

## RECIPE BOX

### FISHCAKES

Submitted by  
Yasmeen Siddiqui



#### INGREDIENTS

1 egg (beaten)  
1 can of tuna (drained)  
1 medium onion (finely chopped)  
1 medium potato (boiled and mashed)  
1 tsp. coriander powder  
1 tsp. geera (cumin) powder  
Salt and pepper to taste

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Combine ingredients. Divide mixture into 15 portions and flatten to make patties. Fry patties. Serve warm.

Optional: add coriander (finely chopped)

#### 2013-2014 Elected Board

President: Fozia Hooseinny  
Vice President: Nafeeza Hooseinny  
Secretary: Halima Wahab  
Treasurer: Fadeelah Hooseinny

Communications and Youth  
Coordinator: Saira Munir  
Durham region Coordinator:  
Yasmeen Siddiqui  
Toronto region Coordinator:  
Ayesha Alam

### In loving memory of Sister Asifa Yakub

On Thursday, January 3rd, 2013 Asifa Yakub passed away in her homeland, Kenya. Her passing brings us deep sadness and grief.

Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajioon  
"From Allah (swt) we came and to Him is our return"

Asifa was the Vice President of Fiyasbiylillah CAO but more than that she was a caring, compassionate individual. She freely gave her time, strength and resources in the way of Allah (swt).

May Allah, The Almighty, The Most Merciful protect our sister and shower her with His Mercy and Forgiveness. Grant her Jannatul Firdaus and everlasting happiness insha-Allah. Ameen

May she always be in our duas insha-Allah.

### The Trailer

~ Najma Ghauri

The Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization has well earned its respected position in our community, and the trailer for the needy is one example of their ongoing dedication to helping those who are less fortunate. From homes near and far come parcels and boxes of nearly new clothes, shoes, coats, household wares, jewelry, books, etc. They are sorted by young and old, happily sacrificing a morning's comfort at home to neatly place items on organized shelves and racks. When the calls come from those in need, volunteers work tirelessly, filling the orders and dispensing them to the new owners; a friendly "salaam" and a warm hug is their simple reward.

Trailer items are also sent to countries abroad. Countries such as Guyana, Tanzania, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Zambia have all benefitted from the generosity of those who have donated items to the

trailer. Some of these items are packed in large white plastic barrels and shipped overseas. Some are flown by our Canadian Air Force, and some are taken in ordinary suitcases to be distributed to the needy in Jordan. Our best clothes are saved to be dispersed in our Eid hampers and at our Eid parties for the needy. Your generous support to this important function of Fiyasbiylillah CAO is warmly appreciated.

Please note, our trailer is closed during the winter months and opens again in April. Please do not leave any bags on the platform of our trailer. Instead, call Sister Fozia at 905-571-0539 or 647-855-5466. All donated clothes items are to be washed and folded before reaching the trailer.

May Allah (swt) have mercy on us and help us to do what pleases Him. Ameen.



### FIYSABIYLILLAH CAO VOLUNTEER RECEIVES QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL



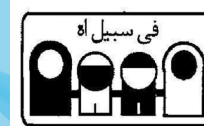
Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award is to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II ascension to the throne as Queen of Canada. This occasion has been marked only once before by her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria in 1897. To celebrate this event 60,000 outstanding Canadians of all ages and from all walks of life were honored for their contributions and distinguished service to their fellow citizens, their community and their country. On January 22, 2013, Azeez Hooseinny, an active volunteer for several years with the Fiyasbiylillah CAO was presented with this honor. The presentation of the Medal and Award Certificate was done by the Director of the East Central Ontario Tax Services Office of the Canada Revenue Agency at a ceremony in Belleville, Ontario and was attended

by the Treasurer of Fiyasbiylillah, Fadeelah Hooseinny. This award was in recognition of Mr. Hooseinny's work in the Canadian Public Service and for his ongoing efforts in the community, primarily through his volunteer work with Fiyasbiylillah CAO.



WWW.FIYSABIYLILLAH.ORG

Registered Canadian Charitable Organization 845026723RR0001 (www.cra-arc.gc/tax/charities/menu-e.html)



# Fiysabiylillah

Compassionate Aid Organization

# Newsletter

2012-2013

السلام عليكم

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I am always amazed at what this organization manages to accomplish in a year, through the Will and Mercy of Almighty Allah. Upon reflection, Alhamdulillah, this year is no different.

Our major achievement this past year was the move to our own office space located at 421 Nugget Avenue in Scarborough. Let me be the first to admit, I was not the champion of this venture as I saw it as a burden to such a small organization that is founded on the principle of no administration fees from donations. Paying the rent was a weight the executive board carried and it is something we look for help with in the future. However, the pros far outweigh the cons of this endeavour, and having our own office space, beyond the home of our Founder, is critical in seeing this organization evolve into something more dynamic that all women can see themselves a part of. Our new location has allowed for more interaction between women, and has provided women interested in giving back to their community locally and abroad, a place to envision, plan, and implement projects. Projects such as providing aid to Syria in the form of food and medicine, supporting education in the Mathai Hope Village in India, sewing classes for the local community, and diabetes clinics, to name but a few.

We also held our electoral AGM this year to vote in our new Executive committee for 2013-2014. With a good turnout and some wonderful stories from volunteers on why they were involved with Fiyasbiylillah, it was further confirmation that what we do matters. We welcomed three new board members to our team this year: Halima Wahab as the Secretary, Dr. Yasmeen Siddiqui as the Durham Area Coordinator and Ayesha Alam as the Toronto Area Representative. All bring great experience through their own activities and outreach projects within their respective areas. Also new is the combined position of Dawa/Youth Coordinator held by Saira Munir. We thank Farema Shafee and Asia Maktabi for all their assistance on the past board and are happy they remain with us as active volunteers, given their valuable experience. Also presented at this year's AGM were certificates recognizing volunteers Farida Patel, Fatima Alala and Azra Haja Mohideen, who have gone above and beyond in their support of Fiyasbiylillah's programs and projects over the last several years.

With that said, I look forward to working with the new executive committee in our continued commitment to help those in need. Jazakallahul khair to everyone whose efforts and dedication made for another successful year for Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization.

Nafeeza Hooseinny

"Believers, spend out of what We have given you, before the Day comes when there will be neither trading, friendship, nor intercession. Truly, it is those who deny the truth who are the wrongdoers. Holy Quran, Surah Baqara, verse 254"

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### 2013 Upcoming

#### Activities

- Annual Gala Event—Pakistan (May 11, 2013)
- Eid Hamper Project -local/int'l (August)
- Children's Eid-ul Adha Party (November)

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## SOMALILAND

~Aisha Mohamed

Almost a year ago today, Sister Farema walked into my clothing store. As with any customer, I tried to help her find what she was looking for. In the process, we began to talk. I shared information with her about my background in fashion design and in turn, I learned that she volunteered with a non-profit organization called Fiyasbiyallah Compassionate Aid Organization.

Over the years I have had many non-profit and charitable organizations come to my store. Sometimes they would give information about their organization and its mission, while at other times they would ask to leave a collection jar or a flyer promoting an event. But something was different about this sister; she spoke with such passion about Fiyasbiyallah and their mission to help those in need. She talked about some of the initiatives that Fiyasbiyallah had been involved with in various parts of the world, like accessible education, medical aid and clean water projects.

While we discussed some of the work that Fiyasbiyallah was involved with, I wondered to myself if they would be able to help Somaliland. Somaliland declared independence from Somalia in 1991 and has remained unrecognized by the international community. This has made it difficult for aid efforts and initiatives to be delivered by non-profit organizations.

I decided to visit Fiyasbiyallah's office to meet the director of the organization, Mrs. Fozia Hooseinny. I spoke with Mrs. Hooseinny at great length about Somaliland; its history, its current situation and the need for help from the international Muslim community. She explained to me that a project of this magnitude would have many challenges and require a lot of coordination. I knew Fiyasbiyallah had the capability to deliver and I assured Mrs. Hooseinny that if they took this on I was ready to help in any way I could. Shortly after our conversation, I was told that Fiyasbiyallah would be selecting Somaliland as the focus of a fundraising project scheduled for later that year (2012).



The project's scope consisted of a very large multipurpose hall, a small room for the caretaker, two toilets and a water reservoir for each of the two villages. For the first time ever in those



regions, the children were to start primary education. Also, since the majority of the people were illiterate, literacy programs for men and women were planned.

The multipurpose hall would also serve as a gathering place for different groups of the village to discuss community issues and share information. People considered these facilities as the beginning of a long awaited social development; a fundamental step forward in addressing the community needs of both villages. In fact it is a great accomplishment for both the Fiyasbiyallah organization and the people in the villages.

I had always planned to return to Somaliland to visit, but it never materialized due to the situation of the country and my own obligations to my family. It just so happened that when I was finally able to purchase my own ticket to visit Somaliland, I had the pleasure of meeting such amazing people like sister Farema and Mrs. Hooseinny. The timing of the project could not have been any better. And so, by the grace of Allah (swt), I returned to Somaliland after 30 years and during my visit, I was able to help people that really were in need of assistance. Also, I was able to provide the organization with information about parts of the country that were more in need than others so we could focus our aid efforts there.

Two villages (Kulmiye and Kalwarable) in Sheikh District were the main beneficiaries of the project. The communities benefited both educationally and spiritually. I spent a few hours in the villages and I was excited and proud about the quality of the construction, the suitability of the locations and the eagerness of the people to use them in every instance. The centre developed into a space where families and friends would gather harmoniously, sharing stories and laughter. It was space that served as a shelter during times when families' homes were affected by flooding. The poor were able to lodge there when it was too cold outside and they needed a place to rest. It was also the main area for festivities and events. The space became an integral part of the fabric of the two communities. It was a very emotional experience which I will carry with me forever.

I want to sincerely thank Mrs. Fozia Hooseinny and the entire team at Fiyasbiyallah for all their hard work and commitment to seeing this project through and changing the lives of countless people in Somaliland. May Allah shower you and your families with blessings and continue to aid your efforts in helping those all over the world!

## DURHAM MUSLIM STUDENT BURSARY

Founded in Ramadhan 2012, the Fiyasbiyallah CAO Durham Muslim Student Bursary/Financial Aid uses Zakat funds to provide much needed financial support for students attending the Durham College or the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT).

In 2012, seven of twelve students who applied for the bursary were awarded financial aid. Some of these students have lost financial support from their families due to conversion to Islam, war, and financial debt.

For more information please contact Dr. Yasmeen Siddiqui at durhammsb@gmail.com



**On the authority of Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) from the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), who said:**

*Allah (mighty and sublime be He) said: 'Spend (on charity), O son of Adam, and I shall spend on you.'*

## Helping Syria

We are all sadly aware of the crisis going on in Syria and that every day seems to bring new reports of fresh devastation and horrifying atrocities. The overriding feelings surrounding this war are usually one of gratitude to Allah (swt) that we are not among those living there and also a sense of wanting to do whatever we can to help. However, this desire to help can be more difficult in practice than in theory. How to actually get the money into the country? How to ensure that whatever money is raised actually gets to people who need it and is not tied up in administrative costs or sitting in banks with no way of getting aid to people on the ground? In spite of these daunting challenges, a number of sisters were so moved by the suffering of the Syrian people that they were determined to help.



In late 2012, two Syrian members of Fiyasbiyallah CAO put together a dinner to raise money to buy food and medicine for Syrian civilians living in the outskirts of Damascus. Winter was fast approaching and many of these people had been displaced from their homes and were living in makeshift shelters in the woods or in abandoned schools. They were desperately in need of medicine, warm blankets, winter clothes and boots, not

to mention simple food staples like rice and flour. Alhamdulillah, the dinner was able to raise \$25,000. With this money, Fiyasbiyallah CAO, with the help of individuals on the ground in Syria, were able to purchase rice, sugar, dry milk, tea, cooking utensils, oil, candles, medicine, and the much needed winter supplies for the displaced victims of this area. The money was sent incrementally over a prolonged period of time, to ensure the aid was of an ongoing nature. In addition, \$5,000 of the money raised was also sent to purchase food hampers for families living in the city of Aleppo, an area besieged by some of the most intense fighting.

May Allah (swt) reward all of those who donated their time and money to this cause and may He accept our heartfelt duas for the suffering people of Syria.

## THE LEMONADE STAND

~ Jawaad and Majeedah Khan (8 and 6 years old)

*We are a brother and sister who live in Whitby. We have always wanted to run a lemonade stand. We thought it would be lots of fun and we could also make some money out of it too. But then we thought of all the stuff we already have and we realized that there are some people who needed money way more than we did. So we decided to have our lemonade stand for charity. With the help of our family, who baked cookies, made signs and helped make the lemonade, we had a lemonade and cookie stand in the parking lot of the Whitby Masjid one Friday after Jum'ah Salat. We had a lot of fun and our lemonade and cookies sold like hot cakes! We raised \$223 dollars, which we donated towards the Fiyasbiyallah Somalian water project. 223 is now our favorite number! Doing something to help those in need was an amazing feeling. We want everyone out there to know how easy it is to help other people and how good it makes you feel as well. Anyone can make a difference, no matter how old you are.*



IMAGE BY: SAIRA MUNIR

## RELIGION VS. CULTURE

~ Saira Munir

In the fall of last year, we were given an amazing opportunity to put together a program to provide knowledge to the Islamic youth regarding the forces of religion and culture and how they affect us as Muslims. Because the program dealt with the ways that both Islam and culture shape our perspectives, the theme was "Culture Versus Islam: The Clash of the Two". The hope of this function was that by acknowledging the problems we face today and teaching the Ummah how to confront and deal with these problems from a strictly Islamic viewpoint, we would better be able to move into the future in a more positive and unified way.

We were faced with many challenges while putting this program together, but Alhamdulillah, on November 17, 2012, our planning and efforts were rewarded and we were able to have a well-run program. There were a total of seven speakers from as far away as Montreal. The sessions were all arranged around issues designed to keep the youth interested, such as pre-marital relationships, fashion, friends, and much more. The program included performances by a spoken word artist and a nasheed artist, as well as a Qur'anic recitation. Since the program was geared towards a female audience, all the speakers and entertainers were females. Alhamdulillah.

We were fortunate to be able to donate all funds that were raised to build an underground reservoir to alleviate water scarcity in the Sheikh District of Somalia.

The privilege of putting together a program centered around youth was very rewarding, as many of us were not granted the opportunity to participate in something like this when we were younger. However, the best part about this experience was being able to come together in a purposeful, united, joyful expression of sisterhood. Hope to do this again this year for the sisters in the hood!

## SEWING CLASSES

Always wanted to design your own clothes? Learn the basics at the Fiyasbiyallah Treasure Chest! For more information, visit the Fiyasbiyallah C.A.O website or call Sister Fozia at 647-855-5466.

