

Muslim Forum of Utah 2005 YEAR IN REVIEW

2005 MFU HIGHLIGHTS

In its 3rd year, Muslim Forum of Utah experienced tremendous growth and success. Creating alliances with other organizations in the Valley and meeting with delegates from around the world we sought to create a better atmosphere for Muslims to interact with the broader society in Utah.

The Forum took the lead in the Muslim community with an initiative to cover all community events and conferences. We would like to take this time to congratulate the following organizations due to their hard work and dedication to humanity. Islamic Society of Greater Salt Lake, Muslim Student Association(University of Utah), The Muslim Boys and Girl Scouts of Utah(Troup 496), Iqra Academy and Al Rasool Islamic Center.

In today's climate of heightened scrutiny of Islam and Muslims, The Forum also made sure they were on hand to attend the first ever MSA Utah Regional Conference. We would like to congratulate Ossama Elshamy(former president of U of U's MSA) who is now a reporter with Bridges TV.(Muslim Cable Network) We would also like to congratulate the entire MSA Staff along with their new president Anwar Arrafat. We look forward to great things from Anwar in the future. We also congratulated the University of Utah's new Student Body President Ali Husnain. Ali is the son of the founder and organizer of our annual SLAM Festival. We would also like to congratulate brother Abdul Qyum and family for hosting the Muslim Social Services Conference. We were able to listen to and participate in tremendous dialogue about topics concerning the Muslim community in the United States. We sat among great Scholars in the Social Sciences of Islam like Hakim Jackson and Maher Hathout. And as a up and coming young adult Edina Lekovic is definitely a giant among us.(Communications Director for MPAC) www.mpac.org

The Forum continued to challenge hate on the radio and negative portrayals of Islam and Muslims in the entertainment industry throughout the year. By working with our local news stations like Channel Two news, KSL Radio 1160 and Bridges TV, the Forum was able to take proactive steps to help balance portrayals of Islam and encourage Muslims to enter the fields of writing, advocacy, community service and intra-faith dialogue. We were able to help facilitate a community project with Sara Eubank (Peace Trees Coordinator) and

Karen Johnson (Peace Trees Volunteer). Students from diverse backgrounds met up with our students from the Iqura Academy and Islamic Society of Greater Salt Lake. They Youth from 14-20 worked together on trail and reclamation work projects along the Jordan River Corridor.

We secured national and international coverage for the first time of our 3rd Annual SLAM Festival thanks to Bridges TV www.islamonline.com and award winning photographer/photo-journalist Brian Vikander. We are still working in an on going project to cover the Muslims of Utah for Saudi Aramco Word Magazine.(Stay tuned for the upcoming CD Rom presentation of the Festival)

Yet, these are just a few of the accomplishments, The Forum has achieved this past year with your continued support. The information on our web site provides a more detailed glimpse into the works of The Forum in 2005. We would be remiss if we did not mention the coverage of a giant in our community. With the opening of the Maliheh Clinic, Utah Muslims along with Mormans, and other Government organizations made national news once again. The clinic is named after the grandmother of the foundation's benefactor, Khosrow Semnani. Maliheh is Persian and means "comfort and beauty," said Semnani, founder of the radioactive-waste disposal company Envirocare of Utah. We look forward to continued growth and success in the Muslim Community and the community at large.(Isha Allah)

If we forgot to mention any event or organization we have worked with over the past year please forgive our over site.

Sincerely,

Muslim Forum of Utah Family