

## Debrief of South East Houston – Town Hall Meeting held on July 10, 2011

Dear Members:

Thanks to everyone who took time off their busy weekend to attend the Town Hall Meeting in SE Houston, this past Sunday, July 10, 2011. Below is a summary of the valuable feedback received during this past Town Hall.

Participation is the key to any healthy community. We are always eager to hear from you. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and taken seriously by the democratically elected custodians committed to representing your best interests.

Warm Regards,

Bangladesh Association, Houston

=====

- Set aside ad budget for national level BAC promotion and fundraising campaigns
- Host Thanksgiving program at the city level so that Bangladeshi community becomes visible in the mainstream
- Approach Private foundations (e.g United way, etc.) for long-term fundraising projects
- Look into other fund raising avenue (e.g corporate fund via professional help)
- Put in place a check-n-balance mechanism, e.g. an oversight committee, for BAC Construction fund
- Explore other cultural and non-profit organizations to help raise fund for BAC
- FOBAC – activate in the community by contact and reach out to the general population
- Look into City, State, and Fed help in raising matching fund
- Ensure that BAC core values won't be compromised by accepting donation from controversial organizations like MUNA, which pledged \$5000 as part of their social service effort to help Bangladeshis as the only Muslim organization. Currently they help 30-50 families, educate people interested in learning Islamic values, and host Halaka every month.
- Pledges – follow up methodically. Utilize Thank You letters and phone calls.
- Open a medical clinic that'll lay the foundation for a charitable infrastructure

- To serve the destitute and poor in the broader the community.
- Under the guidance of Dr. Nizam Meah. Dr. Aminul Islam and Mahzaharul Haq will also help.
- Will foster a volunteer pool for our children interested in medical field.
- Send a Call to Action in the community about the clinic and other services, e.g. Entrepreneurial Education, to help open a small business, etc.
- Operational process change – utilize a loose collection of people who are willing to help in some way without the commitment of becoming members of certain committees.
- Ladies' participation – BAC can facilitate a monthly gathering of women to brainstorm their issues/concerns and assess any special needs.
- How BAH can provide programs for the BD women? A chance for the women to join in community and charitable type work.
- We need to bring more fun in fundraising!!! Let's work together – let's do it together.
- Define how-to guidelines for BAC fund-raising, so more people can be leveraged in the effort.

**See photos taken at the meeting:**

[http://www.bahouston.com/index.php?option=com\\_phocagallery&view=category&id=94:bac-townhall-mtg-071011&Itemid=54](http://www.bahouston.com/index.php?option=com_phocagallery&view=category&id=94:bac-townhall-mtg-071011&Itemid=54)

**Bangladesh Association, Houston**

A Nonprofit Organization, *Established in 1978*, Charter #3-00084-4754-9  
 13415 Renn Road, Houston, TX 77083  
[www.Bangladesh-Association.com](http://www.Bangladesh-Association.com)