

# DONOR REPORT

UPDATED: APRIL 2015

U.S. PROGRAMS  
*2015*



**ISLAMIC RELIEF USA**  
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## 2014 COMPLETED PROJECTS

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- NEW STAR FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER: NEW STAR FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER
- ARAB AMERICAN FAMILY SERVICES: ZAKAT PARTNERSHIP
- GLOBAL DEAF MUSLIMS: ACCESSIBILITY FOR ISLAMIC EVENTS AND ASL CLASSES
- KURDISH HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH: PERMANENT HOUSING FOR REFUGEES
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- NIA MASJID & COMMUNITY CENTER: DAY OF DIGNITY NJ

# 2015 ACTIVE PROJECTS

# ZAKAT PARTNERSHIP

## AL-MAUN NEIGHORLY NEEDS OF LAS VEGAS: ZAKAT PARTNERSHIP

Active Dates: 10/1/2014 – 9/30/2015

Location: Las Vegas, NV

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** The program has been active for several years, serving numerous individuals and families—in all cases saving an individual or family from imminent eviction or shut-off of power, gas or water. Loss of these utilities would result in lack of heat in the winter, lack of air conditioning in the summer, lack of water to cook or bathe with, or lack of resources to provide hot meals.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Capture sufficient information to make an informed decision.

- Grantee shall require applicants to complete an application.

Distribute Zakat funds in accordance with the following general guidelines

- Zakat funds may be awarded only to individuals or families
- Zakat funds may be sought for basic living expenses
- The maximum limit for each Zakat grant is \$1,000

## SHARE ATLANTA: ZAKAT PARTNERSHIP

Active Dates: 12/1/2014-11/30/2015

Location: Atlanta, GA

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** SHARE Atlanta has been very actively working in the social service arena in the Muslim community since its inception in 2009. It sees many families and individuals who need help to be able sustain themselves. It sees people who may have potential to get some sort of vocational training and then be able to help themselves. They would need full support during the process so they finish the training.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Capture sufficient information to make an informed decision.

- Grantee shall require applicants to complete an application.

Distribute Zakat funds in accordance with the following general guidelines

- Zakat funds may be awarded only to individuals or families
- Zakat funds may be sought for basic living expenses
- The maximum limit for each Zakat grant is \$1,000

## FAITH SOCIAL SERVICES: ZAKAT PARTNERSHIP

Active Dates: 11/15/2014-11/14/2015

Location: Herndon, VA

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** The Family Assistance Programs address the lack of comprehensive assistance for low-income families. When available, financial assistance is given to address the single symptoms of poverty such as the inability to pay rent, utility costs and food. At FAITH, this is merely the first step in the process of creating self-sufficient families. As shelter is one of the most basic human needs, FAITH first ensures that families are able to maintain a stable home base by paying for the cost of rent and utility bills. This first step of the process also enables families to start the rehabilitation that is needed when families fall into poverty and are unable to support themselves or their families. Secondly, families are given counsel by caseworkers to identify areas of opportunity such as language classes and better employment. Thirdly, education is emphasized as a tool to alleviate poverty and increase independence. These various components recognize an impoverished family as individual parts that can improve the collective unit.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Capture sufficient information to make an informed decision.

- Grantee shall require applicants to complete an application.

Distribute Zakat funds in accordance with the following general guidelines

- Zakat funds may be awarded only to individuals or families
- Zakat funds may be sought for basic living expenses
- The maximum limit for each Zakat grant is \$1,000

## **DAR AL-HIJRAH ISLAMIC CENTER: ZAKAT PARTNERSHIP**

Active Dates: 12/1/2014-11/30/2015

Location: Falls Church, VA

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** Many heads of household in Dar Al-Hijrah's community are employed in the service sector. During the current economic downturn, the service sector has been hit with severe cutbacks, reduced working hours and layoffs. The Washington, D.C., metropolitan area is also experiencing gentrification and rise in rents and home prices which has priced out many community members from affordable housing, often leading to eviction and homelessness. This has resulted in an increase in the number of cases. The overwhelming number of cases of families seeking housing and housing related assistance continues to increase. The ultimate objective of the Dar Al-Hijrah Zakat Program is to restore the dignity and capacity of families experiencing a personal crisis and to assist them in getting back on their feet spiritually, emotionally and financially.

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

Capture sufficient information to make an informed decision.

- Grantee shall require applicants to complete an application.

Distribute Zakat funds in accordance with the following general guidelines

- Zakat funds may be awarded only to individuals or families
- Zakat funds may be sought for basic living expenses
- The maximum limit for each Zakat grant is \$1,000

## **AMAANAH REFUGEE SERVICES: ZAKAT PARTNERSHIP**

Active Dates: 12/1/2014-11/30/2015

Location: Houston, TX

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** Refugees being resettled in Houston receive 3-5 months for government assistance after arrival. That is not enough time for refugees to rebuild and resettle into a new land. Amaanah will use IRUSA funds to provide rental assistance to refugees, extending their rental assistance period for 3-4 more months. This will allow refugees more time to integrate and stand up on their feet.

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

Capture sufficient information to make an informed decision.

- Grantee shall require applicants to complete an application.

Distribute Zakat funds in accordance with the following general guidelines

- Zakat funds may be awarded only to individuals or families
- Zakat funds may be sought for basic living expenses
- The maximum limit for each Zakat grant is \$1,000

## **HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION**

### **KURDISH HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH: HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION**

Active Dates: 1/15/2015-1/14/2016

Location: Fairfax, VA

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** Kurdish Human Rights Watch proposes to provide transitional housing and rapid rehousing and case management for newly arrived refugee families who face the challenge of resettling in the United States. This initiative will also ensure families are connected to supportive services available through local civic and government agencies that can ease their integration into the community and help them achieve financial security. This approach is designed to meet the most difficult needs of refugee resettlement, which is housing, gainful employment and financial stability.

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

- Ensure clients are provided with secure and affordable housing
- Provide clients with job and vocational training

## INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE : EMERGENCY HOUSING FOR REFUGEES

Active Dates: 12/1/2014-11/30/2016

Location: Silver Spring, MD

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** Access to affordable housing is a critical component to successful resettlement in any community, but especially for refugees and asylees resettling in Suburban Washington, D.C. IRC has cultivated relationships with housing providers who reduce their rental rates to accommodate newly arriving refugees. Historically, all new arrivals, regardless of familial status, received rental assistance that helped to sustain them during that critical period between when they land at the airport and when they develop the skills and knowledge necessary to secure their first job in the U.S. However, in July 2014, IRC received notice from the Maryland Office of Refugees and Asylees that rental assistance for single and childless couples would be suspended immediately.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure that newly arrived refugees can afford safe and affordable housing
- Reduce the risk of long term unemployment among single and childless refugees

## HEALTH CARE

### IMAN: MEDICAL DIRECTOR GRANT

Active Dates: 5/1/2014-4/30/2015

Location: Chicago, IL

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** The medical director grant allows the clinic to stay open beyond traditional hours and also increase the number of beneficiaries served in the Chicago area.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Retain the service of a full time Medical Director for a period of one year
- Position the clinic to meet program guidelines for Federally Qualified Health Clinic status

## FINANCIAL EDUCATION

### CAPITAL AREA ASSET BUILDERS: PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Active Dates: 9/1/2014-8/31/2015

Location: Washington, D.C.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** Poverty levels continue to increase despite the economic recovery. This economic recovery is benefitting some, but not all individuals in the region. Many individuals and families in low-income communities are not joining in mainstream economics and are consequently falling further into the growing wealth gap. CAAB contributes to the alleviation of poverty on a long-term basis with the acquisition of education, homeownership, and business assets and the knowledge of how to secure and grow these assets. Participants identify and save toward a long-term goal, while taking financial education courses. When they complete the program and meet their savings goal, they receive matching funds.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Host 4 community financial health fairs
- Provide a total of 15 Individual Development Accounts for new participants
- Train partners to deliver financial education courses

## FOOD SERVICES

### SABIL AL IHSSAN: GIVING GRAIN PANTRY

Active Dates: 7/1/2014-8/31/2015

Location: Irvine, CA

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** There are a significant number of refugees and families with chronic financial issues in the Southern California area who are consistently struggling with hunger. Some individuals come from as far as Anaheim to receive services, which is a 20-minute drive and one hour via bus. In nearby Santa Ana, there are significant Indo-Asian and Cambodian communities which are struggling with hunger as well. Sabil has received the emergency food program operator training from IRUSA, and is currently hosting food distributions financed out-of-pocket. Thus far Sabil members have received training from Second Harvest Food Bank, and are approaching the three-month period after which will be an inspection and acceptance of our partnership with Second Harvest. The food storage space has been set up, and 4 distributions have already taken place. There will be a distribution every three weeks. Thus far there are 115 families coming for service.

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Establish a designated space for food storage
- Distribute food to those in need
- Emergency food items may be given only to individuals or families. Individuals living in the same household will be considered members of the same family and should be served as a unit.

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### FAITH SOCIAL SERVICES: BRIGHT STARS

Active dates: 12/1/2014-11/30/2015

Location: Herndon, VA

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** The Bright Stars Program addresses the limited opportunities available to low-income youth due to financial constraints. Participation in after-school activities requires membership fees and mobility that is not available to these youth. In the highly competitive area of Northern Virginia, colleges seek applicants who have participated in activities that develop skill sets through middle and high school. Without this experience, these disenfranchised youth are at a severe disadvantage and might not have discovered or explored their areas of interests that could direct their career.

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Develop mentorship program to allow Bright Star participants to become an active part of the community
- During the duration of the program devise a monthly activity that encompasses a variety of interests to allow Bright Star participants to engage with one another.



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