



MUSLIM WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

EMPOWERING WOMEN • DEVELOPING SISTERHOOD • IMPROVING LIVES
www.mwo-orlando.org

Impact Report: We Win As One

1 – Project Summary

Project title:	Boss Women Entrepreneurship Program Violence Against Women Task Force's Legal Support for Survivors
Project duration:	January 2022 through May 2023
We Win As One Foundation Grant Amount	\$20,000
Date of report:	12/22/2025
Total number of beneficiaries (direct and Indirect):	<p>Boss Women: 29 Women trained 4 Small business grants provided 11 Small businesses launched</p> <p>Violence Against Women Task Force: 72 Women received emotional support and referrals to local resources Legal Aid and Referral Network for Muslim women formed 2 Women received legal financial aid</p>

2 – Project Activities and Achievements

Boss Women Entrepreneurship Program

We Win As One Foundation's support helped create and launch the Boss Women Entrepreneurship Program for women. The women participated in the following activities:

- Entrepreneurship Training: Biweekly skill-building and technical training sessions for muslim women entrepreneurs and business owners for small and/or home-based businesses
- Mentorship: Connecting new entrepreneurs with successful local women small business owners in similar fields
- Networking: Opportunities to gain strength through a social support network of women entrepreneurs offering advice, sisterhood, and marketing opportunities
- Seed Funding Grants: Participants who meet the conditions above and excel in the program were selected to receive a financial grant to assist with launching their own businesses. Grants ranged from \$1000 to \$3000 with a total of \$10,280 being granted.

While 29 women participated in the program, some were gaining skills for their existing business, or for future projects. Over two cohorts, there were 11 new businesses launched. Additionally, four Boss Women received start-up grants for their businesses based upon their project submissions.

Violence Against Women Task Force's Legal Fund

We Win As One Foundation also provided vital legal support to Muslim women survivors of violence in Central Florida. Because of this support, MWO launched the Legal Fund of the Violence Against Women Task Force. Survivors of violence connect to the organization through MWO's innovative Hakima "Wise Woman" Program, which provides women with free and confidential emotional support and referrals to local professionals. This included referrals to MWO's partner network of lawyers, mental health counselors, and social service providers. Partner attorneys include Mubarak Law and Arwani Law. MWO was able to use granted funds to pay for the legal fees of 2 women enabling them to leave their abusive relationships.

Additionally, our Hakima "Wise Woman" and chaplain, Amany Shalaby, provided free and confidential emotional and spiritual support online and in person to over 72 women who turned to her in their times of crisis. Simultaneously, our Gender Equity Coordinator, Michelle Bousba, developed a Resource Library which Amany used to refer women and share resources with organizations who want sample policies so that their spaces are safer for women. Some of the policies developed through the support of We Win As One Foundation included a Code of Ethics, a Misconduct Reporting Procedure, a Youth Protection Policy, and more. These policies were meant to help prevent violence and address the root causes of violence in institutional spaces.

9 – Pictures, Stories, and Testimonials

Pictures from our Boss Women Entrepreneurship Program (2022-2023 cohorts) can be found [HERE](#).

A Message from MWO Executive Director, Fatima Sadaf Saied can be found [HERE](#).

What Participants had to say about the program:

"What I loved about the program was exploring the personal aspects of entrepreneurship. The person that is building the business has to be whole. It's important to know strengths and weaknesses, motivators and depressants, to establish goals and to devise plans to circumvent those obstacles. I realized I'm able and capable of doing new things to completion and fruition. Women can be supportive and loving through pure intentions. I'm appreciative of the experience to learn to trust again." - Adrienne Ried, Boss Women Graduate

"I enjoyed the course content and the sisterhood that was built. I also enjoy the help we got in making sure we are holding ourselves accountable and the mentorship. My biggest takeaway was how personal development and mindset can help us on this journey. For example, focusing on what we have instead of what we don't. Also making sure to plan ahead, document what works and what doesn't. These are things I have begun to do." - DiMarie Garcia, Boss Women Graduate

The Story of Nawal: Nawal is a single mom and domestic violence survivor living in Orlando with her three small children. She was coming to the Muslim Women's Organization for aid throughout the past 4 years. One day, when she was picking up a gift for her family, she brought along a box of delicious Moroccan cookies and croissants for our volunteers to thank everyone for the support she had received. The MWO team asked if was selling those to the community so we could order some for an event. She mentioned that she had been thinking about starting a business from home to help make ends meet, but didn't know how to even begin. We were about to begin the Boss Women session and she decided to join. Through participating in the program, she not only gained confidence to talk and share about her products, but also help in branding, packaging, pricing and marketing from the Boss Women Instructors who had similar businesses. She now caters for local events and has a steady income stream to support her family.