

Muslim Community Services of San Diego 2008 Year End Report

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Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Quick Facts.....	1
Organizational Development.....	2
Fundraising.....	3
Programs and Activities.....	4
Financial Report.....	7
Looking Forward.....	9
Our Needs.....	9

Introduction

This is the second year that MCSSD has written and published a year-end report for the purpose of providing information and details to community about MCSSD’s activities and expenditures over the course of the year.

MCSSD is a faith-based nonprofit social service organization. MCSSD was founded in 2005 and became a legal non-profit in March of 2006. The mission of MCSSD is to strive for the pleasure of God by providing social services to families and individuals in San Diego County, encouraging Muslims to serve their community, and organizing social and educational events consistent with the principles of Islam. MCSSD offers a number of programs and services. For more information about MCSSD, please visit the MCSSD website at www.mcssd.org, or request an informational pamphlet by calling our office at 619 696 9267.

Quick Facts for 2007

Clients Served

Families: #69
Individuals (total people in all families, including children): #263

Donations

Total Financial Contributions: \$71,714.90

Individuals, families and businesses: \$71,714.90

Islamic Organizations: \$0.00

Non-Financial Contributions:

Muslim Community Services has served as a bridge for the San Diego Muslim community and newly arrived refugees. The community understands the overwhelming transition that refugees face and has offered their support by donating furniture for refugee families. In addition, MCSSD helped several non-refugee families who were transitioning into new homes after being homeless or needing to move.

This year MCSSD purchased a van in order to facilitate pick up and delivery of donations. We were unable to retrieve the donation logs for the first half of 2008, but these are the following donations for the second half of 2008: 10 couches, 5 loveseats/futons, 6 living room tables, 7 beds, 6 inflatable beds for emergencies, 4 lamps, 4 living room chairs, 3 televisions, 2 microwaves, 2 playpens and a large number of misc. baby items, 3 DVD players, 1 entertainment center, 3 sets of kitchenware, 3 dressers, 2 bookcases, 2 computer desks, 2 bicycles, and 90 sets of shampoo/conditioners, 144 hairbrushes and a number of other miscellaneous house items.

Volunteer Hours:

MCSSD has only one paid staff member who was hired in June of 2008. She is responsible for office administrative work (more information below). All other MCSSD programs and activities are run entirely run by volunteers. Unfortunately, we are unable to estimate volunteers hours accurately for this year. Dozens of volunteers gave their time, some for just a few hours and other for hundreds of hours over the course of the year.

Expenditures

Total: \$82,223.36

Directly to clients: \$61,606.24

Organizational Development

1. **Board Elections.** MCSSD held board elections according to the MCSSD bylaws in July. Amelia Horton, Bilal Edward Rivers, Julia Roach all completed their first two year term and were re-elected for a second two year term. Amelia Horton was re-elected as Director. Julia Roach, who was previously the Secretary was elected

as Treasurer. Bilal Edwards remained an at-large board member. Nancy O'barr, who had completed one year of her two year term on the board was elected as secretary. In September, Musaddique Thange and Ramzey Abujarour were elected for their first two year term as at large board members. Unfortunately, in November, Julia Roach moved out of the state and resigned as a board member. Bilal Edward Rivers was elected to fill her role as treasurer. Currently, the board has five members.

2. **Hiring the first MCSSD Intern.** MCSSD hired a summer intern in June 2008, Raquel "Iman" Johnson, who is still currently working for MCSSD. Iman is a senior Social Services Major at San Diego State University. She was trained to take over a number of the MCSSD administrative tasks. She is currently working in the MCSSD office six hours a week. She answers the phones, collects and organization client information, coordinates donations and volunteers, among other tasks.
3. **Van.** In July of 2008, MCSSD purchased a 15 passenger van for the dual purpose of transporting refugee clients to Jumu'ah prayers from the El Cajon area, and picking up and delivering furniture and other items to needy clients.
4. **Storage and Office Rental.** MCSSD continues to rent a storage space in Clairemont to help facilitate furniture and item pick up and delivery. MCSSD is also still renting office space from Masjidul Taqwa in Logan Heights.
5. **Volunteer Outreach.** MCSSD sought out new volunteers this year with a number of emails, announcement and letters. In November, MCSSD held a new volunteer orientation in which new volunteers were presented information that would prepare them to represent the organization as official volunteers and start helping out in a number of areas, including client visits, deliveries, fundraising, and support other programs and special projects.

Fundraising

1. **February MCS Awareness Dinner**
MCSSD held a dinner at ICSD on February 22, 2008 with the objective of creating awareness in the community about MCSSD's projects and the issues it is working on. The dinner was also an opportunity to appeal to the community to donate generously to help continue MCSSD's important social services in San Diego County.

By the grace of Allah, MCSSD was able to raise \$8000, which was used to purchase the van.

2. **Rummage Sale Fundraiser.**

MCSSD's annual rummage sale was held at ICSD in May of 2008. The sale was a big success, by the grace of Allah and the community's strong support. Many people donated items that were purchased by others on the day of the rummage sale, helping MCSSD to raise \$2500.

3. Tax Return Appeal

In June, the federal government announced a tax refund of \$600 for individuals and \$1200 for families. MCSSD sent an appeal to the community to donate part of this refund to MCSSD, to assist the needy families in San Diego County. This appeal generated almost \$900, helping to ensure that the neediest members of our community, many of whom did not receive any tax refund, were helped using the unexpected income that many of us received.

4. Ramadan Fundraiser at ICSD.

On September 3, 2008, on the first weekend of the blessed month Ramadan, MCSSD held a fundraiser at ICSD after Isha. A presentation by Br. Bilal Edwards was followed by fund appeal led by Imam Taha. Unfortunately, the exact amount raised by this function is unclear because many donors mailed in their pledges and it was not clear whether some donors were responding to the fundraiser or the mailed out fund appeal (See below).

5. Fund Appeal.

During the month of Ramadan, MCSSD sent fund appeals by mail to members of the community, requesting donations of *Zakat-ul-Mal*, *Sadaqah* and *fidyah*. Several donors responded to the appeal by donating generously.

6. Direct appeals

MCSSD also directly appeals to community members, either in person or by email to support its projects in the form of funds or material donations such as furniture or volunteer work. Sometimes, there are specific cases that need immediate assistance for which MCSSD might not have sufficient funds. Direct appeals to the community have helped MCSSD in assisting such families throughout the year.

Programs and Activities

1. New Programs

- a. Summer Relief Program. In order to help our clients during the hot summer months, MCSSD started a Summer Relief Fund. The fund helped provide about 25 fans to clients who were suffering in the heat.**
- b. Van Rides. After purchasing a 15 passenger van, we started a program to pick up refugees from the El Cajon area (where there is**

not masjid) and take them to Jumu'ah prayers. Most refugees are unable to attend Jumu'ah because they don't have transportation.

2. Existing Programs and Services

- a. ***Refugee Support Services.*** This year the majority of new refugee arrivals were from Iraq. Some were recent widows with children, some were disabled, others had undergone torture, loss and anguish. The committee visited the new arrivals and helped them settle in here in San Diego by providing support, information, furniture and household items, and financial aid. They were also included in our on-going programs, like our school supplies drive, summer relief programs, and zakat al-fitr distribution.

Volunteers visited well over **50 families** this year, providing them with support and encouragement.

MCSSD continued to develop our relationship with the Refugee Resettlement Organizations through our participation in the San Diego Refugee Forum and with personal meetings.

- b. ***General Financial Aid.*** Financial aid was given needy people who had emergency situations.
- c. ***General Material Aid.*** Furniture, household items, diapers, hygiene items, food, toys, Qur'an and other books, and prayer rugs are just some of the items that MCSSD collects and distributes to needy families.
- One of MCSSD longest and most successful programs is our annual School Supplies Drive. This year we collected and distributed school supplies to over 80 needy children.
- d. ***Zakaat al-mal.*** We distribute zakaat al-mal on behalf of individuals and families this year, a total of \$22,000.
- e. ***Zakaat al-Fitr.*** MCSSD made an arrangement with the Islamic Center of San Diego again this year to distribute zakaat al-fitr collected at the Center to MCSSD clients who qualified.
- f. ***Udhhiya.*** MCSSD did not provide a program for community members to donate money for local Udhhiya this year.
- g. ***Toy distribution.*** During Ramadan, MCSSD hosted a Toy Drive in conjunction with the SDSU MSA. The MSA students worked with MCSSD to plan the event. They designed catchy flyers and help advertise the drive all over the county. They collected toys at several local mosques and helped sort and deliver the toys to dozens children.

Later in the year, MCSSD worked with the MAS Girls Youth Group again during Eid ul-Adha to help distribute many gift bags to need families for Eid. The MAS Girls Youth group collected the gifts and packaged them in nice gift bags for the children.

- h. ***IFSN***. MCSSD hosted the InterFaith Shelter Network for a five day shift in January of this year by providing meals to the shelter guests and overnight supervision. Interfaith Shelter Network is a network of religious groups and congregations which provide shelter to homeless people in San Diego.

Last year, MCSSD extended our participate with Interfaith Shelter Network by offering to participate in their El Nido program, which offeres transitional housing to victims of domestic violence. MCSSD signed up to “adopt” one of the El Nido apartments, making us responsible for re-furnishing and stocking the apartment every time a new family moves in. This year we used donations from the Muslim Community to furnished the apartment for a new family who moved in this past May.

- 6. ***Indigent Burial Fund***. Although we did not actively fundraise for this program in 2008, we were able to use some of the funds raised last year to help a family pay the funeral expenses for their deceased father.
- 7. ***Inmate Support Services***. Great news! Finally, at the end of the year, a brother from our community was able to attend a volunteer orientation and the Federal Detention Facility downtown and he has been cleared to enter the facility to lead Jumu’ah prayers and help with Muslim inmates there. Earlier in the year, we were able to drop off books, prayer rugs, dates during Ramadan, and a hijab for a female inmate, but were unable to have any personal contact with the inmates.
However, this is just one incarceration facility in the San Diego County. We still need an experienced volunteer who can visit Muslim inmates at the local jails on a regular basis. We were in touch with the Chaplain Coordinator of the local jails through out the year and we were able to send books to the inmates during Ramadan.
- 8. ***Loan Program***. MCSSD continued to give need-based loans this year. We gave out a total of \$8900.00 for families who needed help to pay for security deposits to move into new homes, among other urgent needs.
- 9. ***Foster Care Intervention***. MCSSD, together with CAIR and MWIA, worked on a very difficult foster care case for a local Muslim family. MCSSD was able to assist the family to meet several requirements and alhamdulillah, the family was reunited in November of 2008 after more than a year of struggle. In another case, a very dedicated MCSSD volunteer worked with a couple to reunite them with their baby.
- 10. ***Domestic Violence***. MCSSD worked with the Center for Community Solutions early on this year. First, we helped plan a training for CCS volunteers to teach

them about Islam and Muslims, to better prepare them to serve Muslim clients. We then organized a seminar, in conjunction with the Women's Committee of ICSD, in which trained outreach workers at CCS taught over 25 of our community members about Domestic Violence and what resources are available here in San Diego County for domestic violence victims.

Later in the year, MCSSD established a Domestic Violence Committee to develop programs and services to respond to client needs and also educate our community on this issue. We are currently working with MWIA and hoping to organize a community seminar in the upcoming year.

In addition, MCSSD provided aid to domestic violence victims on a case to case basis.

Financial Report

Total Income: \$71,714.90

Total Expenditure: \$82,223.36

Current Funds Available: \$6,2623.28

Total Collected Last Year: 52,694.69

Percent increase: 36%

Account Information

Food Account (includes Fidya)

Income: \$330.00

Expended: \$2373.11

Remaining: \$0.00

Family Sponsorship Program

Income: \$0.00

Expended: \$2400.00

Remaining: \$0

General Financial Aid:

Expenditures: 16,676.39

General Fund:

Income: \$38,823.00

Expenditure to clients or programs:

Overhead Expenses:

Rent: \$1800.00

Storage: \$1,784.30

Intern Salary: \$1,624.32

Van: \$13,478.02

Office Expenses: \$715.76

Commission and fees: \$619.81
Promotional: \$24.52
Supplies: \$570.39

TOTAL OVERHEAD: \$20,617.12 (of total income)

***Our overhead was especially high this year due to a purchase of a 15 passenger van, which we are using to transport refugees to Jumu'ah prayers and also to deliver furniture**

Indigent Burial Fund

Income: \$0.00
Expended: \$500.00
Remaining: \$468.00

Interfaith Shelter Network

Income: \$150.00
Expended: \$276.03
Remaining: \$0.00

Fundraising Events

Income: \$2469.00
Related expenses: \$771.66

Loans

Loaned out: \$8904.70
Repaid: \$2,485.00
Amount due: \$6419.70

Refugee Support Services:

Income: \$2035.00
Expenditures: \$6540.73
Remaining: \$0.00

School Supplies

Expended: 117.75

Summer Relief

Income: \$833.00
Expenditures: \$972.25
Remaining: \$0.00:

Zakaat:

Income: \$24,589.40
Expenditure: \$22,073.40
Remaining: \$2516.00

Looking Forward

With the state of the economy, MCSSD hopes to continue its emergency assistance programs this year to help our brothers and sisters make it through this difficult time. We are already seeing a number of cases in which brothers and sisters are getting laid off, having their work hours reduced, and being unable to find work. In order to continue assisting these families, one of our biggest project this year will be ongoing fundraising. We hope to continue the same fundraising programs and strategies that we used in 2008 and also plan new types of fundraisers. In December 2008, MCSSD established a fundraising committee to help accomplish these goals.

In addition, MCSSD hopes to expand services into a very important area of need. Based on the research done here in the United States on the need for marital and family counseling for the Muslim family, and based on our own experience and knowledge about the great need here in San Diego, MCSSD is hoping to offer services and resources to help protect and nurture the foundation on our community: the Muslim Family. This is our first attempt at developing service in this area, but we plan to take several steps in the upcoming year, including: creating a reference list of all Muslim counselors in San Diego County who provide counseling in the areas of marital discord, youth and family, drug and alcohol use, and mental health -- establishing a fund and program to help poor Muslims afford marital counseling on a sliding scale – educating Muslim youth and college students and the needs in our community in hopes that they will choose to pursue careers in counseling and social work.

Our Needs

MCSSD is in need of your help either as a donor or a volunteer. The following are some things that MCSSD could use immediately to better serve the needy:

DONATIONS

- Cars. MCSSD can accept used cars in good running condition. When you donate a car, or anything else to MCSSD, you can receive a receipt for tax-exemption.
- Heaters and blankets (needed during the winter months)
- FURNITURE and other household items. To donate call 619 696 9267.
- Diapers in all sizes, as well as other hygiene items such as tooth brushes and tooth paste, soap, etc.

VOLUNTEERS

- Detention Facility Volunteer who is able to spend two to three hours at least once a month visiting with inmates in local detention facilities. (Needed to meet qualifications – please inquire for more information)

-MCSSD Intern. Anyone college student or other person who is interested in obtaining experience and credit for helping MCSSD to develop and implement new programs and services can apply for an internship with MCSSD. (Unfortunately, new interns can not be compensated financially at this time.)

-Fundraising Committee. Join the fundraising committee to help organize programs and events that will raise money to fund MCSSD services

-Refugee Support Services volunteers. These volunteers visit refugees at their homes to welcome them, assess their situation and deliver aid.

-General volunteers and donors. If you would like to be informed about MCSSD meetings, events, programs and action alerts please join our yahoo group at groups.yahoo.com/groups/muslimcommunityservices or just visit our website at mcssd.org and click on the link to the yahoo group (on the home page).

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