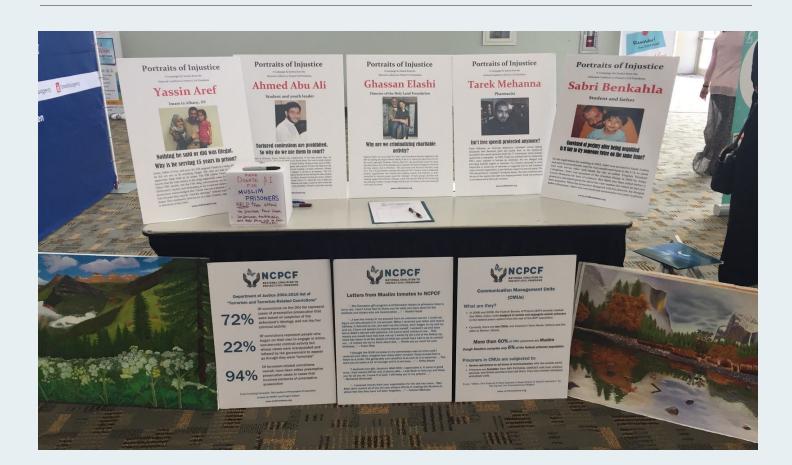


COALITION FOR CIVIL FREEDOMS (FORMERLY NCPCF) ANNUAL REPORT 2017



MISSION STATEMENT

Established in October 2010, the Coalition for Civil Freedoms, formerly NCPCF, is a coalition of national and local organizations as well as prominent individuals, whose mission is: To educate the public about the erosion of civil liberties and political freedoms in society; to provide legal advocacy and support for prisoners within the U.S. criminal justice system and their families targeted after 9/11; and to defend and preserve the rights of all people according to the U.S. Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Geneva Conventions.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Committee to Stop FBI Repression (CSFR) ◆ Council on American Islamic Relations - FL (CAIR-FL) ◆ Creating Law Enforcement Accountability and Responsibility (CLEAR) ◆ Desis, Rising Up and Moving (DRUM) ◆ Friends of Human Rights (FHR) ◆ International Action Center (IAC) ◆ Islamic Circle of North America Council for Social Justice (ICNA-CSJ) ◆ Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA) ◆ National Lawyers Guild (NLG) ◆ The Aafia Foundation (TAF) ◆ Project Support and Legal Advocacy for Muslims (Project SALAM) ◆ United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) ◆



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Friend of CCF,

Over the last year, many organizations and millions of people across the country have rightfully protested the racism, xenophobia, and anti-Muslim bigotry of Donald Trump. His unjust policies, including the Muslim Ban, building a wall, or deporting immigrants, have posed a threat to civil liberties and inspired a much needed call to action. However, as family, staff, and board members of CCF, we know that the majority of these discriminatory systems have been in place during at least the previous three administrations. Sadly, the erosion of civil freedoms in this country in the context of terrorism laws, preemptive prosecutions, and FBI manufactured plots, is an issue that has brought us together as we strive to shed light and educate the public on these abuses of power.

In 2017, we were grateful to have built relationships with new impacted family members, some of whom attended our families conference for the first time in October. On a few important occasions, CCF staff and board members were able to be physically present in court, whether at the bail hearing of Ibrahim Mohammad or the trial of Nicholas Young. As always, we have worked to give impacted families a voice and empower them to tell their stories and advocate for their loved ones. With minimal resources, we worked tirelessly to educate and mobilize people to action, provide legal support, strategic advice, and emotional support during their legal battles and beyond.

While the current political climate seems bleak, we have been equally heartened to witness an awakening among the masses to the corrupt practices of our government. The growing momentum of the Black Lives Matter movement and its focus on police brutality has helped expand our reach to communities also working to combat abuses by law enforcement officials. As more Americans begin to demonstrate and call for criminal justice reform and accountability, it is our hope to inject the stories of the hundreds of forgotten "war on terror" prisoners—themselves victims of government overreach—into these timely and necessary conversations.

As we traveled all over the country to educate ordinary citizens about these critical issues affecting other Americans, we also took our message to the halls of Congress. Following our families conference, we held our very first legislative advocacy day in which families of political prisoners met with the offices of ten Members of the House and Senate. Families received workshops on lobbying by experts during our conference, and were equipped with the skills and confidence to engage legislators. Participants reported feeling empowered and optimistic, with one prisoner's mother, Linda Woods, sharing that her meeting with her Senator from Arkansas successfully helped her son in prison receive required medical treatment.

These are difficult times, to be sure, but we continue to have hope, and look forward to another year of supporting prisoners and their families. With each passing year, the public is becoming more aware, less fearful, and ever more determined to end these injustices. We remain committed to our mission to defend civil freedoms in the U.S., and are so grateful for your partnership and support.

Sincerely,



Mel Underbakke, PhD Executive Director

Leena Al-Arian
Deputy Director

STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mel Underbakke, PhD Executive Director

> Leena Al-Arian Deputy Director

Kathy Manley Legal Director

Hatem Fariz
Development Director

Mariam Abu Ali Program Director (2017)

Reem Jayyousi Communications Associate (2017) Stephen Downs
Chairman

Laila Al-Arian NLF

Khalil Meek MLFA

Mauri' Saalakhan The Aafia Foundation

Fahd Ahmed DRUM

Hatem Fariz FHR Marilyn Levin UNAC

Ramzi Kassem CLEAR

Sara Flounders IAC

Sonali Sadequee Family Member

Tom Burke CSFR

Zahid Bukhari ICNA-CSJ

Hassan Shibley CAIR-FL



CCF'S 2017 IMPACT

This past year, CCF underwent numerous changes, culminating in a unanimous vote to abridge the organization's name for wider appeal and marketability. Earlier in the year, the board voted to edit the bylaws and organization's structure to more accurately reflect its current operations, and the mission statement was revised to add a component that emphasizes our work with impacted families.

After appointing new leadership, CCF was able to organize several successful programs, campaigns, events, and conferences, thanks to our many volunteers and generous donors. From our launchgood campaign to our Ramadan gifts program, our efforts increased our visibility and attracted new impacted families to join our organization as active members. We added new members to our board including Sonali Sadequee, sister of preemptive prosecution victim, Shifa Sadequee, as well as the Florida chapter of CAIR.

We increased our outreach to the Muslim community by speaking and tabling at three Islamic conferences, events at mosques, and a large public event at the Diyanet Center featuring Sh. Omar Suleiman. Outside of the lecture hall, we set up a mock solitary confinement cell and exhibited posters on several victims of preemptive prosecution and manufactured crimes. Mel Underbakke also established a good relationship with the CAIR executive director in the Minnesota office who is eager to support CCF programs that work with families in the twin cities who were devastated by CVE policies and FBI manufactured plots.

In 2017, CCF held its first ever lobby day for impacted family members after training them in civic engagement, media, and political outreach. Policy recommendations were prepared by Legal Director Kathy Manley and families were able to provide personal accounts of their experiences. We plan to develop this project even more this year by increasing the number of participants, training more families in advocacy, and scheduling more meetings with elected officials.

CCF's educational outreach extended to online efforts as well, with our bi/weekly news digest and "profile of injustice" emails. In addition to growing our email list, our Facebook and YouTube page are an active social media presence which have grown our followers to almost 2000 "likes." CCF remains the go-to page for national security related news and for all updates and actions on current cases.

Our national database of preemptive prosecutions and thought crimes continues to be one of the most comprehensive resources in the country. Kathy has continued to provide legal support to prisoners who are experiencing hardship in prison or held under arbitrarily punitive measures.

As you can see, despite our limited capacity, we have made an imprint this past year and succeeded in touching new lives. We are always gratified by the positive feedback we receive from the families, who tend to be our top volunteers and supporters. This organization may be small but its team is full of heart and maintains an unshakeable commitment to the pursuit of justice.

Together, we will prevail!

CCF 2017 HIGHLIGHTS NEW YEAR'S COMMUNITY PICNIC

Each year, the Coalition for Civil Freedoms co-sponsors a community picnic in Tampa, Florida, in a public display of solidarity with area Muslims. Hundreds of people attend this gathering annually to enjoy good food, music, and see friends—both old and new.

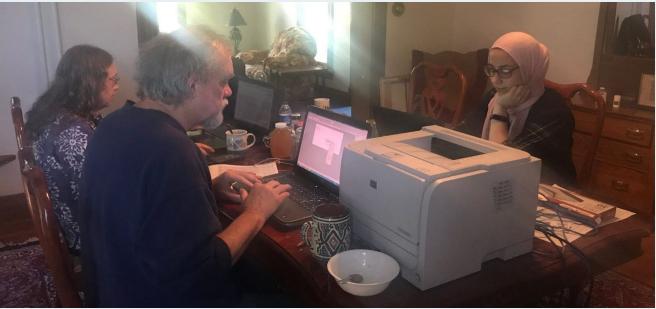




2017 CCF HIGHLIGHTS RAMADAN GIFTS PROGRAM

In April 2017, we succeeded in carrying out our annual Ramadan Gifts Program to over 200 prisoners. Gifts in the amount of \$100 were deposited in each prisoner's commissary account so they may purchase basic items during the holy month of Ramadan. We also mailed prisoners Ramadan greeting cards with a letter insert from the organization to let them know they are supported and not forgotten. As a result, many prisoners wrote us letters of thanks and new family members got in touch with our organization.





CCF staff and volunteers hard at work sending money orders to political prisoners.

CCF 2017 HIGHLIGHTS EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

In 2017, CCF held public educational events featuring staff and impacted family members in six states: Florida, Maryland, New York, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota. The events were widely attended and held at various churches, mosques, universities, and community centers in front of diverse audiences. Impacted family members and staff also spoke and/or tabled at five conferences: ICNA-MAS (Baltimore), Left Forum (NYC), AMP (Chicago), MAS-ICNA (Chicago), as well as at our own conference at the Diyanet Center (Lanham, MD).





Luther College, Decorah, IA



ICNA-MAS Convention, Baltimore, MD



Left Forum, New York, NY

AMP Convention, Chicago, IL

CCF 2017 HIGHLIGHTS LEGAL SUPPORT

One of CCF's key program areas is providing legal support to prisoners, whether it is to monitor and help alleviate harsh prison conditions, filing legal briefs and petitions on behalf of prisoners, or maintaining a national database of victims of preemptive prosecution. Below are a few highlights prepared by CCF Legal Director Kathy Manley:

- Maintained and updated database of all the cases we follow (over 1000 on it)
- Submitted amicus briefs to Supreme Court in 2 Guantanamo cases Al-Nashiri and Al-Bahlul
- Created list of long-term prisoners (held for life or very long sentences going past 2025) so we can hopefully give them special emphasis
- Wrote to three prisoners to see if they were under SAMs (a process involving denial of correspondence and then appeal to the warden at ADX who then notified us that they are under SAMs)
- Did legal research on halfway houses for Tarik Shah
- Helped get Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) push for halfway house placement for Tarik Shah. Although Shah had been denied, he was granted the halfway house after Rep. Tonko and other people wrote letters
- Did a lot of research on a couple of post-conviction statutes for Mohammed Saleh and Jamal Samak, which unfortunately did not yield any positive results
- Corresponded with several other prisoners and gave them information
- Got a lot of medical records for Mohammed Hossain, who was transferred to Leavenworth (they did this so he could get a certain psoriasis treatment they have there) his son is working with a doctor who can review the records. Tonko's office looked into it but was just told Leavenworth is appropriate for him
- Helped Yassin Aref's two oldest children get their citizenship had to file a lawsuit for the oldest son, but then the government gave in and he was sworn in a few months ago, and the daughter earlier. We have an application (another attorney filed it) for the last one who did not have it. We are hoping he will get it by the time Yassin is released in October 2018. We will also be trying to get an Iraqi passport for Yassin so he can be deported quickly and not have to spend much (if any) time in immigration detention.





CCF 2017 HIGHLIGHTS NATSECDEF CONFERENCE

NATSECDEF is a national security and human rights conference organized annually by attorneys of the Military Commissions Defense Organization, the Coalition for Civil Freedoms, and Witness Against Torture. CCF co-sponsored another successful conference at GW Law School last fall with Guantanamo defense lawyers and others, and moderated a panel on domestic issues where Kathy Manley, spoke about our cases and database work. The genesis of NATSECDEF occurred after Guantanamo detainee Ammar Al-Baluchi obtained a copy of CCF's *Inventing Terrorists* report and asked his lawyers to get in touch with us. Kathy and Steve Downs met with the attorneys on a few occasions and they agreed to organize a legal conference with us. Since then it has become a yearly event, mainly organized by the Guantanamo defense team, and it has grown significantly each year.





CCF Legal Director Kathy Manley speaks alongside Board Chairman Steve Downs. Washington, D.C.

(T)ERROR DOCUMENTARY FILM



In early 2012, a young man named Khalifah Al-Akili contacted CCF and requested help because he was certain the FBI was trying to entrap him in a terrorist plot that he wanted no part of. CCF determined that Khalifah was correct and held a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. to denounce the FBI's attempts to entrap an innocent man. Unbeknown to CCF, a documentary filmmaker, (with the consent of the FBI's informant, but unknown to the FBI), was filming this attempted entrapment. The subsequent film, (*T*)error, which exposes FBI counterterrorism surveillance and use of informants in manufactured plots, won an *Emmy* award in 2017, and featured CCF's attempts to protect the target from an unjust entrapment. NCPCF was further invited to participate at the Good Pitch film festival and by extension some members of our board.

CCF 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR FAMILIES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

In October, CCF held one of its most successful conferences for families of political prisoners at the beautiful Diyanet Center in Lanham, MD. About 65 impacted family members attended, coming from Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Workshops focused on storytelling, media outreach, and lobbying, with parallel youth sessions led by family member Nida Abu Bakr on art and social justice, as well as a sports session led by CCF team member, Juan Underbakke. Food was catered by Syrian refugee women in the area.

The conference theme focused on empowering families, and had many new participants, including recently released political prisoner, Sabri Benkahla. Workshop facilitators included Jennifer Meeropol, the executive director of the Rosenberg Fund for Children (RFC), as well as Kimberly Snodgrass-Jenkins, a mother of a wrongfully convicted prisoner and activist with many justice organizations including the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT).









CCF 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR FAMILIES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS CONTINUED...

CCF raised funds for the families conference through a Launchgood campaign featuring a video by Mariam Abu Ali calling for the support of families of "war on terror" prisoners. Other donations were obtained through direct outreach to mosque leaders and past supporters. CCF staff made a conscious effort to invite new participants to expand our outreach and offer support and a close network for those who previously felt alone or abandoned by their communities.

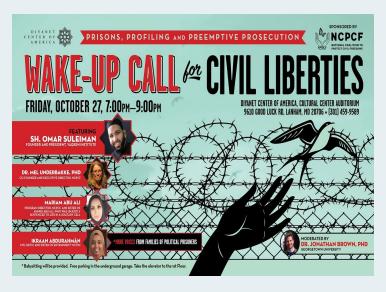




New family members, Ashley Young and Linda Woods

Conference Storytelling Workshop

PUBLIC EVENT WITH IMAM OMAR SULEIMAN AND IMPACTED FAMILY MEMBERS





PUBLIC EVENT WITH IMAM OMAR SULEIMAN AND IMPACTED FAMILY MEMBERS CONTINUED...

To kick off our seventh annual families conference, CCF held a large public event at the Diyanet Cultural Center on Muslim Prisoners and Preemptive Prosecution featuring Sh. Omar Suleiman, and moderated by Dr. Jonathan Brown of Georgetown University. The panel also featured Dr. Mel Underbakke, and family members Mariam Abu Ali and Ikraan Abdurahmān. The intention was to invite a highly regarded and high-profile Muslim figure to bring these critical issues to the Muslim community which has largely been crippled by fear. The event drew a large audience and was very well received. The community is becoming increasingly receptive to combating injustices that directly impact it. Many of the questions focused on the problematic CVE policies plaguing their communities.





Sh. Omar Suleiman and Dr. Jonathan Brown pose with CCF family members.

CCF 2017 HIGHLIGHTS FAMILY LOBBY DAY

After our 7th annual conference wrapped up, some family members stayed through Monday to participate in CCF's first ever family lobby day. Family members were trained in legislative advocacy over the weekend, including a workshop with Kathy Manley on the policy recommendations she drafted for the organization. Our delegation, comprising CCF families, staff, and board members, met with the offices of ten representatives and senators, many of whom expressed sympathy for the family members. We were also pleasantly surprised to learn that the legislative aids of Sen. Boozman (R-AR) had watched the (T)error documentary and were familiar with the issue of FBI entrapment and manufactured crimes. Family members eloquently told their stories, discussed the cases of their loved ones in prison, and asked for more humane treatment. The experience left many feeling empowered and motivated to continue to advocate and return to Capitol Hill until justice is received.





CCF families, staff, and board members participate in our first ever legislative advocacy day.

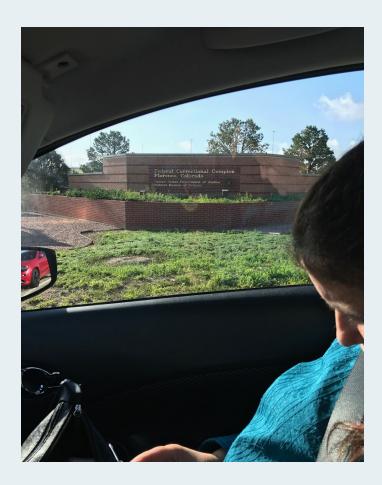




CCF 2017 HIGHLIGHTS PRISONER & FAMILY SUPPORT

As part of our efforts to support prisoners and their families, CCF actively tries to assist inmates facing hardship in prison, partially by developing relationships with the prisoner's case managers and counselors. In one case, a prisoner in the Marion, IL CMU felt that his life was in danger because of a dispute with other prisoners. Our Executive Director contacted his case manager about this fear, which resulted in the prisoner being moved out of the CMU and into a medium security prison where he now feels secure and safe. The prisoner wrote to us, "I realized how much leverage you have after you helped save my life when I was in CMU. It was a weird story, but thanks a lot (sincerely)."

CCF staff also frequently visits prisoners. For example, in the summer of 2017, Mel Underbakke accompanied Laila Yaghi, mother of Ziyad Yaghi, on her visit to her son for the first time in over a year. In the photo below, they wait at the gate to enter the grounds of the high security prison in Florence, Colorado.





Ziyad Yaghi and Omar Hassan Aly

CCF 2017 HIGHLIGHTS PRISONER & FAMILY SUPPORT

At CCF, we pride ourselves in our commitment to supporting and empowering families of political prisoners. While we do our best to assist political prisoners in the federal system through our canteen gift program and legal support, we feel the best help we can offer victims of the criminal justice system is to support their loved ones on the outside and create a safe community as they face their legal struggles and fight for their rights.



One of our new family members is Linda Woods, whose son, Erick Hendricks, was also entrapped and awaiting trial. Linda, pictured left with legislative aides for Sen. Boozman (R-AR), joined the group lobbying on the Hill after the conference.

While in prison, Erick had fallen and broken several ribs, but was unable to get attention from prison officials. Linda was able to get needed medical treatment for Erick by contacting her representative.

In a phone call, Erick said, "I would like to thank the good Lord and the National Coalition for prompting my mother to take action, teaching her how to lobby our nation's leaders...We need organizations like the NCPCF to remain on this whole front line fighting to preserve our freedoms."

Other testimony comes from another new family member, Ashley Young, whose brother, Nicholas Young, presently awaits sentencing after being convicted in yet another unjust entrapment case.

During our storytelling workshop, Ashley said, "This is a problem that I did not know of until it happened to my family — and that is a problem. It's a problem that there are so many people that there has to be a family conference for it...And I consider myself a very...I am open-minded, I'm aware, I know what's going on with issues — and the fact that I never heard of this issue is a problem."

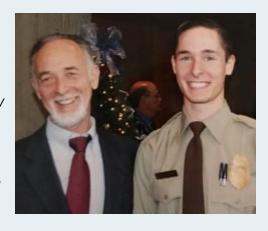


CCF 2017 HIGHLIGHTS PRISONER & FAMILY SUPPORT

Recently, Ashley shared a letter her brother wrote to us to thank us for our support:

"To The Good People in the National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms -

Thank you so much for all the support and continued support you have shown myself and my family. The gift I received from your organization for Ramadan was most unexpected and appreciated. It's heartening to know that an organization such as yours exists and that it has aligned itself with me in this fight. My sister Ashley came back from the meeting / retreat at the Turkish mosque in Maryland fortified and reenergized. I was blessed to visit there a couple weeks prior to my arrest and found the mosque and grounds beautiful. Ashley had a great time there and had many pictures and stories to share with me. Thank you for providing her with that experience.



I have long lamented the neglect that local and national Islamic institutions show towards the issues you focus on. Your organization fills a vital gap and I am pleased to learn that there are good people like you trying to create awareness. Much of this government overreach I am hearing about in many of these cases has disturbing similarities to the FBI's 'Cointelpro' (Counterintelligence Program) that was exposed decades back which targeted racial, religious, and political minorities. Your support for myself and my family has meant more to us than you may realize. I look forward to getting a chance to meet with some of you when this is over with.

God Bless & Warmest Regards, Nicholas E. Young"

Reem Jayyousi, pictured right, is a longtime family and staff member and recently wrote on Facebook,

"This cause is important to me because we are struggling financially. We want to do more and we want to be able to support more families. These families feel forgotten, some can't even pay rent and most can't even visit their loved ones in prison. I know from my personal experience as a family member who was once lost and alone until I met my second family and now I am able to work alongside those who helped me. Trust



me when I say NCPCF is like no other. This is not one of those take your money and pocket organizations. This is a donate and help a struggling mother pay rent organization. This is a donate and help a daughter visit her father organization. This is a donate and help an inmate make a phone call to his family organization. Please share and donate, help us grow because the cases aren't stopping. Stand up for your brothers and sisters and help one another."

CCF FINANCIAL REPORT (January-December 2017) Revenue Summary

Beginning Balance (as of December 31, 2017)			\$9,894.81		
Remaining Balance (as of January 30, 2018)			\$7,990.31		
Total Revenue ¹	\$94,202.28 ²	Total Expense	\$96,749.58	Net	-\$2,547.30

I. Revenues	<u>Totals</u>	Percent of Total ³	
A. Total Revenue by Type	\$94,202.28	100.0%	
1. General Donations	\$40,679.63	43.2%	
2. Special Projects (C below)	\$53,161.09	56.4%	
3. Joining/Membership	\$300.00	0.3%	
4. Tickets Sales	\$0.00		
5. Product Sales	\$0.00		
6. End of Year Appeal	\$0.00		
7. Other – includes refunds and returns	\$61.56	< 0.1%	
B. Ticket Sales Total	\$0.00		
C. Special Projects Revenue Total	\$53,161.09	56.4%	
1. Ramadan Gift Program	\$22,324.00 ⁴	23.7%	
2. Families Conference Appeal	\$16,927.09	18.0%	
3. Tampa Special Fundraiser (Rally)	\$15,910.00	16.9%	
4. Families Assistance Program	\$0.00		
D. NCPCF Product Sales Total	\$0.00		
E. Other-Refunds, Returns/Loans Total	\$61.56	>0.1%	
II. <u>Expenses Total</u> (details in II below)	\$96,749.58		
Balance as of December 31, 2017	\$9,894.81		
Balance as of January 30, 2018	\$7,990.31		
Outstanding Revenue	Facebook Fundraiser		

¹ Three non-transactions occurred: (1) 1/17, \$10,308.64 in - 1/26, \$10,308.64 out. (2) 6/1, \$10,928.62 out - 6/23, 10,928.62 back in. (3) 10/6, \$2,000 in, 10/6, \$2,000 out. None are included here - falsely increase values.

² Includes some \$9,000 in Anonymous/Cash donations for Ramadan, fails to include \$6,000 Donations from ICNA & MAS for conferences, and many hours and \$\$\$ of in-kind contributions by supporters.

³ Due to rounding, these don't sum to 100.00%.

⁴ Includes more than \$9,000 in anonymous & cash donations

II. Expenses

Туре	<u>Amount</u>	Percent of Total	
A. Salary/Compensation	\$36,284.13	37.5%	
B. Ramadan Gift Program	\$22,032.00 ⁵	22.8%	
C. Families Conference Program	\$15,070.92	15.6%	
D. Tampa Special Fundraiser (Rally)	\$11,241.00	11.6%	
F. Other Committees/Programs	\$11,321.45	11.7%	
[See details (F) below]			
G. Regular/Stationary Expenses	\$800.08	0.8%	
[See details (G) below]			
Total Expenses	\$96,749.58	100.00%	
F. Other Committees/Programs	\$11,321.45	11.7%	
1. News Digest	\$3,891.65	4.0%	
2. Website/Domains	\$83.94	0.1%	
3. Development Committee	\$465.00 ⁶	0.5%	
4. Education Committee	\$0.00		
5. Printing/Publications	\$1,564.78	1.6%	
6. Prisoners & Families Committee	\$2,280.00	2.4%	
7. Legal Work	\$750.00	0.8%	
8. Travel/Transportation	\$1,755.73 ⁷	1.8%	
9. Other	\$530.35 ⁸	0.5%	
G. Regular/Stationary Expenses	\$800.08	0.8%	
1. Assets/Equipment	\$176.00	0.2%	
2. Office Supplies/Postage	\$349.33	0.4%	
3. Telephone	\$0.00		
4. Mailbox	\$0.00		
5. Bank/Credit Card/PayPal Fees	\$274.75	0.3%	

Adds \$13,882, which doesn't show in the books, \$9,000 cash donation –money orders=\$2,032 for 204 prisoners.
 Includes Mailchimp Fees
 Includes Hotel/Lodging & Meals
 Primarily from pre-April, not properly ascribed Expenses