This past Eid on April 21st, 2023 with over a dozen volunteers we distributed 250+ Eid toys to children! This was made possible through generous donations from community members as well as retail partners such as Amazon, Walmart, and Five Below who allowed us to make Eid very special for our Muslim families!

Many of the families are new to the Cleveland area, arriving less than 6 months ago to the United States from the Refugee Resettlement Program and we are so happy to make their first eid so special!

So far in May to date we have provided 150 bags of food to incoming migrants and existing refugee families that live within Cuyahoga County! As we see an influx of new refugees and migrants coming to Cleveland, some barred from obtaining public benefits, we are ensuring to provide food to support our newcomers.

Team Palestine for PCRF is Back!

Team Palestine for PCRF is participating in the 2023 Cleveland Marathon for a second year! Many staff of Smart Development and other community members will be running through Cleveland May 20th and 21st for the 5K, 10K, half, and full marathon! Want to volunteer for the marathon? Sign up below: https://www.clevelandmarathon.com/volunteers.aspx
May Spotlight!

This month’s feature is Sinam Hawro Yakoob! Learn more about Sinam, her accomplishments, work, and how she continues to strive even through adversity. Features can be sent to: contact@smartdevelopmentinc.org!

Sinam Hawro Yakoob is an accomplished Iraqi–German architect with a diverse range of experience in prominent architecture offices in Germany and New York. In 2022, she joined Bjarke Ingels Group as a designer in New York with a strong dedication to planning and construction.

As the daughter of Iraqi immigrants who found a new home in Germany, Sinam carries within her the passion to uplift and empower underrepresented Middle Eastern women in the world of design. Growing up in immigrant communities in northwestern Germany and learning at a young age the need for spaces that aid personal growth, Sinam felt strongly attached to the architectural environment her parents grew up in in Erbil, Iraq, juxtaposing her upbringing in Germany. Her journey is not merely about personal success; it is about bridging her Eastern roots and Western influences. Sinam yearns to seamlessly blend her knowledge and heritage from both worlds, infusing her work with a distinct sense of cultural synthesis and harmonious design.

Furthermore, Sinam’s Middle Eastern heritage has imbued her with a profound sense of social responsibility which informs her work within architecture. Sinam is an advocate for the power of public spaces in humanitarian contexts. Through collaborations with governmental organizations and NGOs, she has utilized her architectural expertise to envision and create vital facilities in refugee camps internationally. This has been reflected in her implementation of women-friendly sanitation units within Syrian refugee camps post-war, and her implementation of a playground in a refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. Her work is a testament to the belief that even amidst the most challenging circumstances, environments that inspire and uplift are a nonnegotiable requirement.

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