

HIJRAH HOUSE

(Transitional Living in an Islamic Environment)

P. O. Box 24241, 1701 Everett Street, Richmond, VA 23224-0241

Q: What is the Hijrah House?

A: The Hijrah house project was started in July 2003 by Muslim volunteers living in Central Virginia. It is a halfway house located in Richmond, Virginia where recently released inmates, who have no family or financial means, can have an interim stay during their transition back into society's mainstream. The Hijrah House provides room & board to inmates just released from prison. It helps them learn basic skills such as responsibility, discipline, sharing, home budgeting, and activities of daily living. It provides an atmosphere where residents can practice their faith as well as learn appropriate life-coping skills. It links the ex-offenders with resources for job training and resume-service. At present we have only one house for male ex-offenders. Our next project is to have a house for female ex-offenders.

Q: How many ex-offenders can stay at Hijrah House at one time?

A: According to the City of Richmond zoning laws, only 5 residents can stay at the Hijrah House at one time. Typically a resident should be able to acclimate to the outside world and get a job within two months. If this holds true, the Hijrah House should be able to help 30 ex-offenders per year. At present, the Hijrah House Program is equipped and designed to assist only male offenders who have committed non-violent, non-sexual crimes, who are able to maintain full time employment, and whose institutional record and overall attitude show a strong desire to make positive lifestyle changes.

Q: Who pays all the expenses to run the Hijrah House?

A: The Hijrah House is run 100% from donations. Bulk of our money comes from individuals like you. We also get contributions and grants from charities and corporations. There is a great need for more houses. However, funding is the problem. Our next project is to have a house for female ex-offenders. We will be opening more houses as the funds become available.

Q: Who manages and runs this place?

A: The Hijrah House is managed by Muslim Chaplain Services of Virginia (MCSVA). MCSVA is a faith-based 501 (C) 3 charity organization comprised of Muslim volunteers. Besides managing the Hijrah House, MCSVA volunteers also manage the "Prison Outreach Program", which includes prison visits, distribution of Islamic literature to Muslim inmates, and working with Department of Corrections to resolve issues facing the incarcerated Muslims in Virginia prisons and jails.

Q. What other Muslims can do to help this cause?

A: We need volunteers to visit prisons, help write a newsletter and answer inmate letters. You can also donate your time or money. Please make the check payable to Muslim Chaplain Services of Virginia and mail it to: MCSVA, P. O. Box 24241, Richmond, VA 23224-0241.

A HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR EX-OFFENDERS' RE-ENTRY TO SOCIETY

HIJRAH HOUSE

(Transitional Living in an Islamic Environment)

Managed by Muslim Chaplain Services of Virginia



Muslims Helping Humanity

Send your donations to:

HIJRAH HOUSE, INC.

PO Box 24241, 1701 Everett St, Richmond, VA 23224-0241

[MCSVA is a 501 (C) (3) charity]

BREAK THE CYCLE



The individual commits a crime & goes back to prison

HOPELESSNESS & DESPIRATION

FREEDOM

Situation at Release Time

- Ex-offender has less than \$30 in the pocket.
- In most cases he/she has limited job skills.
- In many cases the ex-offender has no place to stay.
- Homeless shelters take them in for a day or two.
- They are forced to transfer from shelter to shelter

STRUGGLE

- After a period of hopelessness, frustration, and despair, the ex-offender starts to feel that he/she is not welcomed in the free society.
- With no social life and no place to turn to, the individual is faced with a difficult choice; keep on struggling or go back to prison, where at least food & shelter is guaranteed.

<p>HIJRAH HOUSE PROGRAM</p>	<p>The Hijrah House (a halfway house) is a place where recently released inmates, who have no financial means, can have an interim stay during their transition back into society's mainstream. The purpose of a halfway house is to help transform these individuals into useful and contributing members of society so that they do not end up back in jail.</p>			
<p><u>Step-1:</u> The inmate is pre-qualified and, upon his/her release from prison, is accepted as a resident of Hijrah House.</p>	<p><u>Step-2:</u> The resident is provided with free accommodation and support. He/she is prepared for gainful employment.</p>	<p><u>Step-3:</u> The resident learns basic skills such as sharing, responsibility, discipline, home budgeting, and activities of daily living.</p>	<p><u>Step-4:</u> The resident works with a mentor. He/she learns life-coping skills and is linked with appropriate outside resources for job training, resume service and job hunting.</p>	<p><u>Step-5:</u> After learning the basic skills & having a job the inmate rents his/her own place and slowly makes a transition into the society's mainstream.</p>