



# Fiysabiylillah

Compassionate Aid Organization

# Newsletter

2009

السلام عليكم

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

## Message from the President

Alhamdulillah, I have completed another year with Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization. The past year has been one of disappointment and encouragement. I could not help but feel disappointment in that we did not achieve our goal of becoming a Registered Charity. This stumbling block lies in our international operations, where according to the Charities Directorate, control and responsibilities of our projects abroad are not to the required standards as set out in the Charities Act. We are working together with the department to resolve these issues and we pray for what is best for our Organization.

On the brighter side, it was very encouraging to see many more willing volunteers join us. There was a large increase in the amount of people we were able to help throughout the course of the past year both locally and abroad.

Our aim this year is to encourage our youth to share a part of their busy schedule with us in helping the less fortunate, for the pleasure of Allah. We have elected a Youth Coordinator who is mandated to lead the young women to work and pool their resources together to enhance the lives of others; and in so doing increase their rewards in the hereafter, Insha Allah.

By Allah's grace and mercy we are hoping to have our fundraising dinner event in April/May 2009. This event will fund a sustainable project that will benefit the people of Palestine, Insha Allah. I look forward to an evening of unity and togetherness for the benefit of those who do not enjoy the peace and security we do. When one Muslim is being oppressed, all Muslims must feel the oppression and acknowledge that it is a test from Allah for every one of us. We must unite and work together under the banner of "Laa il laaha ilal laah – There is no God but Allah". Let us put the past behind us, fear Allah in the present and look forward to His forgiveness and mercy in the future.

May this year be filled with opportunities to serve the less fortunate and may Allah make it easy for us to **give** without **receiving**. Ameen.

Fozia Alim-Hooseinny

If you like what Fiysabiylillah is doing and would like to join our organization or propose a project that will aid needy persons in your homeland, we would love to hear from you.—Just send us an email at [fiysabiylillah@hotmail.com](mailto:fiysabiylillah@hotmail.com)

## Broadening Our Horizons

-*Sister Najma Ghauri*

The blessed joy of giving time, energy, health, wealth, and heart for the pleasure of our beloved creator Allah (SWT) and spreading love, hope, and charity into every corner of our Muslim community is a necessary part of our lives. The recent rise of negativism in our daily living, challenges us to our utmost strength. History repeats itself...no need for alarm...our **amazing** past and the example of the Muslim Ummah shows us that we are born **leaders**.

Whatever blessings we have been given, by our creator, should be utilized for the benefit of everyone; sharing, caring, understanding, appreciating, giving others their rights, forgiving easily, accepting our own shortcomings, and talking about the good qualities of others.

Motto: *"It is not what you get from the world that counts, but what you bring to it."*

Working in the Whitby/Oshawa area with its variety of inhabitants has been a great pleasure for me. Friendships made, hard physical work in our trailer behind the Whitby Masjid, challenging family matters to settle, but most of all mutual respect, sharing and cooperation.

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### 2009 Upcoming

#### Activities

- Mother-Daughter Fundraising Dinner for Palestine (May9)
- Summer BBQ & Bazaar
- Eid Hamper Project -local/int'l (September)
- Children's Eid Party (December)

We are looking for volunteers to help the Regional Coordinators assist those in need locally. Whether it be visiting a sick sister, providing groceries and halal meat, and many other charitable deeds we need your help. If you are interested we would kindly ask you to contact one of the sisters listed on the back for more information.

Editors: Saadiq Adeeb &

Fariha Muhammad

Coordinator: Nafeeza Hooseinny

# Alhamdu-lillah

*Asia Maktabi*

Allah (SWT) says in the Holy Quran  
..... "Remembrance helps the believers"

Mankind is ignorant and forgets Allah's countless blessing, we only remember Him (SWT) when we miss those bounties, for example when we feel less fortunate or become sick. There are several ways to remember our Creator, by thanking Him (SWT), by following the right path, by giving charity and above all through our prayers. Sometimes we forget. When I started teaching in Canada I used to distribute photocopied papers of Duas. Then the idea flashed in my mind. I must do something more so that our children's hearts will kindle with the magic words glorifying Allah (SWT), words like Alhumdulillah, Bismillah and many more. I started to paint these glittering words on decorative plates that, to my surprise, received enormous attention. How did this simple action help? These words not only safeguard our children but also help mom, dad, and our guests remember Allah (SWT). These decorations help us to revive the true etiquettes of a believer. There isn't a single Muslim home without Quranic verses decorating the walls, but do we understand them? To engage these duas in our every day life we should scatter them like sunshine and place them in pivotal places in our houses so that we will always remember Allah (SWT). Allah (SWT) said: "if you thank, I'll increase you". So why are we so late in spreading the light? Why can't we start from now? Instead of putting photos of people on the walls that prevent angels of mercy from entering our houses, why not invite the angels by embellishing our walls with the praises of Allah (SWT). One must not forget this important hadith, the prophet Muhammed (SAW) said, 'Angels of mercy do not enter a house where there is a dog, a picture, and no guests'.

Through the calligraphy plates, Alhumdulillah, I have had an opportunity to help my fellow Muslims. I think we must always strive to find a way of using our talents to help society and ourselves. Remember with any small touch we can make miracles happen thanks to Allah's abounding (SWT) mercy. All we need to do is wake up and understand the value of the Quran and Sunnah, and how important it is to live with both of them so that we can achieve happiness in this world and the hereafter.



"The strangest question I have ever been asked is: why are you Muslim? I find that question strange because I have never thought of a reason. My 'Muslimness' comes naturally to me; no other alternative has ever crossed my mind. I am Muslim because the only logical explanation of all the wonder in the universe and in ourselves is that a Creator exists. Every breath I take is a mercy from that Creator. To deny God, I would be denying myself and my life. Indeed, I see God's miracles everywhere, I cannot but love, worship and obey Him.

Through God's commands, revealed in the Qur'an and the examples of the Prophet Muhammad, I know exactly how to live my life. I am free to choose between peace and happiness by becoming a part of God's greater design, and the nightmare of rejecting my Creator's guidance. I am Muslim because I choose to be logical and far-sighted. I see the logic of Islam and am far-sighted enough to plan for the eternity that God has offered."

- Marwa El-Naggar, An Egyptian Woman taken From 'The no-nonsense guide to Islam'

## Iquata Village Thanks Us

*Shireen Kalamadeen, Fiysabiyallah Representative - Nigeria*

Assalam Walaikum

The people of "Iquata Village" Nigeria would like to thank Fiysabiyallah Companionate Aid Organization for their kind help in building a School/Mosque that was needed in the village.



This School is currently being used by the less fortunate children as a nursery/primary school following the Nigerian Curriculum. It gives them the opportunity to study English, Arithmetic etc.

This project has not been an easy undertaking, as it is in a village outside the city of Lagos and poses a security risk for foreigners. During the rainy season from March to August it is almost under water and there is no proper road into the village - one can only go when it is sunny and the water dries up. This is one of the reasons it was not completed as scheduled. Secondly, there are instances when money is given to the workers to buy materials and they misuse it. Many of these people are out of work and therefore use this money to feed their families instead. Despite all this, the building is in use and there remains only a bit of painting and work on the interior left to be completed; which we hope to conclude very soon.

The people of "Iquata Village," are very grateful as they have been working towards this project for many years but could not have achieved their goal as it was very difficult for them to raise the money. This has made a tremendous difference to their lives as it has taught them to work together as a community and to also employ teachers. The children benefit as well; by being able to read and write from a young age.

Once again on behalf of the Iquata people we thank you for making this project possible and a success.

Ma Salaam,  
Community of Iquata, Nigeria



# Hampers of Hope

*Arshreen Fatima Majeed*



On a bright Saturday morning, about 40 volunteers gathered to help pack Eid hampers for the needy in Toronto at a local mosque. In the spirit of community service and charity in the month of Ramadan, Fiyasbiylillah organizes volunteers every year to pack Eid hampers. These hampers consist of food items including dairy, meat and grain products. The 150 boxes were decorated, the assembly lines formed, the items distributed and then personally hand delivered to the recipients. As this was my first volunteer experience with Fiyasbiylillah, I was moved by the enthusiasm and energy displayed by the volunteers. Sara Majeed, another volunteer shared the same feeling, "I was surprised to see both young and old volunteers helping out. I came with my family and it was great to work together for the community". As much fun as it was to work with the rest of the volunteers in an environment that fosters brotherhood and sisterhood, I also had the chance to deliver one of the Eid Hampers myself. It gave me great joy to personally deliver one of the Eid hampers to a family in my neighbourhood. It made me understand and realize that as much as there is a need and a duty to help our global neighbours in underserved countries, Toronto houses some of the most destitute Muslims.

With the efforts of the organizers, in retrieving all the items, and the commitment of all volunteers in working together, the Eid Hamper project was extremely successful and InshaAllah, it will continue to grow for the years to come.

# Maato Muslim Primary School

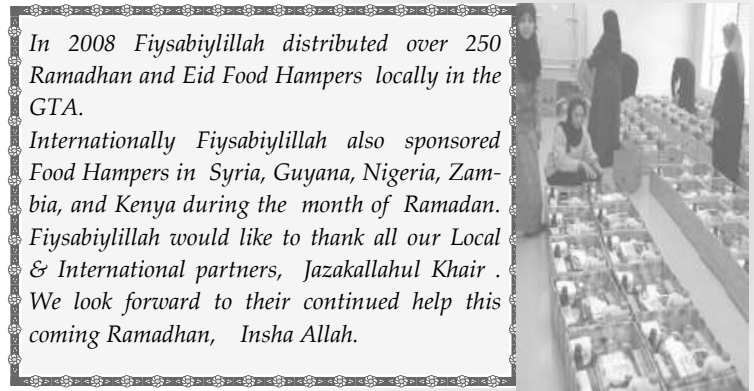
*Mohamed Mujahid Jin*

The Maato Muslim Primary School is a typical village school located in the country of Uganda. The Muslim community of Ntungamo founded it in 1967 as a contribution towards developing the future of its young Muslims. At this time there were no permanent structures due to the instability in the country.

Maato Muslim Primary School is a government-aided school, which means that the government pays the teachers. The school currently has 450 students of whom 300 are Muslims.

With the assistance and co-ordination of Brother Mohamed Mujahid Jin and Fiyasbiylillah, they made much needed improvements to the school. These improvements include the building of a fence around the school, the construction of desks for classes without them, and the building of toilets for students.

Today most of these improvements have, Alhamdulillah, been completed. These improvements include a perimeter fence and desks for the students. The construction of the toilets are still planned for the coming year, Insha Allah. In short the students are now in a more scholarly environment thanks to the help Fiyasbiylillah, who could not have achieved these goals without the generous support of those in the community.



*In 2008 Fiyasbiylillah distributed over 250 Ramadhan and Eid Food Hampers locally in the GTA.*

*Internationally Fiyasbiylillah also sponsored Food Hampers in Syria, Guyana, Nigeria, Zambia, and Kenya during the month of Ramadan. Fiyasbiylillah would like to thank all our Local & International partners, Jazakallahul Khair . We look forward to their continued help this coming Ramadhan, Insha Allah.*

# Barrels for Believers- A Guyanese Story

*Shamelun Alim, Fiyasbiylillah Representative -Guyana*

Guyana is a small country on the northeast coast of South America. The Muslim population makes up only nine percent of its total 750 000 people. Over the past three years Fiyasbiylillah has sent over 25 barrels of used clothing and Islamic literature to Guyana.

The first lot of clothing and books was received in 2006 and was distributed with the assistance of the sisters of the Alexander Village Mosque. This was a huge task but Alhamdulillah it was successfully completed.

The books that were received were sent to various Jamaats across the country, reaching as far as Skeldon to the East and Essequibo to the west. Many of these books were also handed out to individuals in the capital city of Georgetown. The children's prayer books were a particular success and were especially useful for new Muslims.

For the past three years, we have also received funds from Fiyasbiylillah to prepare Ramadhan hampers for the needy. During the last distribution 125 families benefited from this venture.

The assistance of Fiyasbiylillah has gone a long way in helping to encourage proper Islamic dress among the Guyanese Muslim community and have helped to spread the knowledge of Islam to the far reaches of the country.



The beneficiaries are thankful for your generous aid to their well-being and wish on all of those who have helped the continual blessings of Allah.

*I looked at all friends, and did not find a better friend than safeguarding the tongue.  
I thought about all dresses, but did not find a better dress than piety.  
I thought about all types of wealth, but did not find a better wealth than contentment in little.  
I thought of all types of good deeds, but did not find a better deed than offering good advice.  
I looked at all types of sustenance, but did not find a better sustenance than patience.*

*- Umar (radiAllahu anhu)*

# Appreciation for some Fun

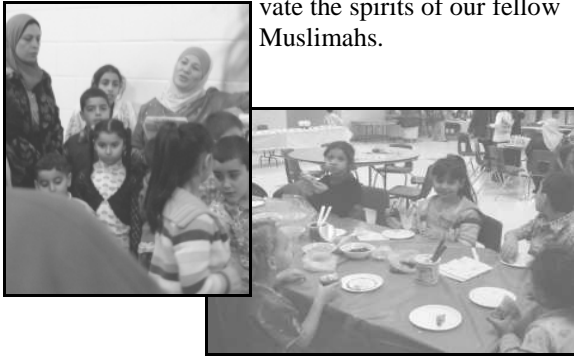
-Kauthar Khan

Yet another Fiysabiylillah Eid party at the Islamic Foundation Masjid located in Markham brought that wonderful and unique spiritual feeling. Women and children all dressed beautifully in Islamic attire; prayed salat together, following which a variety of international refreshments were served. Biryanis, rice, couscous, salads, sweets, drinks like Namura, samosas and not to forget Popeye's are served. Not to mention a variety of ice-creams, fruits, cookies, and cakes to mention a few.

A wide variety of prizes are then awarded to the woman and children; consisting of clothes, scarfs, sweaters, jackets, books, jewellery, bangles, henna, and household items.

Many activities were organized for the children at the gym inside Islamic Foundation; there were a variety of games, balloons, toys, and stories. The best part was that they prayed together.

Such gatherings are very good for children to enjoy feeling Muslim, while having fun at the same time. Oftentimes many women who stay-at-home use this opportunity to meet other women of different cultures, in addition to making new friends. I'm looking forward to seeing more of such gatherings, to help elevate the spirits of our fellow Muslimahs.



## 2009 Elected Board Members

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

### Regional Coordinators:

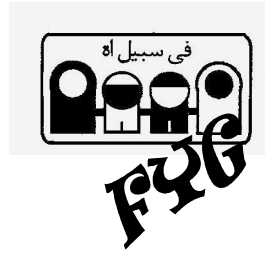
Durham Region - Najma Ghauri (905-729-9170)  
Toronto - Zaida Khan (905-839-5624)

## FIYSABIYLILLAH

COMPASSIONATE AID ORGANIZATION

31 Elmeroy Court  
Whitby, ON

*Helping Those in Need!*



# Fiysabiylillah

## Youth Group

Nafeeza Hooseinny, FYG Coordinator

As the new youth coordinator for Fiysabiylillah's Youth Group (FYG, pronounced F-I-G) I am excited at the direction our organization is taking in encouraging young Muslim women in our community to become involved in helping those in need. The creation of such a group is to bring awareness to our youth on the issues that face Muslim women in need, the necessity for compassion in Islam, and the duty we have to volunteer our time, energy, and money in the path of Allah (SWT). As past Vice President of Fiysabiylillah I am very aware of the diversity of cultures within our organization but have seen first hand the lack of commitment from the younger generations in volunteering their time with smaller organizations such as Fiysabiylillah. Many youth embrace volunteering as something to embellish their resume, put on their university application form, or because their parents 'said so'. All worthy reasons in their own right, but I want to challenge our youth to experience volunteering not as what they can get out of it, but to experience the ultimate giving by doing it only for the pleasure of Allah (SWT). If Fiysabiylillah Youth Group members can walk away with that one gift then I will have accomplished what I have set out for this group.

The young women of today are amazingly gifted and intelligent, they have an integral role in our community and in organizations like Fiysabiylillah. They bring fresh ideas, a knack for technology and networking, and a thirst for knowledge. We need to learn from them and have a lot to offer them as well in the form of developing compassion and understanding of issues close to home. It is my wish that for the coming year we are able to build a small youth group of compassionate young women that are willing to spend some of their time in the path of God. May Allah (SWT) make it easy for all of us.

We will be organizing a FYG 'Think Tank' in early June to meet all the new members/volunteers interested in this new group and to come up with ideas and projects of interest for the coming year. Insha Allah, I am looking forward to meeting all of you then.

### Fiysabiylillah Youth Group Members must be.....

- Girls & Young Women Age 15-35yrs
- Have the ability to commit a minimal of 1 day/month to volunteer on local Fiysabiylillah Projects.
- Have an active interest in helping others
- Conduct yourself in an Islamic manner (no bad language, no inappropriate clothing, etc)
- Be an example to other young Muslim girls

For those interested in joining....please drop me an email at  
[fiysabiylillah@hotmail.com](mailto:fiysabiylillah@hotmail.com).

For high school students that need to complete the required hours of community service we would be happy to receive your assistance. Forms will be signed for volunteer hours promptly upon completion.

For any questions/suggestions regarding this newsletter please email [fiysabiylillah@hotmail.com](mailto:fiysabiylillah@hotmail.com)