

# GERIATRIC SOCIAL WORKERS OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

## To whom it may concern,

My name is Ziyad Dawood, I am studying at Oakland University. My major is Social Work, my level of standing is senior; my GPA is 3.47. Hopefully, I will be graduating next semester (Winter 2017), and I will get my Bachelor in Social Work from OU.

I started taking classes at Oakland Community College, and I got an Associate Degree in Social Work/Mental Health, so I decided to complete my education and get a Bachelor Degree from OU. I was born in Iraq/Baghdad in 1989. Then, my family immigrated to Syria in 2003. My family and I lived in Syria for almost seven years. After that I came to the United States as a refugee in 2009, so I would like to use my experience living in three different countries and my knowledge studying at OCC and OU to help people in general and help refugees and immigrants who came from the Middle East. I started working with refugees since 2013 at RFK in Madison Heights. Then, I finished my internship at LSSM, the organization hired me as a refugee specialist in 2014. After that, I got hired at Madison Heights Community Family Coalition and Page Middle School in 2015. I was the person who started new program called healthy and active in summer 2015 for ESL students who live at Oakland and Macomb County. This program has many educational/fun activities for the students. My goal after the graduation is to help refugees and immigrants to come over the struggles that they face in the U.S., and provide resources that they may need. Also, I would like to make some effective programs that help and motivate people to live healthy lifestyle.

I usually try to talk in my social work classes at OU about multicultural issues that some people may face. The reason that I think that is important is because that may help other students to have better understanding of other cultures, and to have more knowledge working with other cultures. I am interested about building a bridge among different cultures because I believe that every culture has something unique that can be represented with.

I am doing my Oakland University social work internship at Arab American and Chaldean council this semester. Most of the clients that I work with are from the Middle East especially those who came recently as refugees and immigrants. However, we have a big diversity of clients from different countries and backgrounds, and that may include white, African America, Asian, and others. Some of these clients especially those who came as refugees may face some issues living in different cultures and countries, so I usually try to provide resources that may help them. Also, I try to motivate them to make better choices in their life, such as studying, exercising, eating healthy food since many of them suffer from depression.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thank you,  
Ziyad Dawood