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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"Understanding Your Muslim Neighbor" Open House at the Library

(PANAMA CITY, FL) – The Bay County Public Library will join members of the Bay County Islamic Society in hosting an open house for "Understanding Your Muslim Neighbor." The community is invited to meet some of the 150 Muslim families who reside in Bay County, learn about Islamic culture, and sample ethnic food.

The event will be held at the library on May 3rd from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The open house will include a multicultural and Islamic art display; an ethnic clothing display; a henna booth; a "try on a hijab" station; a place where you can have your name written in Arabic; an ethnic appetizers and dessert station with tea and coffee; and a poster display with brochures. Anyone under 18 must have a parent present in order to get a henna tattoo.

"We want to work with the Muslim community to bridge gaps, clarify misunderstandings, and observe the commonalities between our cultures," said Regina Burgess, Community Relations and Marketing Coordinator for the library. "The national news shows the horrific actions of terrorists groups, but the majority of Muslims share our values, and those who reside in our area are an integral part of our community."

"Our aim is to encourage dialogue and understanding," said Hiba Rahim, Outreach Coordinator for the Bay County Islamic Society. "We know that many people have questions about our faith, and this event will provide a comfortable setting for people to ask, talk, and build positive relationships."

The event is free and open to the public. The Bay County Public Library is located at 898 West 11th Street in Panama City. For more information, please call the library at 522-2100 or visit www.nwrls.com.

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Contact:
Regina Burgess, MLS
Community Relations & Marketing Coordinator
Northwest Regional Library System
Bay County Public Library • 898 W 11th St • Panama City, FL 32401
(850) 522-2120 Office • (850) 522-2138 Fax
Email: rburgess@nwrls.com • Website: www.nwrls.com