Celebrating Solutions Award
Nomination Form

Legal name of organization: FaithTrust Institute
Year established: 1977

Program nominated for award (if different): Peaceful Families Project
Year established: 2001

Address: 2400 N. 45th St. #10

City/State/ZIP code: Seattle, WA 98103

Contact person: Kathryn Jans

Title: Executive Director

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Brief description of the nominated program:
The Peaceful Families Project is a program of FaithTrust Institute focusing on addressing and preventing domestic violence in Muslim families. The project provides nationwide training based on an Islamic perspective that promotes peaceful family dynamics and awareness of the nature and impact of conflict and abuse in Muslim families.

Geographical area served: United States

Is organization tax-exempt under IRS 501 (c)(3) guidelines? x yes _____ no

If no, is your organization a public agency/unit of government? _____ yes _____ no

Signature of contact person: [Signature]

Date: September 11, 2006
1. Describe the overall mission of your organization in five sentences or less.

FaithTrust Institute is a multifaith, multicultural organization working to prevent domestic violence. Through training, consultation and educational materials, we provide religious communities and advocates with the tools and knowledge they need to address the faith aspects of domestic violence. The Peaceful Families Project is a program of FaithTrust Institute focusing on addressing and preventing domestic violence in Muslim families.

2. Describe the most innovative aspects of the program you are nominating.

Training on preventing domestic violence in Muslim families was first launched by the late Sharifa Alkhateeb, founder of the North American Council for Muslim Women. In 2000, Sharifa conducted the very first national survey of domestic violence in the U.S. Muslim community, which found that approximately 12% of Muslims live daily with the misery of physical domestic violence. Subsequent surveys by others indicate that if you count all the various forms of violence, the percentage jumps to 47%.

Beginning in 2001, FaithTrust Institute entered a collaborative relationship with Sharifa Alkhateeb to form the Peaceful Families Project. The Peaceful Families Project provides nationwide training based on an Islamic perspective that promotes peaceful family dynamics and awareness of the nature and impact of conflict and abuse in Muslim families.

The outcome of this training has been that local community members have grown in their understanding of family conflict and abuse and their ability to be effectively engaged as Muslim leaders. Communities benefit by the influx of new leaders who are knowledgeable about domestic violence and committed to positive change. Muslim communities gain by their leaders increasing their visibility as proponents of domestic violence awareness and using their new insight to promote change, establish new and helpful civic relationships, and engage the community more fully. The training helps serve as a catalyst for new domestic violence initiatives and programs in each city. New organizations focusing on domestic violence are created in some cities, while in others, direct service groups are formed under the auspices of local mosques.

3.a. Describe the program's implementation.

The Peaceful Families Project provides an overview of the dynamics of domestic violence and how Muslim Families are impacted. Participants learn how to respond effectively to community members impacted by domestic violence. A combination of didactic and experiential approaches are utilized in the training program. The learning objectives are to:
- Raise awareness among the Muslim leadership and activists about domestic violence
- Increase understanding of the Islamic stance on conflict resolution in marriage, divorce, and family relationships
- Begin identifying acceptable and effective interventions
- Build bridges between religious leaders and professionals in the field
- Begin to identify commonalities and conflicts between Islamic and American law
Training is provided for Muslim professionals (lawyers, doctors, social workers, Imams, members of mosques) on ways to address and prevent domestic violence as it pertains to the Muslim culture and Islam. Additionally specific trainings for Imams and other religious leaders on marriage and divorce; and, training on Islamic law for Imams, other religious leaders and Muslim lawyers are provided.

All of these programs are done in collaboration with local Muslim social service agencies, mosques and Islamic educational institutions. They are described in section 3c.

3.b. What barriers did your organization have to overcome?

Muslim families in the United States are struggling to manage between the economic demands of daily life and the preservation of their culture. They are attempting to do this with only the familiar cultural background from which they came as immigrants or the cultural background they had before converting to Islam. The inability of families to cope with life as it is in the United States results in much confusion, stress, and alienation. Women are often the recipients of blame and violence from husbands in a society that believes it is a husband's God-given right to control all aspects of family life. The most effective way of changing such attitudes is through culturally specific exposure to concepts that argue for greater moral, physical and psychological independence of women and girls.

Many immigrant Muslims have come from war-torn countries and have experienced trauma either from witnessing events related to war or in the process of fleeing the country. Underlying trauma can affect both the victim and perpetrator and should be identified and treated because it can exacerbate violence in the home, as well as compound the trauma of domestic violence.

In regards to domestic violence shelter and program services, the religion of Islam and the culture of the Middle East are relatively unfamiliar to most workers in this country. Dealing with the Muslim population is often challenging and confusing.

3.c. How did you marshal the necessary resources for implementation?

The primary funding for this program has been twofold. Through a grant from the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, FaithTrust Institute is a technical assistance provider on the religious resources and roadblocks to ending domestic violence. Through this grant FaithTrust Institute funds the Peaceful Families Project. Additionally, through collaboration with Muslim social service agencies, mosques and Islamic educational institutions, fee-based training programs are offered that help cover the cost of training presentations and resources.
4. How do you know your program works?

These examples are results of program participants attending Peaceful Families Project Trainings in their local communities:

- Washington DC area Imams created a proclamation supporting a unified stance against domestic violence, to be hung in the mosque of each participating Imam
- With the support of a local mosque, a family support and resource has been created in Tampa supporting Muslim families
- Legal research on domestic violence, Islamic law and the Muslim community has been initiated by a Judge from the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas
- There was a national consultation on Muslim marriage laws, divorce, and child custody issues held in Washington, D.C.
- An initiative by the Miami co-sponsor, SAHARA, created a pro-bono legal help group of Asian-American lawyers to provide assistance in legal matters relating to domestic violence
- The Islamic Center of Maryland established a shelter for Muslim women called Al-Baitu Nisaa (The House of Women)
- Relationships between Muslim and non-Muslim professionals were initiated for the first time in the Tampa area

After participating in the trainings, many communities created their own peaceful family task forces focused on domestic violence awareness and providing direct services.

5. Who are your key partners? What are their roles?

- Center for Multicultural Human Services, Foundation for Appropriate and Immediate Temporary Help, International Institute of Islamic Thought - collaborated on the compilation for producing the book “What Islam Says about Domestic Violence.” This book is sold by FaithTrust Institute and provided at all training conducted by the Peaceful Families Project.

- Agencies and organizations that collaborated as hosts and sponsors of Peaceful Families Project Trainings:
  - All Dulles Area Muslim Society
  - Arab American Family Services
  - CHAYA
  - Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women’s Network
  - Coordinating Council of Muslim Organizations
  - Council on American-Islamic Relations of Florida
  - George Mason University
  - Islamic Society of North America
6. **Could/should your program be replicated in other areas of the country? How and why?**

Our program is conducted nationwide through the coordinating efforts of Muslim and secular social service agencies, Mosques, Islamic and secular educational agencies sponsoring the trainings offered by Peaceful Families Project.

The training is facilitated by family advocates from various fields of social service expertise, Islamic scholars, local religious leaders, and legal experts. We prefer the majority of our speakers to be representative of the local community. Each workshop is customized to meet the needs of the local Muslim community and encourages a collaborative approach for Imams, Masjid board members, Masjid committee members, Muslim community leaders, attorneys, social service professionals, school teachers, domestic violence advocates, mental health providers, medical professionals, human rights activists, political activists, youth leaders, and community members.

It is our hope that Muslim leaders will develop a deeper understanding of the issues of domestic violence through this training and eventually be prepared to replicate the training in their local communities.
May 2, 2007

Marcia Roth  
Executive Director  
Mary Byron Foundation  
10401 Linn Station Road  
Louisville, Kentucky 40223

Dear Ms. Roth,

Thank you for your recent congratulatory letter regarding FaithTrust Institute’s nomination for the Mary Byron Foundation’s Celebrating Solutions Award. We are very excited to advance to the next judging round.

1. We have included here the three letters of support for the Peaceful Families Project of FaithTrust Institute. These are as follows:
   a) Interfaith Community Against Domestic Violence – Montgomery County, Maryland (partnering or collaborative organization or agency);
   b) Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women’s Network (a victim’s organization); and
   d) Sterling Charitable Gift Fund (a funding source).

2. We have attached our 501 (c) (3) letter.

3. Last year’s budget for the Peaceful Families Project, which includes two trainings in two cities with large Muslim populations and two training resources.
   ➢ Training development and implementation costs include preparation, copying, postage, networking and follow-up: 9 days per month for 12 months ($450 per day x 108 days) $48,600
   ➢ Training travel: Airfare ($600 x 4 trips) $2,400
   ➢ Hotel and Meals ($200/day x 4 trips x 4 days) $3,200
   ➢ 2 print training resources:
       2 resources x $3,400 each $6,800

Total $61,000
4. Below you will find our response to the five questions stated in your letter.

a) What is the approximate number of individuals served annually by the Peaceful Families Project?

Approximately 450 are directly trained with those trainers reaching hundreds more.

b) Are there past awards, accolades, and grants furnished upon the Peaceful Families Project that would further exemplify its success in combating domestic violence?

Past accolades include:
➤ CNN Television, February 5, 2007
➤ Muslims Strike at Spouse Abuse, By Kristin E. Holmes, Philadelphia Inquirer, June 17, 2005.
➤ Voices of Violence, By Jacqueline M. Massey, August 15, 2004, Our Rising Star.

c) If funding was not an issue, what (if any) changes or additions would you make to your program in the future?

If funding was not an issue for the Peaceful Families Project, we would do the following:
➤ Have an office and an administrative staff person to manage the Project so that we could focus on developing more resources and providing more training;
➤ Dedicate more time to establish relationships with individual imams around the country through on-site outreach efforts in order to convince them of the need for education about domestic violence;
➤ Provide additional training to Muslim leaders and service providers that would cover participants’ expenses and include training materials and resources;
➤ Conduct additional research to learn about the prevalence of domestic violence among Muslims, as well as the most effective treatments and prevention strategies; and
➤ Develop more print and media resources for imams, secular advocates, and general Muslim community members.
1. How many agencies and their personnel (including mosques, etc.) have received this training? How long is the typical training?

   Approximately 357 agencies, mosques, and organizations have been served.

   Our trainings average 1.5 days in length.

2. Please provide a brief synopsis on “What Islam Says about Domestic Violence”

   This guide offers information for all types of advocates and social service providers who serve Muslim families. It promotes Islam’s model of healthy relationships, and specific teachings from Islam that clearly prohibit any type of abuse, and correlates those teachings to the types of abuse on the Duluth Power and Control Wheel. It also suggests appropriate and effective interventions when dealing with Muslim families, taking into consideration the diverse nature of the Muslim population.

   We believe that the Peaceful Families Project is providing quality, groundbreaking training and education that are breaking the cycle of violence. Your consideration of our nomination is greatly appreciated.

   Sincerely,

   [Signature]

   Rev. Kathryn Jans
   Executive Director
Interfaith Community Against Domestic Violence
c/o Abused Persons Program, Montgomery County, Maryland
1301 Piccard Drive, Rockville, MD 20850
Telephone: 240.777.4203 Website: www.ifcadv.org

April 26, 2007

Ms. Marcia L. Roth, Executive Director
Mary Byron Foundation
10401 Linn Station Road
Louisville, KY 40223

Dear Ms. Roth:

I recommend the Peaceful Families Project (PFP), a program of FaithTrust Institute, as deserving of the award that honors innovative programs breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

Research indicates that many people dealing with domestic violence reach out to their spiritual leaders for information and counsel. The Peaceful Families Project has been a leader in teaching their own faith members and others how Muslims can respond effectively to domestic violence. Our organization, Interfaith Community Against Domestic Violence, has had a working relationship with Peaceful Families Project since 2002. In addition to making referrals and describing their work in our newsletter which is distributed to almost 1,000 people, this relationship includes:

1. In 2002, the late Sharifa Alkhateeb, their founder, was our conference keynote speaker.
2. Members of our Board have participated in workshops facilitated by PFP.
3. In 2006, PFP staffed an exhibit table and interacted with our 100 conference attendees.
4. Just this week at our 9th annual conference, PFP had an exhibit table and participated in a panel discussion on the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Program Responses to DV.

In addition, Ms. Abugideri will present with me on a panel at the International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference in July 2007. We look forward to the release of their video/dvd so we can promote it and use it in our educational programming.

In our cultural and faith diverse community in a large, metropolitan area, it has been critical to partner with Peaceful Families Project. They are a valuable resource as faith communities work individually and together to break the cycle of domestic violence.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Sharon A. O'Brien, Ph.D.
Convener and Secretary, IFCADV
301.681.7333

cc: Maud Clarke, Founder and President
Rev. Kathryn Jans, Executive Director, FTI
April 27, 2007

Marcia Roth  
Executive Director  
Mary Byron Foundation  
10401 Linn Station Road  
Louisville, KY 40223  

Dear Ms. Roth,

I am delighted to send you a letter in support of the nomination of the Peaceful Families Project of FaithTrust Institute. I have worked closely with the Peaceful Families Project in the past year. They have provided high quality training and consultation for the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women’s Network of which I am the Executive Director.

They have vast knowledge of the issues for Muslim battered women and of how Islam can be a resource for breaking the silence as well as a barrier to addressing and preventing domestic violence. They deliver high quality consultation and training. With their expertise and thoughtful approach they reach Imams, Muslim service providers and domestic violence advocates and give them the knowledge they need to address domestic violence.

This is a pioneering program that in the few years it has been operating has reached Muslim communities that had never before even spoken out about domestic violence. They are truly a model for communities across the country. In some of the cities where they have provided training, leadership is emerging to provide similar training in the local Muslim community. This work is challenging for the Peaceful Families Project because of the resistance in the communities and the lack of knowledge about Muslim women coming to domestic violence programs. They continue to approach the challenge with innovation and determination.

The Peaceful Families Project has made great strides in breaking the cycle of violence. We celebrate their solutions and their courage to start this program and continue moving it forward so that battered women who are Muslim will know that they are not alone.

Sincerely,

Wickii Coffey  
Executive Director
April 27, 2007

Mary Byron Foundation  
10401 Linn Station Road  
Louisville, KY 40223  

Attn: Marcia Roth  
Executive Director

Sterling Charitable Gift Fund, a non-profit Section 501(c)(3) trust organization, a donor and supporter of Faith Trust Institute’s documentary project on Domestic Violence in Muslim Families, highly recommend its “Peaceful Families Project” for a grant from the Mary Byron Foundation as such grant would help the Faith Trust Institute educate about this hidden menace of domestic violence in Muslim families and the society at large.

We know a few members of the Board of Faith Trust Institute who are quite conscientious and honest and can be trusted for charitable contributions to it.

Faith Trust Institute deserves any and all financial help in its pursuit of exposing the domestic violence and helping the victims thereof.

Please feel free to contact me if I could be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

M. Yaqub Mirza, Ph.D.  
President