

THE INTERSECTION OF ISLAM & COMMUNITY SERVICE

By: Mominah Subhan

Service is an integral facet of Islam, manifesting itself in the words of the Quran, hadiths, and the actions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Showing love and compassion towards Allah's creations, is an important part of living a life close to Allah. In Surah Al-Ankabut, Allah says:

*"And as for those who strive in Our path — We will surely guide them in Our ways. And Indeed, Allah is with those who are of service to others."
(Quran 29:70)*

There are a myriad of injustices impacting millions of people around the world, from refugees' lives being shattered from war to people of color facing higher levels of mass incarcerations to patients becoming financially insecure. Muslims around the world serve their community to generate change in order to forge a more promising tomorrow. Here we delve into a few of the service movements led by Muslims in our very own SoCal community.

THE UMMA VOLUNTEER PROJECT

Healthcare in the United States disproportionately neglects people of color, making it difficult for individuals from underrepresented backgrounds to find affordable healthcare options. UCLA students have the opportunity to bridge this gap by volunteering with the UMMA Volunteer Project (UVP). UVP is a branch of UMMA community clinic, a free clinic founded by Muslim graduate

students with inspiration from Islamic teachings. Fariha Hameed, a 4th year psychobiology student at UCLA, serves as the president of the UVP and describes it as: "UVP is the major volunteer source for the UMMA Community Clinic and aims to promote the well-being of our medically underserved neighbors. We do this by teaching health lessons, providing preventative medical education, distributing fresh produce, and hosting health fairs where we give potentially lifesaving health screenings to those who have barriers to health care."

Hameed is passionate about UVP's mission of providing holistic, accessible healthcare to all: "As Muslims, a major tenet instilled in us is to stand up against forms of injustice impinged upon people."



"UVP strives to assist those with inequities in their access to high-quality health care and medical education."



Many of the conditions our target community faces are treatable and preventable, making our education projects, health fairs, and resources integral to the well-being of our community. Everyone has the right to lead a healthy life, and service to mankind is the essence of Islam."