

NORTH  
AMERICA  
CIVIC  
PLATFORM

# NACP BRIGHT NEWS 2025

NORTH AMERICA  
CIVIC PLATFORM

*Service That Unites. Dialogue That Builds.*



# SERVING COMMUNITIES, BUILDING BRIDGES: NACP 2025 OVERVIEW

Throughout 2025, organizations affiliated with the **North America Civic Platform** (NACP) continued to exemplify the core values of the **Hizmet Movement** across the United States: service to humanity, dialogue, education, compassion, and civic engagement. Inspired by a deep sense of social responsibility, volunteers, educators, youth, and community leaders worked tirelessly to respond to local needs while strengthening bonds among diverse communities.

# 2025

From large-scale humanitarian relief efforts to interfaith dialogue programs, educational initiatives, youth leadership development, cultural festivals, and advocacy for human rights, 2025 stood out as a year of **measurable impact and collective action**. NACP-affiliated organizations partnered with hundreds of local institutions, public officials, schools, faith communities, and civil society actors, demonstrating that collaboration rooted in empathy can create lasting change.

Across the country, **over 700 events and activities** were organized in dozens of states, **reaching more than 100,000 participants** in person. Through coordinated food drives, disaster relief operations, and social support programs, **over 588,000 people received food, meat, or hot meals**, while **1.1 million people gained access to clean water** through international humanitarian efforts. Educational equity remained a priority, with **4,290+ underprivileged students receiving** school-supply backpacks, and **10,000+ students supported** through academic, mentoring, and youth empowerment programs.

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[Www.nacplatform.org](http://www.nacplatform.org)  
@NAC\_Platform

# 2025: A YEAR OF SERVICE, DIALOGUE, AND SHARED HUMANITY

Health and human dignity were central to Hizmet-inspired service in 2025. 5,364+ individuals received cataract surgeries and health screenings, restoring sight and improving quality of life. In times of crisis, such as the Texas floods, 1,400+ disaster victims were supported through emergency aid and recovery assistance. Meanwhile, advocacy initiatives and international platforms amplified the voices of the silenced, reminding the world that behind every statistic is a human story.

**Dialogue and education** continued to shape public life through **10+ conferences, 25+ workshops**, university panels, UN-level forums, and interfaith gatherings. These efforts fostered understanding across faiths, cultures, and generations, while also engaging policymakers, academics, journalists, and youth leaders. The impact extended far beyond physical spaces, with **over 2 million social media views and 85+ shares by local media outlets**, prominent figures, and institutions, helping positive stories reach a wider audience.

Recognition followed service. In 2025, **19 awards honored** the dedication of Hizmet-inspired individuals and organizations, affirming the value of volunteerism, ethical leadership, and community-centered action. **Supported by 500+ partner organizations**, NACP-affiliated initiatives showed that sustainable change is possible when people act together for the common good.

This summary reflects not only numbers, but a living story of hope, resilience, and shared humanity. The events of 2025 stand as a testament to what can be achieved when service is guided by conscience, dialogue is rooted in respect, and communities come together to uplift one another across the United States and beyond. ♦

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On Day 2 of the Atlantic Institute's UNGA program, we visited the Alliance for Shared Values and The Fountain Magazine with Dr. Michael L. Best, strengthening friendships through dialogue and mutual understanding.



The Atlantic Institute brought together Turkish, Colombian, and Brazilian (FBC Cumming) friends for a Coffee Night filled with conversation, music, and rich cultural flavors.

ATLANTA

## **Atlantic Institute Shares Holiday Gift in the Spirit of Dialogue and Friendship**

The Atlantic Institute visited OneJax to deliver a holiday gift basket as a gesture of appreciation and friendship. The visit reflected a shared commitment to dialogue, mutual understanding, and strengthening community ties, highlighting the spirit of giving and collaboration during the holiday season.

## **Atlantic Institute Paid a Visit to the Milton Police Department**



The visit to the Milton Police Department provided a meaningful opportunity to share a gift basket and spend time with community partners dedicated to public service. The warm welcome reflected the strong relationship between local institutions and the community they serve.

The gathering expressed appreciation for the department's continued commitment, professionalism, and service, while reinforcing the importance of ongoing connection, gratitude, and collaboration with community leaders—especially during the season of giving.

## **Atlantic Institute Shares Holiday Visit with Our Lady of the Assumption Church**

The Atlantic Institute visited Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church to share a holiday gift basket with dear friends. The warm visit highlighted meaningful dialogue, shared values, and the continued growth of friendship and community bonds.





## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS PREPARE THOUSANDS OF MEALS FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Volunteers came together for an afternoon of service, preparing 1,700 sandwiches and more than 2,500 bagels for neighbors in need across Georgia. The effort, led by Bagel Rescue in partnership with the Atlantic Institute, showcased the power of community and compassion. Joining the initiative were members of the Indonesian Catholic Community at Our Lady of the Assumption Church (OLA), who worked side by side with volunteers in a spirit of unity and interfaith cooperation. All prepared food will be distributed throughout Georgia to support individuals and families facing food insecurity.



1,700 SANDWICHES, 2,500 BAGELS +



## HONORING MAITLAND'S HEROES WITH THANKSGIVING GRATITUDE

Volunteers from the Atlantic Institute continued the spirit of Thanksgiving with a heartfelt visit to the Maitland Fire Department, sharing food and appreciation with the firefighters who protect the community every day. The group thanked the department for its courage, dedication, and the many unseen sacrifices made in service to Central Florida. The visit offered a warm moment of connection, reminding firefighters that their commitment does not go unnoticed. It was a simple gesture, but a powerful expression of gratitude in action—honoring those who serve with compassion and care.

# ATLANTA



# Representative Anna Eskamani and Felipe for Florida Join Community in Successful Thanksgiving Food Drive

## ORLANDO

It was a day filled with generosity and community spirit as the Thanksgiving Food Drive brought people together to support neighbors in need. Thanks to the incredible participation of volunteers and donors—and a special contribution from the Atlantic Institute—the drive achieved remarkable success. With everyone's support, donations were delivered to several local organizations, including Conway Community Market, the Christian Service Center Orlando, The Desire Foundation, and soon to the Eatonville Chamber of Commerce with assistance from Felipe for Florida.

It was a powerful reminder of what true community looks like: people coming together, uplifting one another, and moving forward with shared purpose. Onward!



## Mayor Joins Community United in Thanksgiving

The Atlantic Institute of Memphis hosted its Annual Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner, bringing together community members in a warm celebration of gratitude and unity. Germantown Mayor Mike Palazzolo offered thoughtful remarks, while prayers from two faith traditions and a meaningful Thanksgiving reflection added depth to the evening. Filled with fellowship and appreciation, the gathering highlighted the hope and strength that come from a community united in gratitude.

## MEMPHIS

2025  
Best Of  
North Atlanta  
**Awards**  
*Celebration*  
Presented by 



## ATLANTIC INSTITUTE WINS BEST NON-PROFIT AWARD

The Atlantic Institute was honored to receive the Best Non-Profit Award at the 2025 Best of North Atlanta Awards Celebration organized by Appen Media. This meaningful recognition—earned for the third time—highlights the institute's ongoing commitment to dialogue, service, and community engagement. The organization expressed gratitude to Appen Media for hosting such a wonderful event and to the community for their continued trust and support.

#BestNonProfitAward #NorthAtlanta #AppenMedia #HizmetCares

ATLANTA

**WE ARE**



**2026 HUMANITARIAN AWARDS**

We celebrate the voices, the acts, the hearts that make our community stronger.

### SILVER MEDALLIONS:



Betty Burney



Sel & Angie Buyuksarac

OneJax has announced the 2026 Humanitarian Award honorees, recognizing individuals whose compassion, integrity, and service strengthen understanding, belonging, and educational opportunity throughout Northeast Florida. Among this year's distinguished awardees, Sel and Angie Buyuksarac were honored with Silver Medallions for their meaningful contributions to dialogue, community service, and bridge-building across the region.

JACKSONVILLE



## ATLANTIC INSTITUTE BUILDS BRIDGES WITH ATLANTA POLICE

The Atlantic Institute was honored to be hosted by the Atlanta Police Department and the APD Professional Development Unit at the Atlanta Public Safety Training Academy for a remarkable day of dialogue and connection. The program featured an engaging panel with leaders from the APD Leadership Academy, an immersive tour of the academy, and the heartfelt tradition of sharing Noah's Pudding. This meaningful exchange fostered mutual understanding, respect, and community spirit. We extend our gratitude to Chief Schierbaum and the Leadership Academy team for their warm hospitality, reflecting a shared commitment to building bridges and empowering the next generation of leaders.



ATLANTA, GA

# EMORY UNIVERSITY YOUTH JOIN SEEDS OF COMPASSION AT ATLANTIC INSTITUTE

Emory and ICM youth joined Atlantic Institute for interfaith dialogue and connection.



The Atlantic Institute was honored to welcome the inspiring young participants from the Islamic Circle of Mercy (ICM) and the Emory Youth Theological Initiative (YTI) as part of their Seeds of Compassion program. Throughout their visit, we shared meaningful conversations, personal stories, and moments of genuine connection. It was truly uplifting to engage with such thoughtful and compassionate youth, whose presence reflected the power of empathy and interfaith understanding.

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to host this remarkable group and inspired by the kindness, curiosity, and hope they brought into our space.

#Gratitude #SeedsOfCompassion #InterfaithDialogue  
#HizmetCares



## ATLANTA

# Thanksgiving Aid Reaches 1,625 Families Nationwide

As Thanksgiving approached, volunteers inspired by the Hizmet Movement joined hands with Embrace Relief's national coordination team, American partner organizations, and community leaders to launch a large-scale humanitarian effort across nine states. Through 17 separate events, 1,625 families received hot meals, turkeys, and essential food packages.

This comprehensive initiative reached communities in Texas, Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. Volunteers prepared and delivered 670 food packages and 955 turkey or protein boxes, ensuring families could celebrate the holiday with a full and festive table.

The effort reflected the spirit of service and solidarity that defines the Thanksgiving season, showing what is possible when volunteers, local institutions, and community partners unite for the common good.

**1,625 families received hot meals, turkeys, and essential food packages.**



# From Classroom Skills to Community Impact in Uganda

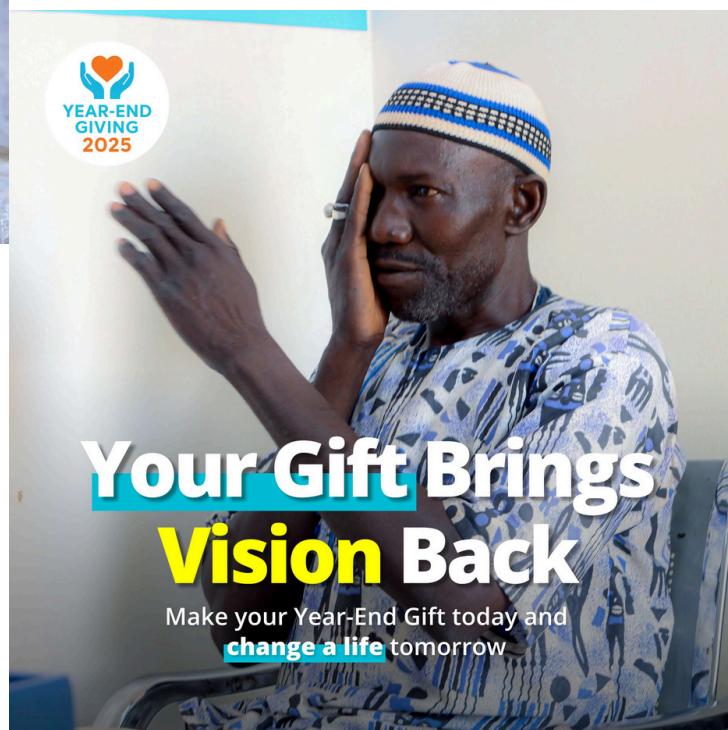
Tailoring students in Uganda, sponsored by Hajj Umar, used their new skills to sew clothes for children at Grace Place Community Primary School in Mutungo village—showing how vocational training empowers youth while bringing joy and dignity to the community.



## 42,000 People Received Cataract Surgeries



BRIGHT NEWS





# TEXAS FLOOD RELIEF BY EMBRACE RELIEF

## ORGANIZERS

Embrace Relief and our partners at the Raindrop Foundation of San Antonio are working closely with local authorities to provide urgent assistance to victims of the devastating floods that struck central Texas on Friday, July

## WHAT HAPPENED?

More than 110 people -- including more than 30 children -- have lost their lives following torrential rains that caused once-in-a-century flooding in Kerr, Burnet and Travis counties, located to the north and west of San Antonio and Austin. The storms, which struck the region early Friday morning, dropped as much as 6 inches of rain in a matter of hours, overwhelming roads, riverbanks, and residential neighborhoods with little warning. The region continues to be at risk of more flooding from continued rain, hampering search-and-rescue and rebuilding efforts.

While the full extent of the damage is still being assessed, it is clear that communities in the affected area will face a long, painful recovery as the floodwaters recede. It is also clear that the need for immediate support is substantial.

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**\$52,397 RAISED**





## EMBRACE RELIEF SUPPORTS 4,290 STUDENTS WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES ACROSS 10 STATES

As the new school year begins, millions of U.S. students from low-income families struggle to access basic supplies. To address this challenge, Embrace Relief launched a school supply distribution for the 2025–2026 academic year. In partnership with local schools, community organizations, and officials, the charity reached 4,290 students across 10 states (NJ, NY, VA, TX, IL, NC, RI, PA, MD, GA). Backpacks and supplies helped children start school on equal footing, motivated and ready to learn.

Embrace Relief emphasized that supporting education is investing in a brighter future and pledged to continue such initiatives.

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## 4,290 STUDENTS



USA



The Niagara Foundation hosted this year's Interfaith Potluck for Peace, bringing together more than 150 attendees, including leaders, youth, and community members from Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Bahá'í traditions. The evening of prayer, food, and conversation highlighted how peace is nurtured through shared tables and shared values. Special thanks to the Children of Abraham Coalition and Ecoacpeace for their dedicated efforts in organizing, and to all who joined in building bridges of peace.

CHICAGO



## TRACES OF TIME, CHICAGO



Illinois State Representative Michelle Mussman and Illinois Comptroller Susana A. Mendoza attended the ongoing program, which continues to draw strong community interest. Under the banner of **#TracesOfTime Chicago**, thousands of attendees are showing their support for IFLC Chicago, celebrating culture, unity, and artistic expression.

The Muslim Civic Coalition attended the Traces of Time event at Chicago's Athenaeum Center, part of the IFLC world tour. Performers from over 20 countries celebrated global culture through music and storytelling. The Coalition appreciated joining regional partners to support diversity and friendship.



## CHICAGO



## U.S. REP. DELIA RAMIREZ AND COMMUNITY LEADERS JOIN NIAGARA FOUNDATION'S INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING DINNER

Niagara Foundation hosted its annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Dinner, bringing together public officials, faith leaders, community advocates, and volunteers for a warm evening of gratitude and unity. The program opened with remarks from Leyla Ozbey, followed by a video message from U.S. Representative Delia Ramirez and the introduction of District 8 candidate Yasmeen Bankhoole, recognized for her dedication to fair representation. Reverend Nanette Sawyer of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago delivered the keynote address, highlighting the power of gratitude in building harmony across diverse communities. Guests enjoyed a lively Turkey Show, a multicultural dinner served at four stations, and on-camera reflections recorded for the "Voices of Gratitude" project. The evening also featured a beautiful Ud performance by Enes Odabas and Ahmet Sahin, and concluded with remarks from Embrace Relief Midwest Director Elshad Abdullayev, along with thanks to Niagara Foundation volunteers, TASC for hosting, and Thousand Tales for preparing the meal.



CHICAGO

# HİZMET SHOWCASED WITH PANELS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND EVERSTAR VR AT ISNA CONVENTION

At the ISNA Convention, the Hizmet community was proudly represented through both a panel discussion and meaningful networking opportunities. Among the highlights, filmmaker and director Alexander Kronemer and comedian Preacher Moss joined Everstar Studio for an exclusive VR experience, showcasing innovative approaches to storytelling. Social media influencer Saad Jameel (@browniesaadi), with 1.4 million TikTok followers, also accepted our invitation, explored the projects firsthand, and recorded content to share with his audience. In addition, Respect Institute contributed with a dedicated panel at the convention, further amplifying the spirit of dialogue, creativity, and engagement.



## CHICAGO



## COOKING CLASS AT JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY BONDS

The final cooking class of the season at John Knox Presbyterian Church, organized in collaboration with NOICA, brought together 25 guests and dedicated volunteers for an evening of food, friendship, and cultural exchange.

Participants prepared traditional Turkish dishes, enjoyed Turkish coffee, took part in interactive games, and received small gifts, highlighting how shared meals and hands-on experiences can strengthen community bonds and build lasting friendships.



## INTERFAITH COOKING CLASS FOSTERS UNITY AND FRIENDSHIP

Organized by NOICA, the cooking class at Congregation Mishkan Or brought community members together to share traditions, enjoy delicious food, and connect through meaningful conversation, strengthening understanding and unity across cultures.

CLEVELAND



TASO Missouri joined Catholic and interfaith colleagues in prayer for the victims of gun violence.

## MISSOURI



NOICA volunteers proudly joined the Rocky River Public Library's Multicultural Festival 2025 with a vibrant Turkish stand of art, culture, and food.

## CLEVELAND



TASOM Hosts Ramadan Cooking Class Celebrating Turkish Cuisine ☽

TASOM hosted a special Ramadan Cooking Class, offering participants a hands-on introduction to Turkish cuisine and the meaning of iftar. Guests learned about Ramadan, prepared traditional dishes with guided instruction, and gathered to break their fast together with prayer and a shared meal.

The event fostered cultural learning, connection, and community spirit, leaving participants with both new skills and meaningful memories.

## MISSOURI



DIALOGUE  
INSTITUTE  
HOUSTON



## DINNER AND DIALOGUE: A GATHERING OF VOICES AND CULTURES

It was a beautiful evening in Houston as community members came together for Dinner and Dialogue: A Gathering of Voices and Cultures. The event was filled with stories, food, and friendship, creating an atmosphere of connection and understanding.

Attendees celebrated the richness of diversity while building bridges across cultures and faiths. The evening highlighted how sharing meals and conversations can nurture respect and strengthen the bonds that unite us.

The program was organized by the Dialogue Institute of Houston and the Fort Bend Interfaith Community, with the support of several partner organizations whose efforts made the gathering so meaningful. Together, they showed that when communities embrace dialogue and collaboration, we are truly stronger.

HOUSTON



The Dallas Police Department hosted students, teachers, and volunteers from Texas Horizon Academy at its headquarters today. Detectives and a guest speaker led sessions on internet safety, human trafficking, and drug awareness, while students engaged with the K9 Unit, Drone Unit, and toured the Crime Scene Division. They also enjoyed a squad car show-and-tell and met with partner organizations. A warm thank-you to the teachers and parents for the tea break and delicious Turkish lunch. Events like this continue to strengthen the bond between the department and the community.

## Dallas Police Department Hosts Texas Horizon Academy Students for Safety and Awareness Program

DALLAS, TX

### Mayor David Holt Highlights Raindrop Turkish House and Enes Kanter Freedom's Thanksgiving Donation

Oklahoma City Mayor, U.S. Conference of Mayors President, and TIME 100 leader David Holt shared a heartfelt message on the eve of Thanksgiving, highlighting a meaningful donation from Raindrop Turkish House and Enes Kanter Freedom. Mayor Holt expressed his gratitude for the contribution of more than 100 turkeys, noting that the donation will support families served by Skyline in South OKC and contribute to the efforts of the Regional Food Bank.



OKLAHOMA CITY



DIALOGUE  
INSTITUTE  
DALLAS

DALLAS

Living for Others: The Spirit of Service and Dialogue Panel at Southern Methodist University, Organized by Dialogue Institute Dallas



## Constable Mark Herman's Office Attends Dialogue Institute Houston's Early Thanksgiving Dinner

DIALOGUE  
INSTITUTE  
HOUSTON

The Office of Constable Mark Herman, which has 339,000 followers, announced that its deputies attended the Early Thanksgiving Dinner organized by the Dialogue Institute Houston. The event brought together law enforcement officers and members of the Turkish community in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The Constable's Office expressed gratitude for the community's hospitality, noting that gatherings like this strengthen relationships and reinforce the spirit of unity. They emphasized their appreciation for every opportunity to come together, learn, and build deeper connections.

HOUSTON



## A Celebration of 37 Cultures in Odessa–Midland

Odessa–Midland hosted a vibrant Cultural Festival on October 25, celebrating the rich heritage of 37 different cultures with traditional food, colorful attire, lively dances, and joyful music. The event created a powerful atmosphere of unity as people from diverse backgrounds came together under the same flag to honor diversity and mutual respect. The organizers expressed deep gratitude to the City of Odessa, La Invasora, UTPB Sociology Club, Odessa First Assembly Church, UTPB International Student Club, Peace Academy of West Texas, and the many dedicated volunteers whose hard work made the festival unforgettable. Together, the community turned this day into a true celebration of harmony and togetherness.

2,000+ Participants



ODESSA, TX

# DALLAS AIDVENTURERS YOUTH GROUP BRINGS MEANINGFUL AID TO UGANDA

Meaningful Humanitarian Visit: Dallas Aidventurers Youth Group in Uganda

From July 3 to 15, 2025, the Aidventurers Youth Group—affiliated with the Raindrop Cultural Center in Texas—embarked on a humanitarian mission to Uganda under the theme “Ubuntu,” meaning “I exist because we are.”

They carried out six aid projects aligned with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals across four areas: social support, health, education, and economic empowerment.

- Clean Water: Wells were drilled in the villages of Lukolo, Kyuka, and Nakulyaku, providing safe drinking water to 1,500 people and protecting them from waterborne illnesses such as typhoid and cholera.
- Orphanage Support: In Jinja’s Wampa Orphanage, about 300 children received meals, funded through donations raised by the youth group.
- Cataract Surgeries: Volunteers helped local doctors at Nil Hospital conduct cataract surgeries for 20 individuals, restoring their vision and improving quality of life.
- Economic Empowerment: Twenty vocational students were provided with sewing machines to help them start their own businesses. In addition, 20 families received bicycles and another 20 families were given goats to support transportation, income generation, and sustainable living.

This initiative not only addressed urgent needs but also created lasting opportunities, reflecting the spirit of solidarity and shared humanity.





## Global Visionary Award Presented to Raindrop Foundation at UN Houston Gala

The Raindrop Foundation was honored with the Global Visionary Award at the 2025 United Nations Day Gala, held at the Junior League of Houston. Marking the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations under the theme “UN at 80: Building Our Future Together,” the event gathered members of the Consular Corps, government officials, humanitarian leaders, and global advocates dedicated to peace and sustainable development. Hosted by the United Nations Association – Houston Chapter in partnership with the City of Houston, the gala featured a keynote address by Rachel Bowen Pittman, Executive Director of UNA-USA, who urged the audience to hold onto their humanity and remain hopeful in building a better world.

The program also celebrated distinguished honorees. Ellen Goldberg, Director Emeritus of Sister Cities of Houston, received the Global Citizen Award for her decades of work in cultural diplomacy. Dr. William “Billy” Cohn, a renowned cardiothoracic surgeon and medical device innovator, was honored for life-changing advancements in global health.

Legacy Leadership Awards were presented to Daniel Stoecker, Dr. Roopa Gir, David Godwin, Robert Moll, and Dr. Parvin Bagherpour for their long-standing service to UNA-Houston. The Raindrop Foundation thanked its partners, supporters, and volunteers, reaffirming its commitment to cultural understanding, peacebuilding, and advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

HOUSTON

## Interfaith Evening with Dr. Robert Hunt



On September 12, the Dialogue Institute of Dallas hosted an interfaith program featuring Dr. Robert Hunt, Director of Global Theological Education at SMU. Dr. Hunt shared insights from his latest book and reflected on common narratives, such as the story of Noah, that unite diverse faith traditions and foster dialogue and trust. The evening was also honored by the presence of Richardson City Council Member Dan Barrios and concluded with the sharing of Noah's Pudding, symbolizing unity and friendship.



## A Multicultural Day Showcasing Unity and Diversity in Richardson

The day began with Turkish coffee and a meeting with the Dialogue Institute team, setting the tone for a truly multicultural experience. It continued with the Eritrean community's celebration of their 34th Independence Day, where traditions and cuisine were shared alongside Mayor Pro Tem Hutchenrider.



The day concluded in Southeast Richardson with another community gathering featuring authentic Nablusi kanafeh and Iraqi cuisine. Amir Omar also shared highlights from the day on his social media, highlighting the city's strong spirit of diversity and unity.

**DALLAS**



## 5th WEST PLATFORM CIVIC CONVENTION

The 5th West Platform Civic Convention brought together volunteers, community leaders, and partner organizations for two days of keynotes, workshops, and collaborative planning. Participants shared successful local initiatives, strengthened regional coordination, and explored new ways to advance service, dialogue, and civic engagement. Centered on the theme "Legacy in Action," the convention emphasized building a strong, compassionate, and sustainable future for Hizmet-inspired work across the Western region.

SAN FRANCISCO

# Pacifica Foundation Youth Program Honored on Adopt-a-Road Sign

Pacifica Foundation Seattle youth volunteered on October 18th, spending 2.5 hours cleaning our adopted road and showing how small acts of service can make a real impact. As part of this two-year Adopt-a-Road commitment, the roadside sign now proudly displays "Pacifica Foundation Youth Program," honoring their ongoing dedication. We're proud of their teamwork and commitment to serving and protecting our community.



## An Interfaith Thanksgiving of Unity and Gratitude

It was a meaningful evening of community and gratitude as JCRC joined the SIVIC Council and Pacifica Institute for their Interfaith Thanksgiving Dinner. The gathering brought together diverse faith partners in a warm spirit of fellowship, with JCRC honored to lead the Hamotzi before the meal and stand alongside interfaith colleagues as they offered their blessings, creating a powerful celebration of unity and shared gratitude.



BAY AREA

# ANATOLIA MATH TEAM SHINES AT STANFORD



Anatolia Centers proudly announced that their Math Olympiad Team won 3rd place among 50 teams at the prestigious Stanford SM3 competition, marking their first major award. This achievement reflects the hard work, discipline, and teamwork of the students and their dedicated mentors, and highlights the center's commitment to nurturing young STEM talent.

## GOKHAN DORUM RECEIVES 2025 PEACEMAKER IN ACTION AWARD

Arizona Faith Network has awarded the 2025 Peacemaker in Action honor to Hizmet volunteer Gokhan Dorum. Recognized for his dedicated work in dialogue, service, and community bridge-building, Dorum was honored for his significant contributions to fostering understanding and cooperation among diverse faith and cultural communities across Arizona.



ARIZONA



## Jews, Muslims and Christians unite to distribute bikes, meals, hygiene kits

*Abrahamic Alliance International hosted Oct. 26 compassion event in Gilroy*

BY JONATHAN PARTRIDGE - November 13, 2025 2936



*Pictured is one of 10 Gilroy residents who received a bicycle at Abrahamic Alliance International's Oct. 26 charity event at Las Animas Park. Contributed photo.*

It became a featured news story in the Gilroy Dispatch.

CALIFORNIA

# FOUNTAIN VALLEY POTLUCK ON SUNDAY AIMS TO BREAK BREAD, SET GUINNESS WORLD RECORD



On September 28, 2025, more than 2,100 people gathered at Mile Square Park for the first OC Around the Table, setting a new U.S. record for the Largest Potluck.

Speakers including Fountain Valley Mayor Ted Bui, State Senator Tony Strickland, and Supervisor Janet Nguyen praised the event's spirit of unity, with Nguyen presenting a special recognition to Pacifica Institute. Atilla Kahveci, Pacifica's President, emphasized this was only the beginning of a growing tradition.

Guests enjoyed live music, dance, and the Best Dish Contest, celebrating food as a bridge across cultures. The gathering showed the power of hospitality and human connection, where strangers became friends and unity flourished in Orange County.



Potluck with 2,166  
people, US Record

Appeared on LA  
Times  
LOS ANGELES



Gold Congressional Award  
Medal, Washington, DC.

## 6 BAYCC Students Earn Nation's Highest Youth Honor

In a moment of immense pride for our community, six exceptional students from BAYCC were awarded the prestigious Gold Congressional Award Medal in Washington, D.C. — the highest civilian honor bestowed by the U.S. Congress to youth in recognition of outstanding achievement in volunteer public service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition/exploration.

This year, out of 156 recipients nationwide, California produced 35 honorees — and an impressive six of them came from our very own BAYCC community. This extraordinary accomplishment reflects the strength, vision, and dedication of our youth.

We celebrate not only their well-earned accolades but also the inspiration they bring to their peers and the legacy of service they are helping to build. Here's to many more rising stars in our community leading with purpose and impact.

#BAYCC #CongressionalAward2025 #YouthLeadership

# SAN FRANCISCO



## RENO, LAS VEGAS



Rep. Becky Edwards, of Governing Group, left, hugs Zeynep Kariparduc, board president of Emerald Hills Institute, right, at a Utah Bridge Builders press conference where local and national leaders respond to the fatal shooting of Charlie Kirk, at the Utah Capitol in Salt Lake City on Friday, Sept. 12, 2025. | Tess Crowley, Deseret



## UTAH

## NOAH'S PUDDING: A SWEET SYMBOL OF UNITY

Silver Sage Reno volunteers visited community centers to share a special treat: Noah's Pudding (Ashura).

Ashura is a traditional vegan dessert made from grains, fruits, and nuts, symbolizing sharing, unity, and community. According to tradition, Prophet Noah and his companions created it from the last ingredients on the ark after the great flood.

Today, families prepare and share Ashura with neighbors, friends, and strangers alike, making it a symbol of compassion, diversity, and interfaith harmony.



## Pacifica Youth Ladies Mini Mentor Training

Pacifica Youth Ladies held their Mini Mentor Training program, combining reflection, creativity, and mentorship. The gathering closed with a heartfelt evening of appreciation, as the group enters the new term energized to empower youth and nurture future leaders.



## SEATTLE



## LeadUp and Swing for Pink Raise Over \$13,000 for Breast Cancer Awareness

LeadUp partnered with Swing for Pink this fall to support breast cancer awareness, successfully raising over \$13,000 through their joint efforts. This week, the donation check was proudly delivered to INOVA, highlighting the impact of community collaboration in advancing women's health initiatives. LeadUp emphasized their ongoing commitment, noting they are ready to continue doing more—together.



## Congressman Suhas Subramanyam Joins Community for 1,200-Pound Food Donation Event



American Turkish Friendship Association



Loudoun Hunger Relief shared that it received a generous donation of 1,200 pounds of food from the American Turkish Friendship Association and Core Educational Services. Congressman Suhas Subramanyam and Phyllis Randall joined the organizations and their volunteers for a group photo, highlighting the spirit of collaboration and community service behind the effort.

## FAIRFAX, VA



## Reflecting on Gülen's Legacy at USC's DC Campus

WASHINGTON, DC



Georgetown University hosted a special conference titled "Religious and Political Implications of *Nostra Aetate* at 60 for Christian-Muslim Relations," bringing together scholars and faith leaders for a day of thoughtful dialogue on the landmark document's lasting impact. The program explored how *Nostra Aetate* continues to shape Christian-Muslim engagement, fostering deeper understanding and cooperation across faiths. The event was organized in partnership with Rumi Forum, Georgetown University's Office of the President, the Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding (ACMCU), the EQUberkeley Center, and the Department of Theology and Religious Studies.



GEORGETOWN UNV.

Hosted by the Rumi Forum's Center for Faith, Identity, and Globalization (CFIG), this week's panel marking the first anniversary of Fethullah Gülen's passing took place at the University of Southern California's DC Campus, bringing together thoughtful insight and heartfelt reflection. Featuring Dr. Ori Z. Soltes and Dr. Anwar Alam, with Lyndsey Eksili moderating, the discussion explored Gülen's enduring intellectual, spiritual, and social legacy—his vision for education, interfaith dialogue, and civic engagement—and how the Hizmet Movement continues to evolve in today's world. The event concluded with gratitude to all who joined in person to honor a life devoted to peace, pluralism, and service across borders.



## Maryland Delegate Jessica Feldmark Commends MARTI Festival on Social Media

Maryland State Delegate Jessica Feldmark congratulated the Maryland Turkish American Inhabitants (MARTI) for hosting a vibrant community festival. In a message shared on her social media, Feldmark praised the event for its delicious food, beautiful music and art, and the powerful sense of community it fostered.

She noted that it was a true pleasure to join the celebration, emphasizing how cultural gatherings like this strengthen bonds and highlight the richness of diversity.

**MARTI**  
MARYLAND TURKISH  
AMERICAN INHABITANTS

**MARYLAND**



## Mid-Atlantic Mentor Seminar 2025

From August 15–17, 2025, mentors from North Carolina gathered in Virginia for the Mid-Atlantic Mentor Seminar Program. The three-day event featured workshops, seminars, and consultations focused on strengthening mentorship skills and building new approaches to guide students.

Participants highlighted the value of sharing experiences and learning in a collaborative setting. The program not only enhanced professional growth but also renewed their commitment to supporting young people.

"This experience gave us both knowledge and a renewed sense of purpose," one mentor reflected. "We're eager to bring these lessons back to our students."

The seminar underscored the vital role mentorship plays in empowering future generations and fostering stronger communities.

**GUIDANCE THAT TRANSFORMS  
GENERATIONS**

**NORTH CAROLINA**

## North Carolina Hosts Appreciation Lunch for Design for Joy



LeadUp partnered with Swing for Pink this fall to support breast cancer awareness, successfully raising over \$13,000 through their joint efforts. This week, the donation check was proudly delivered to INOVA, highlighting the impact of community collaboration in advancing women's health initiatives. LeadUp emphasized their ongoing commitment, noting they are ready to continue doing more—together. The Divan Center hosted a community appreciation lunch for the team of Design for Joy, honoring their inspiring work and dedication. The gathering reflected Divan Center North Carolina's commitment to serving the community through meaningful acts of service and strengthening partnerships that create positive impact.

## Unity in Community: Friendship Iftar Dinner Brings Greensboro Together

The Unity in Community: Friendship Iftar Dinner, hosted by UNCG Peace and Conflict Studies and the Divan Center of Triad, brought together students and community members at the Alumni House for an evening of dialogue and togetherness.

Participants from University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the Center for New North Carolinians heard reflections from Raleigh Bailey, Rob Cassell, Fatih Sahin, and Ali Askerov, highlighting unity, understanding, and community support.



## Rumi Forum Brings Faith Leaders Together at 2nd Annual Religious Freedom Community Iftar

On March 7, Rumi Forum hosted the 2nd Annual Religious Freedom Community Iftar in partnership with the IRF Summit and the National Museum of American Religion, bringing together faith and community leaders committed to religious freedom and interfaith dialogue.

The evening featured keynote remarks by Sam Brownback and closing reflections from Stephen Schneck (personal capacity), highlighting a shared commitment to peace, understanding, and community building.



# Enes Kanter Freedom Inspires in Raleigh



Raleigh welcomed former NBA star and human rights advocate Enes Kanter Freedom this weekend. He played basketball with kids, led a Q&A session, and later visited the Divan Center to introduce his new book and share insights from his journey. The event blended sports and inspiration, leaving the community uplifted.



RALEIGH

MARTI welcomed participants of the Bridges to Interfaith Understanding program for a meaningful gathering centered on dialogue, mutual respect, and cross-cultural connection. The initiative, led by Howard County Executive Calvin Ball in collaboration with the Howard County Interfaith Advisory Council and the Office of Human Rights and Equity, brought together individuals dedicated to collaboration and community building.

The gathering reflected a shared commitment to fostering understanding, unity, and stronger community bonds through respectful engagement across faiths and cultures.

## Calvin Ball Leads Bridges to Interfaith Understanding Gathering at MARTI

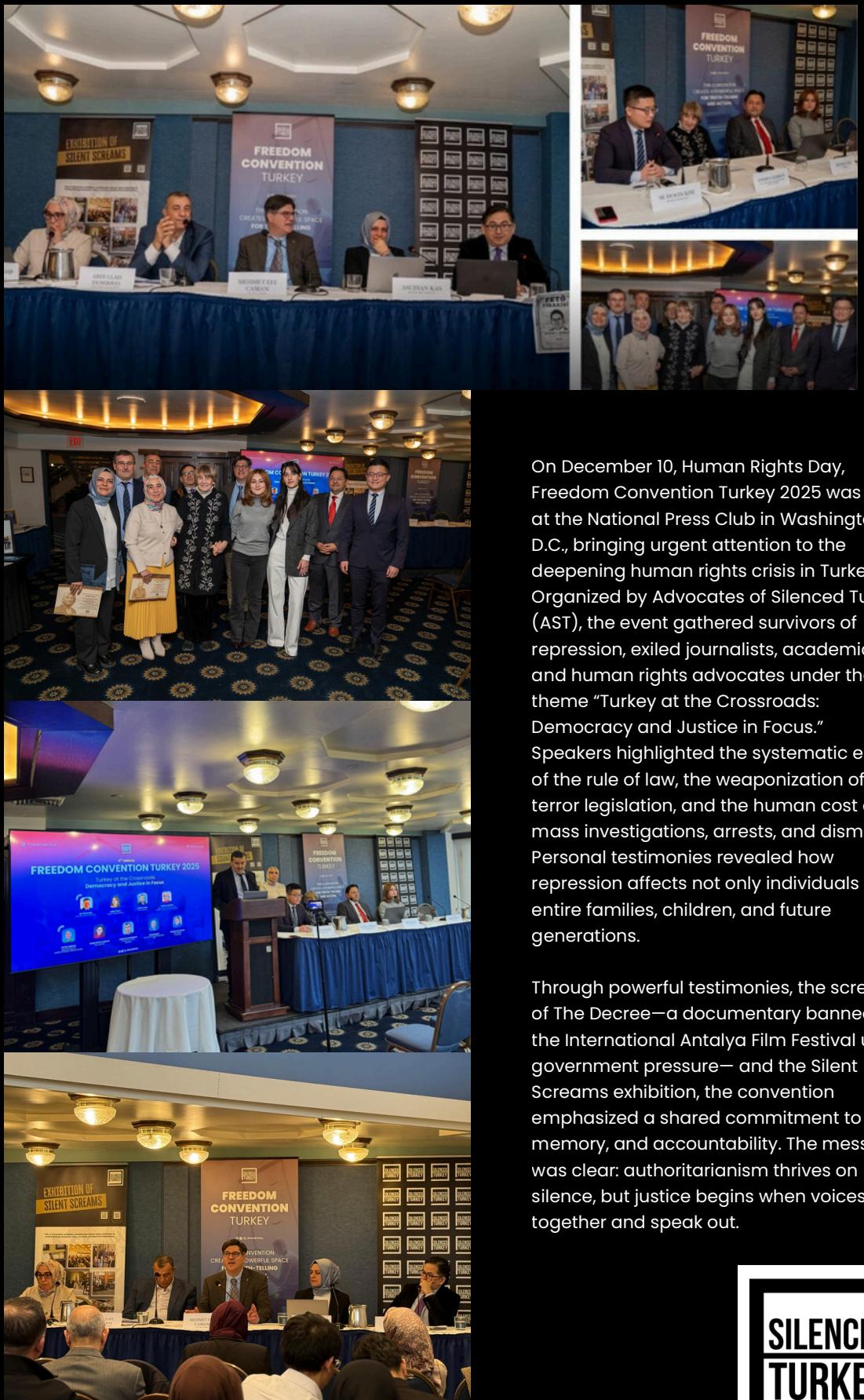


## Successful Community Blood Drive at Divan Center



Divan Center, in partnership with The Blood Connection, hosted a successful blood donation drive on April 5, bringing the community together to help save lives.

# FREEDOM CONVENTION TURKEY 2025



On December 10, Human Rights Day, Freedom Convention Turkey 2025 was held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., bringing urgent attention to the deepening human rights crisis in Turkey. Organized by Advocates of Silenced Turkey (AST), the event gathered survivors of repression, exiled journalists, academics, and human rights advocates under the theme "Turkey at the Crossroads: Democracy and Justice in Focus." Speakers highlighted the systematic erosion of the rule of law, the weaponization of anti-terror legislation, and the human cost of mass investigations, arrests, and dismissals. Personal testimonies revealed how repression affects not only individuals but entire families, children, and future generations.

Through powerful testimonies, the screening of *The Decree*—a documentary banned from the International Antalya Film Festival under government pressure—and the *Silent Screams* exhibition, the convention emphasized a shared commitment to truth, memory, and accountability. The message was clear: authoritarianism thrives on silence, but justice begins when voices come together and speak out.



NATIONAL PRESS CLUB  
WASHINGTON, DC.

# METAMORPHOSIS



Metamorphosis is a documentary that explores the courageous struggle of women in Turkey against oppression, injustice, and the erosion of fundamental freedoms.



## METAMORPHOSIS SHINES AT BIG APPLE FILM FESTIVAL

After winning six international awards and two official selections, the documentary Metamorphosis has now been selected for the prestigious Big Apple Film Festival, where it screened before the jury last night. Directed by a woman who fled her country after severe human rights violations, the film honors the strength of four courageous women—Işık, Ayşegül, Hacer, and Kurdish writer Meral Şimşek—whose stories of torture, separation, and mistreatment form its powerful core. By keeping their experiences alive, Metamorphosis aims to ensure their suffering is never forgotten. The director thanked the women who supported her journey and expressed gratitude to the Big Apple Film Festival team for their warm welcome.

# RESILIENCE AMID REPRESSION AT UNGA80



At the #UNGA80 SDGs Conference 2025, Advocates of Silenced Turkey amplified the voices of those suffering under repression during Panel 3: Cross-Cutting Threats to the Principles of Democracy.

Speaking on behalf of the organization, Aslihan Kas, Director and Silent Screams Exhibition Coordinator, reminded participants that "behind every number is a person, and behind every statistic a story that must be heard." She highlighted the devastating effects of legal harassment, defamation, and restrictions on families – from children facing detention to tragic deaths in custody and along migration routes.

Ms. Kas urged a rights-based, survivor-centered response, calling for the protection of due process, child-sensitive justice, safe civic space, and expanded psychosocial and legal services. Concluding with a vision of renewal, she affirmed that, despite adversity, civil society will continue to advance justice, freedom, and equality.



## NEW YORK

On September 25th, AST organized the 38th Exhibition of Silent Screams in Central Jersey, showcasing belongings of individuals who have suffered severe human rights violations.



## CENTRAL JERSEY

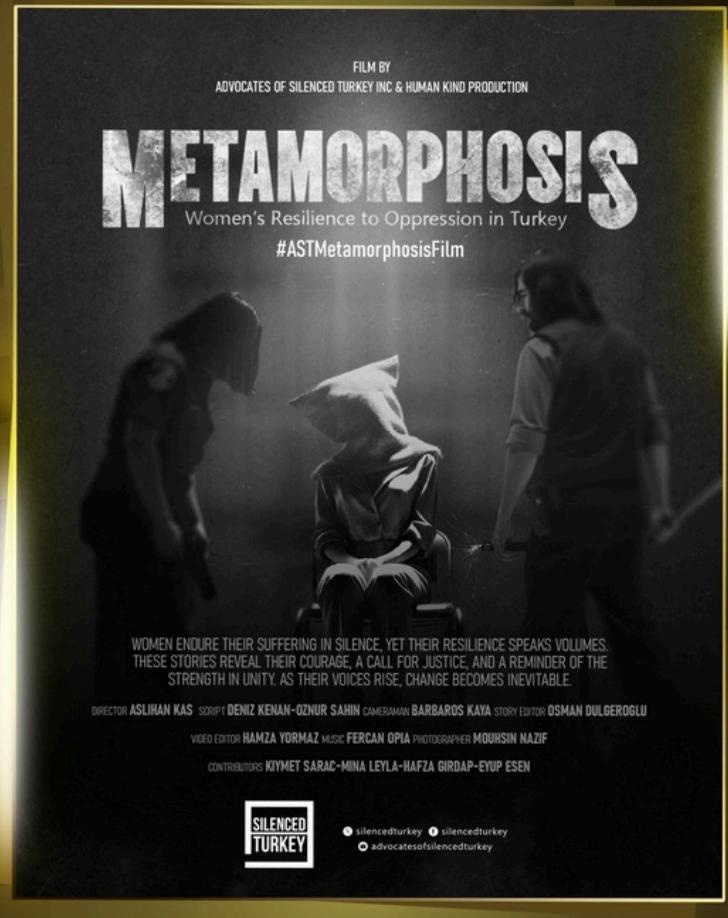
# METAMORPHOSIS

Metamorphosis is a documentary that explores the courageous struggle of women in Turkey against oppression, injustice, and the erosion of fundamental freedoms.

## DOCUMENTARY



VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS



## EIGHT AWARDS

🎬 AST's groundbreaking documentary "Metamorphosis: Women's Resilience to Oppression in #Turkey" has received yet another honor—the Award of Best Documentary at the Halo International Film Festival, St. Petersburg. Metamorphosis continues to shed light on the plight of Turkey's persecuted #women across the globe. A powerful documentary on the struggle for women's freedom in Turkey has now received eight major awards — including Best Women's Film at Cannes, Best Documentary in Amsterdam, the Honor Award at the Touchstone Film Festival, an award from the New York-based Gothamite Monthly Film Awards.

**METAMORPHOSIS SHINES GLOBALLY:  
EIGHT MAJOR AWARDS FOR A  
POWERFUL VOICE**



## Celebrating Respect for Sacred Spaces

It was a warm gathering in New York City where guests came together to celebrate mutual respect for mosques and churches. The event highlighted the importance of interfaith understanding and community ties.

Special thanks were given to Fr. Dennis, Hakan Yesilova, and the team at St. Ignatius Loyola Church for their hospitality. Jointly organized by Peace Islands Institute New York and the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola NYC, the program was a reminder that when communities of different faiths unite, they strengthen the fabric of peace and harmony.

MANHATTAN



## MAYOR BOB DASILVA HIGHLIGHTS HIZMET VOLUNTEERS AT COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

The Rhode Island Maple Foundation organized a Community Thanksgiving Dinner, highlighted by a special post shared from the personal account of East Providence Mayor Bob DaSilva, recognizing the meaningful contributions of Hizmet volunteers.

## RHODE ISLAND



## THANKSGIVING W/ REP. TARIK KHAN

Representative Tarik Khan of Philadelphia shared that, with the support of Peace Islands, Share Food Program, NewCourtland, his staff, and dedicated volunteers, they delivered 90 turkeys to neighbors today.

## PHILADELPHIA



## TURKEY DISTRIBUTION WITH MINORITY LEADER CONGRESSMAN HAKEEM JEFFRIES IN BROOKLYN



TURKISH  
CULTURAL  
CENTER  
NEW YORK

## CONGRESSWOMAN NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS JOINS TURKISH CULTURAL CENTER FOR STATEN ISLAND TURKEY DISTRIBUTION

Shared by Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis on her social media account, the post shows her distributing turkeys on Staten Island together with the Turkish Cultural Center and Bethel Worship Center after returning from Brooklyn.

NEW YORK

# IN OUR AGE: CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

sponsored by

The Irma Pastrana Borrero Foundation for Humanity's Peace & Development

in collaboration with

the Archdiocese of New York, Park Avenue Synagogue, and the Peace Islands Institute



## Interfaith Leaders Unite to Mark 60 Years of Nostra Aetate

More than 300 guests gathered at Manhattan's Sheen Center on November 5, 2025, for a landmark interfaith event marking the approaching 60th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, the historic Second Vatican Council document on the Catholic Church's relationship with Jews, Muslims, and other faiths. Organized by the Irma Pastrana Borrero Foundation in partnership with the Sheen Center and in collaboration with the Archdiocese of New York, Peace Islands Institute New York, and Park Avenue Synagogue, the evening featured a powerful panel discussion with Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove, and Dr. Zeki Saritoprak, moderated by Emmy Award-winning actress Patricia Heaton. Musical performances by a cantor and a Sufi ensemble added spiritual depth to a program dedicated to shared values, mutual understanding, and the ongoing work of building bridges among the Abrahamic faiths.

Celebrating 60 Years of *Nostra Aetate*. A Milestone Moment for Interfaith Unity. NYC Hosts Historic Interfaith Gathering. Marking Six Decades of Dialogue and Understanding.



NEW YORK

# PEACE FESTIVAL 2025: CELEBRATING UNITY IN DIVERSITY

## Partner Organizations of Peace Festival 2025

- Peace Islands Institute New Jersey
- Bergen County Sheriff's Office
- Turkish Cultural Center NJ
- KUD Sandzacka Omladina
- Women's Federation for World Peace NJ
- Korean Community Services
- Kulture Kool
- Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company
- Hispanic American Law Enforcement Association Inc.
- Wilhelm Bahá'í Properties
- Whitetulip Health Foundation
- Sky Academy NJ
- International Youth Conference
- Journalists and Writers Foundation
- Morristown United Methodist Church
- Passaic River Coalition
- FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association – Newark
- Interweave
- Embrace Relief
- CSBC Mom's Food Pantry
- SOS Radio Live
- Community Calls
- Elorm Ministry Foundation
- WCO Historic Renovation Association Inc.

## 24 Partner Organizations

The Peace Festival, organized by Peace Islands Institute NJ, brought together people of all ages and backgrounds for a vibrant day of culture, performances, and community spirit. This year's celebration featured powerful performances, delicious food, engaging children's activities, and interactive booths that highlighted the beauty of unity in diversity. We were honored by the presence of Assemblywoman Shama Haider and several community and faith leaders, whose inspiring remarks added depth and meaning to the event.

With the support of 24 partner organizations, talented performers, and dedicated volunteers, the Peace Festival became a joyful gathering filled with dialogue, peace, and family fun. The festival remains a shining example of how communities thrive when we celebrate both our differences and our shared values.



# DEPUTY SPEAKER OF NEW YORK HOSTED HIS ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK GIVE AWAY WITH HIZMET VOLUNTEERS

TURKISH  
CULTURAL  
CENTER  
NEW YORK



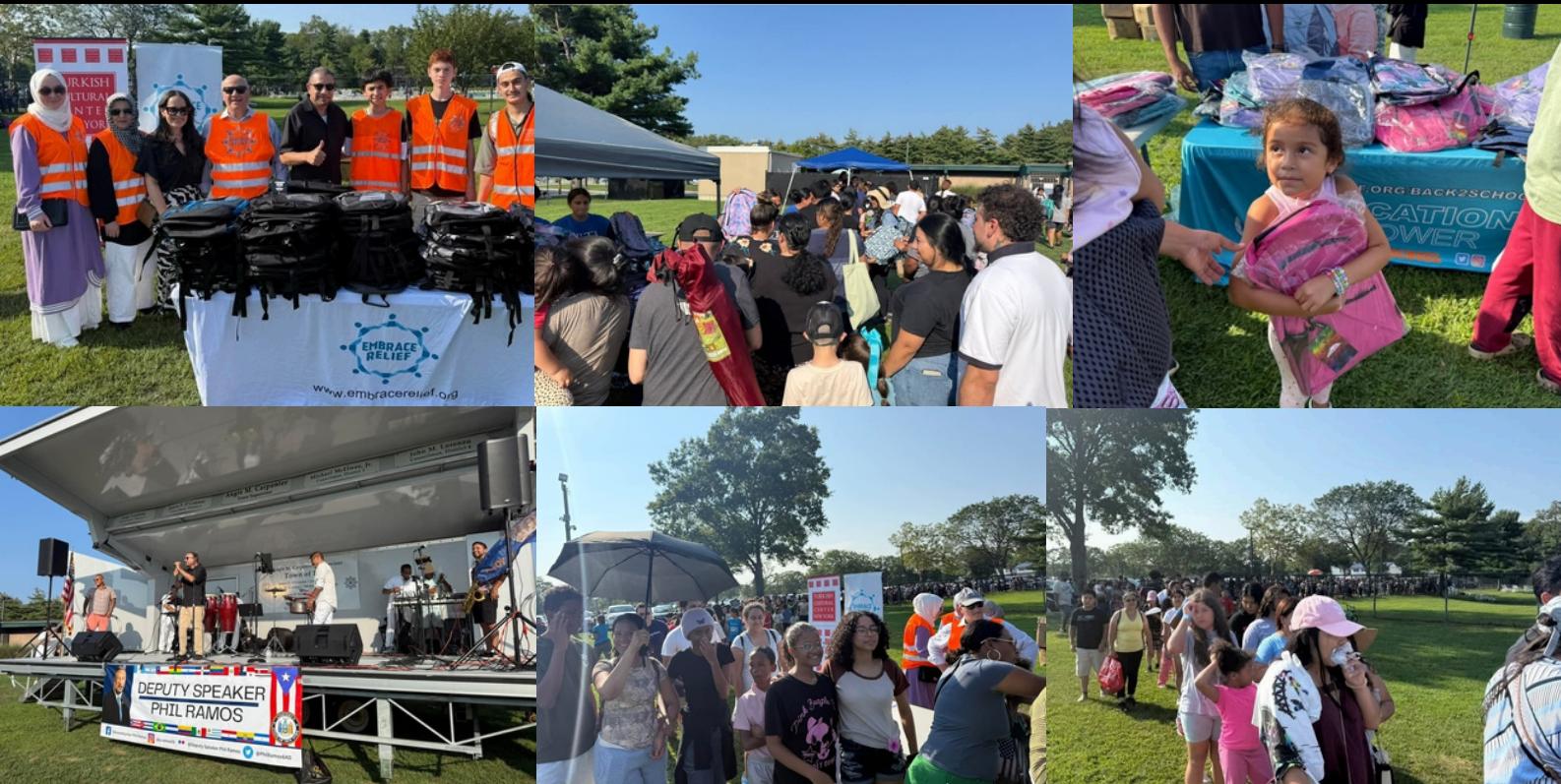
Children start  
the school year  
prepared and  
motivated.

Back-to-School Joy at Roberto Clemente Park

This past weekend, Deputy Speaker Phil Ramos hosted his annual Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway, where hundreds of children received new backpacks and essential school supplies. The tradition ensures local youth start the school year prepared and motivated.

The celebration continued with a live concert, the finale of the four-part Summer Concert Series at Roberto Clemente Park, now a vibrant community hub filled with joy, music, and unity.

The event was made possible thanks to the support of community partners and sponsors, including the Long Island Latino Teachers Association, Four Leaf Federal Credit Union, ICNA Relief, Turkish Cultural Center New York, Embrace Relief, and EIHAB Human Services.



## NEW YORK

# TANZANIA JOURNEY: A CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN MISSION OF IMPACT AND CONNECTION



Organized by Peace Islands Institute PA and Embrace Relief, the trip blended service with cultural exchange.

In a powerful blend of humanitarian service and cultural exchange, Peace Islands Institute participants recently traveled to Tanzania, where they opened a water well, distributed food packages alongside Embrace Relief, and shared heartfelt moments at a local orphanage. The strength and hospitality of the Maasai people deeply moved the group, while the joy and resilience of the children they met left a lasting impact.

Their journey also took them through the rich cultural landscapes of Zanzibar—from the historic Old Slave Market to the vibrant markets, music, and sacred spaces of Stone Town. Encounters with wildlife at Jozani Forest and Mikumi Safari highlighted the beauty of our shared humanity and the strength in diversity.

More than a trip, this experience marked the beginning of a long-term commitment to meaningful service and intercultural understanding. The team returns inspired, ready to continue this vital work.



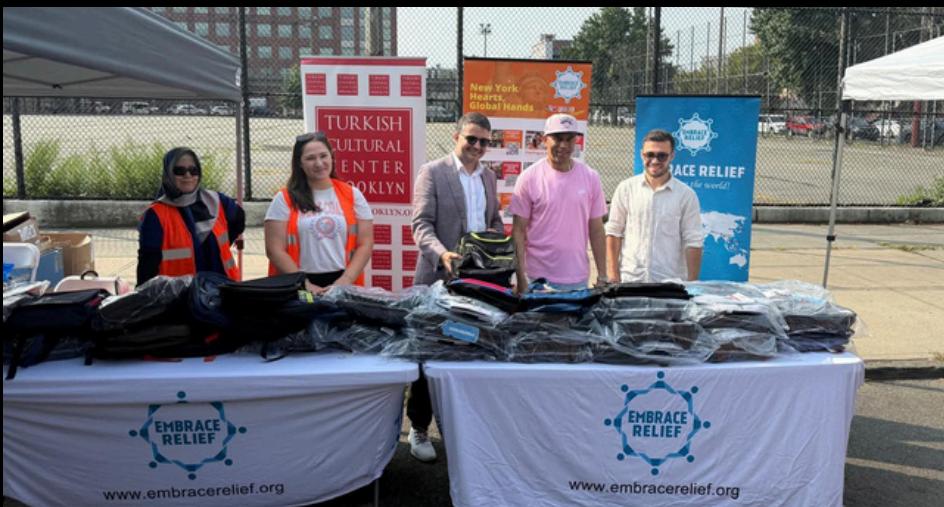
## PENNSYLVANIA



## Interfaith Journey Across Andalusia

Nearly 30 participants joined an unforgettable interfaith exploration in Andalusia, organized with the National Council of Synagogues, Peace Islands Institute PA, and Peace Islands Institute NY. The trip combined rich cultural visits with daily learning sessions, offering insights into history, faith, and dialogue. More than a journey, it became a living experience of shared humanity—with laughter, learning, prayer, and reflection. Special thanks to the Milstein Center for Interreligious Dialogue for their generous support.

PENNSYLVANIA



BROOKLYN

## Backpack Program for NYC Students

In partnership with Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, we joined the Turkish Cultural Center and Peace Islands Institute NY to distribute backpacks to children from low-income families—bringing smiles, hope, and support for the new school year.





## HIZMET'S CORE VALUES

The program on the religious sources of Hizmet's core values, organized by AFSV, was watched by 22,000 people.



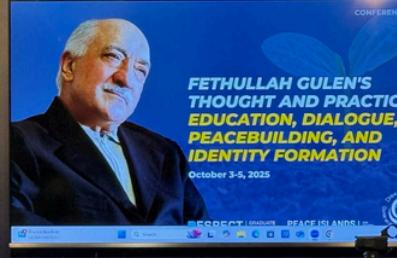
**TURKISH  
CULTURAL  
CENTER  
NEW JERSEY**

## "VUSLATIN ARDINDAN" AT FELICIAN UNIVERSITY



The Ümit Nağmeleri "Vuslatın Ardından" Tour delivered a powerful and unforgettable closing performance in New Jersey, filling Felician University's Breslin Stage and Arts Center with an audience of 1,500 people. Hosted by Kemal Gülen, the evening brought together moving poetry, theatrical scenes reflecting key moments from Fethullah Gülen's life, and inspiring musical performances by artists from around the world. The finale—a collective rendition of "Yeni Bir Dünya"—left the audience with a deep sense of hope, unity, and renewed commitment to the values celebrated throughout the tour.

**NEW JERSEY**



## Fethullah Gülen's Thought and Practice: Education, Dialogue, Peacebuilding, and Identity Formation: Conference at Drew University



The international conference Fethullah Gülen's Thought and Practice: Education, Dialogue, Peacebuilding, and Identity Formation was held on October 3–5, 2025, in partnership with Drew University and organized by Respect Graduate School and Peace Islands Institute. The event convened scholars, community leaders, and experts from around the world to examine Fethullah Gülen's ideas and the global impact of the Hizmet Movement, with discussions centered on education, interfaith dialogue, peacebuilding, social cohesion, and identity formation.

# NEW JERSEY



## GRADUATION: First Cohort of Graduation at Respect MAIS Program

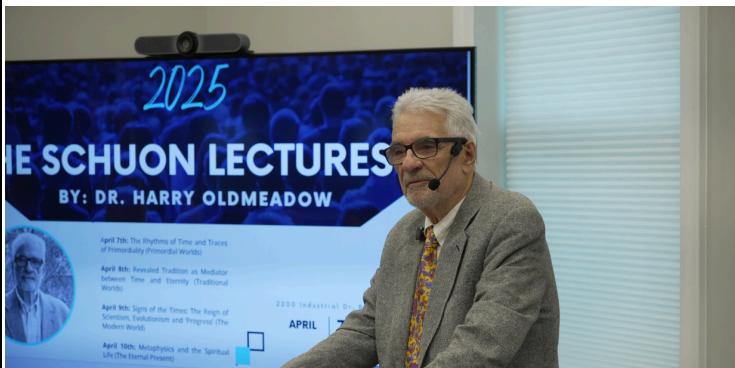
The first ever Inaugural Graduation Ceremony of Respect MAIS Program took place on June 14, 2025.

Graduate Students 8 | Award Winners 4

## CONFERENCE: Cultivating a Heart for the Earth - An Interfaith Conversation

Respect Graduate School MAIS Program hosted : Cultivating a Heart for the Earth - An Interfaith Conversation Conference on 29 October 2025. The three sessions hosted a presenter from one Abrahamic religion and two discussants from the other two religions.

**Numbers: 3 Presenters, 5 Respondents,**



## Respect Schuon Lectures

The Respect Graduate School held its first annual Schuon Lectures with Dr. Harry Oldmeadow on 7-10 April 2025.

Numbers: 4 Days, 8 Hours of Lecture

## ONLINE SEMINAR: Fethullah Gülen's Atlas of Thought: Sources of Inspiration

On 18 October 2025, Friends of Respect YouTube channel hosted the first online seminar on the sources of inspiration of Fethullah Gülen Hocaefendi. The seminar presented three people, three places and three dreams that left a mark in Fethullah Gülen's Atlas of Thought.

Numbers: 13 Presenters, 12 Topics, 5+ Hours of Broadcast, 30K+ Online Viewers in two months

## NEW SCHOOLS: Respect Islam School and Respect Art School are launched

Two longtime awaited schools were launched in Respect: Islam School and Art School. Islam School started with 4 new courses in English and attracted over 50 students. This project employs 6 lecturers and 20 mentors.

The Respect Art School (Sanat Okulu) was launched with two courses on Reed Flute and Calligraphy. The school attracted over 40 students. In its first year the school launched the Mobile Film Festival.

# UNDERSTANDING AND LIVING FAITH TOGETHER, ONLINE BOOTH CAMP

28,000+

View

50+  
Speakers

24  
Hours

Organized by Friends of Respect (FoR), Süreyya Publications, and the Wise Institute, this online spiritual camp features collective readings and discussions of Hocaefendi's work "Deep Islam: Morality in the Light of the Qur'an and the Sunnah." The program includes book summaries and mind maps, short clips from sermons, interactive Kahoot competitions with prizes, and participation from various countries around the world. With contributions from over 50 guest scholars, this 24-hour livestreamed camp aims not only to read, but to understand and apply the teachings together.



RESPECT INSTITUTE  
IN COLLABORATION WITH WISE INSTITUTE & SUREYYA PUBLICATIONS

USA



## UN Youth Forum Panel – Youth Voices for Access to Quality Education, Social Inclusion, and Sustainable Development

At a panel held during the UN Youth Forum, Maria Guardado, a delegate of Canada's NATO Youth Club; Marina El-Khawand, founder of the Lebanon-based Medonations platform; Lyzianah Emakoua, President of the Community Engagement Center from Sierra Leone; and Leyla Y., President of Columbia University's Blossom Together Club, shared their successful projects on sustainable development and social inclusion. The panelists emphasized the need to elevate young people's voices as equal stakeholders in decision-making processes. The session also highlighted humanitarian projects led by the Blossom Together community in Benin, Mali, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, and Guinea.



# GLOBAL VOICES SCREENING: YOUTH INTERFAITH DIGITAL STORYTELLING CAMPAIGN

## Fostering Unity and Interfaith Dialogue through Digital Stories

February 26, 2025 | 10:00 am EST | VIRTUAL



Every February, during the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, the Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF/GYV) organized events under the theme "Becoming Human Again: Hope for Reconciliation," emphasizing the importance of interfaith dialogue and coexistence for sustainable peace. Religious leaders from Muslim, Hindu, and Jewish communities across the United States, South Africa, Italy, Argentina, and India highlighted the need to unite around shared human values amid rising social tensions.

The program also featured the panel "Interfaith Voices for Peace and Justice," where young professionals from Kenya, Nigeria, and the U.S. shared successful interfaith civil society initiatives. In addition, JWF/GYV's "Global Youth Voices" video campaign amplified inclusive peace messages from young people in 12 countries through its social media platforms.

## United Nations Commission on the Status of Women Sessions



The 6th annual Media and Journalism Webinars brought together 44 young journalists and media professionals from 29 countries. Through five online sessions, hands-on workshops, seminars, and mentoring with professional journalists, the certificate program focused on practical learning and addressed key UN-prioritized topics such as ethical investigative journalism, media literacy in the age of disinformation, journalism and human rights advocacy, and digital violence and censorship.

In 2025, during the 69th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, GYV/JWF organized 14 panels in New York with 16 global partners from seven countries. Over two weeks, 78 speakers from 21 countries discussed women's roles in sustainable peace and security, the contributions of refugee women, young women's leadership in democratization, and violence against women journalists. A highlighted GYV session focused on challenges faced by women civil society leaders, where Center for New Americans volunteer Havvanur Özdemir addressed human rights violations in Türkiye and shared success stories of refugee women. The program also included a Ramadan Reception that brought together international experts and UN diplomats.

**MEDIA & JOURNALISM WEBINARS 2025**  
INSPIRING YOUNG JOURNALISTS AS ADVOCATES OF PRESS FREEDOM  
26 May - 4 June 2025 (Virtual)

Joyce M. Davis Opinion Editor, Penitve President of World Affairs Council of Philadelphia (USA)	Tarik Toros Journalist, Political Commentator, Co-Founder of Moonshot TV (UK)	Berta Valle Media Communicator and Human Rights Advocate (NICARAGUA/USA)	Noura Al-Jazrawi Researcher, The Citizen Lab (CANADA)	Dr. Bellinha De Abreu Author, President of International Council for Media Literacy (USA)	Shirin Taber Executive Director Empower Women Media (USA)
Ian Williams Author, President of Foreign Press Association (USA)	Arbesma Kherse Investigative Journalist, Recipient of US State Department's International Press Freedom Courage Award (USA)	Se Hoon Kim White House Correspondent and Managing Editor of Global Strat View (USA)	Saliha Nurun Yildiz Writer, Reporter NOK/Digital Media (GERMANY)	Husayin Arif Bozbali Writer, Storyteller, Editor for NOK/VOYS Digital Media (GERMANY)	Nilofar Moradi Afghan Journalist, Human Rights Advocate (CANADA)

JWF Foundation | [jwfglobal.org](https://jwfglobal.org) | [@JWFglobal](https://jwfglobal.org) | [jwf.org](https://jwf.org) | [www.jwf.org](https://jwf.org) | [www.jwf.academy.org](https://jwf.academy.org)



# SDGs CONFERENCE

## 2025

[New York, September 5, 2025] – The Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF), together with 56 partners from 30 countries, will host the 10th Annual SDGs Conference 2025: Transforming Our World on September 24 during the 80th UN General Assembly.

The conference will convene leaders, diplomats, scholars, journalists, human rights advocates, and youth to evaluate SDG progress, address global challenges, and explore pathways to peace and justice. Speakers from 14 countries will contribute under the theme Transforming Our World.

### This year's focus includes:

- Digitalization and Human Rights Advocacy
- Women and Youth as Leaders of Social Change
- Threats to the Principles of Democracy

**56 Partner Organizations from 30 Countries**



**NEW YORK**



# 38 YOUNG LEADERS GRADUATE FROM GLOBAL PROGRAM EMPOWERING CHANGE

The Journalists and Writers Foundation's Global Young Leaders Program celebrated the graduation of 38 participants from 16 countries, marking a milestone in global youth leadership and collaboration.



The Global Young Leaders Program (GYLP), organized by the Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF), concluded with the graduation of 38 young leaders from 16 countries, including Afghanistan, Albania, Cambodia, Canada, Denmark, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines, Romania, Russia, Turkey, the UK, and the USA. After six months of intensive training, participants earned their GYLP 2025 certificates.

Known for its global reach, GYLP offers a unique platform focused on leadership, collaboration, and cultural exchange. Throughout the program, participants engaged with expert professionals and inspiring role models. Graduates now move forward in their academic and professional journeys equipped with valuable skills and international perspectives. The JWF team will continue to support alumni as they grow. GYLP stands out as a dynamic initiative empowering visionary youth committed to positive social change.





# STORY OF KA'B BIN MALIK



The Quiet Fidelity ( Ka'b ibn Malik ) | Everstar Studio

Released by  
Everstar  
Studio



5,7 K Followers

Everstar Studio's latest release, "The Silence of Loyalty," brings to life the powerful story of Ka'b bin Malik (ra), a companion of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, whose honesty led him through one of the greatest tests of faith. Beloved in Medina for his words and poetry, Ka'b faced a period of total isolation after admitting the truth without excuses —enduring silence, rejection, and loneliness. This deeply moving production, built on 16 years of research and the contributions of over 30 scholars, captures not only the historical depth of his experience but also its timeless message of patience, integrity, and loyalty. With stunning visuals and meticulous scholarship, the film is both a testimony and an invitation to reflect on the enduring values of truth and faith.

# NACP BRIGHT NEWS

NACP Bright News Magazine highlights the inspiring good works of the Hizmet Movement, sharing uplifting stories and meaningful events that spark hope and encourage positive action across communities in USA.

2025

500+  
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

10+  
CONFERENCES

25+  
WORKSHOPS

5,364 +  
PEOPLE RECEIVED CATARACT  
SURGERY AND HEALTH  
SCREENINGS

4,290+  
SCHOOL-SUPPLY BACKPACKS  
DISTRIBUTED TO  
UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS

588,000+  
PEOPLE RECEIVED FOOD, MEAT OR  
HOT MEALS

A MAGAZINE OF NORTH  
AMERICA CIVIC PLATFORM

# BRIGHT NEWS

Bright News Magazine highlights the inspiring good works of the Hizmet Movement, sharing uplifting stories and meaningful events that spark hope and encourage positive action across communities.

7  
BRIGHT NEWS

700+  
EVENTS, ACTIVITIES

210+  
NEWS ON HIZMETTEN, BOLD,  
POLITURCO

2+ MILLION  
SOCIAL MEDIA VIEW

85+  
LOCAL NEWS, PROMINENT  
FIGURES OR INSTITUTIONS  
SHARES

19+  
AWARDS

10,000+  
STUDENTS SUPPORTED

1,400 +  
FLOOD VICTIMS SUPPORTED, TX

100,000 +  
PARTICIPANTS TO EVENTS

1.1+ MILLION  
PEOPLE PROVIDED CLEAN WATER

A MAGAZINE OF NORTH  
AMERICA CIVIC PLATFORM

# NACP BRIGHT NEWS

*"Be so tolerant that your bosom  
becomes wide like the ocean.*

*Become inspired with faith and love of  
human beings. Let there be no  
troubled souls to whom you do not  
offer a hand and about whom you  
remain unconcerned."*

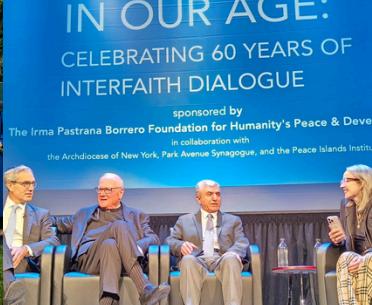
*F. Gulen*

# 2025

A MAGAZINE OF NORTH AMERICA CIVIC PLATFORM

[www.nacplatform.org](http://www.nacplatform.org)  
@NAC\_Platform

NORTH  
AMERICA  
CIVIC  
PLATFORM



# NACP BRIGHT NEWS

# 2025



NORTH AMERICA  
CIVIC PLATFORM