

BIOGRAPHY: Maha Freij
Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer, ACCESS

Maha Freij is Deputy Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer of ACCESS.

A graduate of the Hebrew University in Accounting and Economics, Mrs. Freij was the first Arab/Palestinian woman to earn a CPA license in Israel in 1989 - the same year she immigrated to the US.

As CFO, Mrs. Freij oversees a budget of over \$15 million from over 90 funding sources. In the past decade, with her visionary leadership ACCESS has successfully raised over \$28 million to build the Arab American National Museum, the ACCESS Community Health and Research Center, the One-Stop Employment and Human Services Center, and the organization's first-ever Endowment Fund in support of the Museum.

Currently, Mrs. Freij continues to help ACCESS grow in response to the community's needs through her work leading the capital campaign for a new Youth and Family Services Center, to be completed in Dearborn, MI by late 2009. She also leads the effort to sustain the growth of the Arab American National Museum Endowment Fund.

Mrs. Freij's greatest contribution at ACCESS has been the creation of a larger vision for philanthropy, both within the organization and among its supporters in the community. During her tenure and especially in the last ten years, Mrs. Freij has spearheaded the institutionalization of a sophisticated development strategy at ACCESS. She has assembled a strong team of staff and volunteers who continue to grow and expand ACCESS' fundraising capacity, in support of its over 90 programs.

Mrs. Freij continues to be a regional leader through her role in helping to introduce and broaden philanthropic practices in the community. She currently advises the Center for Arab American Philanthropy, an initiative being incubated at ACCESS that harnesses the collective power of Arab-American giving and knowledge to strengthen the voice of our community in American civil society.

Mrs. Freij's board memberships and affiliations include: One D Initiative - Champions Council; Mosaic Youth Theatre; Leadership Detroit, American Civil Liberties Union.

Awards include: Alternatives for Girls, Role Model Award, 2005; Crain's Detroit Business, Best Managed Non-Profit Organization, 2000; New Detroit, Inc., Richard Fisher Fiscal Integrity Award, 1996.