

Serving The Needy With Love

At the core of Dr. Basheer Ahmed's life is a moral obligation to contribute his time, his resources and his talents to improving humanity.

A native of India, Dr. Ahmed, a well-known psychiatrist in North Texas, says that his faith commands him to "help all people, regardless of background, color or faith.

His view of the world and his passion for goodness led him to found the Muslim Community Center for Human Services in 1998 by reaching out to Muslim health professionals that agreed to donate their services to people in need.

The Center, whose name in Arabic means the healing place, provides dental, medical and mental health services to low income people in North Texas. It also gives domestic violence counseling. Dr. Talaun Simmons, a member of the Potters House, has been the executive director of the Center for more than a decade. At the Center, located in North Richland Hills, health professionals donate their time and skills to ensure that people without health insurance are given the same medical treatment as the insured. Those who can afford it pay a \$25.00 fee.

The Center works with area churches and community residents to coordinate health expos. In its infancy all of the medical professionals that donated their services were Muslims. While most of the patients were not members of the faith.

"Our doors are open to all people," said Dr. Ahmed who is heavily involved in interfaith activities in North Texas, and works closely



Dr. Sarah Zaheer donates her time and talent to help patients at the Muslim Community Center. She views her work as a calling.

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with organizations that service people of the Jewish and Christian faiths.

A member of the National Association of Free Clinics, the health clinic is open Monday thru Friday from 8:30 am until 5 pm. A relationship with Quest Labs, a national pharmaceutical firm, affords clients a 75 percent discount on all lab work.

"Our long-range vision is to continue our work," said Dr. Ahmed. "There are great needs in our society, and we have been placed here to meet them," he said. | **AR**



Dr. Basheer's vision has been enhanced by Dr. Talaun Simmons who runs the day to day activities of the Center.