

Muslim Community Services of San Diego 2007 Year End Report

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Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Quick Facts.....	2
Organizational Development.....	2
Fundraising.....	3
Programs and Activities.....	4
Financial Report.....	7
Looking Forward.....	8
Our Needs.....	8

Introduction

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.mcssid.org, or request an informational pamphlet by calling our office at 619 696 9267.

Quick Facts for 2007

Clients Served

Families: #75
Individuals (total people in all families, including children): #330

(In addition, MCSSD served dozens of homeless people by passing out hygiene packets, and also served thousands of local inmates who now have access to Islamic books and resources)

Donations

Total Financial Contributions: \$52,694.69

Individuals, families and businesses: \$43,794.69

Islamic Organizations: \$8900.00

Non-Financial Contributions:

Unfortunately, we are unable to estimate the financial value of all the hundreds of items donated to MCSSD and distributed to clients through out the year. Ten of thousands of dollars worth of donated items included Qur'an translations, other Islamic books, hygiene items, clothing, food, school supplies, household items, furniture, toys, etc

Volunteer Hours:

MCSSD has no paid staff or interns – it is entirely run by volunteers. Unfortunately, we are also unable to estimate volunteers hours for this year. Dozens of volunteers gave their time, some for just a few hours and other for well over a thousand hours over the course of the year.

Expenditures

Total: \$45,847.06

Overhead: \$4420.05

Directly to clients: 41,427.01

Organizational Development

1. **Board Elections.** MCSSD held board elections according to the MCSSD bylaws in July. Nancy O'Barr was nominated and elected as an at-large board member. Amelia Horton was re-elected as Director. Julia Roach, who was previously the Treasurer, was elected as Secretary. Bilal Edwards remained an at-large board member.
2. **Office Rental.** In order to better serve our clients, MCSSD board members decided to rent an office space. After exploring our options, we approached Masjidul Taqwa (located in Logan Heights on Imperial Ave) to ask about the possibility of renting one of their second floor office rooms. The location was ideal because it is centrally located near the 5, 163 and 94 freeways and is also right on an accessible bus line.

In April we signed a six month lease. MCSSD was very pleased with the agreement and opted to renew the lease for another six months in September.

MCSSD collected donations of office equipment and furniture and also purchased a desk, a storage unit and two large storage shelves. The office was stocked with supplies as well as assistance items, such as hygiene products, diapers, school supplies, etc.

3. **Infrastructure.** The MCSSD web master moved out of the San Diego area and had to resign. All praise is due to Allah, another brother accepted the commitment and took over as web master. The MCSSD web site contains information about upcoming events, MCSSD programs, and contact information.
MCSSD currently has an office phone, a post office box, and a website. In addition, MCSSD has a yahoo group which is used to announce MCSSD events, programs and needs, coordinate volunteer involvement, and post monthly minutes.
4. **Storage Rental.** MCSSD volunteers were limited and strained in their ability to collect large donations, such as furniture and household items, because MCSSD had no permanent storage area. Prior to November, volunteers had to pick up and deliver large donations on the same day. With the help of a very successful volunteer, MCSSD collected enough money to rent a 10 by 13 foot storage space right off the 805 in Clairemont. The storage space greatly increases our ability to help needy families, particularly new arrived refugees, who are often in desperate need of furniture and household items.
5. **Promotional Materials.** MCSSD designed and ordered updated informational pamphlets and business cards.
6. **Volunteer Outreach.** MCSSD continuously sought to involve new volunteers through out the year. The most successful outreach was done during Ramadan when an MCSSD volunteer was able to give a short power point presentation in the middle of Taraweh prayers. In addition, about ten new volunteers attended a New Volunteer Orientation in November.

Fundraising

1. **Rummage Sale Fundraiser.** In the spring, MCSSD held its annual rummage sale fundraiser in the parking lot at ICSD. This year, the sale was held to raise money for the benefit of refugees. The sale was a success, both as a fundraisers and a community event. Dozens and dozens of community members donated their used items and their time.
2. **Car Wash** (see Indigent Burial Fund)
3. **Ramadan Fundraiser at ICSD.** Imam Taha of ICSD raised money for four local organizations during the month of Ramadan. The community donated generously and MCSSD received \$7000.00 of what was collected.
4. **Fund Appeal.** This year MCSSD sent out its first ever mail fund appeal. The overall response was not very strong but a few donors did respond and donated generously.

5. **Direct appeals via email.** Just about every time MCSSD made a direct appeal over its yahoo group regarding a specific family or individual in need of assistance, the community responded generously with donations.

Programs and Activities

1. New Programs

- a. ***Indigent Burial Fund.*** This fund was inspired by the request of one MCSSD client. She is a widow with several children who is also taking care of her very elderly Mother-in-Law. Although she is struggling day to day to support her family, her biggest request to MCSSD is to help pay for a proper Islamic burial when her Mother-in-Law passes. MCSSD set up the Indigent Burial Fund so that funds would be immediately available in the event that Muslim brother or sister dies with out the means to afford a proper burial. The Masjidul Taqwa Young Adults group volunteered to help with the first fundraising effort for this fund, a car wash held in the Masjidul Taqwa parking lot. The car wash raised \$225. The fund currently has about \$1000.00. None of it was spent this year, alhamdulillah.
- b. ***Inmate Support Services.*** After meeting with several ex-inmates and one Christian chaplain about the lack of Islamic reading materials in the jails, and a general lack of support from the Muslim community for the inmate population, MCSSD created an Inmate Support Services committee. The committee met with the director of chaplain services of San Diego County Detention Facilities and also with a chaplain at one of the Federal Detention Facilities. MCSSD created Resource Folders for each detention facility with information about local Muslim organizations and mosques, a booklet created by CAIR about the rights of Muslim inmates and support request forms for inmates. MCSSD bought over \$1000 of books to donate to local facility libraries. MCSSD also provided a number of prayer rugs to the federal detention facility at their request.

Efforts were made to fill the most pressing need of inmates – finding a volunteer to act as the Muslim Chaplain for local inmates. However, we are still in need of qualified help in this area.
- c. ***Food Account*** – This account included Fidyah collected during and after Ramadan (an expiatory payment made when someone is unable to fast due to a chronic condition). It also includes donations by donors who specifically want their contributions to be used to feed the hungry. MCSSD often gets requests for food from needy families who have fallen on hard times and from new refugees families. Alhamdulillah, Balboa International Market allows MCSSD to purchase food from their store at a 10% discount whenever we are buying for needy people.

MCSSD also collaborated with ICSD to create food baskets for needy families during Ramadan.

- d. ***Loan Program.*** MCSSD decided to provide loans as an alternative to financial aid. Loans are given out to candidates who have an urgent and important need for the money and are able to prove their ability to repay the loan amount within one year (by showing proof of income and expenses, etc.). MCSSD gave five loans to five different families to help with things like security deposits and car repairs.
- e. ***Foster Care Intervention.*** Through out the year, MCSSD advocated on behalf of three families who were involved in cases related to the custody of their children. In the first case, when three Muslim children had to be temporarily separated from their parents, MCSSD helped arrange for all three children to be placed with a Muslim foster mother. MCSSD helped the parents to re-establish themselves and meet CPS requirements. Alhamdulillah, after a 10-month process, the family was reunited. The second case involved a single mother who was questioned about her ability to care for her newborn. MCSSD volunteers provided rides to and from important appointments and advocated on her behalf in several court hearings as well as several meetings with her case workers.
- f. ***CCS and Domestic Violence.*** MCSSD responded eagerly when contacted by the Center for Community Solutions, a well-known local non-profit organization which serves the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. CCS asked MCSSD to help arrange a training for their volunteers which would focus on issues specific to Muslims and the Muslim community. With the help of Shaykh Abdel Jaleel, the training took place in November. CCS and MCSSD plan to continue to work together in the near future to address domestic violence prevention and awareness in the Muslim Community.

2. Existing Programs and Services

- a. ***Refugee Support Services.*** While this committee continued to serve several clients, such as widows and disabled refugees who have been here in San Diego for two or more years, the main focus of the committee this year was on new arrivals. One large group of families from Burma (17 in total so far) arrived here starting late in the summer. Iraqis, the second large group, started to arrive during Ramadan and are still coming. Volunteers visited well over 60 families this year, providing them with support and encouragement. Many families also received financial aid, material assistance, and program deliveries such as school supplies, zakaat al-fitr, Udhhiya meat, and toys during Islamic holidays.

Towards the end of the year, MCSSD reached out to the four major resettlement agencies here in San Diego by arranging in person meetings. We were able to discuss how we can better work together to serve the clients and coordinate our efforts. This is an exciting development which will, insha'Allah, allow us to get more accurate information about what families are here and what help they need.

- b. **Family Sponsorship.** Last year during Ramadan, MCSSD selected one widow and her three children to receive a large amount of zakaat. The sister requested that MCSSD keep her money in the MCSSD account and give it out to her when she needed it. During this year we helped her use the money to purchase a car and car insurance. We also helped her purchase a number of other items for her house and children.
- c. **General Financial Aid.** Financial aid was given to a large number of needy people who had emergency situations.
- d. **General Material Aid.** Furniture, household items, diapers, hygiene items, food, toys, Qur'an and other books, prayer rugs, and gift cards 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 70 needy children.
- e. **Zakaat al-mal.** We collected some zakaat prior to Ramadan, but the vast majority was collected during Ramadan. Following the advice of a knowledgeable advisor, MCSSD's policy regarding zakaat is to give it out immediately, or as soon as possible, to deserving people. This year we collected and distributed a little over \$20,000 in zakaat al-mal.
We were especially pleased to give zakaat funds to a needy family to initiate a small business.
- f. **Zakaat al-Fitr.** MCSSD helped ICSD to divide and distribute zakaat al-fitr collected at the masjid to over 30 families on MCSSD's needy family list.
- g. **Udhhiya.** MCSSD worked with ICF for the second year to coordinate the sacrifice and distribution of Udhhiya meat during Eid ul-Adha. Alhamdulillah, a total of 16 sheep were slaughtered by a local Muslim butcher and over 600 pounds of meat was delivered to needy Muslim families and individuals.
This year, MCSSD and ICF opted not to place freezers at local mosques to collect donated meat due to safety concerns. All meat was delivered to families directly from the butcher.
- h. **Toy distribution.** MCSSD collected about 50 toys during Ramadan to distribute as Eid gifts to needy children. The MAS Girls Youth Group created over 80 gift bags which MCSSD distributed to needy Muslim children on Eid ul-Adha.
- i. **IFSN.** MCSSD continued participation in the Interfaith Shelter Network, a network of religious groups and congregations which provide shelter to homeless people in San Diego. In addition, MCSSD offered to "adopt" a

unit in IFSN's El Nido Program, which provides safe apartments for victims of domestic abuse and their children. MCSSD will be responsible for re-furnishing and stocking the apartment every time a new family moves in.

Financial Report

Total Income: \$52,694.69

Total Expenditure: \$45,847.06

Current Funds Available: \$15,743.74

Total overhead: \$4420.05 (~9%)

Total used directly for benefit of clients or programs: \$41,392.83 (~91%)

Total Collected Last Year:

Percent increase:

Account Information

Food Account (includes Fidya)

Income: \$3420.00

Expended: \$1558.62

Remaining: \$1861.38

Family Sponsorship Program:

Income: \$0.00

Expended: \$4626.59

Remaining: \$2373.41

General Fund:

Income: \$23,421.06

Expenditure to clients or programs:

Overhead Expenses:

Rent: \$1900.00

Storage: \$56.59

Office Expenses: \$1243.58

Commission and fees: \$350.32

Promotional: \$827.15

Supplies: \$96.50

Refunds: \$-112.50

TOTAL OVERHEAD: \$4420.05 (9% of total income)

Indigent Burial Fund

Income: \$968.00

Expended: \$0.00
Remaining: \$968.00

Loans

Loaned out: \$5500.00
Repaid: \$2150.00
Amount forgiven: \$1800.00
Amount due: \$1550.00

Refugee Support Services:

Income: \$2040.00
Expenditures: \$2040.00
Remaining: \$0.00

Udhhiya

Income for 1427 Udhhiya: \$150.00
Expenditure: \$150.00
Remaining: \$0.00

Zakaat:

Income: \$20,432.50
Expenditure: \$20,132.50
Remaining: \$0.00

Looking Forward

In the upcoming year, MCSSD hopes to continue to develop and improve its programs and services for the benefit of the community. Particularly, we hope to further develop the loan program, domestic violence prevention and awareness activism, and inmate support services. We are expecting a large influx of refugees from Iraq and other countries through out the year. We need to continuously raise funds for all of the existing programs.

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

-A 15 passenger van which can be used to transport needy families to Jumu'ah prayer and Islamic events, and also to pick-up and deliver furniture.

-FURNITURE and other household items. To donate call 619 696 9267.

-Copy machine.

-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.

-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, interns can not be compensated financially at this time.)

-Fundraiser. Anyone who is able to raise funds for a specific MCSSD program or from the organization in general through their work or through an organization they are affiliated with.

-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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