CERWIS of Masjid As-Salaam Community Service Programs

Submitted by Lois Hasan

Masjid As-Salaam

Columbia, S.C.

**“ To each is a goal to which Allah turns him, then strive together as in a race towards all that is good. Wheresoever ye are Allah will bring you together, for Allah hath power over all things. “ Sura 2:148**

**(Holy Quran. A. Yusuf Ali translation)**

The Committee to Enhance the Role of Women in Society ( CERWIS) of Masjid As Salaam has been blessed to continued its community outreach efforts for the past year. This In keeping with the vision of being a model community and part of that vision is service.

We have continued our efforts to provide support to the Transitions Homeless Center. This is the largest Center that provides homeless men and women, ages 18 and older access to the day center, hot meals, showers, service providers and housing. The clients receive services at Transitions which helps them to stabilize their lives, increase their income, and secure permanent housing.

We are pleased to report that 125 bags of non-perishable food items, which also included toiletries, were delivered to the Center. We thank everyone involved with this effort for their items and monetary donations, packing of supplies and delivery of items to the Center.

The next project in August was a donation to the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC)Program and Re-entry Division. This suggestion came from Sakinah Mack, who works with the SCDC, and was made aware of the desire by prison officials to give women being released personal hygiene items. A contact was made with the prison official who provided us with a wish list of items that were especially helpful. We received great community support both in donation of items and monetary help, so much so that we purchased over four hundred dollars in items. The prison officials were very appreciative of the donation and expressed gratitude of our impact on those women returning back to the community. We hope to repeat this donation again in 2021.

In October we once again donated food bags to the homeless shelter. To respond to the request for socks toiletry bags were also done for men and women, and in addition to socks included deodorant, shampoo, soap, tissue, toothpaste, and toothbrushes.

In keeping with its community outreach efforts , CERWIS plans to donate food items for a Thanksgiving dinner for a retirement home and make a monetary donation to another community agency.

We are aware that other believers have donated meals, pastries, soup, fruit bag sand sandwiches to people in their neighborhood as well as to homeless.

A second committee, The Coalition for Good Government Political Action Committee (PAC) did a voter registration drive for the entire month of September 2020. This effort was spearheaded by Associate Imam Faruq C. Al Amin and Hajji Musa Akram. The theme for the drive was “If We Don’t Vote, We Don’t Matter.” After attending a training session at the Election Commission and getting all needed forms and handouts the PAC sprung into action. Volunteers were solicited to help with two concurrent sites on each Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday from 2:00-6:00p.m. The primary site at the corner of the masjid property was staffed by Imam Faruq and volunteers as available. The second site which rotated between Dollar General and the Obama Gas Station was staffed by Hajji Musa Akram and Hajjah Gloria Akram.

The overall reception from those driving by with honking of horns, thumbs up and keep up the good work was a great mental booster. PAC reports that we submitted over one hundred voter registration applications and absentee ballot requests. PAC thanks everyone for their help with this effort and especially recognizes the following volunteers—Sisters: Hajjah Gloria Akram, Louise Edwards, Beulah El-Amin, Lois Hasan, Mary Hamin, Safiyyah Herring, Omme Salam Rahemtullah, Celestine Shaheed, Maryam Shareef..-- Brothers: Hajji Musa Akram, Kenny Belton, Abdullah Bueno, Harold Harrison, Fareed Muhammad, Shaheed Muhammad and Quadir Muwwakkil. An Appreciation Social for the volunteers was held on October 2. The PAC reports that even though the voter registration drive is over it will continue to act as a mechanism to keep the community apprised of legislative and political issues.