

**March 29, 2010**

**Rabi Al – Thani 13, 1431 H**

I had the pleasure of interviewing Sr. Sana Siddiqui, the Operations Manager of MYHL. She supplied the following information to share with the community. My interview covered 8 topics.

1) Vision:

The Muslim Youth Help Line aims to educate, empower and raise awareness within the North American Muslim community to address the broad and complex challenges faced by Muslim youth in North America.

2) Mission Statement:

The MYHL seeks to promote healthy Islamic youth development by providing free professional faith-based helpline services that are immediate, interactive and with linkages to information and services that support the social and religious needs of Muslim youth in North America.

3) Philosophy:

a) The MYHL represents a bridge to better communication for all youth to have their questions answered in a safe, non-judgmental and confidential manner and within the guidelines of the Sharia.

b) The MYHL is staffed by qualified Imams, Muslim counselors and community activists who are well versed in Sharia, trained in counseling techniques and have grown up in North America.

c) With the approval of the caller, MYHL works collaboratively with family members, friends, the school system and other community resources to provide referrals and follow-up support where appropriate.

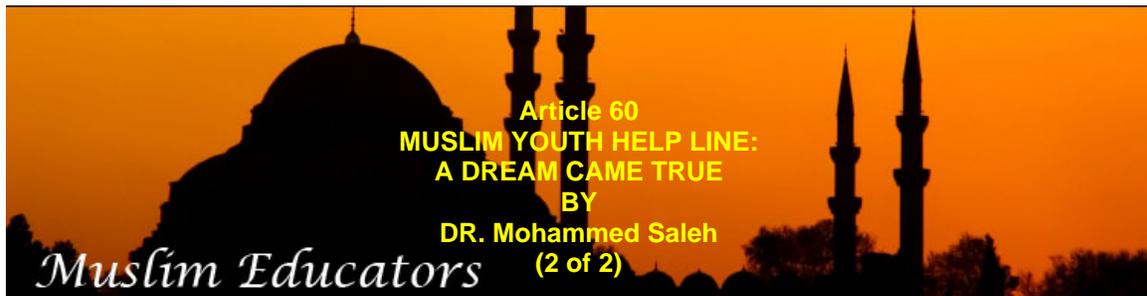
4) Message:

The MYHL is a free, confidential service for Muslim youth and community members to call for support, guidance and information from trained Imams and counselors. We are here to listen and to help.

5) MYHL People:

Program Director: Br. Ali Haidar

Operations Manager: Sr. Sana Siddiqui



Marketing and Communications: Sr. Tanweer Ebrahim  
Fundraising Manager: Br. Toshio Ali  
Volunteer Manager: Sr. Samah Hassen

#### 6) Funding:

Alhumdulliah, with the support of the community, the service has continuously grown and expanded. Our main challenges are with regards to funding and raising awareness of the services of the program. In order to increase the level of service being delivered, conduct local community information events with experts and promote the service in communities across North America we need the generous financial support of Muslims across North America. Our marketing campaign will include a variety of methods of promoting the line including a new website featuring web-based counseling, mail outs and posturing and MYHL ambassadors across North America. At current, our funding comes primarily from the support of the Muslim community.

#### 7) Resources Needed:

We are also looking for Muslim professionals (psychiatrists, social workers, counselors etc) to add to our referral resources and contribute to our community events.

#### 8) Types of calls received:

The MYHL receive board variety of calls; they reflect the many challenges facing Muslim youth today. Many of our calls focus on relationships, peer pressure and youth-parent conflict. Our counselors are professionals; they are ready to take on a variety of calls on multitudes of topics. Emergency calls, however, will be directed to emergency services.

Alhamdulillah, our community is blessed with active positive people who pioneer challenging projects; the MYHL is a shining example. Our role as a community is to encourage them to allow others to come up with similar projects. I sense a lot of actions on the path of community development. Insha Allah my reporting about other developing projects will continue on the pages of our progressive newspaper: Al- Ameen which is also a pioneering journalism project. Since people find what they are looking for, let us look for positive moves in the community and we will find them, insha Allah.