



**SHIFA Shifa Clinic** • 10415 Synott Road, Sugar Land, Texas 77478

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Houston Shifa Services Foundation ([www.HSSF.org](http://www.HSSF.org)) and its healthcare facility, Shifa Clinic, are a non-profit organization founded by local physicians whose mission is to provide a community oriented alternative for people who cannot afford medical treatment. HSSF operates a total of 4 community clinics in the Houston Metro Area.

Our clinic's mission statement is: **Healing the Community one person at a time®**

Our clinic serves people of any race, religion or national background.

Shifa focuses on preventive, as well as family, general and pediatric care.

Breast Cancer and eye screenings are also offered, along with educational and social services.

[Shifa Clinic](#) is operated by a volunteer team of physicians, nurses and administrative staff.

Our operating funds are provided by generous donations from the community and a non-mandatory clinic administrative fee of \$ 20.00.

About 40% of our patients do not pay any fee.

No one is refused services because of non payment. We also offer funds to some of our patients for their prescription medicines and lab tests.

**Our Story of Service** involves a recent immigrant, 25 years old and the mother of two young children.

She enrolled for an Eye Screening event that was organized at Shifa Clinic with our Partners in Healthcare, the College of Optometry at University of Houston. The university uses a Mobile Unit which is equipped with the latest in ophthalmic technology and brings comprehensive, on-site vision services to patients.



Mobile Eye Unit outside Shifa Clinic



Shifa Clinic and Community Center

Mrs. SM, our patient, needed immediate eye care and her family took advantage of the low cost screening offered by University of Houston's mobile unit.

Dr. Gavin Gerondale and his team of interns did an extensive eye examination. Mrs. SM was found to have an extreme type of cataract, which doctors felt, could be corrected by a simple surgery.

Mrs. SM and her family, especially her 2 children, were relieved. The eye doctors in Mrs. SM's country of birth had told her that her eye condition was beyond repair and that she should expect to lose complete use of one of her eyes, or possibly go blind.

But “simple surgery” would cost many thousands of dollars, money Mrs. SM and her family did not have because her husband was still looking for employment and the family was staying with relatives.

The staff at Shifa Clinic comforted her and her family and offered to utilize its network of Partner in Healthcare to find free or low cost assistance for Mrs. SM.

One such partner is Gateway to Care ([www.Gatewaytocare.org](http://www.Gatewaytocare.org))

**Gateway to Care** is a collaborative of more than 165 public and private health systems, working to provide medical care for approximately 2.2 million needy residents in the Greater Houston Area.

Mrs. SM's case was referred to “Gateway to Care” where the staff worked diligently to find an eye care specialist and surgeon within its Network of Physicians and Providers to give free or low cost services to Mrs. SM.

This story has a happy ending. A young mother of two will keep her sight and clearly see the bright future in her new country.