



March 15, 2019

Re: Mercy Foundation Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Imam Patel and the Mercy Foundation, Inc. for the outstanding work they do to foster tolerance, social wellness and civic betterment of the Central Florida Community.

Approximately four years ago I was introduced to Mercy Foundation President, Imam Abdul Patel by Osceola County Commissioner Cheryl Grieb. At that time I was looking to build community partnerships and support for our organization which provides free and confidential services to victims of violent crime, sexual assault and other traumatic events. Immediately upon meeting Imam Patel and sharing information about the needs of our organization, he pledged his support and began working to address our needs. Specifically, we needed the voluntary assistance of a medical doctor to oversee our nursing contractors, as well as, a free reliable supply of medications to provide to our clients. Within months, Imam Patel and the Mercy Foundation had secured the necessary voluntary medical oversight through Dr. Maqsd Ahmed and arranged for the necessary medications through the Zahid Pharmacy.

Since that time I have observed the Mercy Foundation expand their reach and embark on several other collaborative initiatives to help the community including:

Community Education - In partnership with the Osceola Board of County Commissioners, The Mercy Foundation provides health care education and immigration seminars, tax clinics with free preparation assistance and other programs at the Marydia Community Center.

WELD Program - Volunteers trained by the local domestic violence shelter (i.e. Harbor House) provide support and assistance to help empower women (Contacts: Seemi Nawaz, Founder & Asma Patel)

STEM Education- In partnership with Osceola County Schools, the Mercy Foundation supports an education fair intended to inspire first generation college/university attendees.

Free Health Clinics- Through community collaboration and partnerships the Mercy Foundation has established 3 health clinics (Osceola, Orange and Polk Counties) to help meet the needs of the uninsured and underinsured (Contacts: Dr. Wael and Ubi Patel)

Homeless Support- Working in collaboration with the Kissimmee Police Department, the Mercy Foundation has helped with a clothing drive during the winter months.



**VICTIM SERVICE CENTER
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**

Mission: To provide individualized services and resources to victims of sexual assault, violent crime and traumatic circumstances, through crisis response, advocacy, therapy and community awareness.

Town Hall Meetings & Seminars- Throughout the year the Mercy Foundation sponsors various community meetings and invites government representatives, law enforcement, nonprofit agencies and legal experts in an effort to provide a forum for information sharing and to provide a forum for current issues impacting our community.

Imam Patel and the Mercy Foundation are visionaries who continually strive to improve our community through collaborative partnerships, donations of in-kind services and direct financial contributions when needed. It is for these reasons that I am honored to provide this letter of support for Imam Patel and the Mercy Foundation, Inc.

Sincerely,

Luigi G. Damiani Jr.

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Executive Director