



Muslim Community Center News

A Publication of the Muslim Community Center for Human Services

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Muslim Community Center for Human Services (MCCHS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded in 1995. The mission of MCCHS is to build strong families and harmonious communities, regardless of religion, ethnicity, race, or place of residence, by providing free or affordable health care, social services, and educational services to those who face barriers to accessing support due to language or cultural differences, or those who are uninsured or underinsured. MCCHS meets the health and social service needs of more than 160,000 immigrants and families from South East Asia, the Middle East and Africa who reside in North Texas.

Mr. Farshori Featured in Plano Magazine



Congratulation to our board member Mr. Farshori being featured in Plano Magazine.

Mohammed moved to the U.S. from India in 2004; he is now often a featured speaker and panelist at diversity conferences and workshops around the United States.

In Nov. 2016, he was invited to speak at the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders leadership roundtable. He served last year as the 52nd president of the India Association of North Texas (IANT). In its 55th year, IANT is one of the oldest Asian Indian organizations in the country and the oldest in Texas. Some of the events it organizes include the Anand Bazaar and India Day, both of which showcase the culture, cuisine and heritage of the Indian community.

IANT was established in 1962 with the main objective of providing a platform to Indian community to fulfill its needs and goals for cultural and social engagement, and to help raise understanding and awareness of Indian cultural heritage and

traditions across North Texas. From adopting a village during the Gujarat earthquake to bringing consular camps [that help Indians with official paperwork] to Dallas, IANT has always been there to support the Indian community. All IANT events are inclusive. The Asian Indian community is the fastest growing population in the U.S.

IANT have engaged over 5,000 people in the last 17 months with our Consular camps. And last year Mr. Farshori chaired the Anand Bazaar, which was attended by 10,000 plus people from all over North Texas.

Overall Asian Indians living in Plano are engaged and continue to give back to the community, but he feel there is still a lot of opportunity for Indians to showcase our contributions to North Texas' growing diversity and economy, and their culture and traditions to others.

With the tremendous growth of the Asian population across the country comes the need to better understand and address the unique issues facing Indian community. It is more important than ever to bring all communities together to have a dialogue with each other, to understand each other to create an inclusive culture.

Diversity is inviting people to the party, inclusion is asking them to dance. IANT believe Plano does that.. IANT have events that are for everybody. People can bring their whole selves to the community.

(Excerpt from Plano Magazine)

MCCHS Foster Parenting Program



Our foster parenting program began in 2012 when MCCHS realized the need to increase the number of licensed Muslim foster parents for Muslim children in the foster care system. Since then, we dramatically increased our outreach and education efforts by doing presentations in different masjids around the community. We then recently doubled our efforts by actively beginning to recruit Muslim parents.

We partner with Strawberry Creek Services. Strawberry Creek is licensed by the Texas Department of family and protective services to recruit parents and license them so that they can take in a foster child immediately if needed. We also partner with Texas Muslim Women's Foundation to pair up these children with licensed parents.

We hope to continue to spread awareness and register Muslim parents. We hope that you will continue to support us. Eligible candidates will go through training with a partnering organization, Strawberry Creek.

Baylor's Faith In Action Initiative

We have recently partnered with Baylor's Faith in Action Initiative (FAI) which is a warehouse that provides free supplies and furniture to registered non-profit organizations. We received 50 new chairs, artwork, and medical supplies for our Al-Shifa Clinic and our dental clinic. We are very excited about this generous donation.

Now Offering Continuing Education (CEU'S)

MCCHS is registered with the Texas State Board of Social Workers to provide continuing education. Continuing Education insures that practitioners are kept up to date with recent developments, can explore new topics, as well as meet the licensing requirements of Texas. National Association of Social Workers (NASW) requires practitioners to provide services in an ethical manner, therefore, every social worker must be vigilant with regards to continually improving themselves professionally. The requirement of Continuing Education has dual benefits; the social worker grows and develops personally and professionally, and at the same time, society is enriched with the constantly improving services available. We offer 2-hours of ethics which include trauma informed care and cultural humility. Please call our office and speak to our Executive Director Dr. Talaun Simmons for the time and date of our next continuing education seminar.

Parenting Education

The Muslim Community Center for Human Services embarked on a new journey. As of 2017, we added parenting classes to the vast array of social services offered at our clinic. We provide the evidence-based curriculum, "Nurturing Parenting" developed by Dr. Stephen J. Bavolek.

Our program is open to the community with many of our referrals coming from local agencies and the Department of Child and Protective Services of Texas. We acknowledge the need to reunite parents with their children, and we at MCCHS are working diligently to address the stressful issue of separation through education intervention. Our curriculum lasts for a duration of six weeks, and upon completion of the program, participants receive a certification from our clinic.

Our friendly and trained staff, as well as University of Texas Arlington social work interns, facilitate class sessions. We take into consideration the unique stressors of immigrant parents and the challenges they face while adjusting to Western culture. Successful parenting involves overcoming many obstacles; at MCCHS we understand that parents face barriers and believe that convenience and affordability are essential aspects in providing services. We are proud to say that parents who enter our facility feeling defeated and hopeless leave with a positive outlook of their future as successful parents.



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