

## **American Muslim Advisory Council (AMAC)**

### **Empowering Tennessee's Muslim Community: Creating a Thriving and Resilient Society**

The American Muslim Advisory Council is committed to fostering an inclusive Tennessee that values and respects individuals of all faiths and spiritual beliefs. With over 70,000 Muslims in the state, AMAC proudly represents their interests and aspirations. Nashville, known for hosting the largest Kurdish community in the nation, is a testament to the diverse backgrounds within the Muslim community, including African-Americans, Bosnians, Palestinians, Somalis, South Asians, and more. AMAC actively engages the Muslim community in civic activities, strengthens social bonds, and cultivates positive media relations. By recognizing and embracing Muslims' linguistic, cultural, religious, and socio-economic diversity, AMAC extends valuable services throughout Tennessee and stands as its voice and champion.

### **Civic Engagement: Amplifying Muslim Narratives**

AMAC actively encourages Muslims to participate actively in their communities through civic engagement. We equip community members with knowledge about the issues that directly impact them, empowering them to advocate for themselves effectively. Each year, we bring Muslims from across the state together to meet with their state legislators, ensuring their concerns are heard and addressed. Furthermore, we mobilize our communities to exercise their right to vote by organizing voter registration drives, hosting candidate forums, and rides to the polls. Our annual Muslim Vote Day serves as a special event to celebrate and emphasize the importance of voting statewide.

### **Community Building: Strengthening Connections, Providing Support**

We believe in building a strong and resilient community, both within and beyond the Muslim population. AMAC connects Muslims with essential resources needed for their overall well-being and success. During the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, our organization brought tens of thousands of dollars into the Muslim community, offering support to individuals and businesses. Additionally, we have distributed 4,500 food boxes to families in need, conducted educational sessions on COVID-19 awareness, and collaborated with mosques to host 15 vaccine clinics, administering over 1400 COVID-19 vaccine doses.

### **Advocacy for Health and Wellness: Addressing Disparities**

AMAC remains committed to addressing health disparities within our community. In 2021, we conducted a comprehensive survey on the mental health challenges faced by Tennessee Muslims and the barriers preventing them from seeking help. Through information sharing and workshops, we educate Muslims on various

mental health topics and connect them to vital resources, ensuring their well-being and resilience.

### **Building Bridges & Forging Alliances**

AMAC actively fosters alliances with other organizations, enabling us to establish connections between them and the Muslim community. We provide cultural competency training to government entities and nonprofits, equipping them with the knowledge and understanding necessary to serve the Muslim community effectively. These efforts create opportunities for our members to share their unique experiences, shaping inclusive policies and amplifying their voices through interactions with policymakers and media outlets.

### **Celebrating Diversity: A Home for All**

Tennessee is a proud home to Muslims from diverse cultures and backgrounds, and AMAC's work is crucial in creating an environment where they not only receive respect but also thrive. Our success is indebted to the rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and experiences our members bring to the table. We are honored to be recognized during National Immigrant Heritage Month, as it highlights the invaluable contributions made by Tennessee's Muslim population.