

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, June 16, 2010

Jen Homier or Tijuana Linzy
419-380-4655
public_relations@wgte.org

**TOLEDO REGION'S ISLAMIC COMMUNITY
HIGHLIGHTED IN NEW WGTE DOCUMENTARY**

PREMIERING THURSDAY, JUNE 24 AT 8:00 p.m.

Toledo, OH – The story of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan's Islamic community is a familiar tale of the immigrant search for the American Dream, yet differences in religious practice and global events have placed many challenges before the remarkable and resilient families that call Toledo home. In a new TOLEDO STORIES special, ISLAMIC TOLEDO, WGTE explores how the first Muslim immigrants arrived early in the last century and developed a thriving and established community. Today, more than 20 nationalities live in the Toledo region and have found personal and financial success, a freedom of religious expression, and a new and welcoming home.

WGTE's TOLEDO STORIES series presents an inspirational story told by members of the Islamic Community. A variety of voices and viewpoints are expressed by long-established Toledo families, welcomed newcomers and area historians. The program explores the beauty and history of the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo, discusses our region's religious diversity and reveals the many fascinating paths that brought many Muslim immigrants to the Toledo area.

Executive Producer, Darren LaShelle, describes this latest chapter in the series as, "A very complex story, and one that will inspire viewers all over our region in the same way as our profiles of the Irish, Polish, German and African-American communities." LaShelle further notes, "Although each story we've told is unique, the story of the Islamic Community is interesting because the families that have settled here originally came from many different nations and cultural backgrounds."

ISLAMIC TOLEDO features Dr. S. Amjad Hussain, a professor emeritus of thoracic cardiovascular surgery at The University of Toledo College of Medicine. Hussain is also an op-ed columnist for The Toledo Blade and currently serves as Chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee as a Trustee on the board of the University of Toledo. He is an award winning photographer, an internationally-recognized explorer, a community leader and an award-winning author who has written eleven books on subjects as diverse as religion, culture, history and international relations.

Also featured is attorney, Cherrefe Kadri. Kadri was the first woman elected to serve as the president of a mosque in the United States, and perhaps the world. She was elected in 2001 and was in charge during the September 11, 2001, attacks on

New York and Washington, D.C. Kadri's leadership and belief in community building and open doors led the greater Toledo community to protect the mosque during the tense weeks that followed 9/ 11. Churches and synagogues from all over Northwest Ohio sent over 1,500 people to join hands and encircle the mosque in song and prayer to show their support for Toledo's Islamic community.

ISLAMIC TOLEDO will premiere on WGTE Public Television's TOLEDO STORIES series, Thursday, June 24, at 8:00 p.m.

For more information, photos, video clips or to schedule an interview, contact Jen Homier at 419-380-4655 or jen_homier@wgte.org.

###

WGTE Public Media (The Public Broadcasting Foundation of Northwest Ohio) is a non-profit organization providing quality broadcasting and educational resources to Northwest and West Central Ohio and Southeast Michigan for more than 50 years. WGTE Public Media operates WGTE TV, Toledo; WGTE FM 91.3, Toledo; WGLE FM 90.7, Lima; WGBE FM 90.9, Bryan; WGDE FM 91.9, Defiance; wgte.org; The Educational Resource Center; and The Early Learning and Outreach Center.