



# Fiysabiylillah

Compassionate Aid Organization

# Newsletter

2010

السلام عليكم

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

## Message from the President

Assalamu alaikum Dear Readers,  
Alhamdulillah, we have completed another year working in the path of Allah.

The major highlights of the past year include:

- The successful completion of our Palestinian Project where we raised \$25 000 (Cdn). This money was used to purchase artificial limbs for children, to provide food to those in a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip and to aid in the rebuilding of a school ravaged by war.
- Raising approximately \$30 000 (Cdn) for our Ramadhan/Eid Hamper Project 2009 locally and abroad. Locally we distributed 275 Ramadhan/Eid hampers to fasting low income families in the Greater Toronto Area and its suburbs. Internationally we were able to distribute food hampers to needy families in Guyana, Kenya, Egypt and Syria.
- Distribution of Islamic Daw'ah literature to various organizations and individuals.
- Collecting, sorting and distributing gently used clothing to the local community
- Shipping fifteen barrels of clothing to Guyana and Egypt for distribution to the less fortunate.
- Operating a Madrasah for families at the apartment building located at 100 White Oaks, Whitby, Ontario.
- Continuing our efforts in providing emergency financial assistance and small Qarzee Hasna loans to help ease the hardships of suffering members of our community.

I must not forget to mention that after three years of perseverance, prayers and hard work - Allah the All Wise has made it possible for this organization to be approved as a Canadian Registered Charity. With this new status the organization will now be able to issue tax deductible receipts and have the opportunity to work with other reputable organization abroad to help the less fortunate of the world.

Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization's major goals for 2010 are the completion of another international project and the launching of the Fiysabiylillah's website. This year our international project is the setting-up of a Maternity ward in the Khadem Medical Clinic in the Kunduz province of Afghanistan. We are hoping that with a website, we would be able to inform many more people of the activities of Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization and in so doing, attract many more committed donors and volunteers who will find peace and contentment in working in Allah's cause.



Lastly, I would like to thank the many volunteers and donors who have given their time, energy, knowledge and finances purely for the pleasure of Almighty Allah.

*Fozia Alim-Hooseinny*

*"Righteousness is not turning your faces towards the east or the west. Righteous are those who believe in GOD, the Last Day, the angels, the scripture, and the prophets; and they give the money, cheerfully, to the relatives, the orphans, the needy, the traveling alien, the beggars, and to free the slaves; and they are steadfast in Prayers (Salat) and give the obligatory charity (Zakat); and they keep their word whenever they make a promise; and they steadfastly persevere in the face of persecution, hardship, and war. These are the truthful; these are the righteous".*  
*The Holy Quran; Surah 2, verse 177*

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### 2010 Upcoming

#### Activities

- Fundraising Gala, Afghanistan Maternity Ward (May8)
- Summer BBQ & Bazaar
- Eid Hamper Project -local/int'l (August)
- Children's Eid-ul Adha Party



Editor: Ruwaidah Khan

Coordinator: Nafeeza Hooseinny

## Truth or Fiction

*Nafeeza Hossainy*

The world of charitable organizations is not always a pretty place to be. Fiyasbiylillah is no different.

At times it can be emotionally draining, time consuming, and disheartening work to be in. I cannot imagine anyone working in this field without developing a closer relationship to God. Because quickly enough you realize the numerous things you cannot determine by your own investigative skills, the weight of responsibility others have entrusted upon you by giving you money, and the strong personal will it takes to make decisions in the face of tears and pleas; the reliance on Almighty Allah to guide us rightly becomes the only source of comfort.

When we get calls from women asking for zakaat to pay their rent, we have to ask personal questions to judge the need, the honesty, the sustainability of such an action. We are not only responsible for that sister but everyone who entrusted their zakaat money to our organization to make sure it is given under the right means. We have to spend time hearing their stories, deciphering truth from fiction, and reaffirm their strength and reliance to Allah above all else. It may be a horrible thought, to believe Muslims would lie or take advantage of generosity. I always liked to believe people would not ask if they did not really need. The truth is some have a weakness, some are lazy, some live above their means, and some need help because of circumstances beyond their control.

In the face of a woman being evicted from her home in tears, the compassion it takes to listen to her, offer advice, and then determine if she qualifies for zakaat can be overwhelming. For me saying 'no' is a difficult thing in the face of perceived hardship, but at the same time when you dig you quickly find out a history of repeat distress, a woman who is always in trouble, a home she lives in with more material junk than you even have, a car on the driveway, a web of dishonesty, and a hand that never seems closed from asking for help. These are the minority, but as in every society these few ruin it for many. They lead organizations like ours to be weary, to ask intrusive questions, to hold money with a tight fist until it is proven they are in need, in effect they harden our hearts to the true generosity and sense of giving in Islam.

However, this is why our reliance on Almighty Allah becomes so important. Which is why I believe that given all the effort it takes to wade through truth from fiction, need from want; God softens our heart to those truly in need if we put our reliance on Him alone. Like in everything He will guide us rightly if we put our trust in Him.

I have continued respect for those women of Fiyasbiylillah and others working in the same field that have to make the tough decisions while at the same time remain compassionate. It is not an easy job if done right. May Allah (SWT) always guide them rightly, and make their hearts continue to be soft to those truly in need.

## A Tree

I think that I shall never see,

A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast.



A tree that looks at God all day  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray.  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair.  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain,  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

-Anonymous

## A Good Word

*Asiya Maktabi*

As Muslims we need to use 'soft words'. Whoever amongst us softens their words, we will love them. Their sweet tongue will gather good friends around them.

A good word takes only a second and doesn't hurt the tongue, but its influence stays a long time. All of us need soft words.

It benefits both the speaker and the listener.

Anger works differently. It causes people to be away from us.

Is there anyone amongst us who never gets angry? Anger is usually at the base of everyday sufferings and complaints people always feel stressed.

Islam has the answers for all our problems. But where are we? How much of Allah's orders do we obey? How many Sunnah's do we practice in a day?

To visit the sick is an act of worship; greeting someone—sadaqat; wiping the head of an orphan – worship; helping others – jannah; smiling at someone – charity. When we make a firm intention to please Allah (SWT), our every movement is an act of worship.

Muhammad (SAW) summarized our religion in three words.....

*"Religion is dealing"*

Surat At-Talaq [65:2-3] - The Holy Qur'an

فَإِذَا بَلَغْنَ أَجَلَهُنَّ فَأَمْسِكُوهُنَّ بِمَعْرُوفٍ أَوْ فَارِقُوهُنَّ بِمَعْرُوفٍ  
وَأَشْهِدُوا ذُوَى عَدْلِ مِّنكُمْ وَأَقِيمُوا الشَّهَادَةَ لِلَّهِ ذَلِكَ  
يُوعِظُ بِهِ مَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ

لَهُ مَخْرَجًا ۝٢

وَيَرْزُقَهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَحْتَسِبُ ۚ وَمَنْ يَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ فَهُوَ حَسْبُهُ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ

يَبْلُغُ أَمْرَهُ قَدْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدْرًا ۝٣

"And whoever is mindful of Allah, He will grant them a way out, and will provide for them in ways unimagined. And whoever places their trust in Allah, then Allah is their sufficiency. Allah's affair will surely come to pass—and Allah has made a clear decree for everything."

# Volunteering in the path of God

*Zaida Khan - Regional Coordinator*

I would like to inform readers that we have grown as an organization over the years. We do need more volunteers as there is a great need to visit and help people.

I met a sister who arrived here from Kenya with three children. She has been here about five years now. Her English was not very good. She has since finished grade 12 and could go to college but cannot afford to do so. Her children has been doing very well at school as she is there with them making sure they finish their assignments. She realises her children are her first priority. She is now working two jobs at the community Library so she is not getting much help from the government. Her two boys play hockey and and her daughter has also worked for the past two summers. She is a very hard worker and realises that education is the key to them being successful.

There is another sister who has three small children. She assists me to deliver the Eid Hampers as most of the people that receive the hampers have small children and are single parents and have no transportation. She is always willing and ready to assist. She has even visited sisters on her own.

There is also another sister who has two children and she is now a nurses aid. She is also off the government program and continues to work and go to school.

These are just a few people who realizes that they won't sit at home and make excuses. With our help we can do so much more for people in need. It is indeed very fulfilling but we can do so much more. We need volunteers.

I would like to emphasize the need to visit the old, especially when they are in hospital. Sometimes people just want to talk to someone. There is also a need to educate the women as their children will be the future.

Zaida Khan passed away August 09, 2010. For many years she held the position as GTA regional coordinator with Fiyasbiylillah. Her passion and commitment will be dearly missed. She touched many hearts with her compassion towards helping those in need for the sake of Almighty Allah. May Allah (SWT) grant her Janatul Firdaus for her generous ways. Ameen.

*"Innaa lillaahi maa akhathaa wa lillaahi maa A'taa, wa kullu shay-in 'indahoo li ajalin musam-maa."* "To Allah belongs what He took, and to Him belongs what He gave. Everything is recorded with Him for an appointed term."



Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization completed its 2009 Int'l Project in partnership with IRFAN Canada. Raising \$25,000 for the assistance of Palestinian refugees. The money was used for food, artificial limbs and rebuilding of a refugee school within the Gaza strip.

## The Refugee Camp

A continuous, bleeding wound.

That is what the director of the Dheisheh Camp on the west bank calls life in his Palestinian refugee camp.

We visited the camp on Nov. 16. The director invited all 21 of us to his home, about a 5 minute walk through the camp's winding streets and tiny yards. The brown-eyed and blue-eyed children we passed gave us big smiles and several of us remarked how much they reminded us of a niece, nephew or neighbour child back home.

Forty-five years ago the camp director was born in the camp. He became a father and grandfather there. His dream is to go back to the village of his parents and build a small home. He says he doesn't care what flag flies over his village.

When the Dheisheh Camp was established by the United Nations' relief program in 1949, following the Arab defeat by the Israelis in the 1948 war, it had 4,000 refugees from 40 villages. They thought life there would be temporary.

Today the camp has 11,000 inhabitants in the same small area. The United Nations provides educational and health services and help for special hardship cases. The camp, which is south of Bethlehem on the main road between Jerusalem and Hebron, is one of 19 on the West Bank.

The camp director, who was appointed to his position a several years ago, has seen life in the camp ebb and flow from difficult to "very difficult" to "very, very difficult." Suffering was intensified in 1967 during the Six Day War and in 1987 when the Intifada (the Palestinian uprising) started. Fences six meters high were constructed around the camp.

During the 1991 Gulf War the situation in the camp was "very, very difficult." In March 1993 when the Israelis declared the area a military zone, unemployment rose to 85 percent and the director feared starvation was around the corner.

But in 1995 the peace process started. "We pray for peace," the camp director says. "We believe peace is the only solution for

any society to get rid of its problems. But we believe in peace based on justice which gives us the right to establish a Palestinian state. We have many fears for the future. We don't know our destiny. The refugee camp is a continuous bleeding wound with continuous suffering... We are against violence and terrorism, but we need real peace." "There is no difference between you and me," he said, "and you are living in human being conditions..."

Excerpts taken by an article written by Grace Witwer Housholder and Terry Housholder

## RECIPE BOX

### *Breakfast Delight*

## Roasted Potatoes with Poached Eggs

*Submitted by Najma Ghauri*

*This healthy variation of fried eggs and hash browns is an amazingly tasty way to satisfy hunger, please the taste buds, and boost the immune system.*

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 lb (apx 3small) Yukon Gold Potatoes
- 1/2c green onions, chopped
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 tsp sea salt
- 1 tsp apple cider vinegar
- 1tsp fresh rosemary, chopped
- 1tsp fresh parsley, chopped
- 4tsp olive oil or coconut butter
- Herbamare Vegetable Salt to taste

1. Wash, boil, peel and slice potatoes.
2. Saute potatoes in oil, until golden brown on both sides.
3. Season with Herbamare and add green onion and fresh herbs.
4. Meanwhile, in a small pot bring 1/2qt water to boil and add salt and vinegar.
5. Crack the eggs into the boiling water.
6. Cook for 3-4 minutes until both the egg and yolk get slightly firm.
7. Take eggs out of the water with a straining spatula to ensure they are properly drained.
8. Place potatoes in the centre of the plate and put eggs on top.
9. Serve with a salad of your choice if you wish.

## We Need You...NO, We WANT You!

*Farema Shafiee*

Dear sisters,  
Assalamualaikum,

Alhamdulillah, I am pleased to inform you that I have been a member of the Fiysabilillah organization for the last two years and I am happy to say how humble, fulfilling and rewarding this experience has been for me. I would like to encourage sisters to get involved and become active in this organization because it is very rewarding to help others.

We have to always remember others who are in need of our help and services. It is obligatory upon us to help those who are less fortunate than us. This organization provides assistance and help to those in need all around the world like Palestine, Kenya, Guyana and Afghanistan. The Messenger of Allah (P.B.U.H) said: "Charity does not diminish the wealth; Allah enhances the honor of one who forgives, and one who humbles himself for the sake of Allah, Allah exalts him in rank" (Abu Hurairah in Muslim).

It is a religious and humanitarian act to be charitable. We should help those who find it very hard and difficult to meet their rightful requirements but refrain from begging (publically, openly) or the ones who cannot meet their basic requirements at all whatsoever. It does not take much from those whom Allah has blessed to share with those who cannot afford food, water, clothes etc. More rewarding than just giving money would be to devote your time and physical effort to help those in need.

So sisters, I am encouraging you to participate and be part of the Fiysabilillah Organization. It is religious for us to always remember others in need, and experience the feelings and the rewards from Allah Subhanahu wata'la. May Allah continue to shower us with his infinite blessings.

If Allah brings you to it, He will see you through it.



### **2010 Elected Board Members**

President	- Fozia Hooseinny
Vice Pres.	- Asifa Yakub
Treasurer	- Nafeeza Hooseinny
Secretary	-Najma Ghauri
Da'waa Coord.	- Asia Maktabi
Youth Coord.	- VACANT

### **Regional Coordinators:**

Durham Region	- Fozia/Asifa
Toronto	- Zaida Khan

# FIYSABIYLILLAH

COMPASSIONATE AID ORGANIZATION

*Helping Those in Need*

## Our Website is Now Under Construction !!

The [Fiyasbiylillah.com](http://www.fiyasbiylillah.com) website is under way for 2010.

With the organization receiving charitable status from the Federal government it is time we had a presence on the web.

Fiysabiylillah is currently working with volunteer web master Mohsen Hussain to design a simple and practical website that represents this women's organization.

Insha Allah, we hope to launch the website  
[www.fiyasbiylillah.com](http://www.fiyasbiylillah.com)  
in the new year.

