



UNDERSTANDING EFFECTIVE SOCIAL SERVICE

REIMAGINING
MUSLIM SPACES

When American Islamic centers place an emphasis on community service, they become more than just places of prayer—they become hubs of hope.

CASE STUDY: SHARE Center

Lexington, Kentucky

A Muslim-run social service center open to all, with a special focus on former inmates

In the area around SHARE Center,

40% OF INDIVIDUALS

31% OF FAMILIES

51% OF CHILDREN

fall below the federal poverty line.

Services Offered



Employment Services



GED Classes



Computer Room & Computer Classes



Food & Clothing Bank

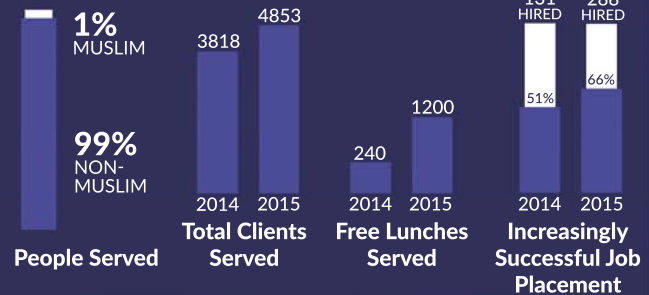


Free Medical Clinic



Parenting Classes

SHARE at a Glance



ISPU researchers asked: “What lessons can be learned from SHARE Center’s success?”

1. Have a Clear Mission/Vision

and communicate them effectively. This helps ensure buy-in and consistent support from the community.

2. Include Diverse Perspectives

Diverse actors—African American and first-generation immigrant Muslims—were key ingredients to SHARE Center’s success.

3. Assess Community Needs

and direct services accordingly. SHARE’s services reflect the most urgent needs of its neighborhood.

4. Expertise Matters

SHARE Center actively recruited community members who understood the needs of their target population.

5. Diversify Clientele

while maintaining organization’s identity. SHARE Center is open to all but maintains its identifying link to the Muslim community.

6. Empower the Community

SHARE Center provides a platform to support new service initiatives like the weekly free lunch and free medical clinic.

7. Hire at Least One Staff Member

Having a paid executive director has been instrumental to SHARE’s success.

8. Cultivate a Strong Financial Base

Transparent, consistent communication keeps donors aware of the center’s impact.

9. Build Partnerships

All of SHARE’s most successful programs rely on effective partnerships.

Interested in turning your mosque into a hub of hope? Visit: www.ispu.org/RMS.