

# SNAP NEWSLETTER

Sisters Need A Place is here to empower Muslim women and families through education and advocacy for a healthier life.

Fall 2013



**STAFF MEMBERS**

Sakinah Mujahid  
Danielle Fegel  
Danielle Jones

**Summer Interns:**

Najma Oman  
Kin Ali

**Tree Trust Volunteer:**

Joelle Payne

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Rasheedah Ali  
Sakinah Virnig  
Ruqayyah Ali

In 1999 a group of Muslim women came together to create a support system for the growing population of Muslim women and their families within the Twin Cities. These volunteers dedicated their time and efforts to face the challenges of education, housing, employment, family dynamics, economic hardship and spiritual growth that Muslim women and their families were struggling with. **Sisters Need A Place (SNAP)** developed as an intentional response to these community concerns.

Under the new leadership of **Sakinah Mujahid**, SNAP's Executive Director as of 2009, and the devoted commitment of the Board of Directors, SNAP's success has continued to flourish within the Twin Cities. A house, recognized as the SNAP House, was purchased to provide temporary housing, with on-site support and case management. SNAP also maintains a free food pantry, financial assistance, and resources for both clients and the community. The growing organization is committed to providing a safe, culturally and religiously sensitive environment to empower and educate women and their families.



SNAP House

- SNAP has served over 50 women and families.
- 78% of women in transitional housing have gained employment
- 67% of women and families moved out into successful housing
- 42% of clientele have used additional resources and services

**MEMBERS NEWS:**

A special thank you to the following for their contributions toward the success of SNAP :

- WCA Foundation
- Bremer Otto Foundation
- Johanna M. Osman
- Tehera & Abdulla Mamdani
- Walid Shadi & Marwa Sallam
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- Muhammad Aziz
- Fadwa Wazwaz
- The Anwars
- Sehban Ozair
- Br. Mansoor
- Christian Tucher
- Munazza F Rehan
- Nausheena Hussain
- Asma L Saroya
- Yahyaa Waahid
- Sumera Islam
- Eileen Zaarour
- Nausheena Hussain
- Andrew Morales

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## Executive Director's Corner : Thoughts to Ponder

*Go behind the apparent circumstances of the situation and locate the love in yourself and in all others involved in the situation.*

**-Mother Teresa**

The moment we have a negative experience we get stuck in what was done and how it was done to us. We must learn not to take life so personally. People are not really out to get us. Events are not waiting to befall us. We are all moving to get where we want to be. As a result, we will sometimes step on each other's toes. When we find ourselves in a conflict or confrontation we must know how to love ourselves out of it. Love means recognizing fear as an operand condition that sometimes makes us do and say things we really don't mean. Love means opening our hearts and minds to our best, regardless of what is going on. Love means not attacking but supporting, not defending but seeking clarity. Love means knowing that, in the end, we will all be okay even if it means we have to give up a little of something. Let us learn to give up anger and fear by replacing those things with love. Our community needs more love and support to one another. In order for us all to benefit from each other's skills, thoughts and accomplishments than we must work on supporting each other positively, we must work on communicating effectively to each other so we may learn from our mistakes and we must work on giving guidance even when we fear there may be back lash. Review Quran Chapter 49 however one of the verses that draws my attention is 13: *"O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise (each other)). Verily the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things).*



## STUDENTS TAKING A STEP-UP AT SNAP

In Mid June, SNAP received the opportunity to add two additional interns to the staff of their organization, Kin Abdi Ali, a senior at South HS, and Najma Omar, a senior at Thomas Edison HS, through the Step-Up Achieve Program.

Working with the Step-Up Achieve Program this summer has been an amazing one. From the beginning, Step-Up staff, Eman Abdullahi, was readily available, informative and quick to respond to questions. Step-Up matched SNAP with the perfect set of interns.

From day one, both interns, Kin Ali and Najma Omar were cheerful, ambitious, and ready to learn and work.



Danielle Fegel, Kin Ali, Najma Omar

Tasks that Kin Ali and Najma worked on included creating documents for the upcoming project, the Phenomenal Woman's Clothing Closet (PWCC). This consists of creating forms to track clients, inventory, client feedback, and writing the Policy and Procedures. In addition, they researched venues throughout the community to hold upcoming SNAP events, and worked with the clients in the shelter program by looking for housing leads. Kin and Najma worked well both individually and as a team, and each task was continuously met with success. Both interns were independent, yet inquisitive. The time and experiences SNAP have shared with these two wonderful young ladies is evidence of what Step-Up is able to provide for high school students in Minneapolis.

This summer with the Step-Up interns has solidified SNAP's desire to collaborate with the Step-Up Achieve program in the future.

*-Danielle Fegel*

For more information on how to get involved with Step-Up: <http://www.achievements.org>

**STEP-UP**  
ACHIEVE

“This has taught me that positive change is always possible. I could not have done it alone”

## Client Story

The journey to success is difficult and an uphill battle. Many don't realize that in order for that journey to begin, you have to understand where and who you are first. What I eventually learned is that the answers are within me. I felt like I was trying to make changes, but my needed changes were moving at a snails pace. I never could quite see the light at the end of the tunnel.

During this internal road block, I knew I had to make time for a self-assessment. During this self-assessment, I found my spirit sapped of some mettle in the way of The Living God. I knew there had to be more avenues than the way I was going. The realization of sharing my story, utilizing my community support, and reaching out during my time of need became clear. I knew that I could not do this alone. With my spiritual strength intact I contacted my sister Sakinah and opened up my truth, my story. This was

the beginning of a long road that I knew I had to take. Although it was difficult, I was blessed with an opportunity to make some real changes during this sensitive time. I was introduced to the SNAP House and staff members that became my support and encouragement. They listened to me as I discussed my career goals and life goals. I was given viable resources and within a short amount of time, my client service professional gave me a part time job lead that turned into full time. I'm currently working at Rise and Shine Early Learning Center and finding comfort in what I have accomplished so far. I received my first set of keys to my own place on June 1, 2013 after 15 years. This has taught me that positive change is always possible. I could not have done it alone. My journey to success is happening. Thank you for letting me share my story.

## What is RAMADAN?

Ramadan is the fourth pillars of Islam where Muslims all over the world fast from sunrise to sundown. Fasting is mandatory (*fard*) for those who can fast. It's a time of peace and worship to get closer to Allah All Mighty and seek His forgiveness for your past sins. Ramadan is a way to hopefully (*Insh'Allah*) get into heaven (*Jannah*) for the good deeds you did while you were on this Earth (*Dunya*). Some pass time activities while fasting during Ramadan to get closer to Allah are reading the Holy book (*Qur'an*), volunteering at a local Mosque to either clean, and or to serve the sundown meal (*Afoor*). Family is also an important aspect of Ramadan; families pray their daily prayers (*Salat*) together, break their fast together with a large meal and go to the local mosque for



night prayers (*Taraweeh*) together. The most important aspect of Ramadan is to always have the remembrance of Allah All Mighty and to go above and beyond in your daily life to do good deeds to please Allah All Mighty. In the thirty some days Ramadan occurs, you overall want to better yourself and end the month with a stronger faith (*Iman*).

Ramadan is a renewal month for me to really focus mentally and spiritually with the connection I have with Allah.  
-Summer Interns





SNAP Youth Volunteers

## What YOU can do!

SNAP encourages volunteers and visitors to come by and do what you can to contribute to your growing community. From volunteer advisors who help the families in need, to sorting out clothes for our new clothing closet, to donating your services at events, SNAP welcomes your contribution. Contact us directly at **612-315-5914** or visit our website: **sistersneedaplace.org** to get involved NOW!

**\*SNAP IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR BOARD MEMBERS!!!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Phenomenal Women Clothing Closet (PWCC) Opening:** **Oct. 1, 2013**
- **SNAP Board Members Event :** **Oct. 12, 2013 @ 2:30 pm**  
 (Come for info on how to become a SNAP Board Member)  
 Where: *2411 Lyndale Ave. N. Mpls, MN 55411*
- **Potluck Dinner and Scarf Exchange:** **Nov. 9, 2013 @ 3:00 pm**  
 Where: *175 McKnight Road St. Paul, MN*
- **Become a SNAP Member Event:** **Jan. 11, 2014 @ 1:30 pm**  
 Where: *New Brighton Community Center  
 400 10th St. NW New Brighton 55112*
- **SNAP Sisters Retreat** **Spring 2014**

## SNAP WISH LIST:

- Cash donations
- Prayer rugs
- \$20 bus cards
- Towels
- Laundry soap
- Hangers
- Bottle Water
- Donate to help pay a utility bill:
  - ⇒ Gas: \$70
  - ⇒ Water: \$100
  - ⇒ Lights \$75
  - ⇒ Comcast \$150
  - ⇒ Insurance \$300 yearly

**\*SNAP is currently collecting new and gently used women's business casual and professional clothes and shoes to support our families with their employment. Please contact SNAP to drop off items.**

