

Supporting our Students
~ Durham Muslims Student Bursary

Many students have applied but only a few have been granted bursaries. Here are a few stories of some chosen recipients.

International Exchange Student



A Syrian student came to Canada to continue his education from a pre-war Syria where he had earned a diploma from a Biomedical Engineering Technology Program. He was fine for the first 2 years, his family, who was back home, was providing his financial support and he was a bright student, achieving high grades in a Canadian College and placing among the top three in his program.

Then the war and tumult in Syria began. His family's business began to struggle, his brother was arrested, everything he cared for was being lost. The number of people being killed in Syria was steadily increasing just as the value of Syrian currency was steadily decreasing.

He was on his own. He had to start saving money from his current part time job to cover his International Student tuition, which is approximately \$13,000 (4 times more than a regular student's), plus finding additional part time jobs to cover his daily living expenses. All this in addition to studying and maintaining his GPA.

Student attaining Medical Degree

This student wanted to become a doctor. In a profession largely dominated by males, she wanted to provide Muslim sisters who need to see a doctor with the option of seeing a female rather than a male. She wanted to set an example for young Muslim girls that they can also become doctors, and that there is a need for them.



Graduating from the University of Toronto with distinction, she was accepted to a medical school in the United States that is recognized in Canada, US, and the European Union. She saw her dreams and her goals coming to fruition. However, the cost for the 4-year program was approximately \$30,000 a year. She was receiving OSAP and family support, however she still needed to find an additional \$8,000.



Student with Credit Problems

Coming from Bangladesh to Canada to reap the opportunities of a better education, this student was unaware of the traps of our society. Signing up for a credit card and paying a mere \$10 minimum payment per month, he thought this country was very generous to look after their citizens in such a manner. Using the credit card to pay for his daily necessities and even helping his friend pay his tuition, he was unaware that he was earning approximately 12% interest every month on his unpaid balance. When he did realize, it was too large a debt for him to handle on his own.

Being Me Conference 2013

~ Fozia Hooseinny

Alhamdulillah our first attempt in marketing the organization to the public, turned out to be quite an interesting venture. Our volunteers who manned the booth must be commended for a job well done and may Allah the Almighty reward them, for giving of their time for His pleasure. The busy times were during Zuhur, Asr and Maghrib. One had to walk through the vendors area to get to the prayer area – this was good planning on the part of the organizers as it gave all vendors an ample opportunity to sell their wares to the public. Since we were newcomers, it took us a while to set up the displays to grasp the attention of the crowd. We soon learnt that we had to invite everyone who passed by to visit our booth, since only a few were interested in the work of a charitable organization.



Our first exhibit centered around the organization:

- a) Fiysabiylillah C.A.O is a registered charity approved by the Canadian government.
- b) 100% volunteer-based operations to help the less fortunate locally and abroad.
- c) 100% of your donations go towards the project of your choice.

The Durham Muslim Student Bursary has been providing financial support for Muslim students for two years now.

A Trip to Niagara Falls
~ Rawdeyah Kalamadeen

On October 5th 2013 Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization hosted a picnic at Niagara Falls for the less fortunate families from the GTA and Durham Region. Five school buses were used to transport the families from designated areas to the Horseshoe Falls Park in Niagara. As Allah (swt) would have it, the day was a wet and gloomy one. But despite the weather, Allah, the Almighty blessed us all with a wonderful time and left us all with happy hearts. The company was warm, the food was great and the cakes were delicious! But above all, the highlight of the day was Allah's spectacular creation, Niagara Falls. Due to the rain from the days before, the Niagara River was full and flowing, making the falls a great and thunderous spectacle. Alhamdulillah!



To cap it all off, we made a short stop at Masjid-an-Noor in St. Catherines along the way. It was a great blessing for us all. It gave



Kids enjoying lunch at the Niagara Falls park.

us a chance to dry off from our very wet, yet wonderful outing and pray together in congregation. Jazakallahu khaira to everyone at Masjid-an-Noor. May Allah, the Almighty, reward you and bless your beautiful masjid and make it always a place of sanctuary for every Muslim who is looking for a place to stop and pray.

As well, may Allah (swt), reward all our volunteers who worked endlessly through the wet and soggy conditions and who never tired or lost their patience. It was incredibly appreciated. And thank you to everyone who made quality donations to our Fiysabiylillah clothing collection. Many items were distributed to our families to celebrate the up-coming Eid-ul-Adha. The items, including winter wear, stuffed animals and hair accessories, were received with much appreciation and thanks. May Allah (swt) reward you all who gave items of good quality. They made a big difference in the lives of these families. Jazakallahu khaira from Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization to all involved and see you next year! Insha'Allah!

In keeping with our mission statement "...development of one's faith as the ultimate source of strength" we went on to our second exhibit- **Read the Quran! Live it! And Don't be Lazy!!** We pointed out that the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the best example of one who lived the Quran and we encouraged everyone to find out how by reading his life history. Qurans and Life of the Prophet Muhammad books were available for free or a small donation and this gesture was greatly appreciated by everyone.

The third exhibit **Nurture Your Seeds** was to encourage mothers to teach their children at a young age about praying, good manners and the use of duas in their young lives. Books covering these topics were also available.

The fourth and fifth exhibits were of our **local and international projects** with emphasis on our current **Baltistan, Pakistan Healthcare Project**.

Finally the last exhibit was about our PIN FOR POVERTY campaign, where every hijab pin purchased (\$10), \$8 goes towards the current international sustainable project.

The women who visited our booth were very keen to learn about the activities of Fiysabiylillah and in the end they were happy to give their names and e-mail addresses for upcoming Fiysabiylillah news and events. By the Grace and Mercy of Almighty Allah we were able to complete another activity for the Pleasure of Allah (swt). Jazakallahu khaira to those who were involved in making the displays and marketing the organization.



Fiysabiylillah

Compassionate Aid Organization

Helping Those in Need

Newsletter

2013-2014

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

Message From The President



May the Peace, Mercy and Blessings of Almighty Allah be with you all.

It gives me great pleasure to look back at the highlights of 2013/14 as we move forward into the 2014/15 year. Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization acknowledges that none of this is possible without Almighty Allah.

Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization started out 2013 with their biannual General Meeting where new executive committee members were elected. We took the opportunity to present appreciation awards to two of Fiysabiylillah's members, Sisters Farida Patel and Fatima Alala, for their dedication and commitment to the organization for the past ten years. Sister Azra Muhajideen was also cited for her dedication as a volunteer to the organization in 2013.

In the spring we reopened our Used Clothing Trailer in Whitby. Fiysabiylillah was able to collect, sort, pack and distribute clothing locally and abroad to Guyana, Syria and Pakistan. Fiysabiylillah launched the 2013 international project at its Fundraising Dinner held in May. A CDN\$50,000 Healthcare Project for Baltistan, Pakistan was selected from the many proposals received. This project consisted of three phases with the last phase completed by the end of December 2013 - thanks to the Power of Almighty Allah and Fiysabiylillah's generous donors.

In June/ July the members and volunteers of the organization continued their work in the Path of Allah as we began collecting banana boxes for our 2013 Ramadhan/Eid Food Hamper Project. Three hundred food hampers were distributed to fasting, low-income families in the Kawartha Lakes, Durham Region and the Greater Toronto Area.

This year Fiysabiylillah added a new social activity - the Autumn Niagara Picnic for Seniors and Low-income families. Despite the inclement weather, most of us had a wonderful and unforgettable trip. Visiting and praying at the Mosque located in St. Catherine's was one of the highlights of our day. In addition, Fiysabiylillah held its first Al-Nisa Fashion Show and Bazaar to raise funds for its administration costs. Fiysabiylillah hopes to organize a Niagara trip and an Al-Nisa Fashion Show and Bazaar each year. God willing.

Fiysabiylillah wrapped up its activities for the year with a Fundraising Dinner in November to complete the Baltistan, Pakistan Project. Around this time, we also worked diligently to pack a shipment of gently used clothing for the people of Syria, Pakistan, and Guyana. A shipment to Pakistan was sent at the beginning of 2014 and the second shipment will follow later in the year, God willing.

In 2014/2015 Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization is committed to working together with **Unity and Togetherness** as we help the less fortunate locally and abroad.

2014/15 Projections:

- * Mini International Projects in Tanzania, Syria and Guyana
- * Shipping container of used clothing including prescription glasses to Hyderabad, India
- * Continuing Dawah efforts - preparing Dawah flyer for distribution.

~ Fozia Hooseinny

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

"I swear by the passage of time, that man is surely in a state of loss, except for those who believe and do good deeds and exhort one another to hold fast to the Truth, and who exhort one another to steadfastness."
Surah 103, Verses 1-3, The Holy Qur'an

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Packing Ramadhan food hampers

2014/15 Upcoming

Activities

- Donors Appreciation Dinner (May 04, 2014)
- Eid Hamper Project -local/int'l (Mid-July 2014)
- Niagara Picnic (September 2014)
- Al-Nisa Fashion Show and Bazaar (May 2015)

Editor: Ruwaidah Khan

Coordinator: Fadeelah Hooseinny

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

Administration Costs: Shedding Some Light

A key fact sets Fiysabiylillah C.A.O apart from other charitable organizations: 0% of donations go to administration fees. However, in order for the organization to function these costs such as rent, office supplies, bank charges, telephone, etc., do exist.

So, how are they paid for?

Fiysabiylillah C.A.O uses the following inventive methods to protect their donors from administration costs. They include:

- Using ticket sales from Fiysabiylillah events
- Requiring Board Members to contribute \$1000 per year
- Providing sewing classes to the public, where all fee collections are given to the organization. Teachers are not paid
- Rental of rooms at the Fiysabiylillah Headquarters for the use of an accounting practice and Community Sisters classes.

AL-NISA FASHION SHOW

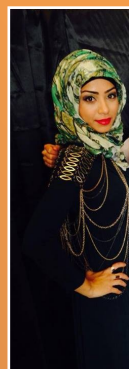
~ *Fadeelah Hooseinny*

I have the chance to gain new skills and experiences and to use them to benefit the community and help those that have less than myself. But along with contributing my time and skills to the organization, I shoulder a portion (\$1000) of the organizations administration fees in order to ensure that our generous donors do not.

Partnering with my fellow board member, Saira Munir, we embarked on a journey to raise \$2000 for administration costs while also giving a little bit back to our community. Thus the Al-Nisa Fashion Show and Bazaar was born.

This event was inspired by the young women of our community. Women who are striving to gain a higher education and contribute to our society and who have a desire to dress both fashionably and in an Islamic manner.

Our fashion show was graced with the presence of five Collections showcasing differing styles, keeping with the theme of modest yet fashionable. They were Noorul Haya Couture (hijab and accessories), Andacheria (long dresses and casual tops), Victorious Me (long dresses, jackets and accessories), Peplum Shop (blazers and long dresses), and Fiysabiylillah Sewing Collection (self-made outfits).



Models on the runway, taking pictures and getting ready to walk the runway

gummy candies, Boutique by Lila with their IndoPak fashion, Exotic Trendz with their outfit accessories and much, much more!

One of our guests said, "I'm sure if anyone would say anything it would be they wished it could go on longer, maybe all night. For the reasonable price everyone paid, it was fabulous. I was glad to be a part of it."

The Al-Nisa Fashion Show and Bazaar was held on March 16th, 2014 at the Brighton Convention Center. Alhamdulillah the event went smoothly, our guests had a wonderful time, and we reached our target of \$2000 profit!

I'd like to sincerely thank the MC's, models, make-up artists, and vendors for their fabulous work and making this event a success! JazakAllahu khaira. Insha'Allah we plan to hold this event again next year. Please look out for us in **May 2015!**

"YOU MADE IT?!"

~ *Tasfia Alam*

Through Fiysabiylillah's Sewing Classes I have learnt many of the necessary sewing skills to become a great seamstress. For example straight stitching, basting, backstitching, over locking, and hemming. I also learned about different types of needles, types of fabrics, and what needles are appropriate for what fabric. Most importantly, I learnt how to use a sewing machine properly. I was taught the different parts of the sewing machine, common problems and how to fix them. Specifically in level 2, I learnt how to sew buttonholes and zippers. I learnt how to use the sewing machine to create buttonholes and how to create an overlap of fabric to hide zippers. I continued to use the skills from level 1 in level 2. I have sewn a pillowcase, a hijab, a prayer suit, a skirt, and in level 2, I was able to make a pair of sweatpants. I learnt how to create a waistband with a draw string and pant cuffs for the sweatpants. I was very satisfied with my products that I produced in the classes. I have even worn my sweatpants and skirt and have received many compliments on them! When I tell people I made them myself, they don't believe me because they look professionally made. I use my prayer suit on a daily basis. Fiysabiylillah's sewing classes teaches valuable and useful sewing skills in a professional manner so that the items you produce turn out beautiful. I am very happy that I got this experience and, Insha'Allah, I hope to continue using the skills I've gained to produce other items as well.



Zipper



Sweat pants



Pant cuffs

FIYSABIYLILLAH C.A.O INTERNATIONAL 2013 PROJECT

Baltistan, Pakistan: Healthcare Project

Cost: \$50,000

PHASE ONE \$15,000

Ten girls were recruited from distant villages. Without prior knowledge of medicine or biological functions, these girls were trained to be Paramedic Assistants. They were taught basic anatomy, how to recognize common illnesses (i.e. chest infections, hypertension) and how to treat them using medical drugs. They were taught how to treat the common illnesses of children (i.e. diarrhea, natal care, hygiene issues) and how to administer vaccinations and immunizations.

These girls were housed and provided meals on the hospital premises.



Girls graduate as Paramedic Assistants



The girls who are undergoing training in paramedics

PHASE TWO \$15,000



Patients waiting outside the clinic.

The newly graduated Paramedic Assistants are stationed at a clinic located in their village. These clinics include the remote villages of Torgon, Harikon, Ghawari Giantha, Kuro Satu, Mantho Manthoka, Ghasing Usukhore, Katisho Shamyala, Monjong, Asgharabad, and Thalevillage. The Paramedic Assistants regularly visit the poor and the sick in the villages, using the knowledge and skills they have gained to treat their patients. They are regularly supervised by doctors that travel to each of the ten villages.



A graduated trainee checks a patients blood pressure

PHASE THREE \$20,000

A vehicle was purchased to enable the Doctors and Paramedic Assistants to travel from the Hospital in Sermik-Skardu, to the remote villages. The villages are visited regularly to monitor the sick and transport those that need special medical care back to the hospital.



The vehicle used to travel to and from the villages



SYRIA vs. THE SYRIA OF TODAY

~ *Asia Maktabi*



A street in Aleppo before the war



What used to be a residential area in Aleppo

Syria is one of those Middle Eastern countries, which has traditionally been something of an unknown for many years. Its population was about 15.45 million people, with Damascus as the Capital. The different people that occupied Syria over time are: the people of the Stone Age, Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, early-Islamic dynasties, Ottoman Turks, the British and the French.

Ninety percent of the population is made up of Arabs: Muslims, Christians, and Jews live side by side in Syria. In addition, there are also Armenians who came from South Russia and some from the Iranian area of Charkas as well. This gives a multicultural aspect to the area. Arabic is the main language.

Syria has numerous Roman, Byzantine, Islamic and Crusader monuments and sites. This heritage is really fascinating, the most wonderful thing which exists between past and present. Syrian people are the most generous, friendly and hospitable in the region. You can actually make friends very quickly and the most casual meetings can lead to an invitation to take tea at someone's home. The warmth and the welcome you'll receive is entirely genuine.

Syria's civil war is one of the worst disasters of our time. The number of innocent civilians suffering is nearing 9 million and counting. We can call this war, a war to eradicate the whole Syrian people.

The more people are aware of the situation the more we can begin to help them, but we can only do that with your knowledge and support. Here are some quick facts:

- Over 100,000 have been killed and bombings are destroying crowded cities.
- Basic necessities like food and medical care are sparse
- Thousands flee their country everyday, which can be just as dangerous as staying
- Families will walk for miles through the night to avoid being shot at or being caught by soldiers
- Refugees face the lack of food, heat, running water, and the inability to find proper income.

- According to the UN, over half of the Syrian refugees are under 18 years of age. Most have been out of school for months, if not years.
- The youngest are confused and scared, lacking the sense of home and safety. The older children are forced to grow up too fast, finding work and taking care of their family in desperate circumstances.

Syria's people need us now, please donate generously.