



## **Alaa (Al) Aqra**

*Proprietor*

*Al's Fish and Chicken*

## **Palestinian Territories**

Al is a true inspiration. He owns two restaurants, interprets for court cases, and is always looking to learn new things. He moved to the United States to attend college and made a life here in Pittsburgh. He recently received an MBA from Point Park.

In 2015 he joined the board of directors of the Universal Academy of Pittsburgh, the only Muslim school in western Pennsylvania. Along with his colleagues on the board directors the school's enrollment grew by 30%, opened 7th and 8th grades, added new classrooms, integrated state of the art classroom technology and put forward strategic plans for the school to ensure growth and financial stability. Al Aqra is also an Arabic Interpreter for the Administrative office of Pennsylvania Courts in Allegheny County and does business as Pittsburgh Global Services which offers certified document translations and business consultancy for small immigrant owned businesses.

Al always knew he wanted to be an entrepreneur and be his own boss. He picked Wilksburg as the location for his first restaurant 10 years ago. Since then, he opened a second location in Duquesne. He attends Wilksburg Community Development Corporation (WCDC) meetings. He also donates food for charity events. Outside of managing his business Al often speaks at diversity conferences in Pittsburgh.