



Muslim Community Center News

A Publication of the Muslim Community Center for Human Services

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We welcome two
new Board Members.

Mr. Kassem Khalil

817-932-2392

A Long time community
leader in North Texas

Nauman Azhar J.D.

512-689-4454

An immigrant attorney,
practicing in Dallas Texas



CONGRATULATION!

Two members of the MCC Advisory Council performed Hajj.

Dr. Mohammad Khalid, Dr. Imrana Khalid, **Dr. Atiq Khan** and Dr. Asra Khan performed the Hajj in December 2008. MCC congratulates them and we all pray that their Hajj be accepted. May God bless them and their families.

MCC HONORS MLK ON THE NATIONAL SERVICE DAY

February 9th 2009 - Basheer Ahmed M.D.

MCC for Human Services responded to the call of President-Elect Barack Obama and organized an Open House at the **Al Shifa Clinic**. We invited the residents of the area to have free health screening, conducted the free medical clinic, and disseminated information about MCC's Social Service programs – Domestic Violence and Child Abuse.

We performed 30 **screenings** for blood sugar and blood pressure and 18 patients were provided care at the free medical clinic. The physicians and the volunteers were present to see the patients and perform the screening.

The counseling staff disseminated the information to many representatives from various agencies, who attended the Open House.

MCC was glad to participate in this project in solidarity with thousands of volunteers through out the United States, who were offering similar community services.

Healthy Marriage Seminar

January 17th 2009 - Basheer Ahmed M.D.

Healthy Marriage Seminar was held at Swadeshi Indian Cuisine, Irving, Texas on January 17, 2009 - 9:30AM- 5:30PM. Four couples and 5 individuals participated in this educational seminar which **focused** on recognizing the **danger signs in a marriage**, marital problems, building communication skills to improve and enhance the marital relationship. Dr. Ahmed presented the first half on discussing the special needs and desires for men and women. Why marriages fail, risk factors and danger signs. The second half of the seminar was conducted by Ms. Farzana Mughal, who outlined the communication techniques by role playing and utilizing various games. Ms. Lubna Khurshed, the Assistant Program Director, organized the seminar and her daughter Samreen helped as a **volunteer**.



REFUGEE SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

February 2009 - Aftab Siddiqui

MCCHS has served refugees from Bosnia, Kosovo, Somalia, and Burma and now we are serving newly arrived refugees from Iraq. We have been providing services to twenty six Iraqi families and are looking after their financial, physical, and mental needs and are providing moral support to facilitate their transition to their new country.

MCC has a distinct advantage over other agencies as we have employees and volunteers who speak different languages including Arabic, Urdu, and Hindi. We also have knowledge and information about the cultural and religious traditions of these refugees. Consequently, we have been able to form a relationship of trust with the Iraqi refugee families.

Currently, MCC is providing the following services: **1)** Assessment of needs of each family. **2)** Providing transport to and fro to different offices, clinics, and grocery stores. **3)** Providing translation at various locations like doctor visit, grocery store. **4)** Providing healthcare at our free clinic to those who have not been provided medical assistance as yet. **5)** Helping and guiding in searching for jobs and so far have managed to secure employment to two refugees. **6)** Educating the refugee families about domestic violence and abuse through the Roshni Program of MCCHS. **7)** Working to provide free breast cancer screening for the largest possible number of refugee females. **8)** Providing Zabiha/Halal meat. **9)** Providing house hold items including microwave ovens, kitchenware. **10)** Helping in rent and utilities. **11)** Providing clothing including clothes suitable for winter weather. **12)** Helping with English lessons

In our work with these refugees, we found that these families need help and encouragement to engage in their new society instead of isolating themselves. MCCHS is willing to share its expertise with other agencies and individuals and is working with local refugee agencies. Currently, MCCHS is spearheading a joint effort with local Masajids to help settle these refugees. The organization is thankful to all Masajids in Tarrant County especially, Al-Hedayah and ISAT, Arlington in this effort.

Your donation will support MCC's project

Please send your donation to MCC for Human Services P.O. Box 152658 Arlington TX 76015

REFUGEE - LEGAL STATUS

Nauman Azhar JD

Thousands of individuals come to the United States every year to seek a safe haven from the unjust persecution they face in their home countries. Immigration law distinguishes between two types of individuals who come to the U.S. to avoid persecution – asylees and refugees. Those individuals who are already physically present in the US and then apply within the U.S. to avoid the persecution they face in their home countries are asylees, or asylum seekers. Those individuals, however, who are overseas and apply for admission into the U.S. in order to avoid the persecution they face in their home countries, are refugees.

The law defines a refugee as any person outside his or her country or nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country because of persecution or a “well founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.”

Every year Congress designates specific countries and areas in the world as places from which the U.S. will fill its annual refugee quota. For the 2008 fiscal year the designations were as follows:

Near East/South Asia:	28,000	Unallocated Reserve:	10,000
East Asia:	20,000	Europe & Central Asia:	3,000
Africa:	16,000	Latin America & Caribbean:	3,000

When seeking admission into the U.S. as a refugee, an individual must file form I-590, form G-325a, have fingerprints taken, and submit to a medical exam. In addition, an individual seeking refugee status must also demonstrate that they are being sponsored by a reasonable person or organization that can provide assurances for their housing and employment. The primary umbrella organization that assists with this process is the American Council for Voluntary Agencies.

Spouses and children of refugees are permitted under the law to accompany or “follow to join” the refugee. If the refugee is, however, already present in the U.S. and wishes to initiate the process of bringing their spouse or children from another country to the U.S. he or she must file form I-730 with the Department of Homeland Security within 2 years of arriving in the U.S. as a refugee.

The benefits of being a refugee, beyond avoiding the persecution they faced in their home country, include the right to work. Refugees are permitted to work without having to apply for employment authorization. In addition, refugees are eligible to adjust their status and become lawful permanent residents within one year of the date they were admitted as a refugee. Unfortunately country conditions around the world are not always safe, and are instead characterized by civil war, genocide, and the unjust persecution of individuals. However, there are avenues to escape those conditions and the U.S. provides such an avenue in allowing refugee seekers to secure a safe haven within the borders of the United States.

Disclaimer: This article is not meant as specific advice regarding a person’s individual case. An attorney should be consulted. This article does not create an Attorney-Client relationship.

Domestic Violence—M. Basheer Ahmed M.D.

A Muslim celebrity CEO of Bridges TV murdered his wife. This is certainly a wake up call for the Muslim Community, majority of who still do not believe that domestic violence exist in Muslim community. Although it is publicized in the media that a Muslim leader killed his wife as domestic violence, domestic violence is a pathological behavior and it has nothing to do with the religion, race or culture. MCC has two full time staff devoted to the domestic violence program. More recently we have received more calls from the victims of domestic violence. At present MCC is handling 23 cases with domestic violence. Last month MCC has presented two educational programs on domestic violence in the local Islamic centers and on January 26th, 2009, MCC has presented one hour radio program on Salam Namaste with Ms. Sadaf Haider. Our goal is to eliminate or at least reduce this un-Islamic and uncivilized behavior in the Muslim Community

KWANZA FESTIVAL

December 13th -14th 2008 - Fair Park Dallas

MCC participated at Kwanza Festival Health Fest which was organized by the Dallas County Department of Health. 10 volunteer physicians: Dr. Basheer Ahmed, Dr. Siraj Hussain, Dr. Murad Dharani, Dr. Khadija Kabani, Dr. Laila Heerji, Dr. Rabia Khan, Dr. Bisma Beg, Dr. Mahmood Panjajwani, Dr. Nikhat Qureshi

and Dr. Nabeel Syed participated in the health fair. Ms. Sa-

abeena Rehman, a medical student, helped Dr. Ahmed in coordinating this event. In addition to physicians

MCC arranged a booth with educational material on social issues such as domestic violence and child abuse. Ms. Talaun Thompson LMSW and Ms. Lubna Khurshheed MSW distrib-

uted the educational material and provided the necessary information to the attendees. The festival was attended by 50,000 people and over 200 visited the MCC booths and received the consultation from physicians and

educational material from the staff of MCC.

Physician and MCC staff at the health fair



UPCOMING EVENTS

MCC Board Strategic Planning Retreat on Sat Feb. 14th, 09
North Texas Islamic Council Retreat on Sun Feb. 15th, 2009
MCC Physician Luncheon on Saturday, Apr. 11th, 2009