

For immediate release



HRD to Raise Funds for Gaza at 5 Year Anniversary Gala

To mark its five-year milestone and raise funds for Gaza and its upcoming Mercy Village project, Humanity for Relief and Development (HRD) is hosting a free gala, complete with three-course meal and discussions led by esteemed speakers.

To commemorate half a decade of baking a better world, HRD's Five Year Anniversary Gala is taking place at the Astoria World Manor in Queens, New York, on Saturday December 02 from 5pm to 9pm. **Michigan House Representative Abraham Aiyash** will MC the event, with **Dr. Debbie Almontaser** as the keynote speaker and philanthropist **Shareefa Albanna** as the plenary speaker. **Imam Suhaib Webb, Imam Sirag Wahhaj** and **Imam Khalid Latif** are all guest speakers for the event.

Maeen Ali, CEO and Founder of HRD, said: "Our hearts ache for the thousands of innocent people who have been impacted by the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Every life lost is a world shattered, a family destroyed.

"It's our responsibility to stand with the helpless and most vulnerable amongst us. That's why we're using our Five Year Anniversary Gala to raise funds for our brothers and sisters in Gaza. In partnership with Pious Projects, who have people risking their lives in Gaza, money that we raise will go towards warm meals, food baskets and water tanks.

"In addition, we'll be revealing our plans for Mercy Village, which in partnership with United Humanitarian Foundation, will see us build over 70 homes for people who have been displaced in Hodeida, Yemen. The village will include a Mercy Bakery and Kitchen, as well as a medical center."

While the gala is free to attend, donations are welcome. A three course meal, art exhibition showcasing young Yemeni artists and free parking are included.

HRD is perhaps most famed for its Mercy Bakery and Mercy Kitchen projects. After receiving the tragic news that his brother had passed away in Yemen in 2018, leaving behind his wife and five young children, Maeen was inspired to build a bakery to provide fresh, daily bread for his family and the surrounding neighborhood. It wasn't long before

other local communities were asking for their own bakery, hence Mercy Bakery was born. Since its founding, Mercy Bakery has provided over 18 million loaves of bread. Soon after Mercy Bakery was created, Mercy Kitchen was established to provide warm, nutritional meals such as rice, chicken and vegetables. There are now 10 Mercy Bakeries and 8 Mercy Kitchens in Yemen, Pakistan and Türkiye.

In addition to feeding the hungry, the nonprofit funds Dar Al-Shawkany orphanage in Yemen, has provided water tanks to a rural area of Yemen, delivered medical relief, and raised funds in times of humanitarian crisis and natural disasters.

To RSVP for HRD's 5 Year Anniversary Gala, visit <https://hrdglobal.org/annual-gala-5th-anniversary/>

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Contact Aaron McDonald aaron@hrdglobal.org for more information, photos or interview requests.

About Humanity for Relief and Development

Humanity for Relief and Development is a Brooklyn-based non-governmental, 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to alleviating the suffering caused by the ongoing conflict in Yemen and other parts of the world where people are experiencing hardships.