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\*\*\*\*\***MEDIA ADVISORY**\*\*\*\*\*

**DEAH BARAKAT'S LEGACY TAKES ANOTHER LEAP: NEW GOODWILL STORE IN RALEIGH TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO CURB YOUTH CHALLENGES, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, DRUGS & MORE**

MY Project USA and Namee Barakat, the father of the Chapel Hill shooting victim, Deah Barakat, have joined forces to create the **MY Deah's Goodwill Store** in Raleigh, NC and Columbus, OH.

MY Project USA, a non-profit organization, focuses on protecting and empowering young American Muslims through grassroots engagement and provision of social and educational services. MY Project USA, whose motto is "Strong Muslim Youth Building a Stronger America", has also been encouraging their members to utilize social networking and the #MYProjectisUSA hashtag to track their contribution in building America stronger. In the previous seven months, the organization has accomplished the following:

- Launched Eight community service projects to help low-income families and neighborhoods
  - Youth Development: Trained 10 Muslim youth as community leaders to run various projects
  - Volunteerism: Recruited 150 Muslim youth volunteers to serve in our projects
  - MY Toys Drive: Distributed 2123 toys & Eid gifts to needy and homeless children
  - MY Soup Kitchen: Served 3600 Meals to homeless and needy families
  - MY Help Hotline: Provides Free Counseling and Referral Services to Youth and Families in need
  - MY Landscaping Services: Provides Job Training and Employment to youth in need.
  - MY Earth Action Days: Spruced up main roads and low-income neighborhoods
  - Research: Partnered with the University of Michigan to conduct an in-depth survey about the Muslim American high school youth.
  - Muslims Against Human Trafficking initiative: Reached out to the top leadership of Muslim American clergy and thousands of community members to begin a Muslim grassroots movement to address human trafficking nationwide.

In the next six months, the organization is launching the following initiatives:

- MY Community Leadership Conference: To train and organize 250 Muslim youth to become community leaders during the Martin Luther King Jr.'s weekend, January 16th & 17th, 2016, in Columbus, OH.
- MY Tutoring Center: To offer Free tutoring to Muslim Refugee/New American children.
- MY Sisters Shelter: To protect and support homeless and abused sisters
- MY Community Garden: To produce cheaper organic food for low-income families
- MY Foster Parents Initiatives: To protect and empower children in need of safe homes
- MY Parents Cultural Competency Program: To empower refugee and new-immigrant parents with culturally competent parenting skills.

The income from the MY Deah's Goodwill Store will help support all of the above and more initiatives.



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MY Project USA and the Barakat family invite you to a press conference to share more details about the scope of this initiative and about the national role that Raleigh will play in this program.

**WHAT:** Media Introduction to MY Deah's Goodwill Store

**WHEN:** Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015; 10:30 AM

**WHERE:** MY Deah's Goodwill Store; 3925 Beryl Rd. Raleigh, NC 27607

**WHO:** Open to all members of the media

**WHY:** To inform the press about the everyday risks that the Muslim American youth face today and about how MY Deah's Goodwill Store will help protect and empower many at-risk youth nationwide. The organization believes in furthering the legacy of Deah Barakat and Yusor and Razan Abu-Salha by driving young compassionate Muslims to become leaders in their communities.

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\*\*\*\*\*END ADVISORY\*\*\*\*\*