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Muslims in Jackson donate \$20,000 to the Center for Family Health's building fund

Published: Tuesday, August 24, 2010, 12:03 AM Updated: Tuesday, August 24, 2010, 2:53 PM



Aaron Aupperlee | Jackson Citizen Patrio...

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During Ramadan, Dr. Shahzad Shaikh, his family and Muslims around the world mark the holy month with daily fasts.

This year, along with the sunrise-to-sunset fasting, Shaikh and Muslims around Jackson added an act of charity to the 30-day celebration.

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Members of the Islamic Center of Jackson, 410 McNeal St., raised \$20,000 to donate to the Center for Family Health's building fund. The 30-family community collected the money in about three months, Shaikh said.

"This place (the Center for Family Health) has been serving in the community for so many years, and this is the opportunity to make it even better by helping the center get this new place," Shaikh said.

Construction has started on the Center for Family Health's new 54,000-square-foot facility on N. Jackson Street. The new center should be completed in July 2011 with a construction tab of \$10.5 million, according to previous reports.

Shaikh, a doctor of internal medicine at the center for 14 years, came up with the idea in May to help with fundraising. He presented the idea to members of Jackson's Muslim community, and they started working toward the \$20,000 goal.

A check will be presented to Molly Kaser, the center's executive director, at 12:30 p.m. today at the Center for Family Health's administration office, 2298 Springport Road. The \$20,000 gift from Shaikh and the Muslim community will become a \$81,600 donation thanks to matching federal funds from Medicare, said Jane Robinson, the Center for Family Health's development director.

"It's certainly a significant gift," Robinson said. "Dr. Shaikh believes in the mission of what we do."

The center, currently housed in four sites around Jackson, provides medical services to thousands of Jackson County residents with and without insurance, Robinson said. Shaikh said he is looking forward to moving into the new building.

Charity is often an integral part of Ramadan, Shaikh said. During Ramadan, which began Aug. 11, Muslims fast as a practice of self-discipline but also to appreciate what they have. Giving back, Shaikh said, is a way of giving thanks.

"You are able to think about many of those people in the world who are less fortunate and go hungry a lot of times, on a daily basis," he said.

The Muslim community's next project is also raising money and collecting food for victims of the flooding in Pakistan, Shaikh said. Many Muslims in Jackson have direct ties to Pakistan. Families have already presented Helping Hands USA with a \$5,000 check, he said. Earlier this year, members of the Islamic center collected money for Haiti after the earthquake.

"It's not a huge community," he said. "But whenever we can, we try to help."

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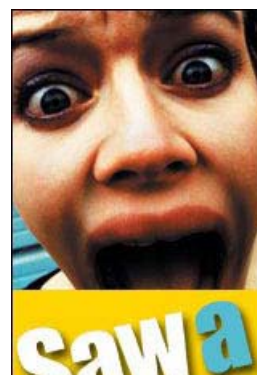
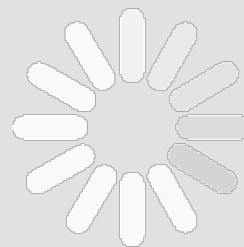


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geek49203

August 24, 2010 at 12:15AM

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Dear Muslim community --

Thank you.

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KosmosBrenner

August 24, 2010 at 12:31AM

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I second that. Thank you

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truckingal01

August 24, 2010 at 12:31AM

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Thank you for such a selfless and generous gift to the community. It will be gratefully used and is a credit to the generosity of Jackson's Muslim community. It is much appreciated by this struggling county.

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bigbang777

August 24, 2010 at 5:42AM

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You look at the early gratitude thrown at these wealthy immigrant Muslim doctors, who as individuals, make at least 20k for every Heart Patient they operate on. This tiny bit of money



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tossed out, is a mere pittance compared to their real wealth. Yes, even as small as it is, it's a nice gesture to donate funds for the various causes that they deem important. But let's not forget the importance of the obvious p.r. reality. And the Paper has graciously accommodated the local Muslims in this endeavor. To say this had absolutely nothing to do with public relations for the local Muslim Nation... is disingenuous.

We should always remember, not all Muslims are terrorists, but all the terrorists during the 9/11 attacks WERE Muslim. All faithful Muslim brothers and sisters everywhere, at some point, will and must succumb to their ultimate global destiny.

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benjaminjo24 August 24, 2010 at 5:50AM
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Health care (transformation) is one of the best issues this current administration has done thus far. With this change individuals will have the opportunity to seek professional and quality health care services. Who would want to return to the days of the horse and buggy, b/w tv sets, manual typewriters, pac man, you get the point? That's about how old the health care system was in the USA. Each day the news is filled with social tragedies in which lives are taken at the hands of known acquaintances and/or family members. Our society is stricken with the institutions of white collar crime permeating throughout this great nation and greed which tends to strike at the very fabric of our country. If you are looking for affordable health insurance check out <http://bit.ly/9fDY7U>. I hope everyone will soon recognize and use the resources made by this transformation to seek professional medical attention as the need arises rather than turning to illegal and criminal activities to resolve their issues.

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bigbang777 August 24, 2010 at 6:22AM
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You look at the early gratitude thrown at these wealthy immigrant Muslim doctors, who as individuals, make at least 20k for every Heart Patient they operate on. This tiny bit of money tossed out, is a mere pittance compared to their real wealth. Yes, even as small as it is, it's a nice gesture to donate funds for the various causes that they deem important. But let's not forget the importance of the obvious p.r. reality. And the Paper has graciously accommodated the local Muslims in this endeavor. To say this had absolutely nothing to do with public relations for the local Muslim Nation... is disingenuous.

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amazedatthis August 24, 2010 at 8:23AM
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What the hel*????

"All faithful Muslim brothers and sisters everywhere, at some point, will and must succumb to their ultimate global destiny."

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snpmich August 24, 2010 at 8:23AM
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A simple thank you!!~ I am sure it will be put to good use!!

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siennarose August 24, 2010 at 9:38AM
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Yes, thank you for caring and having the courage despite the abuse from idiots you knew would be coming.
God Bless

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 **pattywhack** August 24, 2010 at 10:02AM
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Well, bigbang777 - maybe if you did your research, you would know Dr. Shaikh is not a cardiologist and does not make 20,000 on each patient he sees. Think before you post something!

The donation is greatly appreciated by all that receive services, or even family members of ours that may receive services at the Center for Family Health. Thank you!

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 **jaxundrgrd** August 24, 2010 at 10:07AM
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This a wonderful, generous and charitable gesture. To the Muslim community - thank you. You are walking the Ramadan walk- a focus on the larger community of all the world's children regardless of their circumstances, wealth or position.

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 **L** August 24, 2010 at 11:45AM
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bigbang777, sorry you are so ill-mannered and short-sighted, ignorant perhaps? Thank you to the Muslim community for their generous gifts to various causes. You have raised a substantial amount of funds for a small community. I wonder how much bigbang777 contributes to community projects and world issues? Step up or step out bigbang777

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 **aarontay** August 24, 2010 at 12:31PM
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Wake up America! Don't be fooled by the wolf in sheep's clothing!

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 **rg** August 24, 2010 at 5:59PM
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I am sure that is what some native Americans were saying about some of us.

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 **bpiguy** August 24, 2010 at 6:46PM
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The remarks by BigBang and aarontay are completely out of line. I have no problem at all with Jackson's Muslim community, and in fact, I believe Jackson's Muslims have been a credit to the community for a long time.

As for Dr. Shaikh, he's the guy I see when I go to the Center for Family Health whenever I want a checkup.

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