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Muslim Youth Beautify Columbus

MY Project USA held the Third Earth Action Day in Columbus

An Initiative to Save the Environment and to Build a Stronger America

COLUMBUS, Ohio – October 10th, 2015 – About 20 Muslim youth and adults of MY Project USA spent their Saturday afternoon in sprucing up Sullivant Avenue, from Georgesville Rd. to Wilson Rd. on their third MY Earth Action Day.

Last April the Muslim youth of MY Project USA, a non-profit organization, have launched a series of Earth Action Days in Columbus and around the country. The theme of these events is “Taking care of Earth as a Mosque.” The purpose of these action days is to engage youth in taking tangible actions that would help save the environment while fostering a new generation of young Americans as community and environmental activists. They spruced up the Olentangy River Road neighborhood in May. They aim to cover many more neighborhoods in Columbus by the Earth Day 2016.

In addition to MY Earth Action Days, the organization has also organized MY Soup Kitchen, MY Food Basket Drives, MY Winter Clothes Drive, My Toys Drive. They will be working in partnership with churches to distribute food baskets before thanksgiving and toys during holidays. They are also opening MY Tutoring Center to provide free tutoring services to the eligible youth in their neighborhoods.

“These events are designed to promote civic engagement within our youth throughout the year across the country,” said Zerqa Abid, the founder and the president of MY Project USA. “I am very grateful for the support and generosity of people who have come forward and answered to every single call of help. It’s inconceivable to think that we are only six months old and we have already distributed about 4000 cooked/uncooked meals and more than 2000 Eid gifts/clothes.”

“These are the very first steps in building a compassionate community that fosters community service and strong youth,” Abid said. “We certainly have launched a youth movement that was very much needed in this time and era not only in Columbus, but nationwide.”

The organization has trained a dozen youth to organize these community service projects to empower their community. They aim to train about 250 youth during their first annual Youth Community Service Leadership conference during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend.

Several youth, neighbors and community organizations have joined hands in this campaign. “It is a very humbling experience,” said Hagar Diab, one of the Youth Board Directors of MY Project USA. “As an average youth, we are on a constant negative state of mind, doing something like this revived so much positivity with in me and the young volunteers as well. Sometimes the best medicine to a young person’s mind, is to simply give back.”



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The project has also organized young activists online. Their hashtags for reporting youth actions are #MYProjectisUSA and #ISupportUniTea.

Organizers are pleased by the community's response so far. Several national, regional and local Muslim organizations have applauded the campaign and have already become their collaborators. This list includes: The UniTea Campaign, a collaborative project of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) and the United Muslim Foundation (UMF); Islamic Council of Ohio (ICO); the Texas Muslim Women Foundation, TX; the Arab American Family Services, IL; the Turning Point for Women and Families, NY; the Islamic Society of Greater Columbus, OH; Masjid Omar Ibn El-Khattab, Columbus, OH; the AbuBakar Assiddiq Islamic Center, Columbus, OH; and the Sunrise Academy in Hilliard, OH.

MY Project USA is a non-profit organization that aims to protect and empower American Muslim youth. It is committed to address the issues including drugs, gangs, sex-trafficking, bullying, drinking, violence, radicalization and others that are facing Muslim youth in the contemporary American society. It also aims to empower them by creating opportunities for them to become productive citizens and strong community leaders of the United States of America. More information is available on www.MYProjectUSA.org

WHAT: Muslim Youth Beautify Columbus: Earth Action Day, Neighborhood Spruce Up & Celebrations
WHEN: Saturday, October 10th, 2015, 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM
WHERE: Sullivant Ave (between Georgesville Rd. & Wilson Rd., Columbus, OH 43228)
WHY: To foster young community/environmental activists, to beautify Columbus & to help save the environment
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