

We served an average of **60 community members** per week across over **350 households**. Our team members, Doaa and Mohammed, take appointments, phone calls, and walk-ins to deliver one-on-one support to community members.



5,100+ INDIVIDUALS

Our digital reach extends to over **5,100 individuals** through our communication channels including email lists, Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp.

CITIZENSHIP READINESS COURSE

In March 2022, we launched a Citizenship Readiness Course to support community members' preparation for their naturalization exams and interviews.

Our course instructor, Toma Gabriel, leads two classes per week in person at the center and virtually by Zoom.

With nearly **150 participants** registered, citizenship readiness is a key need among the community.

At least **30 participants** successfully passed their citizenship exam!



“

I will never forget the efforts of Mr. Toma, who helped me pass my citizenship exam.

- Nadia



Citizenship provides the following safeguards for refugees:

- ◆ Protection from deportation
- ◆ Citizenship for children under 18
- ◆ Family Reunification
- ◆ Freedom to Travel
- ◆ Right to Vote
- ◆ Employment Opportunities

COMMUNITY FORUMS & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

We hosted a two-part community forum with **28 participants**. During the first meeting, community members shared their main challenges since arriving to San Diego as refugees.

During the second meeting, we generated community-driven solutions to these issues and identified potential leaders.

In addition, we conducted **110 needs-assessment surveys** by phone to shape our services, programs, and campaigns.

The community forums generated 5 key issue areas:

- ◆ Language barriers
- ◆ Lack of transportation
- ◆ Cultural & social integration
- ◆ Housing access
- ◆ Insufficient public services

HISTORY RESEARCH PROJECT

We partnered with a course on "Race and Oral History" at the University of California San Diego (UCSD). We paired students with **11 community leaders** to conduct interviews about the history of Arab migration to El Cajon and the history of the Majdal Center.



Check out the recordings from the interviews online: knit.ucsd.edu/rohpo/oral-histories

OUR 5 GOALS FOR 2023!

1

Host arts
workshops &
cultural events

As a community-driven organization, we rely on your continued support.

Your contribution will help sustain and grow our several services, programs, and campaigns!

We invite you to donate online:

majdalcenter.org/donate

To contribute by check, please make checks payable to the address below.

Thank you for your ongoing support!



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SUPPORT OUR GOALS!

2

Launch a "Big Sib, Little Sib" Mentorship Program

3

Conduct a "MENA" Community Census

4

Advocate for tenants' rights & housing resources

5

Expand our physical community space



THANK YOU!

شكراً جزيلاً

PARTNERS

Center on Policy Initiatives
 CSA San Diego County
 Family Health Centers of San Diego
 Horn of Africa
 Islamic Center of San Diego
 Karen Organization of San Diego
 License to Freedom
 Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans
 San Diego Refugee Communities Coalition
 San Ysidro Health Center
 United Women of East African Support Team
 U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights
 Youth Organize! California

FUNDERS

California Office of Refugee Resettlement
 Center for Arab American Philanthropy
 County of San Diego - Health and Human Services Agency
 Grantmakers for Girls of Color
 HRSA: Health Resources and Services Administration
 National Association of County and City Health Officials
 Public Health Institute
 Planned Parenthood
 Sierra Health Foundation
 Solidaire
 The California Endowment
 The Conrad Prebys Foundation
 Third Wave Fund

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