

January 2018

ARISE & REJOICE

Positive Stories About Positive People

MAGAZINE®

**She went from
picking cotton to
the Supreme Court** pg. 8



Angel In A Storm

Three years ago Leslie Makhani encountered a 34-year old man who was dying. She felt compelled to help him, and his elderly mother.

He was bed-ridden and did not have the energy or knowledge to access state and federal benefit programs that would assist him.

Makhani, a licensed insurance agent, spent countless hours assisting the man and his mother. She became their angel in the midst of a storm, helping them with no thought of financial gain.

"One of my great passions is to assist others," said Makhani, the mother of three children, whose husband, Amir, is a business owner and president of the Muslim Democratic Caucus in North Texas.

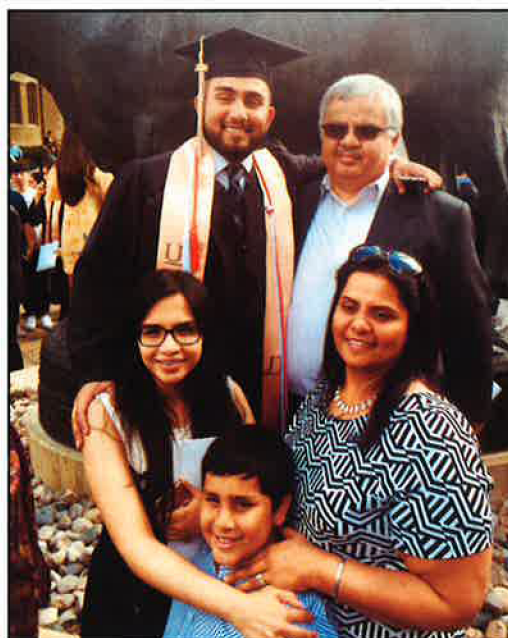
"I have so much to be thankful

"Assisting those who need help is my passion. I am happy and blessed to be of service ... "

for," said Makhani. "I am obligated to reach out to others because I have been blessed with a wonderful family, and a wonderful life."

The youngest of seven children, Makhani immigrated to the United States with her parents in 1987. They first lived in Chicago. She relocated to Texas in 1993.

"There are times when I am up until two or three in the morning working on issues that people cannot resolve for themselves."



Leslie Makhani, right, and her husband, Amir, assist others in the North Texas community. Their three children are inspired by their parent's example.

she said.

A member of the Ismaili Community Church, Makhani also works with a team of people in the church who perform social outreach.

"Assisting those who need help is my passion," she said. "I am happy and I am blessed to be of service to others. I believe that giving is important in the world we live in." | **AR**

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Political advertisement paid for by Sandre Moncriffe campaign,
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A portrait of Sandre Moncriffe, a Black woman with short, dark, curly hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blazer over a blue top and a silver necklace. The background is white.

BYHALIA

THE OMAR CREDON STORY

**BYHALIA/THE OMAR
CREDON STORY**

Omar was a brilliant entomologist who discovered a covert change in the natural course of the world of insects. His discovery revealed that the second coming of the end of mankind would not happen by fire, as predicted in the Bible. No one accepted his profound findings, and they thought he had gone mad!

The world would come to understand that nuclear warfare is not the fear of fears for the final destruction of the world. It will be man's loss of dominion to rule as God had ordained.

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A Life Renewed

When Billy Mullens was a small boy growing up in public housing in Grand Prairie with his mother and two sisters his view of the world was shaped by brutal violence.

"There were gangs all around me," said Mullens. "I joined one in order to survive. I started my drug use in elementary school and I quit school in the 9th grade."

Before he reached his 21st birthday he found himself facing life in prison on assault, weapons possession and counterfeiting charges, he said.

"Fortunately the jury was not able to reach a unanimous verdict and I received a suspended sentence," said Mullens, an ordained minister, who now heads an international children's charity named

"As a charity we have impacted the lives of more more than six million children ..."

Manna Relief Ministries.

"The root of my transformation was prayer," said Mullens who lives in Grand Prairie with his wife, Vicki, and their two sons, Samuel and Nicholas.

In 2007, Mullens became the executive director of Manna Relief which was founded in 1999 by two of his sisters, Linda and Lydia and their husbands, Sam and Don.

"I have been blessed to travel throughout the world bringing whole food nutrition to children



Billy, his wife, Vicki and their two sons, Samuel and Nicolas.

who were in desperate need," Mullens said. "As a charity we have impacted the lives of more than six million children in this country and abroad."

Mullens said that the prayers of

his family members were crucial to renewal in his life. "I could not have gone from the valley of despair to where I am today without my family, and without my God," he said. | **AR**

Muslim Community Center for Human Services

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Once She Picked Cotton!

Growing up in rural Louisiana Bobbie Edmonds picked cotton with her mother in hot and dusty fields. It was not the life that she wanted, even at the age of nine.

"When my mother was not in the fields she was a domestic worker," said Edmonds, one of the leading lawyers and philanthropists in North Texas.

"We did not have much while growing up," said Edmonds who for the past 25 years has enriched the lives of children by proving them with school supplies, clothing, scholarships and encouragement.

"I have always felt a responsibility to help others," said Edmonds, the oldest of six children. "I was raised by parents and oth-

ers in our small impoverished community who insisted that I do that."

After graduating from law school at Southern University, she relocated to Dallas where she began to excel as an attorney.

Twenty-five years ago she began to invest in the lives of school children in Fort Worth. Each December she hosts an "education rally" held in a Fort Worth courtroom where middle school students learn about the law.

They also meet successful

members of the community and are showered with presents, including books, bikes and clothing. "My personal philosophy

"I have always felt a responsibility to help others ... My personal philosophy has always been to reach back, uplift and motivate."

has always been to reach back, uplift and motivate," said Edmonds. "I have been blessed to make a difference in the lives of more than 20,000 children."

During the course of the school year Edmonds participates in as many career day activities as possible.

"I think it is very important that children who come from impoverished backgrounds witness successful people," she said.

"We must encourage them to pursue excellence."

Among the many success stories that Edmonds points to is a young man who is now working as an aide in the U.S Congress and a young woman who now works in television.

"Our children are precious," she said. "They are our future and we must do all that we can to ensure that they have a chance in life," said Edmonds who was admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court, and who has represented entertainers such as game show host Steve Harvey.

"I am very grateful for everything that I have been able to do," she said. It is a long way from the cotton field to where I am today." | **AR**



Each holiday season Bobbie Edmonds works with judges and deputy sheriffs to bring joy to young students.