



Fiysabiylillah

Compassionate Aid Organization

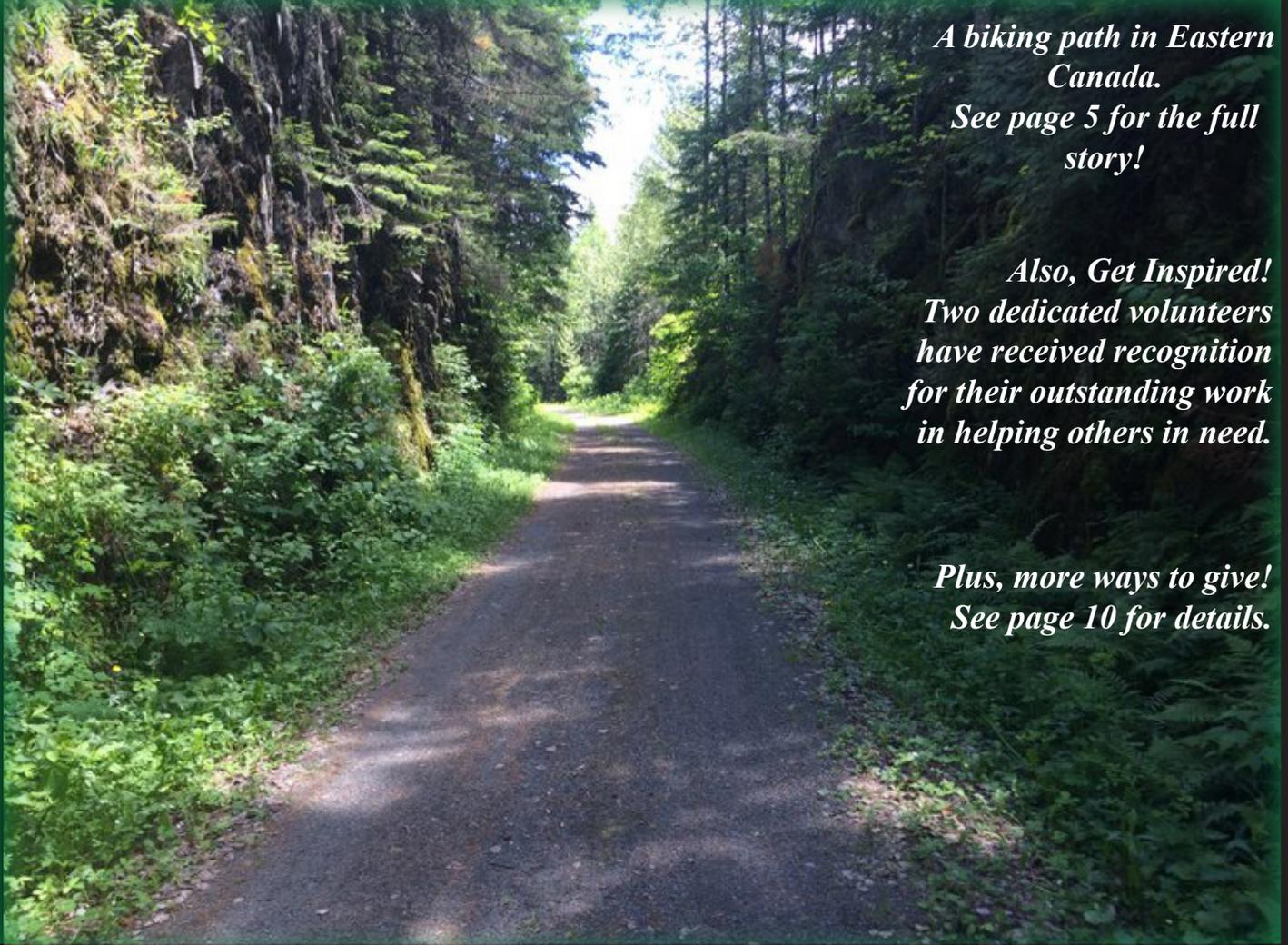
2018-2019

*A biking path in Eastern
Canada.*

*See page 5 for the full
story!*

*Also, Get Inspired!
Two dedicated volunteers
have received recognition
for their outstanding work
in helping others in need.*

*Plus, more ways to give!
See page 10 for details.*



2017-2018 Executive Board Members

President - Fozia Hooseinny
Board Member - Fatima Alala
Board Member - Farema Shaffee
Board Member - Ayesha Alam
Board Member - Rawdeyah Hooseinny
Board Member - Hawa Sardar

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INSPIRING OTHERS!

Leading Women Award Building Communities Recognition Program - Federal and Ontario

The President of Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization, Fozia Alim-Hooseinny was nominated for this



award based on her efforts over the years, in helping the poor and taking care of the needs of the less fortunate. Apart from being a mother of six children, a self-employed Professional Chartered Accountant with a Masters Degree in Business Administration, she still finds the time from her busy schedule to give back to the community.

Fozia is the founder of the non-profit organization Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization, comprised of only female members, which has been responsible for completing a variety of aid projects both locally and internationally since its inception in 2000. She is committed to the concept of “giving back” and as such the organization has been run solely by volunteers who contribute their time and efforts without any rewards except those they will receive in the Hereafter. In this same spirit of community service, one hundred percent of all donations collected go toward the charity’s projects. Since the year 2000, Fozia has been volun-



teering over five hundred hours annually with Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization in the administrative, accounting, taxation and management aspects of the organization as well as its compassionate and charitable activities.

Fozia began her charitable work by preparing and distributing food hampers and halal meat to needy families in the Durham Region. Recognizing the need for poorer immigrant families to meet and learn their religion, she was able to organize Eid parties for single moms and their children as well as establish an afternoon class in one of the apartment complexes in Whitby where many of these families reside. She was one of the five teachers who taught Quranic studies in Arabic and English, the five daily prayers, Islamic etiquette and the history of the life of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him). Noticing the lack of adequate winter clothing for these low-income families, she arranged for a clothing trailer to be placed in the parking lot of Masjid-E-Ayesha which

still accepts and processes gently used clothing for distribution to those in Need both locally and internationally.

Since applying for and receiving charitable status in 2010, the organization, under the direction and management of Fozia, has expanded its vision and begun taking on more projects that benefit the Needy in international communities. Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization has shipped 40 ft containers of gently used clothing and medical equipment to Tanzania, Hyderabad (India) and Chittagong (Bangladesh). The last shipment to Bangladesh was shipped in November 2017 for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and included non-perishable food items and blankets.

Over the years Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization (FCAO) has funded the installation of nine water storage tanks in drought stricken villages in North East Kenya, funded the purchase of school equipment, for the Maato Muslim Primary School in Uganda, constructed a community centre/school in Iquata Village in Nigeria and raised \$25,000 for the children of Palestine to purchase food, artificial limbs and to assist with the building of two schools in the region. FCAO has completed a project in Somaliland with the help of Sister Aisha Mohamed – a Somali born businesswoman - to build a multipurpose hall complete with toilets and a water reservoir for two villages in the area. These centres are integral to the life of the villages as they provide places to congregate, shelter for the poor, and a venue for festivities and events. FCAO also raised \$50 000 for the Baltistan Healthcare Project in Pakistan where 10 women from remote villages were trained to be paramedic assistants and an all-terrain vehicle was purchased to provide transport for the seriously ill to the hospital in Baltistan.

When the crisis in Syria broke out, FCAO partnered with Lamia Sami, a native Arabic speaker to launch its Syrian Widows and Orphans program. In association with the Hemma Volunteer Group based in Amman, Jordan, FCAO began a program wherein each person received a monthly assistance of \$30 Canadian to be used for food, shelter, clothing or education. 150 Syrian widows and orphans were helped via this program.

When the Canadian Government opened its doors to Syrian refugees, FCAO raised \$230 000 Canadian to bring eight families to resettle in Canada. This project is still ongoing as many of these new immigrants still need financial as well as emotional assistance as they adjust to their new lives and surroundings.

Throughout all of these endeavours, Fozia has been at the forefront of the organization, spearheading all of these initiatives with her tireless desire to improve the lives of those who are less fortunate. Her outstanding example has encouraged those within the organization to make an effort to actively change things for the better in their own homelands and communities. Through this organization, women have been given an opportunity to contribute to something meaningful, important and life changing; an opportunity to contribute to something bigger than themselves.

Let us be inspired by Fozia's contributions and be motivated to be achievers and not onlookers.

“Love One Another”

by Fatima Alala

“Love for others what you love for yourself”. This was the message that seven year old Hanan got from the Hadith that her Madrasah teacher read to her. At public school , she was being surrounded by all the talk and valentine trinkets that her friends were getting excited about. Hanan was a bit confused and went to her Mom Fatima and asked her about the love of Allah and the Valentine love that her friends were talking about.

Fatima explained to Hanan that Allah’s love is always present and never fades away while love this love on Valentine’s Day is only for one day and is not available for the next 364 days of the year. Allah is always caring, loving, kind, merciful, compassionate and most of all forgiving. Hanan was so impressed by Allah’s love that she wanted to tell everyone. So Sister Fatima came up with a wonderful that she and her daughter would get some friends and go down to Union Station in downtown Toronto and tell people about Allah’s love for them.

Fatima went to work, telling her friends about her idea to spread Allah’s love on Valentine’s Day with the hope that people could become more aware about the greatness of their Creator. As the date approached, Sister Fozia came with the flyer, Sister

GOD IS MOST FORGIVING

God said

- "O son of Adam! I shall go on forgiving you so long as you pray to Me and aspire for My Forgiveness, whatever may be your sins."
- "O son of Adam! I do not care even if your sins should pile up to the sky, and should you beg pardon of Me, I will forgive you."
- "O son of Adam! If you come to me with an earth-full of sins and meet Me, not associating any with Me in Worship, I will certainly grant you as much Pardon as will fill the Earth."
(Hadith Kudsi)

No one can love us as God loves us.
Seek the Truth and You Will Find
Your Way!

www.fiyasabiylillah.org



info@fiyasabiylillah.com

GOD'S LOVE 

God's Love is Everlasting.
No one Love's you as God Loves You.
True Love is from God Alone.
Love each other and God will Love You.

GOD LOVES 

The one who does **GOOD**
The one who is **PURE**
The one who is **JUST**
The one who is **TRUSTING**
The one who is **PATIENT**
The one who is **PERSEVERING**

And God is **MOST FORGIVING**
see overleaf >

Rawdeyah prepared the “Love one another” tags for the roses, Sister Souzan purchased the roses and the chocolates and on Wednesday, February 14, fifteen excited children, teenagers and women travelled from Whitby Go station to Toronto Union Station formed 4 groups and stepped outside in below zero weather to spread Allah’s Love. It was not long before the groups realized that not everyone was not as excited as they were about Allah’s love. They noticed that people avoided them by making a detour, frowned at them or made rude comments but this did not discourage them, they stood their ground. They gained strength from the few who smiled and took the flyer and rose, those who said thank you, the one person who passed by, stopped, retraced her steps, enquired about the flyers and then said what a wonderful thing to do and asked if she could have one. In the end this was an eye-opening day for everyone. All in all, Hanan, Fatima and the other members of the group saw this as a learning experience and are looking forward to spreading Allah’s love again in summer outside the CN Tower InshaAllah.

May Allah bless the prophet Muhammad on whom be peace, his task was not an easy one. We should gain strength from his example as he stood by the Kaaba and told the Meccans about the Oneness of Allah. Little by little with Allah’s help and by patiently persevering, we can hope to open the hearts of others to the love of Almighty Allah.

An Educational Adventure

By: Yusuf Kalamadeen

Assalamu alaikum readers. I am twelve years old and this summer I had the opportunity to visit my native country, Guyana, for the first time. Even though I was born in England, my heritage is Guyanese, as witnessed by my love for chicken curry and potato roti. Needless to say, I was very excited about my trip. However, when I first heard that we were going to Albouystown, a poor district in Guyana, to distribute some books and clothing to a madrasah, I was a little conflicted. I had heard so much about the place from my grandparents; mostly about how bad and crime-filled it was, and yet, I was curious to see the kind of people who lived there, especially those who attended the madrasah. This sounded like a cool and thrilling adventure!

When we were ready to go, a man who was associated with the masjid that ran the madrasah, came to pick us up. His name was Uncle Nizam and he was very helpful and kind to us on our journey. While we were driving in Albouystown to get to the masjid I looked outside the window and I saw how poor the place was. There were people who had really bad clothing, people whose houses looked like if it had just been hit by an earthquake and there were even kids who had to play soccer with a deflated ball because they didn't have a pump.



When we arrived at the masjid I was astonished to see how beautiful it was in such a poor community. The masjid had walls that were green and white, they had twenty big windows and they had nice balconies which gave a nice view looking out from the masjid. Inside, the masjid was well kept and when I walked inside I felt a sense of calm wash over me.

Uncle Nizam rounded up the kids so that we could start the program. Sister Rawdeyah, my brother and I started off by reading a book called "Imran Thanks Allah". This taught the children the duas for starting and ending their



meals. After we had finished reading, Sister Rawdeyah asked some questions about the book to see if the kids had retained any knowledge. When she was done, Sister Fozia handed each of the children a small gift consisting of clothing, a book and their very own copy of "Imran Thanks Allah". All the kids were overjoyed, and they kept thanking us. Before we left, the smaller kids began to do a demonstration of how to pray your saalat. I was surprised to see these young kids doing their saalat despite the fact that they were so small.

I felt very grateful to have had the chance to help these children because they were less fortunate than me and I was happy to spend time to give them something they would enjoy. The kids were sad to see us go and kept asking us when we would come back. I know that I hope that we can come back soon. I pray to Almighty Allah that He keeps these children strong, steadfast Muslims and that the house of Allah stays clean and pure. Ameen

Youth with a Vision - Canadians for Syria



Victor Lal, creator of Canadians for Syria

One of the greatest assets any society has is unquestionably it's youth. The young people who initiate ideas based on the highest of ideals, who won't take no for an answer no matter how daunting the task ahead may seem, whose unquenchable spirit and optimism can only be seen in those looking at the world with eyes that believe anything is possible.

When the energy of youth is paired with the concepts of compassion, humanity and the idea of giving back, one can truly begin to believe there is chance for a world which is better and finer than the one we know and furthermore to believe in our own ability to contribute towards making this difference. One admirable, young individual is Victor Christopher Lal, a Polish-Canadian full-time student of the University of Western Ontario.

In the summer of 2017, Victor created an organization called Canadians for Syria to enable him and his community to raise money for and sponsor Syrian refugees. In order to do this, Victor came up with the idea of combining his love for biking and the outdoors with the goal of raising money to help resettle and support families looking to escape their war-torn past and start a peaceful, new life in Canada. His plan was to bike from Toronto, Ontario to the easternmost point of Canada, near St. John's, Newfoundland. The bike ride would be a 2612 KM solo journey, and over the course of 24 days, would help raise both money and awareness for the cause.

Throughout Victor's journey, he was able to share the cause with some very memorable people and organizations. While passing through Moncton, New Brunswick, he visited the Multicultural Association of the Greater Moncton Area (MAGMA), an organization that helps welcome refugees to Canada. He had the opportunity to speak with refugees from Syria, Eritrea, and many other nations, and learned about the challenges they faced both with reaching Canada as well as truly resettling in a new country. From speaking with refugees and Canadians helping refugees across Eastern Canada, Victor realized one inescapable truth; there must be more attention raised for refugees – Canadians have the capacity and ability to help more than they currently are.

Overall, his organization was able to successfully raise almost \$15,000, and with help from Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization and the Islamic Foundation of Toronto, who generously agreed to match any money they raised, they were able to reach \$30,000, for a Syrian refugee family who will hopefully be coming to Canada in 2019. Victor and his organization have raised this money with the help of 152 individual, corporate, and community donors who all contributed towards helping to raise awareness of the Syrian refugee crisis and with the common goal of simply wanting to help a family in need.

After biking halfway across the country in 2017, Victor had a new goal for 2018: swimming across Lake Ontario to raise \$60,000 to assist more Syrian refugees. Alhamdulillah, he was able to complete the 52 km solo swim between Niagara-on-the-Lake and Toronto this past summer. This was truly a gruelling feat requiring 21 hours and 5 minutes of non-stop swimming. He is close to reaching his goal of \$60 000 * and would like to extend his heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed their time, money and effort to support this worthwhile cause. Without them none of this would be possible.



Victor Lal completing a gruelling 24 hours and 5 minutes swim of Lake Ontario.

These projects could also not have been possible without the invaluable help of the entire Canadians for Syria team: Medhavi Gautam, Uswa Zahoor, and Saad Afroz. Together, they are making a difference and continue to make sure that the Syrian refugee crisis is not forgotten by Canadians. Truly their determination, ingenuity and humanitarian vision are an inspiration to us all.

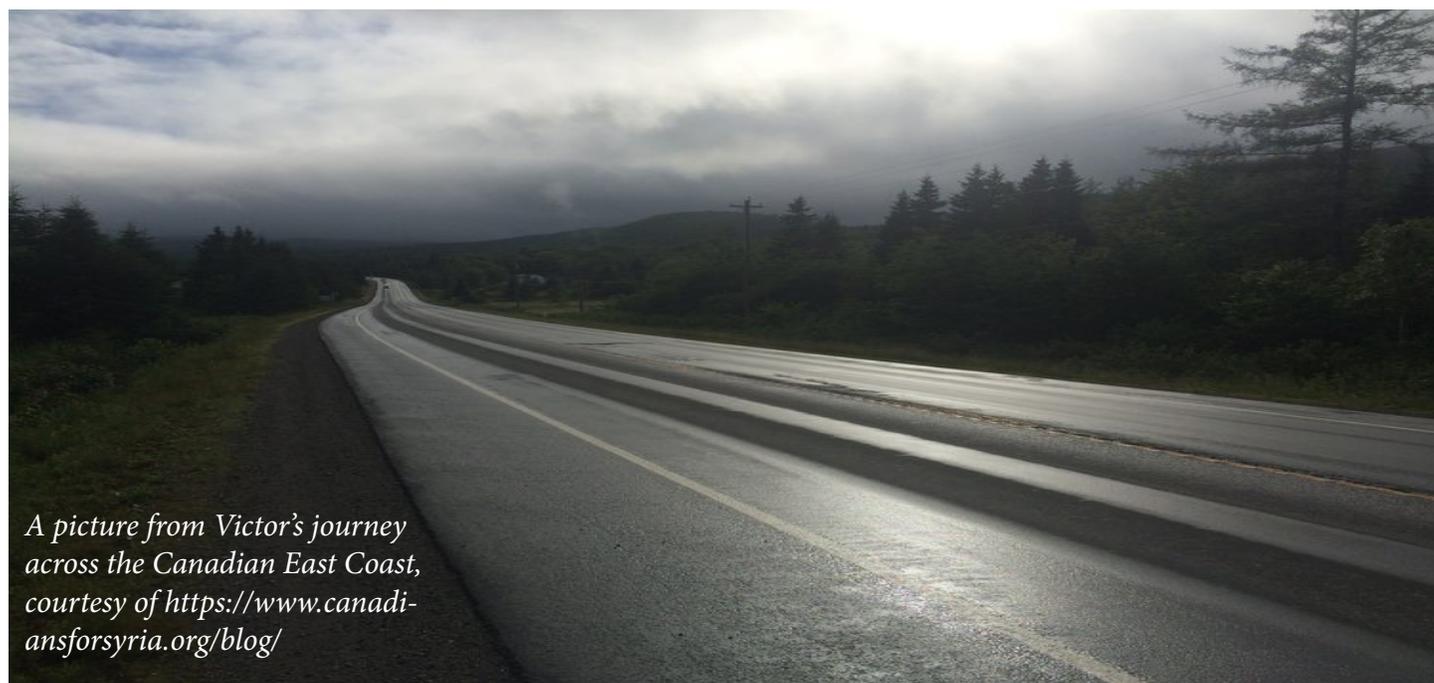
Below are the three Syrian families currently slated to arrive in Canada to begin their new life who will directly benefit from the money raised by Canadians for Syria.

Application approved	Application being processed	Application submitted awaiting arrival date to Canada.
(1) Beshmaf Family Hosen Beshmaf - 36 yrs Rasha Dagastane - 33 yrs Selen Beshmaf - 9 yrs Azar Beshmaf - 6 yrs Aydmr - 3 yrs	(2) Wala Mansour (Widow) Wala Mansour - 30 yrs Khalid Kasoumeh - 13 yrs Amal Kasoumeh - 10 yrs Ghazal Kasoumeh - 6 yrs Nour Kasoumeh - 5 yrs	(3) Sadya Family Marwan Ahmad Sadya - 41 yrs Ilian Athar Idrees - 30 yrs Hishan Sadya - 14 yrs Joudi Sadya - 11 yrs Rawan Sadya - 7 yrs Sham Sadya - 5 yrs Mariam Sadya - 3 yrs Eman Sadya - 1 yr

If you have any questions, please contact Victor at victor.cristopher.lal@gmail.com

or contact@canadiansforsyria.org. If you would like to donate, please visit www.canadiansforsyria.org/donate.

*Note: With the additional funds, this might actually be closer to \$90,000!



*A picture from Victor's journey
across the Canadian East Coast,
courtesy of <https://www.canadiansforsyria.org/blog/>*

Visit to Hyderabad

by Azeez Hooseinny



Sisters who volunteer at the Kapda Bank.

Alhamdulillah in January 2017, the President of Fiyasbiyallah Compassionate Aid Organization (Sister Fozia) and I, got the opportunity to visit Hyderabad, India to meet with the owners of the Siasat Daily newspaper. The brothers who inherited the business from their parents are active in voluntary charitable work for the poor and needy who live in their state as well as other states in India.

Since 2015, Fiyasbiyallah C.A.O. has been annually shipping containers of new and used clothing, used medical equipment and eyeglasses to assist them with their tremendous charitable work.

They have established a Kapda Bank (clothing bank) which is housed in a separate building from their newspaper building. The clothing which are shipped from Canada are carefully sorted piece by piece by volunteers who then package each article of clothing in separate plastic bags which are then sorted by gender, age and type of clothing. These are then distributed to the needy people of Hyderabad, including the heavily populated poorer areas known as the slums. Any winter clothing is sent to the poor in the northern states of India. Their organization also operates a vibrant and successful marriage bureau where single people interested in marrying someone are matched up. Some of the nicer and more festive garments sent from Canada are given to these underprivileged couples when performing their nikkah and marriage ceremonies as they would have no other way to afford these beautiful but costly garments.

We visited their Kapda Bank facility and were much gratified to see the end result of the generous contributions made by the donors in Canada. It was also very satisfying to know that the hard work of the volunteers who sort and pack these garments here in Canada were of benefit to our financially poor brothers and sisters in India; when one can see the fruits of one's labour, it makes the work that much more rewarding. It was with heartfelt appreciation that we observed the great voluntary work of these brothers, their families and their volunteers who do such great work to help the less fortunate in their country, with clothing which are presented in a dignified manner.

This is quite a success story that begins with collecting the clothes, meticulously and tediously sorting them and finally the physically demanding task of packing and shipping the container. Many thanks are owed to the sisters and brothers of Oshawa Masjid and Masjid Ayesha in Whitby for their wonderful volunteer work.

Some of the other community projects that the owners of Siasat Daily are involved in include free work training of young adults to get them jobs in the Hi Tech City and other areas, providing financial assistance for students to further their studies in University, managing the Quran Hub website which teaches online recitation and understanding of the Holy Quran, assisting poor artists in making Islamic Art and setting up retirement homes for elderly Muslims. They are also active in reclaiming Waqt (trust) lands for the use of the Muslim Community.

We are very thankful to the brothers Zaahid, Shahid and Zaheerudeen and their families for hosting us in Hyderabad and for letting us observe their incredible voluntary works. May Allah Subhaan wa ta Ala reward them and all the volunteers involved and allow them to continue their amazing efforts towards helping the poor and needy. May He grant them prosperity, success and goodness in this world and the Hereafter and save them from the hellfire and grant them the Highest Gardens of Paradise. Ameen.

Gently used clothing packaged for distribution to the needy.





Update by Nafeeza Nabibaksh (US Director)

In 2018 Fiyasbiylillah USA started slowly establishing itself in Palm Beach County, Florida.

In February, The US Director hosted a gathering in which a lecture on Sadaqat was provided along with distribution of Fiyasbiylillah coin banks. To date these coin banks have raised over \$500 in donations which were used to help fund the 2018 Fiyasbiylillah Water Project. Alhamdulillah with support from our donors in America we were able to reach our goal of \$1,500.00 to complete this project.

DONATE
Provide Safe Drinking Water to Rohingya Refugees

Installation and Construction of Deep Tube Well / Water Tank in Camp 13 of the Refugee settlement located in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. When completed it will service the needs of 2,500 Rohingya refugees with safe drinking water and storage

Project costs \$3,500 USD

DONATE at

- www.fiyasbiylillah.org
- Zelle bank transfer
- Mail to Fiyasbiylillah USA, 17228 67th Rd. N., Loxahatchee, FL 33470

Rohingya refugees will be included in this project as general laborers for construction and paid volunteers for ongoing maintenance for long-term sustainability of the well.

Fiyasbiylillah COMPASSIONATE AID ORGANIZATION
www.fiyasbiylillah.org
Nafeeza Noorunnabi Nabibaksh, US Director
Tel: 352-874-2336

In PARTNERSHIP with
Health Management BD Foundation
BANGLADESH
Dr. A.Z. Nahid, Director of Operations
80 Foundation (Bangladesh)

The water project for 2018 was an Installation and Construction of Deep Tube Well and large Water Tank Reservoir in Camp 13 of the Rohingya Refugee settlement located in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. When completed it is to service the needs of 2,500 Rohingya refugees with safe drinking water and storage.

This project is in partnership with Health Management BD Foundation of Bangladesh who have established themselves on several health projects within the Rohingya Refugee Settlement. It is important to note Fiyasbiylillah takes great care when making partnerships with small non-profit organizations to ensure they have similar values and goals. One of the goals of Fiyasbiylillah is to ensure projects are sustainable for future generations, as a result we will be including the local Rohingya refugees in the construction process, education, and maintenance plans for this project. We will also be relying on engineering expertise here in the US to verify installation and construction plans meet our standards.

In 2018, we also continued to provide Eid-ul Adha Qurbani/Udhiya shares in Tanzania, Kenya, and Guyana for Muslims here in the USA wishing to do their sacrifice overseas and distribute the meat to feed those in need.

Looking ahead, we have planned for 2019:

- Lecture on Sadaqat and distribution of coin banks to Girls Youth Group in coordination with the Muslim Community of Palm Beach.
- Free carpentry workshops for young boys to develop basic woodworking skills to make birdhouses, Quranic stands etc.
- Ramadhan fundraising and Fiyasbiylillah USA awareness with the Muslim Community of Palm Beach County and Jamaat UI Muttaqeen.
- Free homestead tour for low income children – tour of beehive, chicken coop, gardens, and informative lecture on the Environment and Islam by resident Master Gardener.
- Expansion of volunteers and fundraising opportunities in the Pittsburg area.



InshaAllah.

Bismillah hir Rahman nir Raheem

SENIORS ON THE GO!



Dr. Yasmeen Siddiqui

In the past ten years, Yasmeen has either been a volunteer, member or Board member of Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization. During this time, she was responsible for the implementation of many programs that greatly enhanced the lives of students at the Durham College, UOIT and people in communities locally and abroad.

Yasmeen, an Indian doctor who migrated to Canada in the 1980's, worked very hard to convert her Indian academic qualifications to the Canadian equivalent so as to be able to practice as a family physician. These challenges have left her with a "soft spot" for all those foreign students who are experiencing financial difficulties and other problems away from home. Her compassion for helping these struggling students has motivated her to launch the Durham Muslim Students Financial Aid program through Fiysabiylillah CAO. Yasmeen was project coordinator for three years and provided many students with financial assistance when they could not pay their rent, when they could not pay their tuition

fees due to civil unrest in their homeland, when they needed prescribed drugs that were not covered by OHIP and when they incurred other unexpected expenses that were not budgeted for. It was very gratifying when our organization received a donation for our 2018 projects from one of these students who had previously benefitted from this program.

In 2015 Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization had a huge surplus of gently used Indian Clothing in our Used Clothing Trailer, knowing that this clothing was much needed elsewhere, Yasmeen initiated the program whereby our Organization shipped a 20ft container of gently used children, men's and women's clothing to the Siasat Daily Newspaper in Hyderabad, India. The Siasat Daily, apart from printing a daily newspaper does much charity work for the poor in and around Hyderabad. Yasmeen was able to visit and arrange for this organization to clear and distribute the contents of the container to the poor and destitute in the slums of Hyderabad. Over the years our donation to this organization has grown from a 20ft container to a 40ft, this is due in a large part to Yasmeen's dedication and enthusiasm in encouraging the community to donate their gently used Indian clothing to the less fortunate.

In 2016 Yasmeen launched the "Recycle your Eyeglasses" program in which everyone in the community was encouraged to donate their old eyeglasses. These were then shipped by Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization to third world countries where optometrists would volunteer their time to see patients and prescribe these glasses free of charge. Giving the gift of vision is a wonderful program and Yasmeen must be commended for coming forward with this incredible initiative.

I would also like to mention Yasmeen's contribution to our Senior's Program. Last month she prepared two very educational presentations on "Nutrition" and "Fasting with Diabetes" which proved very interesting and enlightening for all.



56000 pairs of clothes distributed in Hyderabad.

Article continues on page 15

RECYCLE YOUR OLD EYEGLASSES

Help those in Need by Sharing the Gift of Sight

Eyeglasses, sunglasses, and cases will be collected for distribution to those in need free of charge



Sponsored by: **FIYSABIYLILLAH COMPASSIONATE AID ORGANIZATION**
Registered Canadian Charity #845026723RR0001

Project Coordinators: **Dr. Yasmeen Siddiqui, MD/ Dr. Saadiq A. Hooseinny, BSc., OD**



SADAQAH- voluntary charity - to give as many times as you wish

Goal of this COINBANK - to instill a sense of compassion in your children and the love for giving from an early age.

Opportunities for giving Sadaqah:

- When something GOOD happens to you - act of thankfulness to Allah
- When something BAD happens to you - act of seeking repentance from Allah
- When you need CURE from illness and disease - act of trusting in Allah
- When you want Allah to BLESS your allowance and earnings - act that will be pleasing to Allah

The rewards of giving Sadaqah:

- It purifies your wealth and it will never decrease your wealth
- It turns off Allah's wrath
- It opens the door to Jannah and closes many doors to evil
- It removes calamity

Fiysabiylillah Coin Banks - Do not be sad if you do not have one of these. It is easy to make one of your own. Take an empty jar, wash it clean, cut a slot in the cover, tighten the lid and tape it securely so that no one will be tempted to open the jar. Now you are all set to start your sadaqah collection - use your **right hand to give the charity** and read the following Du'a: **Rabana takabbal minnaa innaka antas sameeul aleem - Our Lord accept what is being offered, verily you are the Hearer, the All Knower.**

When it is full, you can count it up and e-transfer it to Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization at info@fiysabiylillah.org If your donation is \$100 or more you will receive a tax deductible receipt.



*The Fiyasbiylillah
designed coinbank.*

Giving the Gift of Water

Located along the south eastern coast of Tanzania is the bustling port town of Kilwa Masoko. It is known for its beaches, small fishing villages and tourism as it is the main way to access the island of Kilwa Kisiwani which has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its impressive archeological ruins. However, in the interior of the district lie very rural, poverty filled areas which do not taste the economic bounty of a thriving tourism industry. Sister Hawa Sardar, Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization African Co-ordinator has recently become involved with one of these areas.

After learning from a friend about the existence of a village which although poor, still managed to have an orphanage and a madrasah, she decided to visit in 2015. She found it impressive that even though these people did not have a lot for themselves, they still found a way to look after the least fortunate and most vulnerable people in their community via the orphanage. Also impressive was the dedication of the people to the madrasah in their area. There were a large number of students being taught how to read Qur'an, perform their salaah and learn many other aspects of Islamic

knowledge. Their teacher to this day is Ustad Simo, himself a native of Kilwa, yet Islamically educated in Egypt. Because of the quality of the people in the area, Sister Hawa became committed to helping them in whatever way she could. Since 2016 she has been intermittently providing them with food staples such as rice, cooking oil and even livestock as a source of meat, especially during the time of Eid -al -Adha. How much and how often she was able to help has been based solely on her ability to raise the money necessary through charitable donations. After noticing that the people of the village did not have direct access to a water supply in their area, but instead had to travel to a neighbouring village in order to *buy* water, her plans turned to building a well in their village. Alhamdulillah, with funding from Fiyasbiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization of \$8 000 she began the task of installing the well.



Sister Fozia and Sister Hawa

originally anticipated due to the cost of building materials in the region. We hope that InshaAllah, through your generous contributions, we will be able to complete this well and give this community the simple, life-changing gift of local access to clean, fresh, drinking water; a luxury which you and I don't even think about when we turn on our taps at home. May Almighty Allah make us truly grateful for the favours he has bestowed upon us and may He help us to reach out a helping hand to those most in need of it. Alhamdulillah as the article was being edited, a local doctor donated the \$1000 to complete the project.



Clean water for the people of Kilwa.

In the summer of 2018, the construction of the well in Kilwa Masoko began in earnest. It was decided to put the well in the madrasah property, as this would enable the madrasah staff and students to protect, care for and benefit from the well. At a cost of \$5 000 the well was dug and Alhamdulillah, clean, fresh water was found not too far from the surface; a true blessing considering the village's proximity to the salty Indian Ocean. Another \$3 000 was spent on the water pump, water reservoir tank and the building of a tower to support the water tank. At the time this article was written, the project still needed \$1000 to be completed. This money would be used to purchase the generator to run the water pump and to complete the water tank tower as this is costing more than

All amounts are quoted in Canadian Dollars

Sewing for Sadaqah



There are many opportunities to help those around us if we take the time to look with the eyes of compassion and a spirit of helpfulness. Couple that with an appreciation for the blessings in your own life and your desire to positively affect the lives of others and you have the essence of a true volunteer. However, helping others does not always mean you need to travel far from home or take extraordinary measures to make a difference.

This holds true for two suburban moms from Whitby, Ontario, who, by using their skills with a sewing machine, have begun a small project to hopefully make a large impact for the less fortunate in the small South American country of Guyana. After travelling to that country in August 2018, Sister Rawdeyah Hooseinny noticed a need in the poorer communities for Islamic attire where children were attending the madrasahs and performing their salaah in less than ideal clothing. This observation, along with the immense feeling of gratitude which swept through her at the realization of how blessed her life was in comparison to others, filled her with a deep commitment to do something, no matter how small, to improve the situation of these people. At around the same time her sister, Sister Ruwaidah Khan was also looking for a way to help the less fortunate, while still being able to remain at home and take care of her familial responsibilities. Alhamdulillah, the opportunity for the two sisters to use their over 50 years of combined sewing experience to make prayer suits for children was born.

The two sisters meet at Sister Ruwaidah's home once a week to sew skirts, hijabs and satchels for girls, as well as kurtas for boys. They make the prayer clothes for the children in varying sizes to suit youngsters from ages 5 to 12. They make use of fabric which is donated to Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization through the Used Clothing Trailer as well as the occasional purchase at the local fabric store if the need arises. InshaAllah, the prayer suits will be distributed to those who need them free of charge in Guyana at the end of 2018.

The ability to contribute and make a difference exists if we only trouble ourselves to make the effort. We do not need to make huge sacrifices to touch the lives of others in a positive way. Alhamdulillah, these two sisters have shown us that small, simple acts, done in our own home can, InshaAllah, have far reaching effects; not only providing children with much needed Islamic clothing for prayer and madrasah, but also for these moms who have found a way to turn some spare time into a means of gaining reward from Almighty Allah. May He help us to help others and to truly build a global community wherein we take the time to care about the welfare of our "neighbors"- even those who exist a continent away.



Sister Rawdeyah sewing a new thobe.

Majeeda Khan in a new prayer suit.



Sister Ruwaidah sewing new prayer suits.

Muhammad Khan in a new thobe.



Visiting The New Muslims in Guyana

By Rawdeyah Hooseinny



The warm climate of Guyana fills the landscape with beautiful palm trees

Over the summer, I had the great opportunity to travel to the beautiful country of Guyana in South America. Guyana's Muslim population is very small, accounting for around 7% of it's population, thus making it a place ideal for encouraging dawa in the region. A small group in Bettencourt's, located on Durban Street in Guyana's capital city of Georgetown, is doing it's part to try to spread the blessing of the true message of Islam to their surrounding community and offering classes to those that are willing to learn.

It was during one of these classes that myself and my fellow Fiysabiylillah CAO member, Sister Fozia, visited the Bettencourt's group. As we entered the small classroom we were welcomed by Brother Muhammad who was an immigrant to Guyana from Ghana and who was a hafith of Qur'an and the teacher for the women's class for new Muslims. He was a very

humble and kind man who was determined to follow the path he felt was destined for him, to share the beautiful knowledge and powerful truth of Islam with others. After Brother Muhammad introduced himself and his class, Sister Fozia spoke about Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization and how we would like to help new Muslims in Guyana. We brought along some items to share with the class that we thought would be beneficial to them as new Muslims. We brought Islamic literature for both young readers and adults, beautiful abayas, tasbeah beads and itr. Everyone was so happy with all of their wonderful gifts and were very grateful to get Islamic items that they couldn't buy in Guyana because they were too expensive.

Brother Muhammad shared with us an experience of his that highlighted a common issue that many new Muslims in Guyana face on a daily basis --- the need for readily available, inexpensive Islamic clothing. He told us of a student of his, who recently entered into Islam and found herself in the unique situation of not owning any clothing that was Islamically appropriate. Keep in mind that Guyana has a tropical climate, that experiences summer-like temperatures all year round. That, coupled with a population that cares very little for leading a life of righteousness, generates a market saturated with immoral dress, a market that makes it very difficult to buy long dresses and skirts, long-sleeved blouses or head scarves. Therefore, this poor girl had nothing suitable to come to class in, so Brother Muhammed was kind enough to buy her an abaya for over 4,500 Guyanese dollars (30 Canadian dollars) and then spent the next 3 months paying it off! It made us realize that we had to do something that would make things easier for our fellow Muslims in Guyana to practise their faith. Sister Fozia suggested that Fiysabiylillah CAO could ship gently used Islamic clothing and distribute them free of cost to the Guyanese Muslims who couldn't afford Islamic clothing. Three locations were identified as good places to offer the clothing, Bourda Market (Sister Aisha) in Guyana's capital city of Georgetown, Parika Market (Sister Aminah) located in the port city of Parika and at the Bettencourts building (Sister Rachel) where new Muslims have their classes.

With this in mind, I thought that it would be a great idea to tap into our wealthier Canadian communities and hold a clothing drive next year to help gather gently used Islamic items that could be shipped to our friends at Bettencourts. It's a great idea that will give us all the chance to give the gift of charity in order to help our fellow Muslims live a life that is pleasing to God. Plans for the clothing drive are being finalized and we are hoping that the project will be up and running by Spring 2019!

It was such a powerful experience, meeting with the new Muslims at Bettencourt's. They were such warm, intelligent individuals that were dedicated and determined to expanding their knowledge of this beautiful faith, a faith that so many of us take for granted. I thank Allah, the Almighty, for granting me with this humbling opportunity and I pray that I can use the blessings that Allah has granted me to create solutions to the problems that face those that are less fortunate than myself, no matter how big or small those problems might be. I pray that we can all look within our communities whether at home or abroad and find those that need help and truly become givers of that which will bring ease. Ameen



Sister Fozia with the sisters from Bettencourt

Programs For Seniors

By: Hasna Khan

This summer, I attended a Fiysabiylillah senior's program. The program was just before the start of Ramadan and Dr. Yasmeen Siddiqui spoke about the importance of staying healthy while performing the many religious duties that are a part of Ramadan. Dr. Siddiqui talked about how to eat healthy while fasting, by explaining the types of foods we should be starting and breaking the fast with in order to keep up our energy and fulfill our bodies' nutritional requirements. As well, she taught us about sleep patterns, and how to stay up late for Taraweeh and wake up early for Suhoor, all while feeling well rested.

In the future, the senior's program seeks to further involve the community's seniors in meaningful projects. For example, a planned future session of the senior's program is a sewing class, which will teach the attendees a valuable skill. InShaaAllah, once the seniors are taught how to use a sewing machine, they will be able to participate in the sanitary pads program, which produces and distributes reusable pads to women and girls in third world countries.

Another planned session of the senior's program is a crocheting class, which will teach the seniors a new skill that they will be able to practice at home. Crocheting is a relaxing pastime that incorporates creative design and manual dexterity, which is something that seniors may otherwise lose as they age.

These programs are a very valuable experience for our seniors, who may otherwise find themselves at home and isolated from the rest of the community. It is important that we continue to make an effort to involve the elderly in various events that make them feel welcome and recognized, and also give them a chance to participate in meaningful activities that will benefit the entire community.

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SENIORS ON THE GO!

Yasmeen states that her greatest passion for her remaining senior years is to be able to share her medical knowledge with the community and we at Fiysabiylillah Compassionate Aid Organization hope that she continues her volunteering work by spearheading new projects that would help the Needy locally and abroad.

I strongly feel that Dr. Yasmeen Siddiqui is a Senior who has served her community well, in all walks of life. Congratulations to Dr. Yasmeen Siddiqui who has been nominated for an Ontario Senior Achievement Award.