

## Muslims' health fair scheduled

The free program is intended to help low-income residents in the area, especially Bosnian and Kurdish refugees.

BY RENEE C. LEE  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

ARLINGTON — The Muslim Community Center for Human Services is sponsoring a free health fair tomorrow for low-income Muslim residents, particularly recent Bosnian and Kurdish refugees, who have trouble accessing community services because of cultural and language barriers.

The health fair will offer services such as medical checkups, blood work, Hemocult, EKG, dental screening and eye examinations for Metroplex Muslims. Information will be available about diabetes and nutrition along with other health awareness displays.

Thirty doctors from the Metroplex will volunteer their services for the fair, which runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ameen People Library, 614 Hiatt Ave.

Dr. M. Basheer Ahmed, a Fort Worth psychologist, developed the center in April with the help of 23 other Muslim doctors and professionals. The center recently moved from Ahmed's Arlington home into its new office at 711 Park Row Drive.

The center initially will serve as an information and referral service for Muslim residents, who may be unaware of where to go for medical and social services.

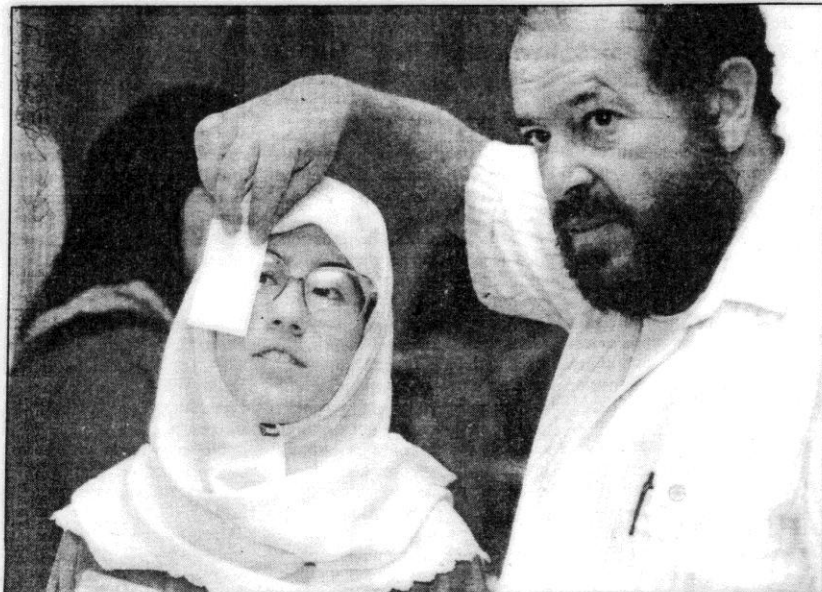
The nonprofit center's part-time staff mostly handled phone calls for Heart Line, an emergency hotline. Ahmed said he hopes to have the center open for counseling for four or five hours a day by mid-October.

"The whole idea is to help people who can be more comfortable so their quality of life can be improved," Ahmed said.

He said he came up the idea for the center last year when he hosted a fund-raising dinner for Bosnian refugees and recognized the need for the Muslim community to have its own clearing house, similar to Catholic Charities.

He said many of the recent Muslim immigrants, unlike those who came to United States during 1960s, are unskilled. When they settle, they have little money and no medical insurance. Some also suffer from depression and other psychological problems as they learn to adjust to living in a new country, he said.

### Free medical checkups given



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Kitam Abdel-Jalil, 13, has her eyes checked by Ossama Nachawati at the Ameen People Library in Arlington yesterday. A free health fair for low-income Muslims including Kurdish and Bosnian refugees was sponsored by the Muslim Community Center for Human Services.