

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

MCSSD Quarterly

October 2008 - December 2008
Volume 1, Issue 1

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MCSSD
4203 Genesee Ave, #174
San Diego, CA 92117
USA

Here is our first issue!

Musaddique Thange, Board Member

Assalamu alaykum!

You are reading the first issue of the MCSSD Quarterly. We have committed to publishing a quarterly newsletter to keep the community informed about what MCSSD is doing:

*Learn about how your donations are benefiting the local community

*Learn more about the needs of the community and how you can get involved to help

Insha'Allah, each issue will include information about clients served, donations received, special events and projects, and upcoming events. In addition, there will be room for community awareness updates about relevant special topics and issues.

We know that your time is precious and limited, so this newsletter is a brief summary. If you have questions or would like more information, you are always welcome to contact us (See contact information listed on the back).

And as always, we are open to your suggestions and comments.

Services Rendered This Quarter

Amelia Horton, Director

We haven't quite reached the end of December yet, but so far MCSSD has

provided aid to over 24 families since the beginning of October.

Need-based Loans

MCSSD gave out three loans in the past three months. Two loans were

for assistance paying security deposits, and one loan helped a brother obtain his guard card to work as a security guard. *(cont'd on page 2)*

Donations Received

Iman Johnson, MCSSD Intern

For those of you who may not know already, my name is Iman Johnson and I was hired to work for MCSSD in June of this year. In the past several months, I have been working at the MCSSD office and I have gradually taken up most of MCSSD's administrative work.

So if you happen to call down to our office, I will probably be your contact person. One of my jobs in the office is to coordinate our donations and furniture deliveries. Many of our clients, particularly new refugees but also families that were once homeless, need help to furnish their new homes.



Indigent Burial Fund

MCSSD contributed \$500 from our Indigent Burial Fund to help a family afford to give a proper Islamic burial to their father.

Refugee Support

MCSSD provided financial aid to eight refugee families. The aid helped families make rent payment, paid energy and telephone bills, and purchase other necessities like food, medicine and bus passes. In addition, MCSSD provided furniture, including beds, sofas, and tables to several families.

Of refugee arrivals in the past few months, some of the most pressing cases include a widow with two children who will need on going support to afford her bills, and a brother who survived severe torture and requires substantial medical treatment.

Other Financial Aid In addition, MCSSD provided financial aid to:

- three needy families who needed to repay debts
- one needy family whose father was laid off and was in between jobs
- a new Muslim, who had been asked to leave her family's home and needed to move into a new apartment
- two families who couldn't afford fees to obtain work permits
- other families who needed assistance with bills and food

Donations *(Continued from page 1)*

We accepted a number of furniture items this month. In one case, a brother who was moving gave almost all of his belongings. This donation came at the right time *Masha Allah* because there was a family who had just arrived and

they had nothing. We were also able to help one needy family with newborn twins. The community provided this family with baby clothes, diapers, wipes, a microwave, dishes, pots and pans, sofa and loveseat, and toys. The prompt reply from the community was really exciting to see.

For Ramadan we delivered 15 Qur'ans to the local jail Downtown. Father Gutierrez also requested dates for the Muslim inmates to break their fast with during Ramadan. The inmates were excited to receive dates that were donated by a generous sister in San Diego.

The MAS Girls Youth group made wonderful Eid gift bags again this year for many of the needy children that MCSSD works with - labeled for the appropriate gender. This really made it easy for delivering. We delivered toys to about 85 Muslim children.

Second Annual Volunteer Orientation

Ramzey Abujarour, Board Member

Alhamdo Lillah, we held a successful recruitment and orientation event on the 29th of November at ICSD (Masjid Abu Baker). Eight new volunteers have joined our team and committed to help in our various activities. Participants had the chance to meet our team, and after a short presentation by the MCSSD's director engaged in Q&A session. A representative from Survivors of Torture, International, brother Ramsey Salim, was among the participants. The orientation is part of our continuous efforts to engage our Muslim brothers and sisters for the good of the Muslim community of greater San Diego. Our next orientation will be held in Masjid Alribat on a date that will be announced later *insha Allah*. Please stay tuned and spread the word!!

Get Involved This month:

12/24/08
6pm, ICSD Multipurpose Room
Fundraising Committee

Join the newly established MCSSD Fundraising Committee to help come up with creative ways to fund MCSSD's programs and services.

TBA
Volunteer Orientation

If you are interested in becoming an ongoing volunteer with MCSSD, please let us know and we will make sure to send you more information once the date, time and location of the next orientation is confirmed, *insha'Allah*

1/4/08
6pm, MCSSD Office
Monthly Board Meeting

On-going ways to help:

Furniture Donation

MCSSD helps refugees, as well as other needy families, by collecting and delivering furniture and household items. We accept clean, used furniture in good condition. We are able to pick up large items. If you are able to donate, please call 619 696 9267. *Plan ahead! We need advanced notice to arrange pick ups.

Financial Contribution

(see back page)

MCSSD
CONTACT INFO

OFFICE PHONE: 619 696 9267

EMAIL: Info@mcssd.org

WEBSITE: www.mcssd.org

MAILING ADDRESS:
4203 Genesee Ave, #174
San Diego, CA 92117

MCSSD's office is located in Logan Heights. All office visits are by appointment only. To make an appointment, please contact our office.

MCSSD's storage is located in Clairemont nearby the 805 freeway. If you are interested in donating items to MCSSD, please contact our office. We can arrange to pick up large items insha'Allah.

Tax-Exemption?

Mussadique Thange, Board Member

MCSSD is a community organization, serving the poor and needy of San Diego County as well as providing a variety of services to the Muslim Community at large.

Allah (swt) says in the Glorious Qur'an: *"For those who give in Charity, men and women, and loan to Allah a Beautiful Loan, it shall be increased manifold (to their credit), and they shall have (besides) a liberal reward."* [Translation of Surah Al-Hadid, Verse 18]

It is that time of year when many of us are starting to plan our tax returns. Here is a wonderful opportunity to earn reward in the *akhirah* while earning a tax-exemption in this world at the same time! Donations to MCSSD are exempt since MCSSD is a 501 c 3 non-profit organization.

You can donate either money or

furniture, and MCSSD will be happy to send you a receipt that can be used to claim tax-exemption.

The families and individuals we assist are struggling to make ends meet. Many of them are refugees from war-torn countries or areas struck by natural disasters. Helping them is a collective obligation on our community.

In the past year, MCSSD utilized its modest means to expand its activities and services. However, the magnitude of work that remains to be done is enormous. MCSSD needs funds for: Emergency financial aid fund, aid to domestic abuse victims, storage area and van expenses, intern salary, and refugee support.

Please see the column to the left for information on how to donate.

May Allah reward you.

General Information about Muslim Community Services of San Diego

In June of 2006, **MCSSD** became a legal non-profit education organization under section 501(C)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Our mission is to strive for the pleasure of God by providing social services to individuals and families in San Diego County, encouraging Muslims to serve their community, and organizing social and education events consistent with the principals of Islam.

Our goal is to fulfill our collective duty as Muslims to directly provide comprehensive social services to our local community.

For a detailed brochure about MCSSD and our programs and services, please visit our website at:

WWW.MCSSD.ORG

