

MY PROJECT USA

PROTECTING & EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH

PROJECT MY USA



2014 - 2022

EIGHT YEARS OF RESILIENCE & GROWTH





Promoting Women and Diversity In the field of Software & Information Technologies

Robotic & Intelligent Automation

- Cognitive / Augmented Intelligence
- Robotic Process Automation
- Backoffice/Front-office
- IVR, ChatBot, Document Processing, Image Processing

DevOps, SRE, Solution Engineering

- DevOps, Site Reliability, CI/CD,
- Cloud Setup, Maintenance, Strategy
- Infrastructure & Software Deployment Automation & Provisioning
- Application Performance Management

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- SAP, Salesforce, Warehouse System, Logistics

Data, Reporting & Analytics

- Build and Maintain entire Data technology stacks Across source, Warehouse, Analytics DB, Reporting
- Business Intelligence, Date Integration, Analytics, Cloud Services, Reporting

If you have graduated from a Technical / Business background and have excellent verbal and written communication skills, CTS has a challenging opportunity for you in the field of Software Development and Information Technology.

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With Resilience We Turn Our Pain into a Purpose!

MY Project USA Launches Three Projects In Issa Jeylani's Name



Dear Family,

I am humbled and proud in sharing this comprehensive eight-year report with you. It records and celebrates both our storied history and the many exciting accomplishments of the last 12 months. Our team has grown to include many bright new faces and continues to evolve each day. As you'll see, this is only the beginning.

In October 2014, I dropped everything and decided to start a new organization from the ground up. Its mission would be to protect local Muslim youth from the drugs, gangs and human trafficking plaguing our communities. But how would I do it? I had no money, no office, and little to no support from any mosque or social organization. What I did have, however, was my trust in Allah and the help of a few kind people. With them, I launched the first Muslim social services organization in our area to help the refugees and immigrant youth in the Columbus Hilltop area. It was a food desert and home to an estimated 10,000 at-risk children. There was no time to waste.

Fast forward eight years, and here we are celebrating the eighth anniversary of our organization. What a stressful yet blessed journey! What a ride! What a village we as a community have built together!

By the Grace of God, we have become the largest Muslim Social Services Organization in Ohio. We have saved hundreds of children from drug abuse and gang violence. We have served more than 220,000 local clients and have provided more than 4.5 million meals and snacks. Our revenue surpassed \$1.6 million last year giving us more resources than ever to expand our programs, staffing, and facilities. We have three

locations and working on the fourth one. We have become one of the most effective partners of the City of Columbus in protecting and empowering Columbus refugee youth.

While 2022 had truly been a year of growth and success for the organization, it had also been the saddest and hardest year for me personally and for many of my team members as we lost our beloved 15-year-old Issa Jeylani, a soccer champion, to gang violence on July 22, while he was simply playing soccer in his own neighborhood.

Issa's tragic death has broken our hearts and has left scars on our souls. We will never forget him. We have turned our pain into purpose to keep his legacy alive for years to come. We are committed to lead our youth and families to a better, safer and more prosperous tomorrow.

We are grateful to the Jeylani family for allowing us to launch mutual projects in Issa's name to benefit the entire community. These projects will work specifically to empower and protect Columbus youth from drugs abuse and violence. The first three projects in Issa's name are as follows:

- ▶ Issa Jeylani Hero Annual Award and Scholarship
- ▶ Issa's Peace Patio & Garden at the Hilltop Youth Empowerment Center
- ▶ Issa Jeylani Memorial Recreation Center in Hilltop

More details about these projects are listed within this report and more will be provided as we finalize their implementation. While these plans are in development, we would love for you to support our many programs that make

change possible with a financial contribution. Your monthly and/or yearly donations help sustain MY Project USA's social work and allow us to continue finding new ways to serve our community. Please consider becoming a valued partner of our organization.

I thank and congratulate each and every partner, volunteer, donor and community member young or old for their role in bringing us to this day. I congratulate MY Project USA youth leaders, board members, and sponsors that have supported us in many ways. I also wish to remind everyone that there is still much work to be done. Thousands of children will wake tomorrow not knowing where their next meal will come from, how they will get to school, and if they will be safe. We must always remember that victory is never assured.

I revive our vows that our fight against human trafficking, organized crime, gun violence, drug abuse, and all other threats to our children will continue. Our fight against hunger, poverty, unemployment, and all other injustices will continue. Today we must renew our commitment to all of our children. With God's help, we will continue doing everything in our capacity to protect and empower them. Our community is Bound to Rise.

In solidarity with youth & families,

Zerqa Abid

Founder & Executive Director, MY Project USA

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



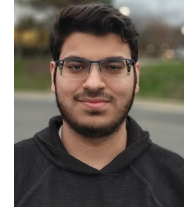
ZERQA ABID
FOUNDER, PRESIDENT
& EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RUSSELL HARRIS
TREASURER &
CHAIR HILLTOP TIGERS



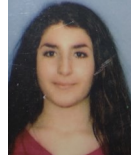
RAMY EL-ASSAL
SECRETARY &
DIR. MY FAMILY PANTRY



UZAIR QIDWAI
DIR. ADMINISTRATION



JUDGE SHERYL MUNSON
DIR. MY JUSTICE WARRIORS



RAIFA ALHAG-ALI
BOARD MEMBER



MOE TAHA AHMED
BOARD MEMBER



AJMERI HOQUE
BOARD MEMBER



SAFA MOHAMED
DIR. MY READING WARRIORS

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MUFAKHAR AL ISLAM

DR. TASLIMA RASHID

ZERQA ABID

THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



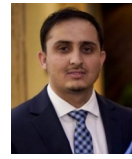
KATANA MULLEN
DIR. YOUTH PROGRAMS



SAMI OMARZAI
DIR. COMMUNITY DEV.
MY DEAH'S WAREHOUSE
& GLOBAL GIFTS & THRIFT



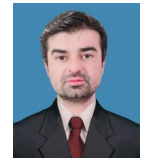
SHARON WATKINS, PHD
CONSULTANT DIRECTOR
EDUCATION



NASIR SHINWARI
OFFICE MANAGER &
FOOD MARKET



MATTHEW HAGER
COMMUNICATIONS
SPECIALIST



NOORULLAH SHINWARI
ASS. DIR.
COMMUNITY DEV.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

VOLUNTEERS

MY FAMILY PANTRY

ABDURREHMAN KHAN
NAWAL ABDINUR
STELLA ABOSHAHBA

NOORA RAJJOUB

RAHAF SHALASH

MICHAEL ABU-ELIAS

IRSHAD K SHINWARI

JALAT K SHINWARI

MY READING WARRIORS

NADINE ABDEL RAHMAN

YASSMIN BENHAILA

ADAM KHALIFA

DINA KANAAN

ZAINAH SHAHEEN

DAHLIA DABOUL

HILLTOP YOUTH GARDEN

NATE REITZ

ALMA ROSA DIAZ

MY JUSTICE WARRIORS

NATE REITZ

ABRIAL MAHMOUD

ATTORNEY CATHERINE KURILA

ATTORNEY ZACH GWIN

BEATRIZ SANTIAGO

SYDNEY BRADLEY

WELCOME REFUGEE COMMITTEE

TAQDIRULLAH AZIZ

NAIMA OMERZAI

QASIM OMERZAI

JUMADIN SALARZAI

AYOUB KHAN

HEALTH SCREENING

BAYAN SHALASH

AHMED HUSSEIN

WILLIAM SCHWARTZMAN

PAID STAFF

FOOD MARKET

EZATULLAH MOMAND

JAJUAN PARKER

KRISTINA ARNOLD

HILLTOP TIGERS

ABDI IDRIS

ALI JEYLANI

MOHAMED AHMED

SHARMARKE ABDI

MUKUMBIRA MUKUMBIRA

MY DEAH'S WAREHOUSE

FAZAL RABI RAHMANYAR

SALIKH KHAN PAKTI AWAL

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

JENNA HERRON

KHADIJA IBRAHIM

TODD ZIDEL

RIKKI SANTER

DAISHA RICHARDS

MOHAMED AHMED

STEPHANIE BASSHAM

ELIZABETH KEHRES

QALI AHMED

CLAIRE LAPORT

ALLISON BASSHAM

ALEAH GOSSETT

AILIA DEWITT

MY COMMUNITY GARDEN

ANDY ALBERTS

GLOBAL GIFTS & THRIFT

MUSAWAR WALI

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

ALEX RUDICH

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

FELIX MIJANGOS

HOUSEKEEPING

SANDRA GARCIA



MY PROJECT USA
 3275 Sullivant Ave.
 Columbus 43204
 614-905-0977
 Myprojectusa.org

ABOUT

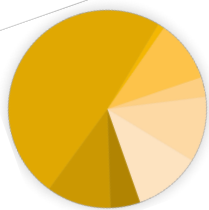
2022 Revenue \$1,615,000
 Number of employees: 35
 Established: 2014
 Number of locations: 3
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 MY Project USA

2022 SOURCES OF FUNDING



Grants 75%
 Individual Gifts 13%
 Program Income 10%
 Social Enterprise

2022 Expenses by Class



Youth Development 49%
 Food Insecurity 10%
 Workforce Development 10%
 Capital Improvements 11%
 Social Enterprise 5%
 Community Development 3%
 Helpline 1%
 Admin Expenses 11%

OUR IMPACT

4.25 million+ Meals & Snacks delivered
80,000+ Community Service Hours Contributed
200,000+ Individuals Served
50,000+ Gifts, Coats, Other Basic Supplies Passed
4,000+ Volunteers & Youth Activists Engaged
750+ Muslim Youth Leaders Trained & Mentored
200+ Youth and Adults Trained & Employed
350+ Youth Became League Soccer Players
100+ Soccer Players became Champions
35 Social Services Projects Launched



MY Project USA Team 2022

At MY Project USA, we believe all children have the right to a safe, enriching environment that will allow them to reach their full potential as productive citizens. To achieve this, we become the catalyst to protect and empower underserved youth. We build capacity and uplift families through education, social services, civic engagement and advocacy, creating compassionate youth who will build a safer, stronger, just and more inclusive America.

We serve African American, Somali, Hispanic, Afghan and other underserved communities in Ohio.

OUR SERVICES:

- ▶ Robust academic programming with focus on technology and creative arts
- ▶ Career and higher-education mentorship
- ▶ Recreation program including the Hilltop Tigers Soccer Club
- ▶ Youth Leadership programming that focuses on civic engagement and community services
- ▶ Free food, housing and utilities support, health screenings, mental health support and more
- ▶ Workforce Development including ESL, job training, transportation, driving classes, vocational trainings and other employment assistance for unemployed new Americans
- ▶ Suiting for success to increase employability
- ▶ MY Justice Warriors to help with legal matters, immigration assistance, understanding the juvenile system and more
- ▶ Community Development services including financial training, entrepreneurship, home ownership and more
- ▶ Climate Justice and Recycling initiatives

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our children and families need your help to change their lives. We are always looking for



college and professional mentors to help our teens explore education and career options, after-school tutors and program assistants, food pantry volunteers, translators, immigration attorneys, and other community volunteers to help families in need. We also need more financial support to serve more youth and families as our services grow to meet increasing needs throughout the west side.

DONATE TO PROTECT & EMPOWER YOUTH

Our Website:
MYProjectUSA.org/donors

Facebook:
Facebook.com/MYProjectUSA/

Zelle Direct Deposit ID:
info@myprojectusa.org

Venmo ID:
 MYProjectUSA

Donate Via Check:
 write a check to MY Project USA
 Mail it to :
 3275 Sullivant Ave.
 Columbus, OH 43204



There Are About 10,000 At-Risk Children in Hilltop Area Alone

MY Project USA Serves the Most Impoverished, Underserved Youth & Families with Median Annual Income of Only \$6,000 in Wedgewood

MY Project USA protects and empowers at-risk Columbus youth by harnessing their love of fun and recreation to put them on the track to college and professional careers. Our youth programs balance a popular soccer club that challenges youth to become excellent athletes and sporting competitors with programming that improves academics and career readiness. This holistic program provides educational, emotional, and social supports, all of which keep youth engaged and away from drugs, crime, and violence as they work toward a brighter future.

NEED OF SERVICES

Residents of the west side of Columbus, particularly those in the Hilltop neighborhood, are often overlooked as they cope with violence and poverty plaguing the area. Families depend on community assistance to provide food, shelter, and other basics, as well as youth programming to keep children safe and help them build better futures. With a mission to *be a catalyst for protecting and empowering youth by uplifting families through education, social services, civic engagement and advocacy*, MY Project USA is a critical resource for families and youth on the west side of Columbus and beyond. We seek to help youth create a safer, stronger, and a more just and inclusive America.

Vulnerable Populations Living in Hilltop

Hilltop is home to thousands of families that are struggling to get by. These include many immigrant families—including some of the 60,000 Somali immigrants living in Franklin County—who face significant language, educational, and cultural barriers to success. More than 55% of Hilltop’s residents do not have a high school diploma, and many struggle to find sustainable employment. Hilltop suffers from a much higher unemployment rate than Franklin County (15.1% for individuals 16 and older) in juxtaposition to Franklin County’s unemployment rate of 8.1% for the same age demographic. All the families that we serve are living in poverty, many with incomes of only \$6,000 per year. This poverty and lack of hope creates bad out-

comes for far too many in the community. Shockingly, 40% of human trafficking in Columbus occurs in and around Sullivant Ave. This area has also been identified as a food desert. According to Feeding America, Franklin County, Ohio has a child food insecurity rate of 17.5% (well above the national average of 14.6%) and over 52 thousand food insecure children. Predators take advantage of Hilltop’s youth and capitalize on their vulnerabilities like lack of food.

The Hilltop Community is Plagued with Violence

In 2018, Hilltop was ranked as the deadliest neighborhood in Columbus, as there were 16 homicides committed in one year. The most common types of criminal activity reported were robbery, aggravated assault, sexual assault, and homicide. The neighborhood’s violent crime rate is 57.3 residents per 1,000 people, while Franklin County’s violent crime rate is just 12.2 residents per 1,000 people.

Additionally, drug use has been cited as one of the primary reasons for substantially more acts of violence in Hilltop. Data has shown the Hilltop area experiences the highest rate of fatal opioid-related overdoses in Columbus and frequent drug use has also led to an uptick in human trafficking. These issues are fatal to the community: life expectancy of a Hilltop inhabitant is 74 years, which is three years lower than the 77-year average for Franklin County.

MY Project USA’s community is unfortunately embroiled in violence. Many of the youth and teens we serve are victims of gang and street violence, and many have had to endure the

violent deaths of siblings, cousins, friends, and others they care about. In July 2022, this was starkly driven home with the murder of 15-year-old Issa Jeylani, a star player on MY Project USA’s Hilltop Tigers soccer team.

In the last five years, police have investigated 17 homicides at Wedgewood Village Apartments, located in Hilltop. In 2017, there were 17 shootings and seven homicides just in seven months. Wedgewood Village Apartments is where Issa called home once.

Solution: Centered in the Hilltop Neighborhood, MY Project USA was founded in 2014 to address the problems of youth and families—specifically vulnerable immigrant families. We place an emphasis on uplifting and supporting the youth to develop them as leaders to create a stronger, more inclusive America. Our youth protection areas of focus include many of the issues on the west side of Columbus, including human trafficking, substance abuse, violence, and bullying, among others.

To combat these issues, we offer holistic services that help families today while preparing children for tomorrow. The major service areas include:

- ▶ Food Pantry & Soup Kitchen
- ▶ Academic Support
- ▶ Career and College Preparation
- ▶ Youth Recreational Programming
- ▶ Adult Career Services
- ▶ Other Wraparound Services and community development opportunities.



This is how we Protect & Empower Our Girls!!!

GIRLS LEARN TO CODE IN OUR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

THIS IS WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO!

Look at the beautiful picture of our little princess learning coding in our afterschool program.

This is why we do what we do!
This is what WE are investing in!
OUR investment is empowering

the most precious little girls in our community with the power of education, technology and confidence that will lead them to a successful, prosperous future, God willing.

We are changing their lives forever!
Thank you for being a part of MY Project USA’s Village.

MY Project USA Will Invest More Than \$3 Million in Empowering More Than 100,000 Underserved Clients in 2023

\$500K IS NEEDED IN PRIVATE DONATION TO COVER THE COST OF FOOD, INCENTIVES & MORE

Our board carefully reviewed last year's expenses and this year's needs and has approved an operational budget of \$3 million for this year. We invested \$1.6 million last year in serving more than 60,000 clients.

In 2023, we will double that number as we embark on building a new indoor recreational facility in a neighborhood where children are challenged by drugs, gangs and gun violence. We have expanded our programs to Hispanic, Afghani and Somali Bantu ethnic communities and are launching new social enterprise to generate revenue for the programs and to create more job opportunities for our neighbors. To achieve this goal, we have added more administrative, instructional, recreational and supportive staff to our team. By the Grace of God, our team has grown to 40 staff, nine board members and 500 plus volunteers.

To sustain this growth, our volunteer Executive Director Zerqa Abid is working tirelessly to secure more grants and corporate donations. She has already secured \$1 million for this year. Our treasurer Russ Harris and Donor Engagement Committee Chair Ajmeri Hoque are also working on a robust plan of fundraising in partnership with other community organizations. In addition, we are very much focused on sustaining the organization through multiple social enterprises.

MY Deah's Warehouse was hit hard during the pandemic, but it is bouncing back. More details about it on page 16 of this report.

We have also opened two new social enterprises this year to generate revenue for our programs.

Global Gifts & Thrift store is in Hilliard. See more information on page 27 of this report.

MY Community Cafe, a pay-forward restaurant, is at our Hilltop Youth Empowerment Center. More about this initiative is on page 11 of this report.

Last but not least, **The Issa Jeylani Memorial Recreational Center** will also be a social enterprise. More information on page 32 of this report.

We hope this report will help you understand more about the financial infrastructure of our organization and how we are working very hard to stretch the impact of your dollars.

With a current load of weekly clients, we project to serve clients individually a total of approximately 120,000 times in 2023. This will include serving children approximately 80,000 times through pantry, café and youth programming.

NEED OF PRIVATE DONATIONS

Last year, your donations helped us continue the success and expand its culturally competent academic, job preparation and recreational services to at-risk youth 300 times on a weekly basis. We opened 35 new jobs and were able to hire six administrative staff.

By the grace of God, our good fiscal management, robust grant seeking program and partnership strategy has paid off. We are now able to cover the wages and benefits of most of our employees in youth programming and community development. However, many items still do not fall into the eligible expenses for many grants. We need following amounts in the categories listed below:

- ▶ **\$25,000 Food for children – Donate to MY Community Cafe**
- ▶ **\$25,000 Stipends/incentives for youth – Donate to Youth Development**
- ▶ **\$75,000 Hilltop Tigers Soccer Club Expenses - Donate to Youth Development**
- ▶ **\$200,000 Administrative cost – Donate to Admin/General**
- ▶ **\$500,000 Issa Jeylani Memorial Recreation Center Constructions – Donate to Rec Center**



ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

We remove youth from the school-to-prison pipeline, where they far too often are involved in crime and gangs, and place them on a pathway to success.

The Afterschool Alliance reported in March 2020 that every dollar invested in any out-of-school youth programming creates \$3 in benefit by increasing children's earning potential, improving performance at school, and reducing crime and juvenile delinquency. A 2015 report by Teachers College at Columbia University found that the types of social emotional learning activities provided by MYPUSA's youth programming create an \$11 return on every \$1 spent (Belfield et al, The Economic Value of Social and Emotional Learning 2015).

We are contributing to the economy through job creation. We are building the capacity of new Americans and underserved communities through on-the-job training, ESL and driving classes and other needed training. We are hiring highly qualified people to train our less-trained employees and clients, and it is working. This is a factory line to produce a good workforce to empower our economy and to ensure a prosperous future for families that are currently 200% under the poverty line.

The project also creates indirect economic benefits as well. Our youth empowerment programming takes youth that are on track to be a net cost to society through low earning potential, crime, and involvement with law enforcement and incarceration, and places them on track to be productive citizens.

Our youth programming has also proven its effectiveness at reducing crime, and in doing so reduces law enforcement expenses. Our holistic youth empowerment programming denies gangs new recruits by showing youth and teens that a better life is possible and by providing positive recreation and learning opportunities.

BE A CHAMPION WITH A SINGLE DONATION LEND A HAND TO THOSE WHO ARE WORTHY OF YOUR HELP OR BE A MONTHLY SUSTAINER.

BUDGET & EXPENSES

In 2023, the total budget of the program will be \$3 million. We hope to raise at least \$500,000 from our private donors like you to complement the grants we are seeking.

Some of the top expenses include:

- ▶ **\$1.6 M Wages, benefits and purchased services**
- ▶ **\$24,000 Transportation for Clients & Programs**
- ▶ **\$102,000 Incidental & Supplies, Goods for clients**
- ▶ **\$169,000 Rent & permits**
- ▶ **\$566,000 Administrative Cost**

The administrative cost includes:

- ▶ Human Resources Manager
- ▶ Office Manager
- ▶ Executive Assistant
- ▶ Communication Specialist
- ▶ Grant writers
- ▶ Director Development
- ▶ Security Services
- ▶ Accounting
- ▶ Auditing

MY Project USA Has Been Recognized Nationally For Its Impact

Zerqa Abid Receives National & Regional Awards For Her Tireless Work

Abid Dedicates These Awards To MY Project USA's Village & Its Youth

AARP
Purpose Prize Winner

Zerqa Abid
MY Project USA
COLUMBUS, OHIO

PHOTO BY KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI



Congrats, Zerqa!

Philanthropist of the Year Award

THE MEDICAL MUTUAL
PILLAR AWARD
FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3008

November 12th, 2022

My Project USA
3225 Solihart Ave.
Columbus, OH 43204

Dear Friends,

Although I cannot be with you in person today, I want to congratulate you as you celebrate your Annual MY Project USA Banquet.

Thank you for all that you do, every day, contributing to us communities and helping them grow. Whether you are an educator or student, advocate or worker, executive or business owner, service member or law enforcement officer, Muslim American or non-Muslim American, your efforts are commendable. Your efforts demonstrate how we fight hate, misinformation, and discrimination - through service, through education, through understanding, and also through celebration.

Thank you for all that you do, and best wishes for the year ahead.

Sincerely,
Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown

Congressional Recognition

Presented to
MY PROJECT USA
in recognition of its
Fifth Anniversary

On behalf of the citizens of the Third Congressional District of Ohio, I am pleased to recognize MY Project USA on its fifth anniversary.

MY Project USA is the largest Muslim social services organization in Ohio, and its focus on protecting and empowering youth and families, particularly immigrant and refugee communities, is commendable. The organization has worked to bring down the rate of human trafficking, protecting the most vulnerable in our communities. It provides English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring, parent workshops, and weekly reading programs.

As MY Project USA celebrates its fifth anniversary, it is imperative to reflect on the impact the organization has had on the community. Since its inception, MY Project USA has served the Central Ohio area by delivering 2.5 million meals and snacks to more than 90,000 clients over the course of three years. Its soccer program has provided local youth an outlet to learn to lead and has reduced the crime rate in the Wedgwood Community. MY Project USA is preparing a generation of leaders while providing a unified response to tackling issues facing the community.

Today, February 23, 2020, I would like to commend MY Project USA on its fifth anniversary and wish the organization continued success.

Joey Beatty
Joey Beatty
Member of Congress, OH-03

AFP
Association of
Professionals
Central Ohio Chapter

CELEBRATING Giving

Zerqa Abid

Outstanding
Philanthropist Award

Sponsored by
The Columbus Foundation

2021 HONOREE

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE STATE OF OHIO

SENATORIAL CITATION

STATE SENATOR HEARCEL P. CRAIG

MY COMMUNITY CAFE

A member of the House of the 116th General Assembly of Ohio, I am pleased to recognize MY Community Cafe on the occasion of its grand opening. It is well fitting that you are properly recognized for your contributions to the individuals you serve and the good you do for the general community.

The notable achievement demonstrated that commendable dedication of MY Project USA to all children, elderly, homeless, and other at-risk on the West Side of Columbus. Through their thoughtful and caring service, you have demonstrated your true commitment to the well-being of the people of Columbus.

The MY Community Cafe will provide a safe and healthy place for children and young adults to eat, study, and socialize. Your commitment to your participants has been a true source of inspiration and a shining example of the highest of values.

This well-deserved honor is bestowed upon MY Community Cafe on the occasion of its grand opening ceremony, and I commend you to the highest of values.

Hearcel P. Craig
HEARCEL P. CRAIG
SENATORIAL CITATION LEADER
116th SENATE DISTRICT

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE STATE OF OHIO

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE JAMES R. MILLER

REPRESENTATIVE JACQUELINE B. ROBERTS

MY COMMUNITY CAFE

On behalf of the members of the House of Representatives of the 116th General Assembly of Ohio, we are pleased to recognize MY Community Cafe on the occasion of its grand opening.

MY Community Cafe is a wonderful addition to the West Side of Columbus. It provides a safe and healthy place for children and young adults to eat, study, and socialize. Your commitment to your participants has been a true source of inspiration and a shining example of the highest of values.

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James R. Miller
JAMES R. MILLER
REPRESENTATIVE
116th SENATE DISTRICT

Jacqueline B. Roberts
JACQUELINE B. ROBERTS
REPRESENTATIVE
116th SENATE DISTRICT

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE STATE OF OHIO

OHIO SENATE

HONORING
GLOBAL GUTS AND TRUST
ON ITS GRAND OPENING

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Mark Hoffman
MARK HOFFMAN
President of the Ohio Senate

Cynthia Finner
CYNTHIA FINNER
SENATORIAL CITATION LEADER
116th SENATE DISTRICT

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE STATE OF OHIO

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF
REPRESENTATIVE C. ALLEN BROWN
HOUSE DISTRICT 70

MY COMMUNITY CAFE

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C. Allen Brown
C. ALLEN BROWN
REPRESENTATIVE
116th SENATE DISTRICT

Robert R. Coffey
ROBERT R. COFFEY
REPRESENTATIVE
116th SENATE DISTRICT

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE STATE OF OHIO

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF
REPRESENTATIVE ANITA SOMANI
HOUSE DISTRICT 12

MY COMMUNITY CAFE

On behalf of the members of the House of Representatives of the 116th General Assembly of Ohio, we are pleased to congratulate MY Community Cafe on the occasion of its grand opening.

MY Community Cafe is a wonderful addition to the West Side of Columbus. It provides a safe and healthy place for children and young adults to eat, study, and socialize. Your commitment to your participants has been a true source of inspiration and a shining example of the highest of values.

This well-deserved honor is bestowed upon MY Community Cafe on the occasion of its grand opening ceremony, and I commend you to the highest of values.

Anita Somani
ANITA SOMANI
REPRESENTATIVE
116th SENATE DISTRICT

Jason Stephens
JASON STEPHENS
REPRESENTATIVE
116th SENATE DISTRICT

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE STATE OF OHIO

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF
REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL J. BROWN
HOUSE DISTRICT 10

MY COMMUNITY CAFE

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Daniel J. Brown
DANIEL J. BROWN
REPRESENTATIVE
116th SENATE DISTRICT

Jason Stephens
JASON STEPHENS
REPRESENTATIVE
116th SENATE DISTRICT

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE STATE OF OHIO

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF
REPRESENTATIVE C. ALLEN BROWN
HOUSE DISTRICT 70

MY COMMUNITY CAFE

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C. Allen Brown
C. ALLEN BROWN
REPRESENTATIVE
116th SENATE DISTRICT

Jason Stephens
JASON STEPHENS
REPRESENTATIVE
116th SENATE DISTRICT

FRANKLIN COUNTY AUDITOR
MICHAEL STINZIANO
DOES HEREBY OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE
MY COMMUNITY CAFE
ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR GRAND OPENING

On behalf of the Franklin County Auditor's Office, I hereby congratulate My Community Cafe on the occasion of their grand opening. Creating a new business enterprise is a commendable feat, and your dedication to your community is a shining example of the highest of values. I am confident that My Community Cafe will be an important and successful addition to your community. I encourage you to continue to provide the highest quality of service to your community and to your participants. I am confident that your efforts will be rewarded with continued success.

On this 17th day of March 2023,
Michael Stinziano
MICHAEL STINZIANO
Franklin County Auditor

Hilltop Youth Empowerment Center Remains a Shining Symbol of Progress for Youth & Families

The Center Provides a Safe Space for Children, a Pantry for the Needy and Now a Pay-Forward Cafe that Will Help MY Project USA Serve the Community & Wrap Around Services

It has been said that if you build it, they will come.

That has certainly proven true since MY Project USA officially opened the Hilltop Youth Empowerment Center. With every passing day, the center becomes a shining beacon of safety and warmth for local youth and families.

“MY Project USA and this center is a gift from the Muslim community to the City of Columbus and our neighbors,” MY Project USA Founder & Executive Director Zerqa Abid said when the center opened in September 2021 at 3275 Sullivant Ave. “This is an emblem of our Muslim faith ingrained in community service, our love for our neighbors and our shared humanity.”

The work to make the center a safe and enticing space for youth and families has continued ever since the center opened. In the first couple of months on 2023 alone, the center has hosted a Community Game Night for the Wedgewood neighborhood, several MY Project USA program events focused on improving the lives of children and families and provided a place for children to go and spend time instead of being on the streets.

The center is also the home of a Mid-Ohio Market, an initiative of MY Project USA and powered by MY Family Pantry volunteers and staff. We distribute fresh produce and groceries to hundreds of individuals in our community every week.

The latest venture at the center opened in March. MY Community Café is a pay-forward

café with all of the proceeds going to help MY Project USA feed all children, elderly, homeless and other clients on the west side of Columbus. The café serves delicious Middle Eastern and Pakistani sandwiches, wraps, platters and more.

We are thankful to our primary partners and sponsors for various programs at the center, including the Mid-Ohio Food Collective, the City of Columbus, the Columbus Foundation, United Way of Central Ohio and National Community Reinvestment Coalition.



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Hungry Children Are Easy Prey! MY Community Café & MY Family Pantry Offers Oasis in the Midst of a Food Desert

4.5 Million Meals & Snacks are Being Distributed to About 200,000 Clients Since 2015

MY Project USA knows that hungry children are easy prey, especially in a food desert like the Hilltop.

That's why we are proud to be taking several steps to address food insecurity in this community with several initiatives, including our new MY Community Café at the Hilltop Youth Empowerment Center.

A warm meal could give leverage to a drug dealer, a pimp or any other criminal looking to entice a child into committing crimes. Sometimes human trafficking cases begin with someone with bad intentions providing a meal to a hungry child. This is even more of a danger because of the high number of pimps and drug dealers on Sullivant Avenue and the surrounding area.

That's exactly why we started food distribution as soon as we embarked our journey of protecting our youth.

We started with MY Iftar Kitchen in Ramadan 2015, when we daily packed hot meals in the homes of community members in Hilliard and Dublin area. We would then distribute those meals door-to-door in Wedgewood. We also organized a food basket distribution to needy families at the end of Ramadan that year.

In 2016, with the help of Sister Dorothy Hassan, we partnered with the Mid-Ohio Food Bank and kicked off the work of MY Family Pantry on that Thanksgiving weekend.

By the end of 2022, according to PantryTrak by the end of 2022:

43,695 Households
200,554 Individuals
102778 Children
11417 Seniors
5,000+ Volunteers
\$2 M + Contributed in Labor Hours

These numbers do not include the clients served through MY Soup/Iftar Kitchen, Ramadan Basket Drives and other initiatives in Columbus & Dayton. We serve 4-5,000 hot meals in Ramadan each year. We also serve food through various other initiatives and programs.

In 2021, we have partnered with the Mid-Ohio Food Collective and have opened a Food Market at our Hilltop Youth Empowerment Center. The market is opened four days a week and run by volunteers and paid staff.

MY Community Café is the latest initiative to address food insecurity in the Hilltop. It opened in March 2023 is a pay-forward café with all proceeds going to help MY Project USA feed all children, elderly, homeless and other clients on the west side of Columbus. Located at the Hilltop Youth Empowerment Center at 3275 Sullivant Ave., this café serves delicious Middle Eastern and Pakistani sandwiches, wraps, platters and more.

The hard work to provide an oasis in this food desert continues.



Hungry Children Are Easy Prey

SPONSOR A MEAL FEED A FUTURE

Donate via Facebook

Donate via Website

HILLTOP TIGERS IS NOT A SOCCER PROGRAM. IT'S A MOVEMENT!

We Take Kids Off The Street & Turn Them Into Champions & Leaders!!!



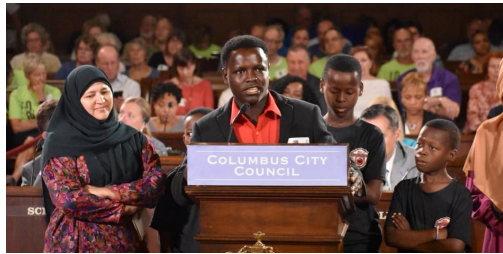
PROUDLY PROTECTING & EMPOWERING OUR YOUTH SINCE 2018!

Hilltop Tigers History

Our Executive Director Zerqa Abid took 17-year-old Siyat Mohamed under her wings and helped him start the Hilltop Tigers team in January 2018. Thanks to Bayan Shalash for raising the initial seed money at Hilliard City Schools. We spent about \$2,000 on our first team to play indoor soccer that winter. This experience was wonderful; more parents came forward and asked the same for their children. Our young advocates were convinced that soccer would be the program to engage and save their community in so many ways. That's what they communicated to the Columbus City Councilmembers.

Columbus City Council approved a grant to fund a soccer/sports program for the youth of the Wedgewood community.

ED Abid proposed to the property owners to transform the vacant parcels on the Wedgewood property into proper soccer fields. This would help engage hundreds of children without being worried about transporting them to any other recreation center. Property owners agreed to the proposal. Russ Harris, a community leader, stepped up to lead the newly formed Soccer Advisory Board of MY Project USA.



While we sorted through the logistics of building a soccer field, we decided to take our teams to the Mid-Ohio Select Soccer League tournament in the fall 2018. About 50 kids from Wedgewood played in four different teams in the MOSSL league. All teams played phenomenal games, but the U13 team won the championship.

Fast forward five years, we have become an established soccer club of soccer champions that has curbed the pipeline to gangs on the westside of Columbus. Various teams have won various championships. Some of our players have joined Ohio Premier Club. Some are screened by the Crew Academy. Both are prestigious clubs that our youth could have never thought of on their own. We are so very proud of our youth.

We Invest In Coaches & Referees From Underserved Community

In order to bring true, long-term change in any community, it is important to build the capacity of that same community. MY Project USA does exactly that. Once we realized that soccer is the deal maker or breaker for so many kids in the communities we serve, we started investing in to young, inexperienced but talented coaches and referees. We are proud to report that over the last five years, we have trained and empowered 16 coaches and several referees at different levels. In 2023, we plan to put up to seven coaches in to various trainings. This helps us improve the quality of our teams, and it also helps these coaches to advance in their careers.

Coaches Empowered By MY Project USA

- Siyat Mohamed
- Aden Mohmaed
- Ali Jeylani
- Mohamed Idow
- Juan.Grajales
- Murjan Osman
- Omar Osman
- Abukar Abdi
- Ali Gedo
- Mohamed Ahmed
- Abdi Idris
- Sharmarke Abdi
- Gulled Osman
- Abdullahi Daud
- Mukumbira Mukumbira
- Jamal Ibrahim

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HILLTOP TIGERS PRODUCE CHAMPIONS!!!



U13 Mid-Ohio Select Soccer League (MOSSL) Champions 2018

Adarus Khamis
Abdullahi Jeylani
Issa Jeylani
Faisal Abdi
Mukumbira Mukumbira
Salah Omar
Issa Musa
Deko Bilal
Ismail Salim
Ali Salim
Ali Jeylani
Abdiweli Isaak
Ali Kulimaye
Abdifatah Khalid
Mohamed Hassan
Mohamed Taasir

U16 2021 OCL-COPL Champions 2021

Gulled Osman
Ray Quintanil
Sharmarke Abdi (Sk)
Issa Jeylani
Mukumbira Mukumbira
Adarus Khamis
Faisal Abdi
Asad Baker
Ismail Salim
Abdifatah Khalid
Qasin Ibrahim
Ibrahim Ibrahim
Alio Muktar
Abdullahi Daud
Deko Bilal
Hamasa Abib
Saadik Hussain
Hassan Awies

U16 Hilltop Youth Summer Soccer League 2021 Champions

Ray Quintanil
Gulled Osman
Jamal Ibrahim
Saadik Hussain
Alio Muktar
Issa Jeylanii
Sharmarke Abdi
Abdullahi Daud
Hamsa Abib

Ismail Salim
Adarus Khamis
Mukumbira Mukumbira
Deko Bilal
Faisal Abdi

U16 Resolute Indoor League Champions 2021

Ray Quintania
Gulled Osman
Saadik Hussain
Issa Jeylani
Sharmarke Abdi
Daud Daud
Ismail Salim
Adarus Khamis
Deko Bilal
Asad Baker
Hamsa Abib
Faisal Abdi
Hassan Aweis
Mohamed Hussain
Qarasin Ibrahim
Ibrahim Ibrahim
Abdullahi Daud
Mohammed Sheikh

U15 Ohio Champions Cup 2021

Wencell Medina
Wendell Gonsales
Sadik Nur
Abdikadir Khamis
Ibrahim Ibrahim
Aweys Bilal
Abdiqadir Hassan
Hassan Hassan
Hassan Awies
Daniel Tewolde
Ali Kulimaye
Asad baker
Yassim Kulimaye
Yakub Yakub

U10 OCL Tournament Champions 2021

Mahdi Osman
Ricky Gonzalez
Kelvin Martinez
Hassan Abdikadir
Abdikadir (K2)
Abdisalan Jeylani
Karama Khamis
Khalid Abdirahim (Neo)

Christian Mcnair
Salal Hassan
Abdikadir Hassan
Ahemd Yarrow
Yarrow Yarrow
Israel Abdullahi
Yassin Khaild
Mustaf Khaild (Ake)

U10 Barcelona United Champions 2022

Faisal Khamis
Osman Khamis
Mahdi Osman
Ricky Gonzalez
Kelvin Martinez
Hassan Abdikadir
Abdisalan Jeylani
Karama Khamis
Khalid Abdirahim (Neo)
Salal Hassan
Abdikadir Hassan
Bukdow Abdisalam
Jamal Muya
Abdullahi Abdullahi
Ebdi Noor
Ahmed Omar

U16 Annual International Outdoor Cup Champions 2022

Ray Quintania
Gulled Osman
Issa Jeylani
Sharmarke Abdi
Daud Daud
Adarus Khamis
Asad Baker
Faisal Abdi
Hassan Aweis
Mohamed Hussain
Abdullahi Daud
Mukumbira Mukumbira
Jamal Ibrahim
Abdiqadir hassan
Ahmed Abdi
Ibrahim Barud
Yahya Barud
Aweys bilal
Mohamed Abdi
Maslah Aden



U16 Annual International Outdoor Cup Champs



U10 Barcelona United Futbol Champions 2022



U16 2021 OCL-COPL Champions 2021



U16 Hilltop Soccer League Champions 2021



U15 Ohio Champions Cup 2021



U10 OCL-COPL Tournament Champions 2021



U13 MOSSL Champions 2018



U16 Resolute Indoor League Champions 2021

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S \$1.2M GRANT HELPED HIRING STAFF AND EMPOWERING MORE THAN 150 STUDENTS IN 2022 SUMMER

Program will Expand to 300 Children Next Summer



We all want the best for our kids, and at MY Project USA, we are no different. It isn't enough for us to keep our youth community members away from human trafficking, drugs and gangs. We also want to empower our children and give them dreams and goals to work towards as they mature into young adults, and the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Summer Learning Afterschool Opportunity Grant we received allowed us to do just that as we launched our new summer and after-school academic programs.

SUMMER ACADEMIC PROGRAM (SAP)

Throughout this past summer, we hosted two four-week sessions that provided students from K-12 with various curricular and extra-curricular opportunities based on their age range. Our elementary students practiced design thinking as they participated in the community garden design project, which included a field trip to a local Hilltop youth garden center. Our middle schoolers enjoyed additional mentoring through our MY Reading Warriors volunteer team and our high school students were afforded opportunities to earn academic credits and improve their skills through academic practice. The students' daily academic practice and hands-on learning experience was supplemented with robust daily recreational activities, technology exploration opportunities, mural painting, and designing 3-D printing ideas for our outdoor dining space that is currently under development. In touch with best practices, Social and

Emotional Learning (SEL) and coaching were taught through the accredited ADAMH curriculum, Generation RX. The summer program came to an exciting conclusion when the families had a celebratory concluding event with a trip to the Ohio State Fair supported by MY Project USA along with the Governor's office.

In addition to the above, the students had access to the following supplies: markers, pencils, paper, 3-D filament, 30 Edison robots, 10 drones, 30 APEX licenses, 75 Heroes Legend licenses, recreation equipment, passes to Ohio State Fair, daily transportation for (on average) 75 students, 50 chromebooks, video making system and printing supplies.

2022 SAP Statistics

- ▶ 102 Students Reached
- ▶ 55 Elementary School Students
- ▶ 34 Middle School Students
- ▶ 28 High School Students
- ▶ 200 Volunteer Hours
- ▶ 1000 Meals Served



Apex Learning®

MY PROJECT USA

Hilltop Youth Empowerment Center!

This summer... Do Something GREAT!!

MY Project USA: Be there! Do Stuff!
Monday thru Friday @ 3275 Sullivant, 3-8pm

Earn credits to graduate. Do 3-D printing. Learn CAD. Play with Drones. Make a mural. Build a garden. Volunteer. Be a leader.

ALL MUST ENROLL IN PROGRAMS!!! (Ya can't just show up...)

Enrolling Now!!

Call: 614-971-9375. Email: Programs@myprojectusa.org

FUTURE GOALS:

In the summer of 2023, we will see two new project-based learning projects, two field trips, an increase in enrollment participation by 20%, two new enrichment projects and at least two parent/student joint activities.

Main Summer Program Partners: ODE, ADAMH, Governor's Office, Children's Hunger Alliance.



AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS BEING OFFERED AT 3 SITES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS - MORE SITES TO OPEN IN 2023

We have split the after-school program (ASP) in to three different groups of students: "Rise" for elementary students, "Reach" for middle school students and "RoundUp" for our high school program located on the West High School campus. This year, the ASP is enjoying much closer collaboration with schools from the Columbus City School District by hosting two programs on school sites: Eakin Elementary and West High School.



Students are invited to participate five days a week at either site where they can engage in academic learning, tutoring support, age appropriate Summer Enrichment Learning (SEL) activities, technology exploration, recreation, and hands-on learning. High school students enjoy weekly programming with activities designed to coach employment readiness skills as well as inspire and coach students on how to both dream and prepare for employment, enlistment or enrollment in secondary programs after graduation.

In addition to the above, the students had access to the following supplies: recruiting printing supplies, 30 student folders for teacher, art supplies, 10 miscellaneous games for recreation and 30 folders for classroom management

FUTURE GOALS:

The ASP program plans to develop and incorporate monthly parent/family activities that engage parents with their students around themes that build or enhance family relationships and support for one another, career development, technology exploration and skill building, academic strengthening, and community building. We are hopeful to establish instruction in After School Learning (ASL) create new connections with businesses that can part-

ner to build networks with our students and families into the workplace and increase staff skills on working with English language learners (ELL). We are emphasizing technology and digital learning to enhance opportunities for employment in the growing Columbus technology field. We are blessed to have an arts council artist, Rikki Santer, on our team. Our hope is to be able to employ her skills and expertise to generate student stories using film, poetry, and other literary arts by the end of this school year.

MAIN PARTNERS:

Ohio Department of Education, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County (ADAMH), Columbus City Schools, Ohio State University (OSU), (potentially) Children's Hunger Alliance, and the United Way of Central Ohio.

Thank you to the many community members including our mural artist, Heidi Clifford, OSU student volunteers, the Hilltop Youth Garden, The Hilltop Arts Collective and the many local schools and their leadership for working with us to launch new programs. Principals Theresa Eraybar and Daniel Roberts have made all the difference in creating partnerships at their sites that will impact many more students. The teachers and staff at MY Project USA and in our school based programs have been wonderful being flexible, generous, and helpful as these new programs have launched in a short period of time. We want to especially thank Maryam Gula, Uzair Qidwal and Zerqa Abid for their support. Their decisions, implementation support and insight on working with the community has been invaluable. Special appreciation for program leadership provided by Stephanie Bassham (Eakin Rise Program) and Todd Zidel (WHS RoundUp program).



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3-6 pm Fridays @ West High School
179 S Powell Ave, Columbus, OH 43204

For More info and Registration
(614) 971-9375 | Pathways@MYProjectUSA.org



MYProjectUSA.org

MY READING WARRIORS' NEW LEADERSHIP TO WORK WITH AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN SCHOOL & AT OUR YOUTH CENTER

Services Continued Outdoor & Online During COVID-19 Pandemic

Founded by Samira Mohamud in 2017, MY Reading Warriors is an after-school program held every Wednesday from 4-5:30 p.m. that is dedicated to not only enhancing the reading abilities of the youth in underserved communities in Columbus, but also to provide them with a safe, accepting and empowering space.

Hundreds of children have been benefited by this program over the years.

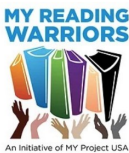


MY Reading Warriors has its own executive team that is run by the Board Director Safa Mohamed, who herself is a college student. This team is composed of high school and college students who go above and beyond to create a healthy, safe and encouraging space for all on a weekly basis.

During the pandemic, they provided support online and outdoors.

The last five years have seen many stark changes within MY Reading Warriors. We recruited our first board at the beginning of 2020, shifted to Zoom in March of 2020, doubled the size of our board to expand and have Tuesday and Thursday teams, shifted back in person in the fall of 2021, and in the last few months have changed leadership and recruited a new board.

This next year will certainly continue in this pattern of constant change: where the MY Reading Warriors program previously was planned on a weekly basis for one meeting a week, its approach will now change. The program will occur one hour once a week as part of the after school program initiative led by Dr. Sharon Watkins. A lesson plan is made for each of nine weeks, focusing on a different theme around which we teach our students and enhance their reading skills in addition to our priority of providing mentorship. Each week builds upon this larger scheme, which will change each semester. As Director, I personally am very excited to embark on this new era for MY Reading Warriors and to watch it grow in new ways.



Sign up today!

“REACH” After School MS Program @ MY Project USA



Learn. Do. Play.
Tues, 3-5:30 @ MPUSA

Come do art, do projects, get better at school, meet with friends & mentors, eat snacks, and grow together with friends!

Fill out registration forms and drop in the office. MPUSA will have a van to pick up students at 2:35 and return to the school by 5:25. education@myprojectusa.org for more information.

Sponsored by ODE, CCS, & MYPUSA



100 YOUTH RECEIVED HANDS-ON LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN 2022

Youths from Different Ethnic Groups and Socio-Economic Classes Work Hand-in-Hand with Each Other at MY Family Pantry, MY Reading Warriors, MY Soup Kitchen and Other Spaces within MY Project USA

From MY Family Pantry to Youth Community Action Teams, All Programs Help Protect & Empower Our Youths, Ages 7-20



In the last eight years, we have trained and empowered more than 800 youth through different programs and initiatives, including MY Family Pantry, MY Reading Warriors, Hilltop Tigers, Environmental Justice, MY Iftar Kitchen, summer and afterschool programs and more. We have organized youth summits, retreats & town halls to foster strong youth. We have also organized youth summer camps, conferences, restorative justice circles & workshops to foster youth leaders & advocates.



We have created several service-oriented spaces for youth and adults and provided them with hands-on training of project management, client services, financial sustainability and more.



We have arranged meetings of youths and elected officials in the Columbus City Hall and the Ohio Statehouse.



We have participated in several MLK Day parades and events run by different cities & organizations.



MY Leaders 2022 Highlights

In addition to our regular leadership programs mentioned above, we relaunched the MY Leaders program in 2022 for high school youth. In the summer, four youths attended the Youth 2 Youth Conference and decided to start their CAT team focusing on gun violence. Using the help of these four leaders, we launched our first youth-led project working



with our summer work cohort, which included 35 youth (seven girls and 28 boys) in August. The youth wanted to focus on multiple community service projects with time to develop leadership skills before each.

On each project day, students would meet at our Youth Empowerment Center for a meeting to discuss a leadership theme. These included discussions about the needs of the community we live in, what power to create change the teens have, how to develop their leadership skills and how to use the intersection of all three to be a community leader.

After these discussions, youth would take on a community service project that they led. These included neighborhood beautification and trash pickup, packing and distributing food for those in need and cleaning the Youth Empowerment Center to prepare it for community events and summer programming for younger children. Students ended their day with a healthy community meal. This experience culminated with the youth assisting at the Hilltop Youth Festival, where they ran

registration, helped interpret for attendees and managed multiple food booths. Unfortunately, our work with this cohort has not moved forward at the pace we would have liked it to in the fall of 2022, as we not only suffered with multiple lives lost and violence in the communities along with the struggle of hiring a good youth program coordinator.

However, we are now organizing two separate teams under this umbrella. One team focusing on climate justice and the other on gun violence. The program will be continued through 2023.

Join MY Leaders!

This Program Is For YOUTH!!!

If you are age 14-18

- tired of guns, gangs, drugs, violence, injustice and more in your community
- want to organize your friends
- want to advocate against it
- want to help your peers be strong and stay safe
- want to work with State, City and community leaders
- want to engage media & be vocal about it
- want to do something else about it

Scan the QR code & Apply To Join Us Today!
 Program Starts on October 15, Space is limited
 Application Deadline: October 5, 2022
 Questions: info@myprojectusa.org, 614-971-9375

Saturdays: 10 am - 3 pm
 Hilltop Youth Empowerment Center
 3275 Sullivant Ave, Columbus, 43204

Wednesdays: 6-8 pm
 Youth to Youth Office
 118 E Main St, Columbus, OH 43215

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MY JUSTICE WARRIORS TO UPLIFT THE IMMIGRANTS & UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES WITH FREE LEGAL SUPPORT, TRAININGS & ADVOCACY

JUVENILE JUSTICE, IMMIGRATION, FAMILY LAW & MORE COVERED BY MJW TEAM

The justice system is complex and difficult to navigate. If English is not your first language, it can be even harder to comprehend. MY Justice Warriors seeks to address this issue.

New to MY Project USA in 2022, MY Justice Warriors exists to provide access to legal resources for those who need it. To accomplish this, we have recruited local attorneys and law students, and we plan to have a series of clinics to give them the necessary skills to address community needs. MY Justice Warriors will also hold community events to help identify what these community needs are so that we can properly allocate resources. In the few short months that we have existed as a program we have:

Successfully recruited eight law school students and connected 10 Afghan families to attorneys who will help them through the immigration process

Hosted an open house for interested volunteers attended by five law students

With the exceptional volunteer efforts of Morgen Morrisette and Nick Pasquarello, we were able to hold our first of many pro-bono clinics. They were our volunteer attorneys, and we

were able to collect information from a dozen Afghan families to help them take one step closer to obtaining their United States citizenship. What an amazing experience to assist those families who need services most desper-

ately.

Huge thank you to the honorable Judge Sheryl Munson for being the main lead on organizing this event. Thank you to Morrisette and Pasquarello for helping the families understand what steps to take, documents to file and making the immigration process seem easier to understand and less daunting. And a final thank you to Sami Omerzai, Noorullah Khan Shinwari, Abrial Mahmoud and Nate Reitz for all contributing and assisting with organization, coordination, attorney and family outreach and translation services!

At our first volunteer open house, we not only explained this initiative to our volunteers, but we had a wonderful interaction discussing its future, as well. It was a great experience to go around and listen to all of our prospective volunteers talk about their hopes in their career and how they hope to help this community. It was so refreshing and intellectually invigorating to listen to fresh minds give new and amazing ideas. We hope to take their comments and hopes forward and turn them into actions!

We look forward to partnering with other Columbus-based attorneys to help further empower the Hilltop community.

MY Project USA is a Zakat eligible 501 C (3), tax exempted organization. Your Zakat donations can save a life & can change their future forever. Please scan and donate now to empower children in your own backyard.



Purify Your Wealth by Giving Zakat

MY PROJECT USA PROVIDING ESL CLASSES, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, JOB TRAININGS & IMMIGRATION SUPPORT TO NEW AFGHAN REFUGEES

ABOUT \$20,000 WORTH OF FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS GIVEN TO NEW ARRIVALS

Financial Training & Holistic Adult Education Program For Bantu, Hispanic & Afghan Adults Being Offered



During 2021, many Afghans evacuated to the United States and see forced displacement, armed conflict and adverse economic conditions stress individuals and communities. To assess and gauge the refugees most unmet needs, MY Project USA conducted a need assessment early in 2022 and identified the overall situation, encountered needs and need-based interventions for their social well-being.

MY Project USA initially provided home furniture, appliances, kitchen utensils, clothes, shoes and any other item to more than 200 Afghan refugee families where they were needed and still helps the new families to provide the aforementioned essentials.

In the second phase, MY Project USA started working on Afghan community development. The MY Project USA team identified some essential barriers in the community, such as learning the language, obtaining permits, driving licenses and sewing classes. In response to this barrier, the MY Project USA team mobilized the Afghan community and recruited individuals who were interested in participating in English as a second language (ESL) and driving classes.

The driving classes and the ESL classes are in session now. We are committed to empower 75 households with these trainings so they can have at least one person employed. This is how we are empowering the new Afghan refugees to stand on their own feet and become self-

sufficient.

Total of 25 individuals are enrolled in behind the wheel driving classes, 10 of whom have already earned their Ohio driving license and rest of them are still in the training process, and in the meantime the MY Project USA team worked with more than 15 individuals and prepared them for permit tests. A few of them have passed the test and some of them are scheduled for the test. This process will be continued until the goal has been achieved.

Meanwhile our ESL class is in process. We have total 29 Individuals in the ESL class which consist of all males students and we had a plan to start ESL class for Females, because culturally they are not compatible with males in the same classroom, but because of lack of female ESL teachers, we were not able to start it yet, but still we are struggling to find female ESL teacher as soon we find a teacher the class will start.

To achieve the above goals, MY Project USA has hired Afghan professionals to provide job training and employment counseling in the community. And we are providing transportation, childcare and other support as well to ensure that they can take full advantage of these training sessions. According to the original syllabus, classes will continue for a total of nine months.



EMPLOYMENT IS THE HEART OF LONG-TERM EMPOWERMENT

We Have Created Spaces to Train & Employ Underprivileged Youth & Adults

We Also Hire Former Felons, Drug Addicts, Human Trafficking Survivors & Others

MY Deah's, Global Gifts & Thrift, MY Community Cafe, Youth Programs, Food Market & More Places To Work

Community development through employment and entrepreneurship is at the core of MY Project USA's mission. We are committed to provide job training, create employment opportunities and support our community members in starting their own businesses. To achieve this goal, we have partnered with several organizations and agencies from day one.

MY Deah's store was our very first social enterprise that we opened on Sullivant Avenue on the west side of Columbus.

Summer internships for youth between 14-24 have included several positions, ranging from staffing MY Deah's store, providing landscaping services, social media marketing, video production, community organizing and more.

In 2015, at the request of several youths, we launched our **MY Landscaping Services** initiative that would create job opportunities for many of the underprivileged youth and adults. Many of whom got interested in to starting their own landscaping business. We are now looking into partnering with Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI) to help those individuals get loans to start small businesses of their own.

In 2020, we launched two programs, MY Pathways and MY Tailored Image, to provide vocational and suiting services to our clients.

In 2021, to formalize this program with better structure, we have partnered with ECDI and National Coalition of Reinvestment in the Communities (NCRIC). We are focusing on entrepreneurship and home-ownership as well.

Throughout the last seven years, we have also hired several individuals from the underprivileged community, former felons, human trafficking survivors, refugees with no job experience and former

drug addicts to help at different ventures, including MY Deah's store, warehouse, adult and youth programs, community organizing, Hilltop Tigers soccer program, MY Reading Warriors, etc. We will continue to do so at our youth center and in other initiatives.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2022, we hired more than 50 individuals in various departments. This included part-time contractors, full-time employees and youth interns. We spent \$825,000 on human resources.

We hired five newly arrived, unemployed Afghan refugees in our warehouse and food market. We provided them with transportation and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes along with other on job-trainings to make them successful and self sufficient in the shortest time possible.

Youth Employment: Even though we have always hired youth from the community for various jobs, in 2022, we took it to the next level by employing five well-qualified teen soccer players as assistant soccer coaches as a part of their scholarship.

They helped the Hilltop Tigers soccer program as assistant soccer coaches while getting into advanced leadership, academic and athletic programs and training.

In addition, 26 other boys and girls were hired as part of our summer program in 2022.

We are committed to providing all employees with the best work environment, professional trainings and a road to success. We believe that the success of each employee is our responsibility and we do everything possible in our capacity to make that happen.



Summer Youth Interns at MY Project USA
June - August 2016

2015-2022 Community Engagement & Advocacy Highlights

- Started Muslims Against FGM campaign
- Started Youth Justice Task Force to address juvenile justice issues in the community
- Organized Muslim youth summits & town halls to organize Muslim youth
- Organized youth summer camps, conferences & concerts to foster Muslim youth leaders
- Participated in several MLK Day parades and events run by different cities and organizations
- Participated at airport rally against Muslim travel ban
- Started Columbus Unity Forum to unite social justice activists in Central Ohio
- Organized Columbus Expanded Sanctuary Rallies to save people from ICE
- Co-Founded The Hilltop Coalition For Stronger Neighborhood
- Co-Organized, Participated & Sponsored several Earth Action Days, Spruce Up Days and other initiatives to foster cleaner, healthier neighborhoods
- Campaigned nationwide to organize the Muslim community against human trafficking
- Co-organized Columbus Feed the Hungry in 2017 & 2018
- Participated in March For Our Lives against gun violence
- Testified at the Ohio Statehouse against gun violence
- Testified at the Ohio Statehouse against the state aid & trade agreements with the state of Israel
- Testified at the Columbus City Council for the Clean Water Bill and other policies
- Joined the interfaith coalition for One State ID
- Participated in Women's March Ohio to protect & empower women
- Organized See Something Say Something campaigns to foster safer, crime-free neighborhoods
- Co-organized Hilliard United Against Hate Rally
- Co-organized Hilltop Unity March: Stop The Hate & Violence
- Organized Wedgewood festivals & cookouts to foster safe neighborhoods
- Exhibited, presented and/or campaigned at:
 - Annual Conventions of Islamic Society of North America
 - Annual Conventions of Islamic Circle of North America/Muslim American Society
 - Ohio TEOSL Conference
 - Best Neighborhood Practices Conferences
 - Religious News Association Conference
 - Ohio Crime Prevention Association's Conference
 - Reinvest Ohio Summit by National Community Reinvestment Coalition
- Launched the Hilltop Task Force to address human trafficking and drugs at Sullivant Avenue corridor in Columbus
- Co-organized Columbus Feed the Hungry in 2018
- Organized 7 Big Tables with The Columbus Foundation
- Engaged hundreds of activists, community leaders, public officials & community members at different forums
- Trained and empowered 200+ youth through different programs and initiatives in Columbus & Dayton

- Trained and empowered 800+ youth through different programs and initiatives
- Organized Hilltop Youth Social Justice to address lack of funding in youth programs and spaces in the Hilltop area
- Organized press conferences and rallies against gun violence



In 2022, MY Project USA Educated 800 Households About Recycling

Youth Routinely Participates In Earth Action Days & Neighborhood Spruce Ups

Environmental Action and Advocacy has been part of our main agenda from day one.

In Islamic faith, keeping the Earth clean is an obligation. Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) once said that “the entire Earth is like a mosque to him.” Muslims are encouraged to be the most responsible in taking good care of the Earth in general.

In our line of work, it makes more sense because we all know that clean neighborhoods are safe neighborhoods. That’s why in our war against pimps, drug dealers and gangsters, we give a lot of emphasis on keeping all neighborhoods clean.

We adopted a part of Sullivant Avenue, our prime neighborhood, from the Keep Columbus Beautiful in 2015. Throughout the years, we have cleaned it several times. In addition, we have also organized Earth Action Days to help spruce up our mosques and their surrounding areas.

In 2022, MY Project USA was contracted by the City of Columbus for the Recycle Right Project of the Hilltop Sustainability Program. Our goal was to reach out to 800 identified homes in the Hilltop area and educate them about recycling. We built a team of 10 undergrad Ohio State students (paid and volunteers) who did a phenomenal job in engaging neighbors and educating them about recycling.

Our sustainability ambassadors passed information about recycling to more than 800 homes in the South Central Hilltop area in 10 weeks and also presented in several schools and events.

The Recycle Right project was a joint effort to encourage more families and residents to recycle. The project was funded by a grant from

Columbus City Councilmember Emmanuel V. Remy and was done in partnership with the City of Columbus Refuse Division, Keep Columbus Beautiful, and Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO).

About 80 neighbors requested new recycling bins and many committed to joining our #ProudRecyclers campaign. The folks at the City

It helped uplift a community of hundreds of Muslims and non-Muslims at that time.

We also join our neighbors at the annual South Central Hilltop Neighborhood Cleanup events organized by the legendary Hilltop leader Lisa Boggs. Our Hilltop Tigers soccer team, along with coaches and other youth leaders, team up with other neighbors, police officers and many elected officials to spruce up the entire neighborhood every year.

These activities also help our youth get out of their comfort zones and become part of the mainstream community. We are so very proud of our youth. They are our present and our future. We are committed to protect and empower them.

In 2023, we are funded by the Ohio Climate Justice Fund, and we are planning to organize more community conversations around climate justice. One of our MY Leaders CAT team will be focusing on Climate Justice as their leadership project.

SWACO FROM WASTE TO RESOURCES THE CITY OF COLUMBUS MY USA

Join Our Team Of
Hilltop Sustainability Ambassadors
Paid & Volunteer Positions Available

Learn more and apply:
myprojectusa.org/hilltopsustainability



of Columbus were super pleased by our youth’s performance.

One of our major Earth Action Days back in 2015 was at the Riverview Drive neighborhood.



Hilltop Youth Community Garden Connects Youth With Earth



Hilltop Youth Garden has been built and maintained by youth since we moved to our Hilltop Youth Empowerment Center in 2021.

In 2022, our Hilltop Youth Garden team worked with our Hispanic friends from Alianza 614. In

2022, several Hispanic families used our garden to grow produce.

MY Project USA has now partnered with the Highland Youth Garden to educate more youth and families about gardening and sustainability. As a part of our environmental justice awareness campaign, our MY Leaders team that’s focusing on Climate Justice will be working in the community garden to connect themselves with the earth. They will learn to care and grow during their community service hours.

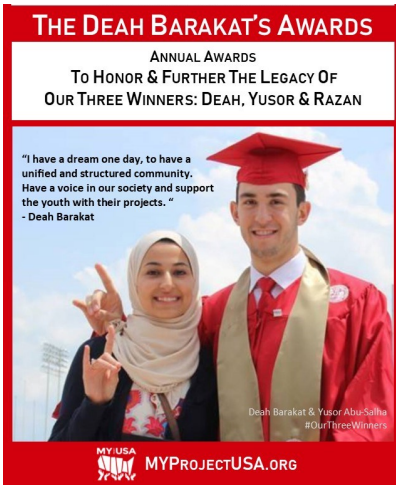
The Columbus Foundation has been the main funder of this project so far.



MY PROJECT USA PRESENT ANNUAL AWARDS TO YOUTH & ADULT LEADERS

Awards Honor The Legacies Of Deah Barakat & Chrys Gee Activist

Awardees Receive Commendation From The Ohio State House, Columbus City Council & Franklin County Auditor



The mission of MY Project USA is to cultivate and enable the next generation of leaders, equipping them to serve as community leaders, public servants, organizers, entrepreneurs, or whatever they aspire to be, in order to make a positive impact on the lives of others. Through various initiatives throughout the year, we provide opportunities for both young people and adults to develop their skills and contribute to their communities. Our annual awards ceremony celebrates the achievements of these individuals and honors them with certificates of recognition.

- Khalil Qutifan 2020
 - Omar Dahshi 2020
 - Raifa Alhag-ali 2020
 - Jonathan Galasso 2021
 - Ayat Ibrahim 2021
 - Uzair Qidwai 2021
 - Safa Mohamad 2021
 - Rabbia Zafar 2021
 - Nadine Abdel-Rahman 2021
 - Bakar Berete 2021
 - Abdurrehman Khan 2022
 - Kevin Lewis 2022
 - Michael Abou-Elias 2022
 - Najmo Abdinur 2022
 - Ramy El-Assal 2022
 - Nadine Abdel-Rahman 2022
 - Safa Mohamed 2022
 - Yassmin Ben haila 2022
 - Alex Rudich 2022
- Deah's Excellence In Community Service & Leadership Award – Adult**

- Ayah Shalash 2018
- Rahaf Shalash 2018
- Khamisey Mohamed 2018
- Maryam Habul 2019
- Momina Tashfeen 2019
- Khalil Qutifan 2019
- Omar Dahshi 2019
- Heba Raslan 2019
- Safa Mohamed, 2018
- Ahmed Hussein 2020
- Ayat Ibrahim 2019
- Anera Zec 2020
- Jonathan Galasso 2020
- Noor Al-Hashemi 2020
- Safa Mohamed 2020
- Safia Mateen 2020
- Momina Tashfeen 2020
- Maryam Habul 20120
- Mubina Tashfeen 2020
- Jonathan Galasso 2020
- Ahmed Hussain, 2020
- Ayat Ibrahim 2020

- The Resilience Awards**
- The Most Resilient Youth Award**
Jamal Ibrahim 2021
- The Most Resilient Adult Award**
Anna Borsick 2021
Abdi Jeylani Salama 2022
- The Most Committed Resilience Ally Award Elected Official**
Elizabeth Brown, President Pro Tem Columbus City Council
Shannon Hardin, President Columbus City Council
- Law Enforcement Officer**
Scott Hyland 2021
- Nonprofit Organization**
Michael Corey, Human Services Chamber of Franklin County 2021
Alma Rosa Diaz, Alianza 614 2022
Mohammed Azhar Masood, Noor Islamic Cultural Center 2022
- Most Resilient Team Member**
Russell Harris, 2021
Maryam Gula, 2022

Deah's Change Maker Of The Year Award Youth

- Samiara Mohamud 2018
- Siyat Mohamed 2019
- Erick Bellomy 2020
- Aden Mohamed 2021
- Kyle Johnson 2021
- Ayah Azrak 2022
- Bushrah Alhyari 2022
- Layan Abu-Romeh 2022
- Nour Hafez 2022
- Randa Khawam 2022
- Ranim Farra 2022
- Saja Mu' Ammar 2022
- Salma Khawam 2022
- Tesneem Shabsigh 2022

Deah's Change Maker Of The Year Award Adult

- Adam Quintanilla 2020
- Deah's Excellence In Community Service & Leadership Award – Youth**
- Karum Abdulrahman 2018
 - Khadija Ibrahim 2019
 - Farida Eid 2019
 - Bayan Shalash 2019
 - Heba Raslan 2020

The Chrys Gee Activist Award

- Mary Louise Hawkins 2019
- Tiffany Sigler Rumbalski 2020
- Thomas Cartwright 2020
- Mary Mynatt 2021
- Ralph Orr 2022

Deah's Community Services Awards

- Siyat Mohamed 2018
- Isha Hussein 2018
- Fadumo Muhammed 2018
- Zainab Abdi 2018
- Asha Bakari 2018
- Mariam Osman 2018
- Bayan Shalash 2018
- Heba Raslan 2018
- Farida Eid 2018
- Omar Dahshi 2018
- Zeenet Ahmed 2018
- Atheer Shalash 2018

- Raiyaanah Abdul-Malik 2021
- Sondos Issa 2021
- Najmo Abdinur 2021
- Aisha Ayub 2021
- Bobby Yost 2021
- Kevin Lewis 2021
- Fahad Butt 2021
- Austin Casey 2021
- Adeela Asif 2021
- Ramy El-Assal 2021
- Maddy Lucas 2021
- Surekha Garapati 2021
- Ameer Hassouna 2021
- Deena Eldaour 2021
- Anita Adib 2021
- Mohamad Quteifan 2021
- Yassmin Ben Haila 2021
- Hafsa Asif 2021
- Aleeza Yakoob 2021
- Inaya Hussain 2021
- Mays Rababah 2021
- Ali Latif 2021
- Stella Aboshahba 2022
- Nawal Abdinur 2022
- Noora Rajjoub 2022
- Rahaf Shalash 2022
- Nathan Reitz 2022



MY Project USA Partnered with Mosques & YWCA Dayton to Protect & Empower Muslim Women, Youth & Families in Dayton

Organized Trainings in Partnership with the Dayton Police Department



In 2016, we were invited by Mayor of Dayton Nan Whaley to help in addressing domestic violence within the Dayton Muslim community. At the insistence of several Dayton Muslim leaders, we launched Domestic Violence Task Force and other programs in Dayton.

We partnered with the YWCA Dayton and trained 18 Muslim adults and youth from eight different mosques/schools in Dayton.

These individuals were trained to act as liaison between the social workers, agencies, police officers and the Muslim victims of domestic violence in the greater Dayton area. They have also committed to work on the prevention of domestic violence by starting various programs and initiatives in their mosques and other respective social networks.

In 2019, we hired Sr. Arwa Saleh to directly help the domestic violence victims. She was able to help seven sisters under our program

in 2019.

In addition to that we also partnered with the Dayton Police Department, Dayton Mercy Society, Osman Gazi Mosque and Islamic Society of Greater Dayton, we help organized various programs and workshops including Youth Summit, Public Safety Seminar, Spring Fling and many other important events to strengthen the Dayton Muslim community.

All of this work was possible only because of the generous donations of the Dayton Muslim community that raised \$42,000 to help these initiatives. MY Project USA has spent \$51,000 on Dayton programs.

Dr. Sarah Hussain, Mehreen Ahmed Raja, Dr. Irshad Hussain, Ismail Gula, Dr. Saeed Albezreh, Arwa Saleh, Bassel Elnamara, Eldor Mura-dov, Jenna Albezreh, Salma Albezreh, Ahsan Subzwari and Sr. Gulrukh Ajwan played major role in Dayton.



FREE EVENT ★ FREE FOOD ★ FREE TRAINING

DAYTON MUSLIMS SAFETY SEMINAR

BUILDING A SAFER COMMUNITY

WITH DAYTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

SATURDAY FEB 2 | 10 AM | OSMAN GAZI MOSQUE

FEATURED SPEAKERS:
CHIEF RICHARD S. BIEHL, DAYTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
ZERGA ABID, MY PROJECT USA
ELDAR MURDOV, OSMAN GAZI MOSQUE
ARWA SALEH, ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF GREATER DAYTON
FAZAL KHAN, DAYTON MERCY SOCIETY

FEATURED TRAININGS:
"RUN, HIDE, FIGHT"
 UNDERSTANDING WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATION
"HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT" DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE CLUES THAT PARENTS MAY BE MISSING

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 EVENT IS FREE, BUT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.
 CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED FOR PRE-REGISTERED CHILDREN ONLY.
 NO CHILDREN ALLOWED IN THE PROGRAM

Are You Abused? Do You or Someone You Know Need Help? Not Sure?

Call 937-409-8927

all calls are confidential.

UNDERSTAND DOMESTIC/FAMILY VIOLENCE

Abuse is unacceptable no matter what behavior provoked it, and so often occurs in ways that are not as obvious as a physical blow. We have listed some signs of a victim below to help you better assess a situation, as well as understand the subtleties that can be shown.

Does this Person:

- Constantly cancel plans with friends or other family for reasons that don't sound true?
- Always worry about making their spouse angry?
- Give up things that were previously important to them?
- Show signs of physical abuse, like bruises or cuts?
- Get pressured into having sex, or feel like a sex object?
- Feel they must be available all the time for their spouse?
- Become isolated from friends or family?

These are some of the signs of a victim. When they are present, a cycle of abuse that characterizes an unhealthy relationship is often also present. If you recognize these symptoms for yourself or for your friend, for the sake of Allah and that of your friend, your family and your own well being, seek refuge in Allah and get HELP now.

For More Information About Domestic Violence, please visit ProjectUSA.org

How MY Project USA Can Help In Dayton:

We connect a victim with a Case Manager, a Social Worker, a Lawyer and more as needed. We can also help with Housing and Transportation arrangements per need and request.

In case of emergency, please call 911 immediately. To seek local help in case of non-emergency, please contact Arwa Saleh at MY Project USA Dayton Office, between 1pm to 5pm, M-F, 937-409-8927 | Dayton@MYProjectUSA.org | 141 W 3rd St. Dayton, OH 45402

Disclaimer: We do not share our clients' information with any party without clients' written permission. A client can change their request for any service they want. We are not responsible for providing any services for any party to that our clients might endure after they send a request to close their case. A client can always reopen their case but they will be responsible for any consequences that result from it.

MYPROJECTUSA.ORG



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MY Deah's Warehouse and Global Gifts & Thrift Store - Two Initiatives with Same Mission: Protecting & Empowering Youth & Families

Both Social Enterprises are Part of Our Sustainability Plan

At Global Gifts & Thrift :

We proudly offer an international, multicultural collection of gifts, artifacts, decorative items, clothing, shoes, household items and more.

What Your Donations/Business Will Support:

- Refugee Workforce Development
- Youth Empowerment & Development
- Hilltop Tigers Youth Soccer
- Muslims Against Human Trafficking
- Parenting/ESL Classes
- Academic Programs
- Youth & Family Counseling
- MY Community Café

Each dollar spent here helps us feed, clothe, employ and empower under-privileged youth and their families, refugees, unemployed and homeless people. It helps us address gang/gun violence and human trafficking. It helps us foster strong girls and women leaders.



Shopping Here Changes Lives

SHOP. DONATE. BUILD A LIFE.

This is a Movement! Join Us Now!

DONATION DROP OFF LOCATIONS

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Masjid Nimrah - 4501 Refugee Rd. Columbus, OH 43232
MAS Youth Center - 4615 Northtowne Blvd. Columbus, OH. 43229
Turkish American Society of Ohio (TASO) - 2885 W. Dublin Granville Rd. Columbus, OH 43235
Ahlul Bayt Society - 2580 W. Dublin Granville Rd. Columbus, OH 43235

The First Congregational Church - 444 E. Broad St. Columbus, OH 43215
MY Deah's Warehouse - 4004 Fondorf Dr. Columbus, OH 43228. (Business Hours Only)
Global Gifts & Thrift - 4730 Cemetery Rd. Hilliard, OH 43206. (Business Hours Only)
 Please scan QR code to find more places near you.

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TWO GREAT INITIATIVES SAME MISSION

Protecting & Empowering Youth & Families by Creating Jobs & Safe Spaces



An Initiative of MY Project USA
 Addressing: **Human Trafficking | Homelessness
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 A Non-Profit Org. | Tax Exempt ID 47-2398195

MY HELPLINE HELPS FAMILIES GET BACK ON THEIR FEET

Provides Legal, Health, Housing, Job Training, Employment & Other Assistancess

From the very beginning, MY Project USA has been focused on being accessible to all individuals and families in need. We started a Help Hotline in 2015 that was attended by several volunteer mental health professionals and social workers across the States. They helped with cases of domestic violence, suicidal thoughts, food, housing, health and other issues. Due to the lack of funding to hire and an unavailable volunteer force, we discontinued that service in 2017.



stable and productive quality of life. By addressing the three biggest facets that contribute towards achieving stability, clients have access to a worthy ally that is willing to not only be their representative but will also connect them with additional resources that also provide a similar care as well. Most importantly, because my Helpline invests in the longitudinal success of its clients, they become an integral part of the MY Project USA family and are thought of fondly, as well as checked on, long after achieving their goals. Team members take pride in their work and in the confidentiality between client and representative and commend every client that seeks MY Helpline's support.

In 2018, we decided to modify the services for our pantry clients. Since then, MY Helpline is an initiative that provides Legal, Health, and Housing services primarily to underserved communities.

My Helpline works tirelessly to ensure that every family has the best chance towards a

NEED HELP WITH SCHOOL, RENT OR UTILITIES?

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WE GOT SO MUCH MORE FOR YOUR KIDS

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- ✓ Apex & I-Ready Learning
- ✓ Robots & Drones to Learn
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- ✓ Beautiful Youth Center
- ✓ Daily Practice @ Wilson Rd. Park
- ✓ Girls Soccer & Basketball

- ✓ Khan Academy
- ✓ Leadership Training
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AGE GROUPS:
3rd - 12th Grade
U8/U10 U11/U12 U13/U14
U15/U16 U/17

FOR MORE INFO & REGISTRATION 614-971-9375
INFO@MYPROJECTUSA.ORG

Muslim communities struggle to prepare for Ramadan during COVID-19 crisis

MYIUSA What's your MYIUSA

CORONAVIRUS IN OHIO
DIFFICULTIES OBSERVING RAMADAN
NO LARGE GATHERINGS, FOOD STRUGGLE

NEWS WEATHER ON YOUR SIDE CORONAVIRUS CHIME IN

New first-of-its-kind youth center opens in west Columbus

BOB KENDRICK
WBNS10

The Hilltop Youth Empowerment Center in west Columbus, September 10, 2021. (WSYX)

FIGHTING BACK
COMMANDER SCOTT HYLAND
PATROL COMMANDER WEST SIDE

The Columbus Dispatch

Sports Entertainment Business Opinion ThisWeekNews BuckeyeXtra Obituaries E-Editions

Columbus Muslim service organization opens new food market, youth center in Hilltop

Danae King The Columbus Dispatch
Published 5:34 a.m. ET Oct. 1, 2021 | Updated 2:53 p.m. ET Oct. 1, 2021

As they prepare to open the Mid-Ohio Market inside MY Project USA's Youth Empowerment Center in the Hilltop, Abdi Yarrow and Samira Isaak sort through pallets of food donated by the Mid-Ohio Food Collective Tuesday. Adam Calmer/Columbus Dispatch

SLIDE TACKLE TO SUCCESS
PROJECT AIMS TO STOP CRIME WITH SOCCER IN WEST COLUMBUS

MYIUSA **Eight YEARS IN NEWS**

NEWS WEATHER TRAFFIC SPORTS LOCAL 4 YOU CONTENTS PROGRAMMING

New community center will focus on helping Columbus' immigrants, refugees

UZAIR QIDWAI
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By: Kenya Ramirez
Posted: Sep 13, 2021 | 05:41 PM EDT | Updated: Sep 14, 2021 | 10:57 AM EDT

CONTINUING COVERAGE
SAMIRA MOHAMUD
WEDGEWOOD VILLAGE RESIDENT

Teens, volunteers honored for passing out millions of meals, snacks in West Columbus

Muslims choose service, not gatherings, this Ramadan

Danae King The Columbus Dispatch
via iStock by Getty Images

With mosques closed and large celebratory dinners canceled, this Ramadan will be unlike any other in recent history for local Muslims. Typically, a month that includes fasting from dawn to sunset, and gatherings with large meals to break that fast each night, the festive aspect of Ramadan will occur on a smaller scale as Muslims observe the holy month during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through some local mosques are offering livestreamed prayers, it won't be the same experience for congregants who usually gather in groups of hundreds or thousands during the holy

The line of cars stretches around the building as people wait for food at the MY Family Pantry food pickup on Sullivant Avenue. Helping people get food to celebrate Ramadan has been made more difficult this year because of the pandemic. (DORAL CHENOWETH/STREETPHOTOS)

NEW EDITORIAL
TAKING A STANCE AGAINST VIOLENCE
COLUMBUS METS CELEBRATE 201 HOME RUNS FOR THE YEAR

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ALIVE

LEWY CROUCH AT THE RESTAURANT
POSTED TO REVEREND SEBASTIAN RESTAURANT
PAGE 14

COMMUNITY IN CRISIS

Seven people were fatally shot last year at Wedgewood Village. Can activists, politicians, police and residents tackle it? **SAMIRA MOHAMUD** turn things around?

NEW AT 5
COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION
WEDGEWOOD VILLAGE APTS.

FIGHTING BACK
COMMUNITY EFFORT TO TACKLE CRIME PROBLEM
WEDGEWOOD APARTMENTS, WEST COLUMBUS

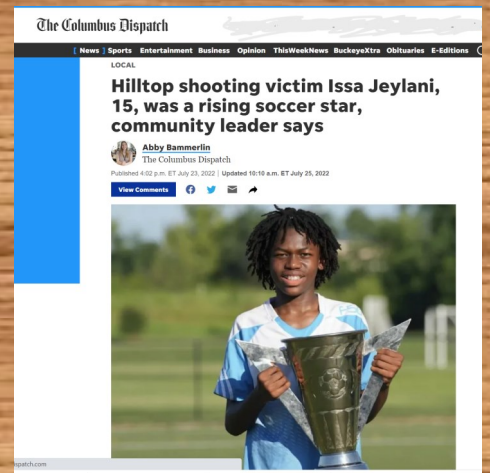
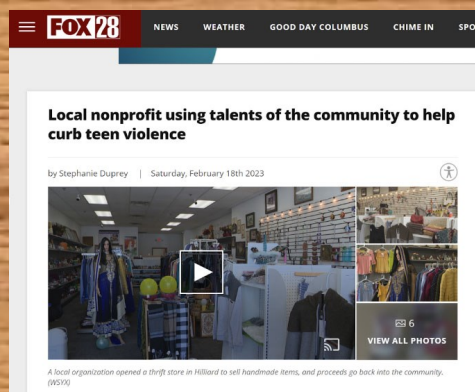
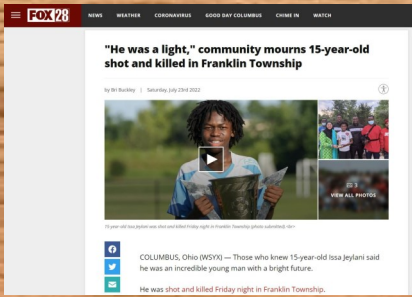
LOCAL

'The Hilltop is suffering': Neighborhood advocates come together for youth

Danae King
The Columbus Dispatch
Published 6:42 a.m. ET Feb. 15, 2022 | Updated 2:11 p.m. ET Feb. 15, 2022

Westside community aims to help children, residents as

LOCAL 4 YOU
COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION
WEDGEWOOD VILLAGE APTS.

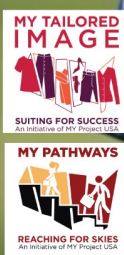
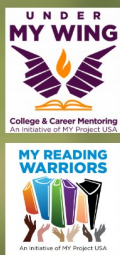


All children have the right to a safe place to play...

We lost our beloved Issa Jeylani on July 22, 2022. He was a 15-year-old Hilltop Tigers soccer champion who died due to gang and gun violence. He was simply playing soccer in his neighborhood. We do not want to lose anymore of our youth. We are fundraising to open an indoor facility to keep our children safe and sound year-round.

*- Zerqa Abid,
Founder & Executive Director*

MY Project USA's
**Issa Jeylani Memorial
Recreation Center**
will Protect & Empower Youth



There are about 10,000 children at risk of gang and gun violence in the Hilltop area. This center will provide a safe haven to hundreds of them each year. Our Hilltop Tigers Soccer Club and other programs continue to provide our youth a safe and compelling alternative to gangs, guns, violence, drugs and human trafficking on the westside of Columbus. We empower them with education, nutritious food, counseling and other kinds of support.



**Join our team.
Help build their dreams.
Scan here for more info
and to donate now.**



MYProjecUSA.org

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MY Project USA is a national initiative to protect & empower youth, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. All proceeds help at-risk children and families in underserved communities.