

Fiysabiylillah

Compassionate Aid Organization

Amman, Jordan, May 2015

**DELIVERING
HOPE**

2 dedicated volunteers visit Syrian widows and orphans in Jordan to deliver monetary aid.

ALSO!

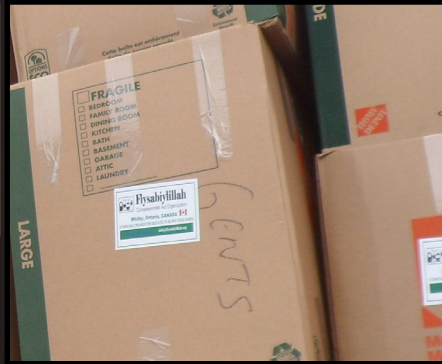
**We successfully launch our
NEW SUMMER DAY CAMP**

2016



Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization

This Organization was founded in 2001 by Sister Fozia Hooseinny in Whitby, Ontario. It is a non-profit organization committed to enriching the lives of the less fortunate through sustainable projects and through the development of one's faith as the ultimate source of strength.



In the past, Fiyasbiylillah raised money to purchase and distribute Ramadan/Eid Food Hampers, collected and redistributed gently used and new clothing and organized fundraisers to collect funds for International Projects. We continue to strive to combat poverty through Islamic charitable means in our local communities and abroad. Also, we do not charge a fee on any part of the donations made to our projects. 100% of all donations made go directly towards the projects of a donor's choice!

To learn more about us, visit our website at: www.fiyasbiylillah.org
Also LIKE us on our NEW Facebook Page.

Contact Information

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Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization
31 Elmeroy Court
Whitby, ON, L1N 8A5

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E-mail: info@fiyasbiylillah.org

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DONATE NOW

Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization
Organization

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

COVER STORY

Pg. 4-5



Brother Azeez and Sister Fozia travelled to Jordan to deliver donations from the Syrian Widows and Orphans sponsorship program.

Pg. 8-9



A Fiysabiylillah International Projects sees the people of Kidete build a well.

Pg. 10-11



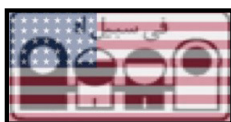
Sister Fozia highlights her homeland, Guyana, where Fiysabiylillah will get involved in several projects.

Pg. 12



One sister explains the importance of centers for women in her homeland of Kashmir.

Pg. 13



Fiysabiylillah expands into America. Alhamdulillah.

LOCAL PROJECTS

Pg. 6



We are sponsoring 10 families from our Syrian Widows and Orphans Program to come to Canada.

Pg. 14-15



Check out our new Summer Day Camp.

Pg. 16-17



In our Youth Corner, we hear from one volunteer who proves that age is no limit when helping others.

Pg. 18-19



The Arts starring Fiysabiylillah: these events highlight Islamic values in a fun and educational way.

Pg. 20



Find out how our Annual Ramadan/Eid Food Hampers will change this year.



DELIVERI

In May of 2015 me and my wife, the President of Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization, visited Jordan to meet Fiysabiylillah's partners in Jordan who are currently managing the Syrian Widows and Orphans Sponsorship Program. We were also there to meet some of the widows and orphans themselves as well as to initiate our 2015 International Project by beginning distribution of the funds collected for them.



We first met with our partners, the Hemma Volunteer Group, led by Dr. Wessam, a Syrian who lectures at the University level in leadership skills. The group is made up of young Syrian brothers and sisters who are dedicated to assisting their displaced people. We were very pleased with their presentation as well as with the fact that no one in the group was being paid for their services; truly a volunteer group. In fact, instead of being paid, all the members were *donating* funds to pay the rent for their office space. This is quite similar to the set up of the Fiysabiylillah organization.

We outlined the Fiysabiylillah CAO process for helping the widows and orphans and for transferring the funds to the group and the level of accountability and control that was required. The process was agreed to after discussions and clarifications. We then agreed on a schedule for our stay in Amman, Jordan which was primarily focused on meeting the widows and orphans and making the first disbursement to each family, as well as setting up the system of verification and accountability. The following days were hectic with working days of 10 to 12 hours. We visited



ING HOPE

49 widows and orphans who were spread out in various locations in and around Amman. After meeting and obtaining information on each of their situations, we gave the mothers the funds for two months with the promise that before Ramadan they would get an additional four months of assistance. They were all very humble, dignified and exceedingly appreciative and thankful. The children were given gifts and candies that were donated from families in Canada. This brought smiles to their innocent faces.

I was very pleased with our visit and wish we could do more to assist these helpless and unfortunate women and children transition to a better and fuller family life. Our help is just a start and will, InshaAllah, bring some relief and happiness to their situation. Sister Lamia Sami, Fiysabiylillah's project co-ordinator for this program was able to get significant help from families in Jordan who are now working with the Hemma group to administer the project. One family will ensure the proper disbursement of funds and will assist in delivering the assistance



to some families and another has agreed to provide office space to the Hemma Volunteer Group free of charge so that the volunteers do not have to fund this. I feel that our visit created a momentum for others in Jordan to come forward and help.

Like all trips we have made to help people abroad, Fiysabiylillah CAO does not pay for any cost associated with our visits. We are happy to pay for this from our personal funds. This has encouraged others, especially those living in Canada to come forward and volunteer some of their time and resources to assist people in their countries. May Allah SWT continue to help us to help others, InshaAllah.



After we left, shortly before Ramadhan a Celebration event was organized by Sister Lamia and the Hemma Volunteer Group. This event was attended by local Jordanian businessmen who all contributed to making the event a great success. The widows and orphans had a fun filled day packed with lots of laughter, smiles and joy. At this event, funds for four months (March to June 2015) were given to each family to make it easy for them in the month of Ramadhan. May Allah, the Almighty, accept our efforts and make it easy for us as we continue in His path. Ameen.

By: Azeez Hooseinny - A Volunteer

Syrian Resettlement Program

In 2014 Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization began a project to support 150 displaced widows and orphans by providing shelter, food, clothing and education. Alhamdulillah, with generous contributions from the public and through coordination with local volunteers in Jordan, we were able to successfully complete this initiative. In May 2015, our President travelled to the region to meet with a few of the individuals supported by the project and was able to see for herself how a few dollars can mean the difference between desperation and hope for the most vulnerable people caught in a conflict.

Now that the Canadian government has opened its doors to 25,000 Syrian refugees, FCAO hopes to offer these widows and orphans in our program a better quality of life and the opportunity to resettle in Canada. Through personal contacts and coordination with our Jordanian partners, 10 families have expressed an overwhelming interest in sponsorship, hoping to flee their terrifying and uncertain situation and with the goal of rebuilding their lives here, in Canada. Our commitment is to sponsor these 10 families and assist them in resettling here in our local communities.

We have entered into an agreement with the Islamic Foundation of Toronto, a government recognized Sponsorship Agreement Holder, to begin the sponsorship process for the 10 families. As stipulated by government regulations, we need to raise \$300 000 before the application is completed and submitted for processing.

We are currently still accepting donations and at the time this article was written, the total amount collected was close to 80% of the amount needed, Alhamdulillah. Insha Allah we hope to be able to welcome these Syrian families to Canada sometime in 2016. Jazakallahul Khair to all who have generously donated to this worthy project and to all who have pledged their future support with resettlement needs of clothing, furniture and accommodations. May Almighty Allah bless us all and make us truly grateful for our lives here.





Fiysabiylillah

Compassionate Aid Organization

Syrian Refugee Aid Form

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ Email Address: _____

<u>Settlement Needs</u>	Please indicate/comment on what services you can provide and/or what items you can donate
All donated items must be new/nearly new	
Clothing/toys donations (sorted and packed in clear plastic bags by age and gender)	
Furniture	
Household items (bedding, linens etc.)	
School supplies/costs	
Food staples	
Telecommunication costs (internet, phone)	
Transportation costs (public transit, fuel etc.)	
Meet the refugees, provide transport	
Arabic Interpreter service	
Apply for provincial health plan	
Apply for social insurance number	
Help find family physician	
Help find Dentist and Optometrist	
Provide orientation -banking, groceries, mosque etc	
Enroll adults in language training	
Enroll children in school	
Register for child tax benefit	
Provide assistance in finding employment	
Provide Home/Basement as temporary living space	
Monetary Donations to help sponsor a family -tax deductible receipt issued for amounts over \$100	

This is your opportunity to participate in this international humanitarian relief project as Fiysabiylillah CAO is in the process of sponsoring 10 families (widows and orphans) to reside locally in Durham Region and we urgently need your financial support!

Please return completed forms to Brother Azim (416) 508-0426, Sister Fozia (416) 562-3844, e-mail info@fiysabiylillah.org or drop off at local Masjid.

Light For Kidete Village



Lineup for clean water

The Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization has lit up the Village of Kidete in Tanzania with solar-powered panels which provide light to parts of the village and a water well to quench the thirst of many of its people. It was a huge project for me and for the people of Kidete Village. Alhamdulillah, we are thankful for the donors and the contributions they made. My aim was to see the smiles on the faces of my people and to provide a safer life for women.

I was born in Kidete Village. I left when I was 6 years old because Kidete did not have any schools. My dad wanted us to study and have a better life. We used to visit Kidete during our holidays because my grandfather still lived there. I moved to Canada in 2001. Of course it was no bed of roses. I faced lots of obstacles along the way but I accepted those challenges and I had a strong will to do more to help myself, my four children and others who were in need. I have been with Fiysabiylillah C.A.O. since 2003 and I enjoy what I am doing.

The majority of people living in Kidete Village are old, poor, weak and uneducated. The land itself is very dry because there is constant drought. With so little rain the soil turns very thin and smooth, like clay. There is no direct access to water in the village. Women and young girls have to walk for miles to fetch a bucket of unhealthy, muddy water. The journey was dangerous because they could be stung by poisonous snakes, scorpions or raped. Alhamdulillah, now,

Fiysabiylillah C.A.O. Sign is displayed at the site where the Well will be built



The drill begins its work to e





Solar Panel on the roof of the masjid



Brother Ramazan (Imam) and Arabakhi (Caretaker)



Sister Hawa Sardar

thanks to the new water well, the rate of these incidents has lessened. The villagers are thankful for clean, crystal clear, sweet water to drink and to fulfill their daily domestic needs.

Villagers once had no hope that they would see light in their village. Now, the solar-powered panels bring light and provide electricity to parts of Kidete.

For safety reasons, our pump, solar panels and water tank were installed near the Masjid with the permission of Imam Mzee Mwenda*. Since Kidete has no police post, the most secure place in the village was also the busiest place – the mosque! However, this does not limit accessibility to the water simply to the Masjid or Muslims. The well is available for all in the village to use and benefit from.

We would like to give more to this village, such as shoes, books, blankets, clothes, medicine, food and funds to buy new windows, Insha Allah. With this new project in mind, I look hopefully towards the future for the people of Tanzania.

By Sister Hawa Sardar - Project Coordinator

*Imam Mzee Mwenda was the Quran teacher and watched the Masjid. He passed away last year.

extract water

The water springs from the ground. Alhamdulillah!



My Homeland

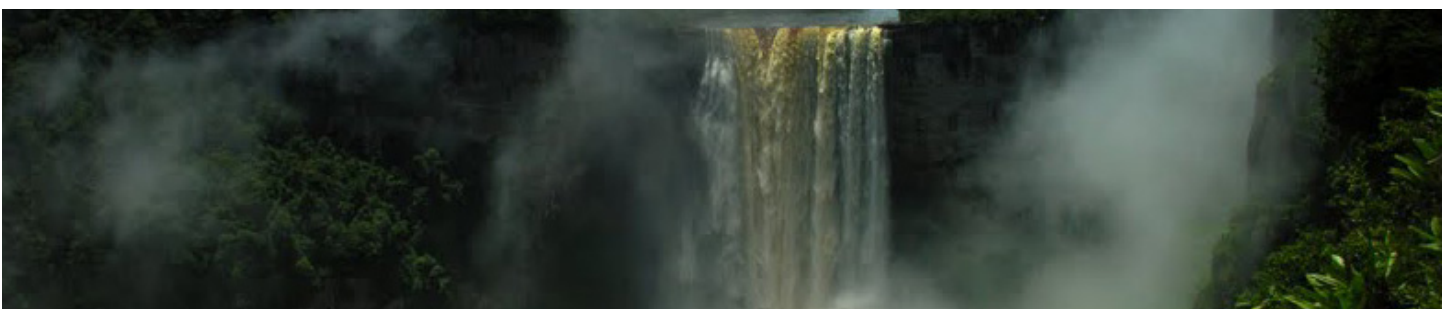


I am a native of Guyana, which was British Guiana until 1966 when we gained independence from British rule. It is a big country located in the South American Continent with Brazil to the south, The Atlantic Ocean to the north, Suriname on the East and Venezuela in the west. With a population of less than one million people, Guyana is unique in that it is the only English speaking country in the South American continent. Our first peoples are known as Amerindians and are comprised of members from the Arawak and Carib tribes. With the arrival of the British on their soil, the tribes were manipulated and deceived as the colonists bought them over with western goods such as tobacco and whisky, ultimately using this to gain control of their land. Today, the Amerindians are still present in Guyana but live in the remote areas of the Amazon Rainforest and the hinterland of Guyana. It would seem that the same situation that exists for the indigenous people in North America applies to their counterparts in South America as well.

With the British in control, the Christian religion was introduced to the Amerindians through various missionaries. The new settlers were brought to work in the plantations. They arrived in what was then British Guiana from Africa, Portugal and India. As a result of this, I grew up in a multicultural environment where our neighbours were either of an African, Indian, Chinese, or Portuguese descent as well as from different religions such as Christianity, Hinduism or Islam.

The Muslim population is approximately 8%-10% of the Guyanese people and consists mainly of those of Indian descent. The Africans are now becoming more aware of the religion of Islam as they trace their roots back to the African continent and find Islam there as well. Quite a few of the Africans are seeking knowledge about the religion, embracing it, and reverting back to Islam from Christianity, Alhamdulillah.

Since the inception of Fiyasbiylillah in 2001, I have been visiting Guyana regularly and never felt that there was a need to do a project to help the less fortunate. Alhamdulillah, Guyana is known as the "Land of many Waters" since there are trenches, rivers, lakes and the Atlantic Ocean from which the people derive lots of benefit and the soil is very rich for agriculture. I conclude that anyone who is willing to work can lead a simple and contented life.





Over the past 10 years I have noticed a marked deterioration in the social fabric of those living in Guyana. Sadly, this behaviour is evident everywhere. The young people are growing up in a society where vulgarity is on the rise and morality is on the decline. This is a growing problem that needs to be addressed. Fiysabiyallah Compassionate Aid Organization has partnered with Guyana International Relief Organization to hopefully bring about some change for the betterment of society, Insha Allah.

Our first project beginning in March 2016 will be A Skills Training Program for low income women who are not academically inclined and can benefit from learning the skills of baking and sewing. Islamic education emphasizing good manners and etiquette will be included in this program. The students will be made aware of the many ills of society, and our focus will be on equipping them to successfully navigate their environment by understanding and implementing the behaviour and code of conduct which Almighty Allah finds acceptable. Finding a quick fix to a problem is never the solution to the problem. One has to first understand what is good behaviour in the sight of Allah and the rewards from doing this, get to know about His Punishment when we choose the wrong way and also learn about His Mercy and Forgiveness when we make mistakes. If through this process and the Will and Mercy of Allah, we can save even one “drowning” person and get them back to the straight path, it will be well worth all of our time and effort.

In Pictures

Completed initiatives in the last year. Alhamdulillah.

A home built for a single mom and her disabled son.



Ramadhan/Eid Food Hampers



Looking ahead to the future, we would like to set up a “Help Centre” where any female can come to get help if they find themselves in an abusive situation whether physically or sexually. There are also alarming cases where young women are finding themselves victims of extortion because of their financial situation and our centre would work to provide assistance to these women as well. Our focus would not be on “band aid solutions” but rather on the “causes” and the “effects” of each case and whether it matches the obedience or disobedience of God’s laws. Educational literature pertaining to the awareness of Almighty God, connecting to Him through prayers, and pleasing Him through good moral conduct would be available for free distribution as part of our education and support system. InshaAllah, we hope to serve women of all walks of life whether they are rich, poor, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, black or brown. At this centre, focus will be on discussion, education and action. The Prophet Muhammad (may the Peace and Blessings of Almighty Allah be upon him) advised us, on seeing something that is wrong, fix it by good actions, if not then by good words and if not then by humble dua’s. Rome was not built in a day; by making an effort, little by little with God’s help we can change the moral fabric of my beloved homeland.

By Fozia Hooseinny - President and Founder of Fiysabiyallah C.A.O.



After seeing the devastation brought on by the severe floods of 2014 in Kashmir, India, I decided to help in whatever way was possible for me. So with the organizational support of Fiysabiylillah , I started a clothing drive in Canada and flew all the way to Kashmir along with a 40 foot container of slightly used clothes.

While distributing the garments, I interacted with village women who had lost almost everything and I was inspired with an idea founded on the principle of “teaching them how to fish instead of giving them fish to eat”. Although there were lots of people and organizations trying to help in every aspect of life, I didn’t see any one concerned about women who were not educated and who also had very little access to the knowledge of deen.

I started talking to many people about how to teach women some simple skills so they could earn a small income which would help them afford their basic needs while still allowing them to stay at home with their families. Alhamdulillah, we managed to open centres for these women where they are taught skills as well as Quranic teaching. Insha’Allah, the centres will also enable us to create opportunities for these women. For example, the Kashmir based organization, Sakhawat, is running 14 schools of their own and my idea is to link the women in our centres with these schools so they can make school uniforms for the students.

This project is on-going and requires support at every level. But it is a very rewarding project in the sense that these women get skills and work which enable them to help their families as well as empowering them with self-confidence.

I was born and raised in Kashmir and there is still a lot of illiteracy in the villages, especially among women. So being a “daughter from soil” it is overwhelmingly important to me to be able to initiate this project of helping my people and providing them with the means for betterment and hope, Alhamdulillah.

By: Samiya Drabu - Project Coordinator

“And [mention] when Abraham was raising the foundations of the House with Ishmael, [saying], “Our Lord, accept [this] from us. Indeed You are the Hearing, the Knowing. Our Lord, and make us Muslims [in submission] to You and from our descendants a Muslim nation [in submission] to You. And show us our rites and accept our repentance. Indeed, You are the Accepting of repentance, the Merciful. Our Lord, and send among them a messenger from themselves who will recite to them Your verses and teach them the Book and wisdom and purify them. Indeed, You are the Exalted in Might, the Wise.” [The Holy Quran, 2:127-129]

FCAO America

U.S. Director, Nafeeza Hooseinny-Nabibaksh



Currently the US director is compiling the paperwork needed for articles of incorporation and plans to have this submitted by the end of April. Once articles of incorporation have been achieved for the State of Florida, it will be closely followed with the filing of IRS Form 1023 to obtain charity status here in America 501(c). A bit of a learning curve about the state and federal laws has inevitably made this process slower than anticipated.

Goals for the upcoming 2016/2017 year includes:

- Selecting 3-5 board members to initially sit on FCAO America
- May – initial meeting to introduce members/volunteers to FCAO
- Before Ramadan – Friday bake sale(s), introduce FCAO to community, Fund-raise for Syrian Orphan/Widow
- Work on moving forward with charitable status to be able to provide donation receipts.
- Ramadan – actively fundraise for Tanzanian Sustainable project
- Early July – planning meeting for remainder of the year
- Mid July – US Director to present at Board Meeting in Canada on progress, challenges, etc.
- Representative to visit Tanzania/Zanzibar in September to report on collected money spent

Pins for Poverty

With the purchase of this pin for **\$10** you are helping reduce poverty globally

For every pin sold, **\$8** will go directly to a **Fiyasbiyallah C.A.O** sustainable project to help those in need.

www.fiyasbiyallah.org

Accounting & Tax Services

Azeez Hooseinny CPA - CMA, FCCA Fozia Alim-Hooseinny CPA - CGA, MBA
Accountants and Tax consultants

Servicing the needs of small and medium sized businesses and charities:

- . Financial Reporting
- . Taxation services -Corporate, Individuals and Charities Returns and resolving issues with CRA
- . Estate Planning
- . Bookkeeping Services
- . Court disclosure documents and forensic audits

Fozia has over 20 years as a practitioner in Canada with extensive experience representing clients. **Azeez** has over 26 years working with CRA and the Ministry of Revenue and 18 years in Public Practice with major Chartered Accounting firms.

Three locations to Serve You:

Scarborough:

421 Nugget Ave, Unit 6
Scarborough, Ontario M1S 4L8
Tel: 416-562-3844

Whitby:

31 Elmeroy Crt
Whitby, Ontario, L1N 8A5
Tel: 905-571-0539

Lindsay:

14 River Road
Lindsay, Ontario, K9V 4R4
Tel: 416-562-3844

E-mail: Foziacga@hotmail.com or Azeez.h@hotmail.com

Free tax services for Syrian Refugees in the Durham Region for 2016

SUMMER DAY CAMP 2015

I LIKE HOW THIS CAMP SET ASIDE THE TIME TO PRAY AND HAVE A LITTLE LESSON AT THE END. I LEARNED ABOUT WHAT I WAS SAYING IN PRAYER AND THE MEANING OF THE WORDS I SAY. I ALSO LEARNED ABOUT THE ETIQUETTE OF ISLAM.

- SISTER TASFIA (CAMP LEADER)



Over the past few years many parents in the community were showing increasing support for an Islamic based summer day camp. Finally, after a long deliberation, FCAO took up this challenge and last year, ran its very own summer day camp. The summer camp was held on every Monday and Wednesday, running for 4 weeks through the months of July and August. All of the campers would meet on camp days in the parking lot of Masjid-E-Ayesha from 9am. From there, they would be bussed to the campsite located in Kawartha Lakes and bussed back to the pick-up site by 7pm, where their parents would be waiting to take them home.

Allah, the Almighty, with His Great Mercy, blessed us with the most beautiful weather, which allowed us to experience the camp to the fullest. The campers experienced many new and exciting things like canoeing, fishing, educational nature walks, baking, sewing, wood work and crafting. All set in an Islamic environment. Under the clear summer skies, prayers were prayed in congregation, followed by Islamic discussion sessions led by Sister Fozia, for the girls and brother Azeez, for the boys.

The kids loved it! It was a great chance to make new Muslim friends and experience things that they had never experienced before. All-in-all, it was a great success. So much so, that there is an increase in demand for this year's camp! Our success could not have happened without the Great Mercy of Allah, the Almighty, and the amazing volunteers that He blessed us with. Therefore, FCAO would like to give a special thank you to all of the volunteers who ran their respected sessions with care and professionalism and to all of the moms who helped with the cooking of those mouth-watering meals. They were always delicious and welcomed by all of our hungry tummies. We pray that Allah, the Most Generous, blesses our next camp with greater success and makes it increasingly better with every year. Ameen!

By Rawdeyah Hooseinny - Camp Organizer and Camp Leader





Letter Of Appreciation

In the Name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful

This letter is dedicated to Brother Azeez and Sister Fouzia and all the volunteers:

Firstly, I would like to thank you for giving my family your time and a beautiful opportunity to stay on the farm. I have to let you know that this is a blessing and a mercy from Allah (Subhanahu wa ta'ala) because my father had a farm which we were brought up in since we were little children, the memories of which I will never forget. I have always wanted my children to experience what it was like on the farm. May Allah bless you and give you Jannatul Firdous. Ameen.

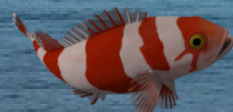
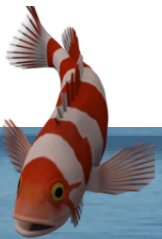
This is something that our Muslim community needs desperately. The kids are learning about manners and etiquettes, duas and salat. They are surrounded by Muslim sisters and brothers who are role models for them. This camp InshaAllah will be in their memories until they are men and women.

Also, this camp is most important for our children whose parents are from different countries because they might feel that their parents do not understand the struggles of being brought up here. It showed them Muslims who were born here, who experienced the struggles of practicing Islam in this society and who actually overcame those challenges and currently practice Islam in a way that makes them feel fulfilled. Not as a cultural or familial obligation but as an informed and well thought out choice.

Being on a farm also brings them back to the basics and allows them to see where all our food comes from. They get a chance to see many different activities which are purposeful and enjoyable. They actually get to experience something that they have probably only read about. Seeing nature reminds us of the blessings that Allah has given us. May Allah give us the opportunity to experience this year after year.

Thank you so much. I will never be able to express how much I appreciate this.

~Sister Sherene



YOUTH CORNER



LEMONADE & BAKE SALE

Prices:

- Cup of Lemonade \$1.00
 - Pack of Cookies \$1.00
 - Cupcake \$1.00
 - Islamic Book \$5.00
- All proceeds benefit Fiyasbiylillah C.A.O.

Assalamu Alaikum. My name is Jawaad Abdullah Khan, and I am a volunteer for Fiyasbiylillah CAO. I am going to talk to you about some of the fundraisers I have done with the help of my friends and family over the course of 2015.

In December 2014, some members and volunteers, including me, got together and decided that we wanted to fundraise for our Syrian Orphans and Widows project. Together we decided to have a hot chocolate stand at a public place. We hosted the hot chocolate stand at Masjid-E-Ayesha (Whitby), a local mosque that is close to Fiyasbiylillah's Office.

In early January 2015, it was time to have the hot chocolate stand. My family and I baked treats and made hot chocolate to sell, and then we took everything over to the mosque. It was a very successful day for Fiyasbiylillah. We raised \$316 and put this towards sponsoring a child through our Orphans and Widows project.

Later, we decided we wanted to sponsor another orphan, so we planned to have another stand. Obviously it was too warm for hot chocolate, so we decided to sell lemonade instead. We have been doing lemonade stands for the past 2 or 3 years, so it has become a tradition for us.

Soon after in July 2015, it was time to put our plan into action. A group of very generous sisters who were familiar with Fiyasbiylillah helped bake treats to sell, and Fiyasbiylillah volunteers made the lemonade. After Jumma Salat, we sold the treats to the brothers and sisters who attended the prayer. After, we counted up the money, and got a grand total of \$401. Alhamdulillah, we were



very pleased with our accomplishment. But we did not know that soon, our fundraising would be taken to greater heights...

In late 2015, after the Liberal government had established the Syrian Refugee Resettlement program for the 25,000 refugees, we decided to have a Bake Sale. Instead of limiting ourselves to the Muslim community, we decided to host it at Bellwood Public School (Whitby).

The Bake Sale was held in the staff room. Student volunteers, teachers and Fiyasbiylillah volunteers brought treats to sell. We sold everything that we started out with. At the end of the bake sale, we counted up the money. It amounted to \$410. This is the first time we have attempted to appeal to a non-muslim audience.

A couple of weeks later, after we received the cheque from the school, the President of Fiyasbiylillah sent a thank you letter to the principal of Bellwood Public School to thank them for their effort and support. We also sent candy to the students of Bellwood Public School who helped organize the bake sale.

As I conclude, I would like to thank everybody who assisted with the fundraising endeavors we have done over the course of 2015, and throughout all the years I have been volunteering with this organization.

-Jawaad Khan, 11 years old



SUMMERFEST 2015

Nothing brings women together like fashion, food and fun and that's exactly what Summerfest 2015 was all about! Held at the Islamic Institute of Toronto in Scarborough, it was an enjoyable afternoon where Muslim sisters could enjoy some entertainment, socialize with each other, shop at the small stalls offering various Islamic themed items and sample delicious food from the food bazaar.

There were also activities for the children such as face painting, balloon animals and even a stall where they could decorate their own cupcake - and eat it of course!

One of the highlights of this year's Summerfest was a fashion show put together by the many volunteers in the community. This fashion show was not an exhibition of any one designer or one particular shop offering Muslim wear to women, but rather it was a display of outfits which showed women how to dress modestly while participating in a variety of different activities. From taking a walk, to playing various sports and even how to dress when going to the mosque- the show touched on the many ways women can be covered up while still participating fully in life. The finale of the fashion show was a stunning display of evening wear from the many cultures in our diverse community. There were beautiful outfits from Malaysia, Somalia, Ghana, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The other major feature of Summerfest 2015 was a talent show showcasing the varying talents of the sisters and young people in our community. It was an entertaining segment in which one sister skillfully played the duff drum, young people beautifully recited the Holy Qur'an, some children told jokes and one sister used her wonderful voice to sing nasheeds.

Overall, it was an enjoyable and successful event with all proceeds going towards covering the annual administrative costs of the organization. Jazakullahul Khair to all who contributed their time and efforts to this year's Summerfest. Rest assured, we couldn't have done it without you. May Allah (swt) bless all of you and your families.

By Ruwaidah Khan - A Fiyasbiyallah C.A.O. Volunteer

THE ARTS STARRING

TEACHING ISLAM THROUGH DRAMA

Being a teacher of Islamic education, I have observed that there is a unique challenge that continues to arise when educating children about their faith. I have noticed that they approach this knowledge with a lazy attitude, driven by boredom and disinterest. My aim has always been to encourage enthusiasm and love for learning about Islam through drama-based exercises. Therefore, I came up with the idea of making Islamic-based plays in order to bring about positive changes in the lives of our future generation of Muslims. We need to plant love and eagerness in their small hearts to make them greedy for Islamic knowledge. Therefore, our play for this spring is rightly named, The Change. The aim of the play is to encourage Islamic change in our lives through taking off the cover of laziness that blinds us from our faith and to study our Book with eagerness, awareness and greediness.

The play includes four Acts. I chose three stories from the Qur'an. The first is from Surat-ul Jinn to show us how the Jinn changed in an instant to become believers. The second story is from Surat-ul- A'raaf which focuses on the story of Prophet Musa (pbuh) and the magicians and how they too changed in an instant and became believers. The third Act is from Surat-ul Qalam. It is about the story of the people of the two gardens and their repentance and change and how they went back to their Lord with regret and awareness. The fourth Act, which is the conclusion of this play, functions as a social commentary showing how far we are from the etiquettes of Islam. It shows how we practice our faith in an automatic way, lacking awareness and knowledge and the critical need we have for true Islamic change.

We put all our hope in Allah (subhanahu wa ta'ala) to help us bring this play to light, that it will be an encouragement to those who attend to taste the sweetness of our religion, and that it will motivate them to make some change in their lives and to ultimately love that change. Always remember, with every positive change we make, we become closer to Allah!

By Asia Maktabi

FIY SABIY LILLAH

Ramadan/Eid Food Hampers Update

On November 21st, 2015 at Fiysabiylillah's Board of Directors Meeting, everyone present agreed to discontinue the Ramadhan/Eid Food Hampers Project as most Masjids were offering them locally. Instead, we will focus on the distribution of Ramadan/Eid Food Hampers Internationally. The 6 countries we are currently planning to service are India, Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Syria and Guyana. There is a possibility that we may provide Ramadhan/Eid Food Hampers to immigrants and the Syrian refugee families entering Canada in 2016 InshaAllah.

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