

# **Dar Al Hijrah Social Services**

## **Newsletter: May 2005**

### **The Food Bank**

This month our Food Bank fed over 200 people. Through donations of organizations such as Food for Others, and Omar Wali's American Halal Meat we were able to give those in need a variety of foods including vegetables, chicken and bread. The Food Bank is held on Thursdays from 10:00 am until noon. Social Services is considering re-starting a food pantry project, and therefore non-perishable food donations are currently welcome. Please call the Social Services office in advance at (703)-531-2912 to notify staff when you will be coming to drop off your food donations.

### **Rental Assistance**

Social Services received many cases during the month of May. Most of the approved applicants were in need of rental assistance, and about 1 out of 4 applicants were single women or single mothers. Over \$7,000 was given to screened applicants. Social Services also received 3 cases in which single women were homeless. From the help of the community and the agency F.A.I.T.H., 2 sisters were able to find temporary housing. ADAMS Center has also been helpful in giving additional assistance to our clients in need.

### **Working with the Community**

Social Services makes referrals on a regular basis to County Services. We like clients to be proactive and encourage applicants in need to seek out services such as food stamps and TANF.

The Social Services Department also likes to network with agencies and other masajid to help clients receive services they cannot get from Dar Al-Hijrah. The best example of when networking with other organizations was profitable occurred in April when a hospital excused over \$30,000 in medical bills through the advocacy of Dar Al-Hijrah Social Services.

Social Services has now begun a project in which letters will be sent out to doctors in the community to help those in need receive medical care at free or low cost prices.

### **Legal Fund: Standing for Justice**

During the month of May over \$19,000 was raised to help our detained brothers. We have ongoing cases in which sponsored detainee families are provided with financial assistance. This month an additional payment of \$2,500 was made towards the release of a detained brother. Social Services continues to ask for your support through donations and through the purchasing of food after Friday prayer. Dar Al-Hijrah has special tables on Friday located outside in the

parking lot near the najiah. On days with inclement weather food may be served inside near the main office.

## **Volunteers**

We would like to thank all the brothers and sisters for their support and efforts in volunteering with Social Services. Social Services appreciates the help and time you have spent with us. We would like to thank Amo Hussien, Najette and her family for picking up food on Wednesdays for the Food Bank. We also appreciate the generous donations by the organization Food for Others, and would also like to thank Washington Lamb and American Halal Meat for their ongoing meat donations.

We plan on beginning new projects this summer and expect that we will need additional help from volunteers. We would like to begin preventive programs and workshops addressed to our community, and especially the youth. Possible topics may include issues like substance abuse and domestic violence. Social Services would also like to have community picnics and begin a canned food drive. If you have any additional ideas or are interested in volunteering please call our office and leave a message with your name, contact information and times you are available.