



CALL FOR VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS: IRAQI MUTUAL AID SOCIETY

The Iraqi Mutual Aid Society (IMAS) is a Chicago-based, secular non-profit dedicated to providing long-term support services and building community for immigrants, asylees, and refugees. Although our multilingual and multicultural expertise is specialized to assist arrivals from Iraq and the Middle East, our doors are open to all immigrants, asylees, and refugees. More information is available at www.iraqimutualaid.org.

IMAS Facts:

- Founded in 2009 and serves nearly 1,000 refugees and immigrants annually in Chicago
- Programs include case management, child & family services, adult education guidance, immigration legal services, community engagement services and referral support

The Need:

IMAS has unpaid, volunteer positions open on its Board of Directors for the roles of Board Treasurer, Board Secretary and at-large positions. Board members serve two-year terms with options to renew, and the typical time commitment is a few hours per month. Ideal candidates:

- Will commit to publicly supporting the IMAS mission
- May be a current or former Iraqi immigrant or descendant
- May be a refugee, from any country
- Will be fluent in reading, writing and speaking English
- Can attend monthly board meetings at 2600 W. Peterson, typically on the 2nd Saturday
- Will assist with fundraising and networking efforts for IMAS programs and events
- Will commit to an annual financial contribution that is personally meaningful
- Will assist with fundraising efforts including periodic participation at IMAS events
- Will leverage personal and professional connections for the benefit of IMAS

How you can help:

Serving on IMAS's Board of Directors is a chance to help it face new challenges and impact positive long-term change for clients. Board service offers you the opportunity to grow personally, and to gain unique experience through lasting connections with other volunteers.

Please send your nominations to Laura Youngberg, Executive Director, at laura.youngberg@iraqimutualaid.org. Nominations are always accepted on a rolling basis and should include the following information:

1. Name of nominee, address and contact information
2. Brief statement outlining why the nominee would like to be a board member
3. Short background such as professional experience, interest in IMAS mission

Nonprofit Board Member Frequently Asked Questions:

Adapted from BoardSource Board Responsibilities and Structures FAQ's

1. What are the basic responsibilities of nonprofit boards?
 - a. Determine mission and purpose
 - b. Select, support and evaluate the chief executive
 - c. Ensure effective planning including monitoring the plan's goals
 - d. Monitor and strengthen programs and services by monitoring effectiveness and consistency with organization mission
 - e. Ensure adequate financial resources
 - f. Protect assets and provide proper financial oversight such as developing the annual budget and ensuring that proper financial controls are in place
 - g. Build a competent board by articulating prerequisites for candidates, orienting new members, and periodically evaluating their own performance
 - h. Ensure legal and ethical integrity including adherence to legal standards and ethical norms
 - i. Enhance the organization's public standing by being able to clearly articulate the organization's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public and garnering support from the community through advocacy
2. What are the legal responsibilities of nonprofit board members?
 - a. Duty of care—using reasonable care when making decisions as a steward of the organization
 - b. Duty of loyalty—undivided allegiance when making decisions affecting the organization, never using information obtained as a board member for personal gain, and acting in the best interests of the organization
 - c. Duty of obedience—faithfulness to the organization's mission including not acting in a way that is inconsistent with the central goals of the organization