



# Dallas Peace Center

Celebrating 31 Years of Peacemaking

Presents the

## 26th Annual Peacemaker Awards Dinner

Honoring

**2012 Peacemaker of the Year  
Dr. Basheer Ahmed**



*Dr. Basheer Ahmed receives the Peacemaker of the Year Award* for his extraordinary commitment to breaking the cycle of fear that many Americans experienced in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks through creative use of human service, education and constructive dialogue. He defends the Islamic religion by explaining that Islam is against terrorist activities, emphasizing that the Holy Quran teaches that if you kill one innocent person, it is as if you kill the whole of humanity, and if you save one person, it is equivalent to saving all of humanity.

Dr. Ahmed became convinced of the need to work for peace by his experiences coming face to face with the horrors of war while seeing victims of conflict in Afghanistan in 1980's and researching and publishing a paper on "The effects of war on children of Palestine and Bosnia".

In 2001, he joined with others to form the **Institute of Medieval and Post-Medieval Studies** to help generate a climate of mutual understanding and respect among people generally, and especially between Muslims and people of other faiths and cultures. He also became a board member of the **Multi Cultural Alliance** and has spoken to seminary students about the need for respect and recognition of all religions, with the primary goal of living with each other in peace and harmony.

In 1995, Dr. Ahmed established the **Muslim Community Center for Human Services** and serves as its chairman. The Center provides medical and social services in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area to people in need regardless of their religion, race, or country of origin. For his community work,

**Dr. Ahmed received The Humanitarian award from Tarrant county Medical society in 2008.**

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**Dr. Ahmed's Accepting Speech**

**Rev. Ryan Koch, Ms. Kelli Obazee , Mr. Domingo Garcia Ladies and Gentlemen**

Greetings,

I am humbled with the honor and selection to receive this prestigious award. Undoubtedly, there are many individuals who are more qualified and deserving than I am. And for that reason, I am accepting this honor with the deepest gratitude.

I have been involved with multiple organizations set up for promoting health and human services to indigent residents, providing educational services, and building harmonious relationships among people of different faith.

When I was young My parents, especially my mother, had a great influence on me and were a source of my inspiration to serve humanity. I grew up in India in a community with people of multiple ethnicities and religions who were all living together in close proximity. My mother ingrained the idea that one should respect all human beings irrespective of their ethnicity, social status or religious affiliations. This has a lasting impression on me and was a primary motivating factor for my community and humanitarian work.

While I was doing my postgraduate medical studies in Glasgow University, I became very fond of President Kennedy and the United States. Although I had an opportunity to develop my carrier in the United Kingdom, I decided to migrate to United States in the late 60s. What impressed me most was that there is a freedom of speech, an opportunity to pursue your dreams, and for self-actualization. I found it to be true that with a clear goal and ambition you can fulfill your dreams in this great land of opportunities. I served as a professor in prestigious universities such as Albert Einstein College of Medicine New York and South Western Medical School Dallas Texas. Subsequently I developed a successful private practice in this area. Since this country has given me everything I desired, I decided to give back to this community by developing and participating in multiple organizations providing humanitarian services, educational services and building harmonious relationships among people of different faith.

The **Muslim Community Center for Human services** was established in 1995 as the first Muslim organization in North Texas to provide charitable Medical services, Social services, and counseling services to victims of Domestic Violence and to refugees from War torn areas, irrespective of color, religion and country of origin. MCCs mission is to **serve our community by uplifting and empowering individuals to triumph over their health and social challenges, despite any cultural and economic barriers.**

I was also fortunate to work with a few scholars to develop an **Institute of Medieval and Post Medieval Studies** to disseminate the information that this civilization was built on building blocks from contributions of individuals of many countries and civilizations: Greek, Indian, Chinese, Roman, Muslims and Europeans. The Institute of Medieval and Post-Medieval Studies, highlights Islamic contributions to medicine, science, literature and other areas.

As a board member of the **Multi-cultural Alliance**, I participated in various interfaith activities promoting harmonious relationships among followers of different faiths. Our primary goal was not to convert people but to develop a deeper understanding of different faiths and to show respect and dignity towards each other.

No organization can be successful without developing and working with a cohesive group of dedicated, compassionate and devoted volunteers. I am very fortunate to work with such selfless groups of people. I am thankful to many physician and non physician volunteers who supported me in developing humanitarian programs over the years and I would like to recognize a few individuals who are in audience and for whom I have sincere gratitude. They have always responded to my call for assistance.

**Imam Dr.Yousuf Zia Kavakci Religious advisor**

**Mr. Aftab Siddiqui Chair MCC for Human services and MCC Board members**

**Dr. Wasiq Zaidi, Mr Ismail Tahir, Mr.. Kassem Elkhalil, Ms.. Abedah Nauert**

**Mr.. Noor ul Haque Siddiqui, Mr.John Hammond Developing MCC Board of**

**trustees, Mr.Abu Tariq, Mr.Mohammed Peracha, Ms Taluun Thompson**

**Program director MCC, Ms Selanet Fante, Ms Nuha Rafeeq , Ms Janice Lord**

**Mr Edward Thomas President IMPMS, Dr.Yashau Sodiq, Mr.Mohsin Shaheed**

**Mr.Azher Aziz, Mr,Mike Ghouse Foundation of America together**

**MS Anne Marie Armush DFW intetnational**

Last but not the least I am immensely thankful to my family who have has always been supportive of my work

**My wife Dr.Shakila Ahmed** retired Radiologist, **My son Mr.Sameer Ahmed** Attorney in McAllen Texas and My daughter Araj Ahmed.

**In my humble opinion, One of our major objectives should be to introduce into the world an ethos that facilitates the spreading of justice and peace in our community, in our country, and in the world. Racial, social, and economic injustices are everyday realities and therefore, issues of justice should be of a primary concern to all of us. Peace and justice are essential for the development of relations between individuals and societies. This can only be achieved by showing respect and dignity towards our fellow human beings and do remember “There is no peace without justice” I am thankful to Dallas peace center for doing such a wonderful work AND I AM PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS ORGANIZATION.**

**Thank you and God bless you.**  
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**Dr. Basheer Ahmed,**

**You made us Muslims feel proud! Congratulations Thank you**

Amidst 400 people, people who are peace makers in one fashion or the other, the Dallas Peace Center presents its prestigious Peace Maker award to our own Dr. Basheer Ahmed in the Dinner Gala held at Double Tree Hotel on Thursday, December 6, 2012.



All the good things in a society begin with a dream, and individual dreams and commits to making it happen. One has to be persistent and committed to do, if not the setbacks will

make an average person give up, not Basheer Ahmed. His mother laid the foundation for that dream - to serve humanity, it was a nice tender moment to hear him talk about his mother, and I felt emotive about it, as it was my mother who pushed me to go to school, if not I would have been a farmer in a remote village in Karnataka or a politician. I am sure each one of you feels missing your mother, particularly when you are recognized for the great things you do to bring about peace of mind to many strangers.

I was on Turkish Television the other day, the one thing they wanted to know was how do you change perceptions about Muslims in America, this is the way, by serving others! No one can say bad words or take away the good work you do, the more of us do this, the better off we all would be. This is the way to change perceptions.

Read more about his work at <http://www.mcc-hs.org> and please donate generously to this organization, it's your money well spent.

Dallas Peace Center is an organization you must seriously consider joining - Hadi Jawad has been active for several years and another recipient of the award, and I was on the Board for many years until I formed America Together Foundation, and now Aftab Siddiqi is doing a great job. [Dallas Peace Center](#) is one of the oldest peace organizations in Dallas. There are a few other Muslims participating in it. You will survive, if you [stand up](#) for justice for every human, not just Muslims.

Mike Ghouse

*Committed to build a cohesive America, where no American has to feel discomfort, apprehension or fear of the other. Watch the trailer of the upcoming movie Americans together at [www.AmericaTogetherFoundation.com](http://www.AmericaTogetherFoundation.com)*

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/community-news/dallas/headlines/20121205-dallas-peace-center-to-honor-muslim-clinic-founder-former-journalist-at-awards-for-advocates-of-nonviolence.ece>

Dallas Peace Center to honor Muslim clinic founder, former journalist at awards for advocates of nonviolence

The Dallas Peace Center will recognize several local leaders Thursday for their peace-building efforts. Honorees at the center's 26th annual awards dinner include a doctor who helped dispel fear of Muslims following 9/11 and a former journalist who established a nonprofit to promote peace.

The center's executive director, Kelli Obazee, said the journey toward peace can be long, difficult and tedious. At the dinner, the center will recognize those who have stuck with it and made a difference.

"It's our time to sing of people who have paid the ultimate price for the well-being of the community," Obazee said.

Dr. Basheer Ahmed will receive the Peacemaker of the Year Award. Ahmed founded the Muslim Community Center for Human Services in Richland Hills, a clinic that offers medical, dental and social services, often at discounted rates. In 2001, he helped form the Institute of Medieval and Post-Medieval Studies, which highlights Islamic contributions to medicine, science, literature and other areas.

Obazee said Ahmed has facilitated peace by raising awareness. Whenever one segment of a society "is being dehumanized, it's done so through ignorance or lack of understanding," she said.

The Dallas Peace Center will give lifetime achievement awards to two residents who have sought to promote nonviolence for years. Former journalist Vivian Castleberry founded Peacemakers Inc., a nonprofit that sponsors international women's peace conferences. The University of North Texas' peace studies institute was named for Castleberry, a longtime features editor at the *Dallas Times Herald*. Richard Sambrano worked in the Dallas community relations office of the U.S. Department of Justice and was involved in many high-profile mediations over a 30-year career.

"These individuals are well into their 80s and every day still looking to see how they can contribute to make someone else's life a little better," Obazee said.

Additional honorees are Bob Ray Sanders of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, who's receiving the Media Peacemaker of the Year Award; and Unity of Arlington, recipient of the Peacemaking Organization of the Year Award.

**GO & DO: Peacemaker Awards Dinner**

**WHAT:** The Dallas Peace Center's 26th annual Peacemaker Awards Dinner

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## Dallas Morning News Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 2012

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/community-news/dallas/headlines/20121205-dallas-peace-center-to-honor-muslim-clinic-founder-former-journalist-at-awards-for-advocates-of-nonviolence.ece>

### Dallas Peace Center to honor Muslim clinic founder, former journalist at awards for advocates of nonviolence

By SARAH MERVOSH [smervosh@dallasnews.com](mailto:smervosh@dallasnews.com) Published: 05 December 2012 10:41 PM

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# The Dallas Morning News

## Peace center to honor local advocates

Founder of area Muslim clinic to receive top award tonight

By SARAH MERVOSH  
Staff Writer  
smervosh@dallasnews.com

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### AT A GLANCE The dinner

**WHAT:** The Dallas Peace Center's 26th annual Peacemaker Awards Dinner  
**WHEN:** Reception at 5:30 p.m. and awards program at 7 p.m. Thursday  
**WHERE:** DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 4099 Valley View Lane in Dallas, near Midway Road north of LBJ Freeway  
**TICKETS:** \$75, available at the door  
**WEB:** [dallaspeacecenter.org](http://dallaspeacecenter.org)

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