



Recently named as the Executive Director of The Shalom Project, an interfaith, human services organization, Kismet Loftin-Bell gets to work towards her personal mission of creating holistically healthy individuals and communities. Incorporated in 2006, The Shalom Project's mission is to build a strong and healthy community by meeting the needs of people with compassion, celebrating diversity, and working for justice. The Shalom Project does this through eight service programs, including serving upwards of 100 households weekly through the food pantry and clothes closet; providing free medical care and prescriptions to approximately 60 patients per week through the Green Street Medical Clinic; and providing afterschool care, enrichment and dinner to 35 students daily through the Kids Café, a program of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina. Moreover, through its Peters Creek Community Initiative, The Shalom Project received funding from the City of Winston-Salem through the Revitalizing Urban Commercial Areas (RUCA) program to assist businesses, within the Peters Creek corridor between First Street and Link Road, in renovating and up fitting their buildings. Furthermore, the impact and legacy of the programs at The Shalom Project continue to garner support from the faith community, local community organizations, businesses and individuals who find relevance in the work that the organization does on a daily basis.

Through her leadership, Kismet seeks to continue to foster the positive relationships the organization has with their constituents, local faith communities, businesses, volunteers and funders. Kismet has stated that her goal for the organization is "to take it from crisis to sustainability both organizationally and in its programs and services." And with only two full-time staff, Kismet recognizes the need for continued support from the organization's champions among others in order to accomplish this goal.

In addition to serving as the Executive Director of The Shalom Project, Kismet is also a Political Science professor at Forsyth Technical Community College and a consultant. Her education includes a Bachelors Degree in Political Science (2003) and a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Political Science (2004), both from Hollins University in Roanoke, VA. Additionally, Kismet went on to obtain a Master of Studies in Law with a concentration in civil rights/social justice from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Law in 2005.

Her career in social justice began while attending law school and working for the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Minority Health (CMH). There she worked towards health equity. Upon her return to North Carolina to care for her son, Kenan, she continued her career in health equity, community engagement, and program management. She has worked with leaders from over 200 local community agencies ranging from government agencies, local foundations, school systems, healthcare systems, and several other sectors to develop collaborative strategies to address community issues.

Furthermore, as the President of the Winston-Salem Urban League Young Professionals, Kismet continues to lead efforts to actively engage young professionals in community service and professional development, while supporting the Winston-Salem Urban League and the National Urban League.