



# DAR AL-HIJRAH ANNUAL REPORT



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**WORKING  
TOGETHER  
FOR A  
STRONGER  
COMMUNITY**





# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

**AssalamuAlaykumwaRahamtu Allah**

**In an effort to prepare ourselves for the new era facing Muslim Americans with all the foreseen mix of challenges and opportunities that will undoubtedly nurture our faith, unite our community, and increase our resilience, I would like to share with you this report that outline our community achievements in 2016 and our aspirations for 2017.**

This past year marked the election of new board members for the term 2016-2020. On behalf of the board of directors and the community of Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center, I would like to thank the outgoing members Gordon Houtman, Mervais Khan, and Mohammed Rahman for their service and sacrifice to our center and our community, and we welcome the new members Dr. Esam Omeish, Dr. Essam Tellawi, and Kambiz Soltani.

I would like to thank our executive team for their outstanding achievements under the leadership of Samir Abo-Issa and the administration; Amen Elhilo, the new operational manager, and Omar Sultan, the new communications officer. I am proud of the tireless work of our Imam Shaker Elsayed and the educational committee led by Dr. Ahmed Hassan. Last year, our interfaith and civic engagement efforts, spearheaded by Imam Johari Abdul Malik and his team, Colin Christopher and Fazia Dean, was an exceptional success in organizing and mobilizing our community. Our youth programs are under

going through a transformational change envisioned by our youth director Mohammed Kibriya and his volunteer team, and we welcome the new addition to this team: sister Leasha Prime. Our social service department, led by Tahani Jabarin and her team, continues to be exemplary in serving the underprivileged in our society. I personally thank Sr. Asli Amin, the weekend school principal, and her team for their unconditional love and patience with thousands of our kids over the last several years. May Allah accept from them all and bless their families.

Board members are working, hand in hand, with executive committee members to ensure an action plan and secure a budget that focuses on building bridges with a wider spectrum of interfaith and civic partners, encouraging our community to further engage in civil society, and strengthening our infrastructure by recruiting the best talents that take our community to the next level of service and leadership.

We thank you all for your continued moral support, financial contribution, and your engagement and participation in our interfaith and civic activities, and we ask the Merciful Creator to protect you and your loved ones. We aspire for Muslim Americans to stand for justice, freedom and equality and to deliver the true message of our faith with utmost clarity.

Dr. Mohammed Helmi

Chairman, Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center

# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## SAMIR ABO-ISSA

**For over 33 years, Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center has been the leader in the Muslim Community in the Metropolitan area of Washington DC. It has proven beyond any doubt that when we work together, we continue to bring even greater accomplishments.**

**It is our faith, our unity, and our determination that makes what seems impossible an easy and seamless task. The Center was founded through the deep faith and devotion of Muslims and has focused a great deal of resources since then on serving to every member of our community.**

Beyond the challenges that we face, our community works together towards our shared goals. By the grace of Allah, we have improved and expanded in the following areas:

1. Training the staff: The administration has conducted multiple sessions to improve services: customer service training, management training, counseling training, and security training.
2. New Hiring: During the year 2016, we hired new staff to fill the empty positions:
  - a. Operation Manager: Br. Amen Elhilo was promoted to fill out the operation manager position. Br. Amen has been working at Dar Al-Hijrah for the past 10 years.
  - b. Communications Head: For the importance of communications, Dar Al-Hijrah hired Br. Omar Soltan to be the Head of the Communications Department.
  - c. Girls Youth Coordinator: To increase female participation among our youth, participants Dar Al-Hijrah hired Sr leasha Prime to be the Girls Youth Coordinator.
3. Property Improvement: The maintenance Department has been working very hard to improve our facilities to accommodate an increase in the number of activities and participants:
  - a. New HVAC: The Dar Al-Hijrah installed new A/C



system for the main Musallah and Courtyard (5 units), one unit in the multi-purpose hall, and the youth lounge. Installing new LED light fixtures in the following areas: In the main entrance of the parking lot, in the main entrance from Rt 7 (for Ramadan Use Only), changing the courtyard lighting fixtures, and some rooms in the Weekend School.

- b. Preventative maintenance: The maintenance Department established a preventative maintenance schedule to reduce potential problematic issues in future.
- 4. Expanding the services of Dar Al-Hijrah to reach more community members in Northern Virginia:
  - a. Social Services: We establish a unique program called “Family Support & Awareness Program”. This program was created by our Social Services Department to assist families with the economic and social challenges they face living here in the United States. Also, we help connect families to services provided by Fairfax County Government. With this program, the clients of the Social Services Department will be able to use the remaining programs to become more self-sufficient. On a monthly basis, over 1,000 families receive assistance through the Social Service Department’s programs.
  - b. Youth Department: The Youth Department has been expanding its programs and activities to serve all different ages. They created the following activities for the older youth: Open Mic and a Youth

Conference. They also created programs for younger children: Rising Souls, youth soccer, and Girl Scouts.

- c. Communications Department: Alhamdulillah, our Communications Department has expanded its communications to hundreds of thousands. Dar al Hijrah’s voice is now reaching our community and beyond in a more efficient and effective manner.
- d. Education Program: The Education Department also increased its educational program to help the Muslim community to comprehend Islam as a way of life. The Department created a new program called “Happy Muslim Family”. This program is designated for Muslim wives to be able to better use their education to assist in creating a healthier and happier household dynamic.
- e. Outreach Department Program: As a result of increasing the staff of the Outreach Department, There was a 100 % increase in civic engagement and interfaith participation by community members. More members were involved in the “Get Out The Vote” activities during election, and others were participating in interfaith outreach activities with other faith-based institutions. The Outreach Department has organized multiple events with public officials, and generated a greater degree of safety through these relationships.
- f. Security Department: During the year 2016, the Security Department has finished building the security system related to “Emergency Response Plan for Staff” and “Emergency Response and Evacuation Plan”.
- g. Resource Development Department: The number of donors increased by 11% during 2016.
- h. Weekend Schools: Approximately 400 students attend these classes to learn Arabic, Islamic principles, and memorize the Holy Qur’an.

Alhamdulillah, Dar Al-Hijrah created all of these activities to serve the community. There are 130 unique programs yearly, which can translate to 17,712 individual events and activities throughout the year.

Finally, Dar Al-Hijrah would not be able to do all of this without the generous support of our community. Our slogan remains strong: “Working Together for a Stronger Community”. May Allah swt reward each one of you.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Dr. Mohamed Helmi**  
Chairman



**Dr. Hossein Goal**  
Vice Chairman



**Tammam Dandashi**  
Secretary



**Alam Al-Alami**  
Treasurer



**Dr. Ahmed Hassan Mohamed**  
Community Liason



**Dr. Akram Elzend**  
Human Resources



**Kambiz Soltani**  
Member



**Dr. Esam Omeish**  
Member



**Dr. Essam Tellawi**  
Member

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Samir Abo-Issa**  
Executive Director



**Sh. Shaker Elsayed**  
Imam



**Imam Johari Abdul-Malik**  
Outreach Director



**Dr. Ahmed Hassan Mohamed**  
Education Director



**Mohammed Kibriya**  
Youth Director



**Tahani Jabarin**  
Social Services Director



**Asli Amin**  
Weekend School Principal

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTIVITIES

## OVERVIEW

This past year marked the conclusion of the four-year term of the board of directors and the election of a new board. We thank all board members for their outstanding service, especially the outgoing Gordon Houtman, Mervais Ayubi, and Mohammed Rahman, and we welcome the new members Dr. Essam Tellawi, Dr. Esam Omeish, and Kambiz Soltani. May Allah accept from them and give them the strength to continue to serve. The new board started its activities with electing new leadership and renewing the commitment to achieve the objectives of our 2015-2019 strategic plan while adapting to current challenges facing our community. Board members are working with the executive committee hand in hand to ensure an action plan and secure an annual budget that will focus on building bridges with a wider spectrum of interfaith and civic community, encouraging our community to engage even more in civil society and political arena, and strengthening our infrastructure by recruiting the best talents that will take our community to the next level of service and leadership.

## OUR FACILITIES AND FINANCES

Renewing the HVAC system, preparing the backspace as a wooden stage for various activities, and decorating our Masjid were the whole marks of improving our facility in 2016. The board continued to

support and fund the administration in its continuous efforts to make Dar Al-Hijrah operable with extended hours, from before Fajr to after Isha prayers, clean and air-conditioned, and safe and secure for our community to enjoy the worship services; five daily prayers, three Friday congregations, and tens of community gatherings and activities every week. Our finances are stable and our revenues are in surplus compared to our expenses (a separate section on our finances is included later in this report). This was achieved through the rigorous efforts of our executive director Samir Abo-Issa to increase our revenues and reduce the cost of services and expenses. The Dar Al-Hijrah endowment, established in 2015, is growing slowly but steadily. The financial audit we conduct annually by independent firms continues to be a proof of our financial stability and transparency.

## GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Several policies and resolutions were adopted to improve our institutional governance and performance including approving the 2017 budget, adjusting salaries, searching for new facilities to serve our community, and discuss community needs and affairs. The board approved hiring a full time operational manager, Amin Elhelo, a youth sisters' coordinator, Ieasha Prime, and a communications officer, Omar Soltan. We are still recruiting for an assistant Imam, Muquimsha'er (prayers leader), and a director for our Quran Institute.





## OUR MUSLIM COMMUNITY

The board continued to invest in our community's education and skills enhancement by supporting and funding several workshops, seminars, and lectures focused on Islamic knowledge, life skills, and civic engagement conducted by our Educational Committee. We are examining new affiliation plans for our Qubaa institute with a national Islamic University to gain formal accreditation. The board is in full support of our youth program and approved an extended budget to increase its personnel capacity and its outreach activities to Muslim Students Associations in our regional area.

Dar Al-Hijrah continued to be a leader among northern Virginia Islamic Centers and engaged with several regional Muslim organizations including the Muslim Association of Virginia (Dar Al-Nour), ADAMS Center, and other Masajid to build an umbrella organization that will collectively represent and serve

Muslims in northern VA. Moreover, we continued to engage with national Muslim organizations such as the Muslim American Society, the Islamic Circle of North America, Islamic Relief USA, the Council on American Islamic Relations, and United Muslim Relief to better serve our community across the United States.

## OUR LARGER SOCIETY

The board has continued to work with the executive committee to ensure our community participation in serving the larger society. The outreach team did an outstanding job during the past presidential elections to encourage Muslims to register to vote and to actually vote. Dar Al-Hijrah's continued involvement with VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) to serve the needs four regional community. In addition, Dar Al-Hijrah is engaged in several projects with Fairfax county and other local organizations to improve the lives of our neighbors.





# STRATEGIC PLANNING

**Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center is a leader for the common good in a just and virtuous American society.**

**The mission of Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center is to serve the Creator by engaging, developing, and empowering our diverse Muslim community for the betterment of our society.**

# Our Values

## 1 FAITH:

Faith teaches us who Allah is: our God, our Lord, and our Savior.

Faith gives us our purpose in life and our way forward. Our faith guides us, in our relationship with Allah, and with the rest of His creation.

In faith, a Muslim is expected to treat all with respect, to do

unto others what the Muslim loves for her (or his) own self and family, to protect all from harm, to push back against all vices, and to support all that is righteous and good.

In His Book, Allah says: *“Serve Allah, and join no partners with Him, and do good: to your parents and kinsfolk, to orphans and those in need, to neighbors who are relatives and your nearby neighbors. Do good also for the casual companion by your side and the traveler you meet, and even for your servants; for Allah does not love the arrogant or the prideful.”*

-The Qur’an, surah 4 (The Women), ayah 36

## 2 FAMILY:

Family is the foundation for having a good character, being a good neighbor, and participating in society as a good citizen.

Families teach faith, loyalty, good manners, discipline, public service, righteousness, honesty, commitment, and fidelity.

In His Book, Allah says: *“Behold, Luqman gave good guidance to his son: ‘Oh my son! Worship no one else with Allah, for worshipping anyone with Allah is a serious evil.’ And We have*

*commanded man to be good to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness upon weakness, and his mother nursed him for two years before his weaning. So hear the command, ‘Show gratitude to Me and to your parents: to Me is your final destiny. If your parents try to make you worship, along with Me, things of which you have no knowledge, do not obey them. But still, give them your good company in this life. Be just and considerate with them. In this way, follow the path of those who turn to Me with love. In the end, you all return to Me, and I will tell you the truth and the meaning of all that you did.’”*

-The Qur’an, surah 31 (Luqman), ayat 13-15

## 3 YOUTH:

The youth are the most important segment of the Muslim community, and of every society. We Muslims place top priority on our youth.

Education, service, care, and public contribution are important parts of developing our youth, so they will be able

to contribute to society and their own future.

We work hard to make our youth ready to lead our community and serve their society.

In His Book, Allah says: *“We tell you their story in truth: they were youths who believed in their Lord, and We increased them in guidance.”*

-The Qur’an, surah 18 (The Cave), ayah 13



## 4 COMMUNITY

The Muslim community is an extended social network which includes family, friends, neighbors, and strangers; small groups, organizations, institutions and governments.

We Muslims are called to participate in building and developing community. We actively engage in our communities at all levels of organization. We contribute to, peacefully coexist with, and cooperate with all members of our communities.

In His Book, Allah says: *“Oh you who believe! Stand strong for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even against your own selves, or your parents, or your relatives. Stand strong for justice, whether against rich or poor, for Allah is the best to protect both rich and poor. Do not follow the lusts of your hearts, or you will go astray. If you distort justice, or decline to do justice, know that truly, Allah is well-acquainted with all that you do.”*

-The Qur’an, surah 4 (The Women), ayah 135

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## 5 DIVERSITY

In His Book, Allah says: *“Oh Humanity! We created you from a male and a female; and We made you into peoples and tribes; so that you may recognize, come to know, acknowledge, and support each other. Indeed, the most honorable among you, in the sight of Allah, is the one who is most righteous. Allah has full knowledge and is well-acquainted with all things.”*

-The Qur’an, surah 49 (The Inner Rooms), ayah 13

Muslims believe very strongly in the diversity of the human race. More than many communities, Allah has created the Muslims with differing ethnicities, skin colors, cultures, languages, tastes, and every other mark of diversity.

We believe in Allah’s command to: *“...Help each other in goodness and piety, but do not help each other in sin or aggression. Fear Allah, for Allah is severe in punishment.”*

-The Qur’an, surah 5 (The Feast Table), ayah 2

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## 6 SOCIETY

Our society is the big family for every community to share the best they have learned, whatever their background.

At our best, we don’t preach to others how good our faith or community is. Ideally, our actions as Muslims show us better than preaching would.

We Muslims feel responsible to make our society better than we found it.

Prophet Muhammad said: *“The true Muslim is one whose hands and tongue are peaceful towards people,”* and

*“The most beloved to Allah among people are those who are most beneficial to other people.”*



# Leadership Goals

## Summary of Leadership Goals

II. Improve our organizational performance.

III. Develop our community.

IV. Benefit our society.

V. Grow our youth.

Be a diverse community.

### LEADERSHIP GOAL I: IMPROVE OUR ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE.

**Improve our leadership performance, financial health, organizational structure, and strategic planning.**

- A. Develop our management and leadership by:
  - 1. Developing roles and responsibilities for all boards and committees and
  - 2. Increasing the effectiveness of management and leadership by:
    - a. Continuously orienting management and leadership to their responsibilities within our organizational structure;
    - b. Providing management and leadership with: leadership training and development, and people skills and sensitivity training;
    - c. Ensuring that all responsible individuals, governing bodies, activities, and initiatives are in alignment with our organizational structure and direction; and
    - d. Ensuring that all responsible engaged community members are recognized as part of our organization and given a voice in decision-making processes.
- B. Build our financial stability and fiscal health by:
  - 1. Developing financial policies and procedures that follow best practices and regularly examining our financial practices to seek out continuous improvement by:
    - a. Implementing the board adoption of a staff-initiated annual



- budget, and regular board review of financial results; and
        - b. Improving internal controls.
      - 2. Expanding our fund development capacity by:
        - a. Exploring and engaging in investment opportunities,
        - b. Pursuing public and private grants, and
        - c. Increasing fundraising opportunities.
      - 3. Establishing an endowment fund.
    - C. Review, and revise as needed, our organizational structure; including our bylaws, hierarchy, operating policies and procedures, and performance/accountability metrics.
    - D. Commit to an ongoing strategic planning process that includes regularly creating, reviewing, evaluating, and revising short- and long-term goals.



## LEADERSHIP GOAL II: DEVELOP OUR COMMUNITY.

**Create an Islamic environment that fosters the development and engagement of our community.**

- A. Develop and strengthen our faith in, understanding of, and practice of Islam by:
  - 1. Increasing our spiritual relationship with our Creator,
  - 2. Improving our understanding of Islam as a way of life, and
  - 3. Developing the good character of our community members.
- B. Provide training in life skills for all segments of our community.
  - 1. For age groups, such as:
    - a. Childhood education;
    - b. Life skills training for young adults and adults; and
    - c. Life planning, financial planning, and retirement planning for older community members.
  - 2. For people in relationships, such as:
    - a. Marital skills,
    - b. Parenting skills,
    - c. Citizenship skills (how to be a good neighbor), and
    - d. Outreach skills (how to share the faith of Islam).
- C. Create an environment that fosters the sense of a united

community by:

- 1. Strengthening the bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood among our members,
  - 2. Enhancing multicultural relations within our community, and
  - 3. Enhancing trust and cooperation between our people and our leadership.
- D. Increase our community's participation in developing and executing programs by:
- 1. Improving volunteer recruiting, training, and utilization;
  - 2. Developing a core team of dedicated volunteers; and
  - 3. Increasing the ratio of volunteers to employees.

## LEADERSHIP GOAL III: BENEFIT OUR SOCIETY.

- A. Engage with and contribute to our larger society.
  - 1. Improve our larger society's understanding of Islam and Muslims by engaging with:
    - a. Government bodies,
    - b. Media outlets,
    - c. Educational institutions, and
    - d. Faith-based and community institutions.
- B. Increase our community's participation in the civic affairs of our larger society by engaging in:
  - 1. Interfaith initiatives, events, and activities;
  - 2. Civic events and other (non-religious) activities; and
  - 3. Citizenship activities and civil engagement, such as voter registration, immigration issues, and issue advocacy.
- C. Collaborate with other Muslim organizations on common issues by:
  - 1. Bringing Muslim organizations together to work on common tasks and
  - 2. Supporting other Muslim organizations that are in line with our mission.



- D. Provide support services to our wider Muslim community (beyond our geographical boundaries) by:
  1. Promoting and providing support care services, such as emergency care, emotional care and counseling, medical care, and prison ministry; and
  2. Making referrals to other relevant agencies, such as the Family Care Committee (for home and hospital visits) and the Social Services Department.

## LEADERSHIP GOAL IV: GROW OUR YOUTH.

- A. Invest in our youth and plan for our next generation.
  1. Raise a generation of youth who have a proper understanding of Islam and appreciate their responsibilities to:
    - a. Themselves and their families;
    - b. Their communities: local, regional, and national; and
    - c. The world around us.
- B. Produce future leaders by implementing character development programs to develop our youths' leadership abilities, morals, and manners.
- C. Empower our youth to be active and positive participants in their Muslim community and our greater society.
- D. Provide the youth with opportunities to plan, develop, and implement programs that bring them closer to Allah and serve the needs of their community.

## LEADERSHIP GOAL V: BE A DIVERSE COMMUNITY.

- A. Ensure and expand our diversity.
  1. Expand our membership base to reflect all dimensions of our community:
    - a. Men and women;

- b. Different age groups;
  - c. All national, ethnic, and language groups; and
  - d. Different skill sets and disabilities.
- B. Ensure diversity in the membership of our boards and working committees, especially to include women and youth.
- C. Ensure the engagement of women; youth; the elderly; and diverse national, ethnic, and language groups in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of our programs.
- D. Ensure our facilities accommodate the needs of women, youth, the elderly, and members with special needs.
- E. Ensure women's inclusion by:
  1. Holistically including women in the planning, execution and evaluation of our offerings; and
  2. Renovating and improving the sisters' areas to make them more accommodating.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

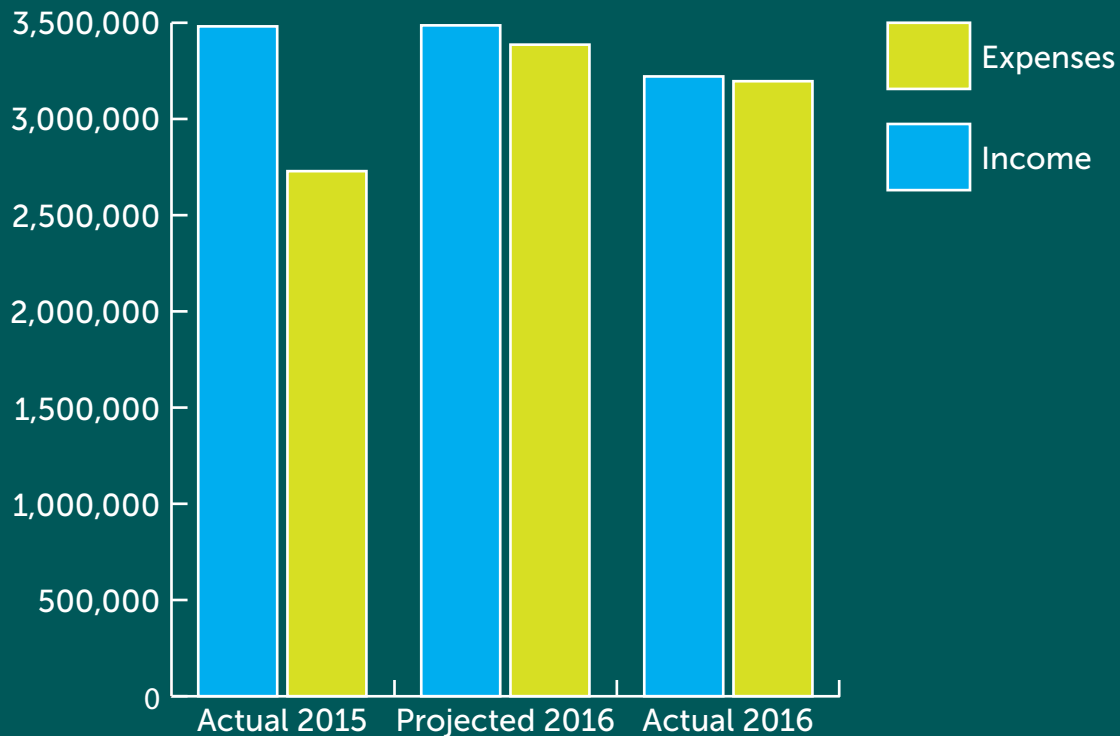
2016 INCOME

**\$3,221,603**

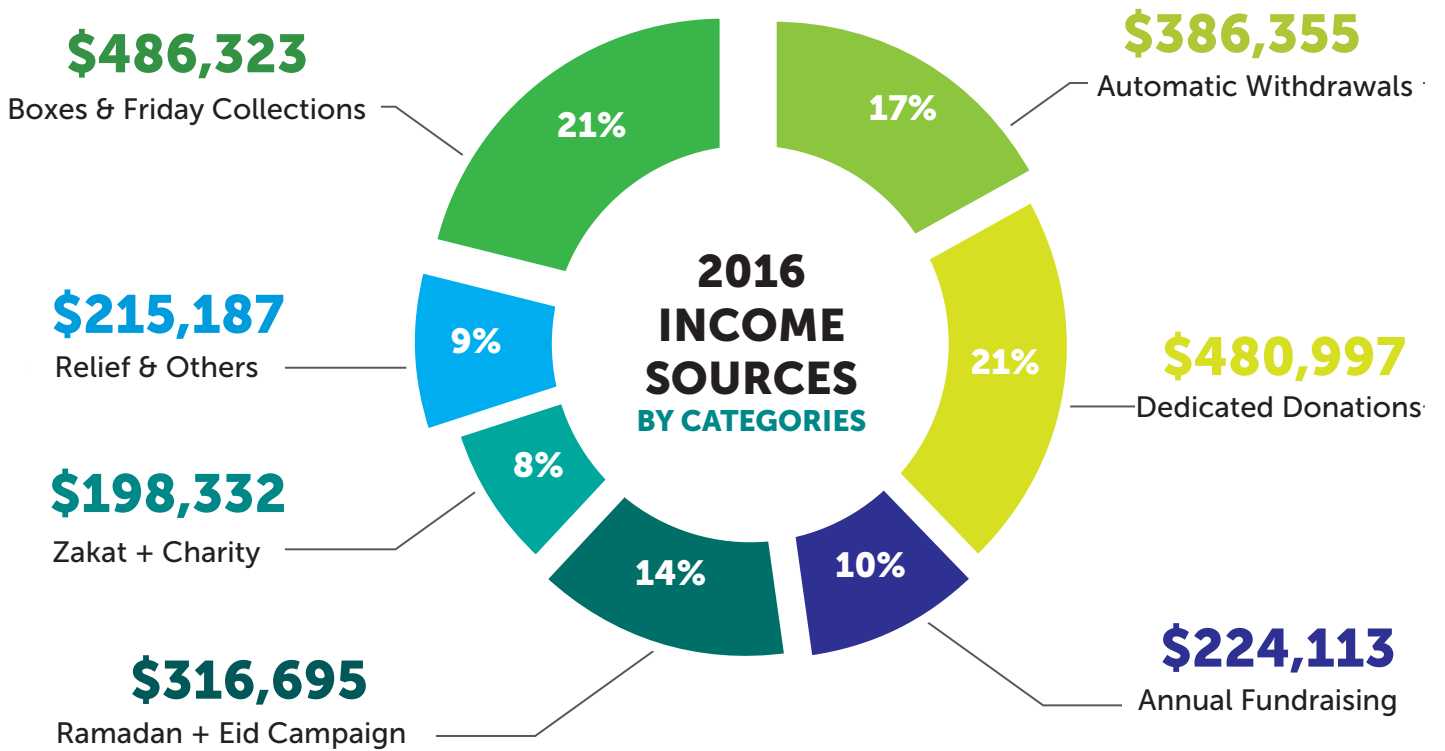
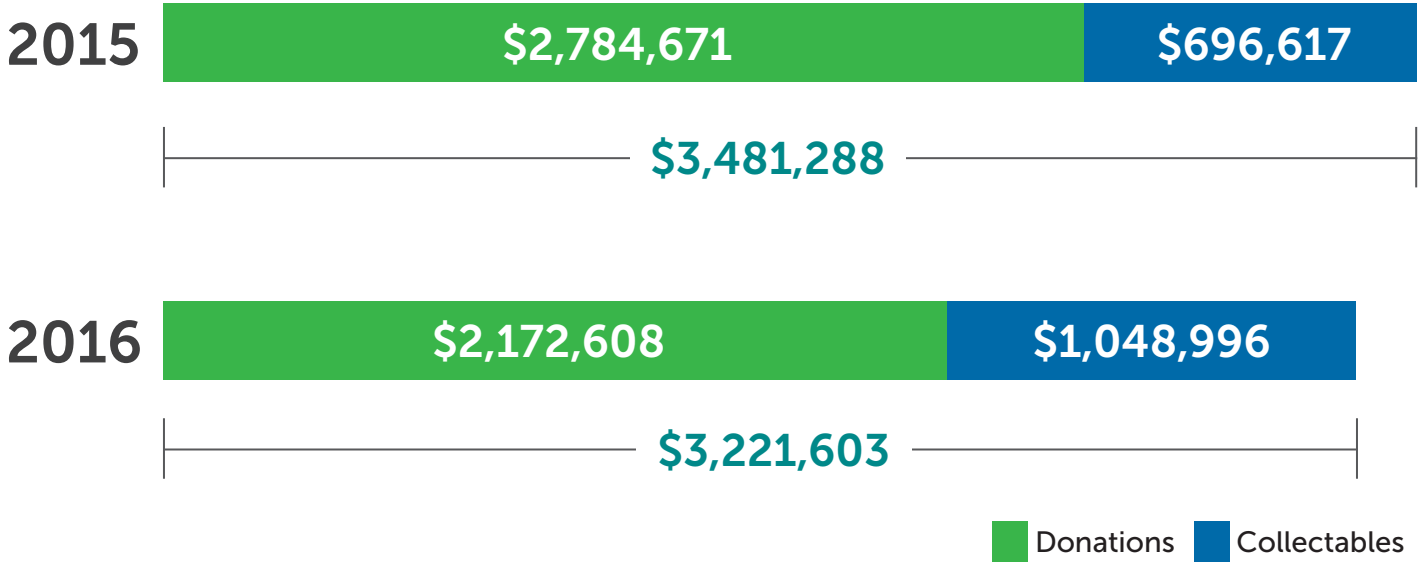
2016 EXPENSES

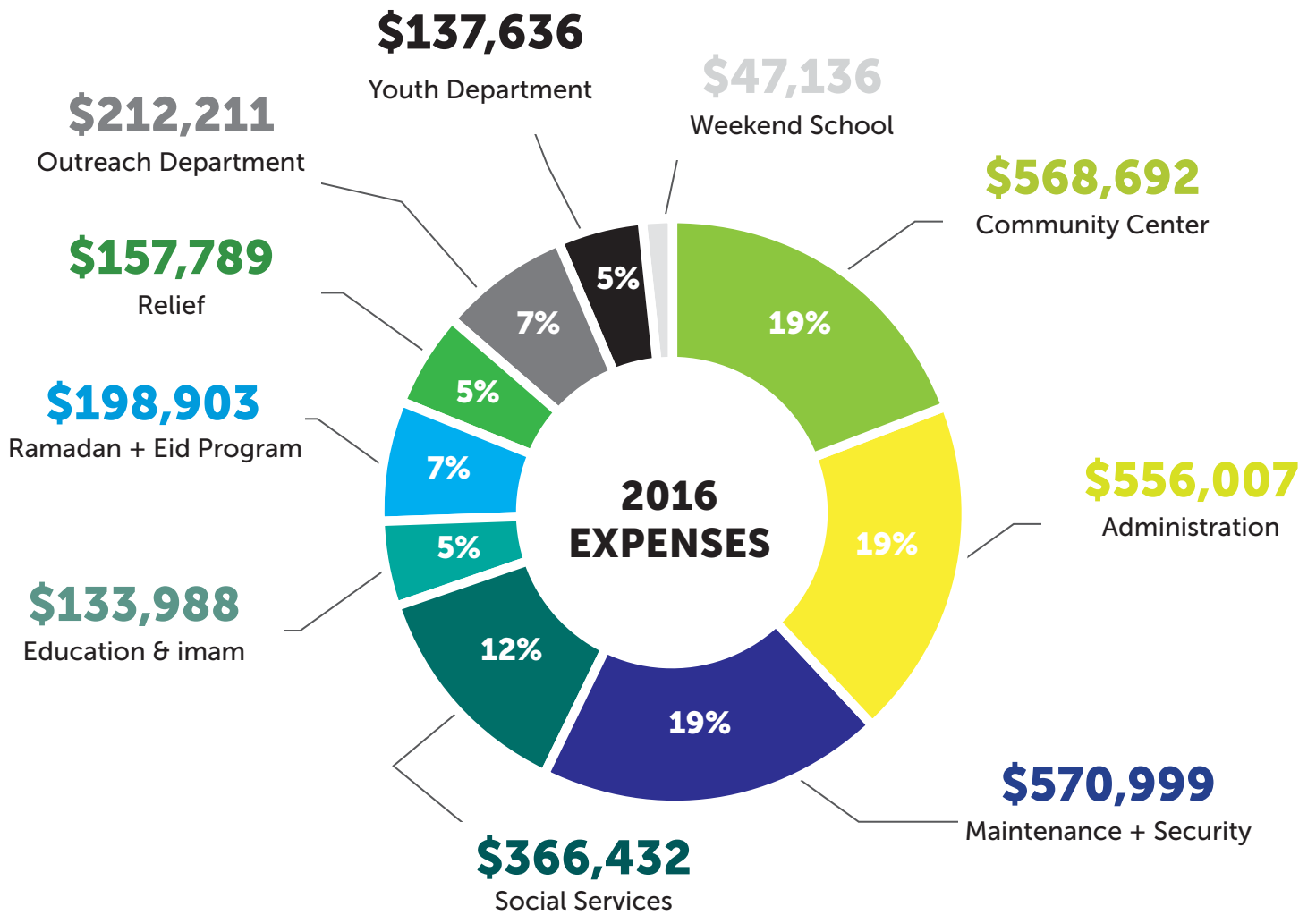
**\$3,196,791**

INCOME + EXPENSES | 2015 VS. 2016

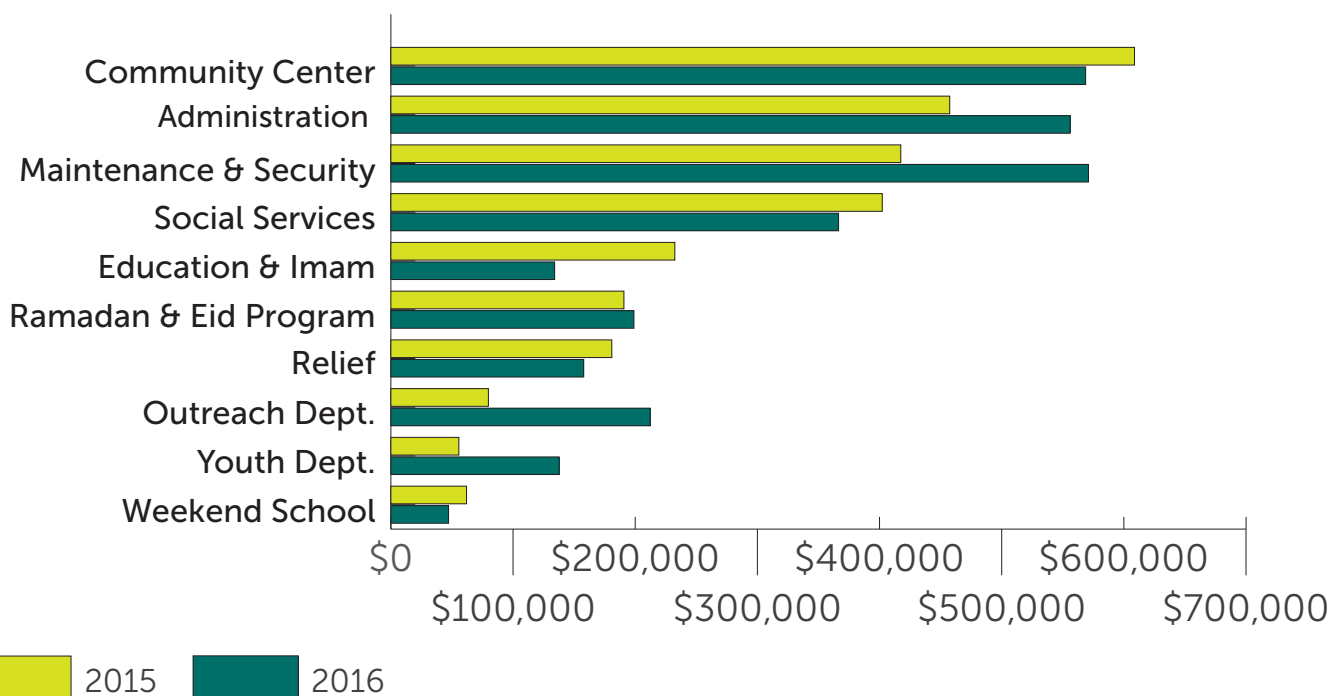


# SOURCES OF 2016 INCOME





### 2015 VS. 2016 EXPENSES





# 2017 PROJECTED BUDGET

2017 INCOME

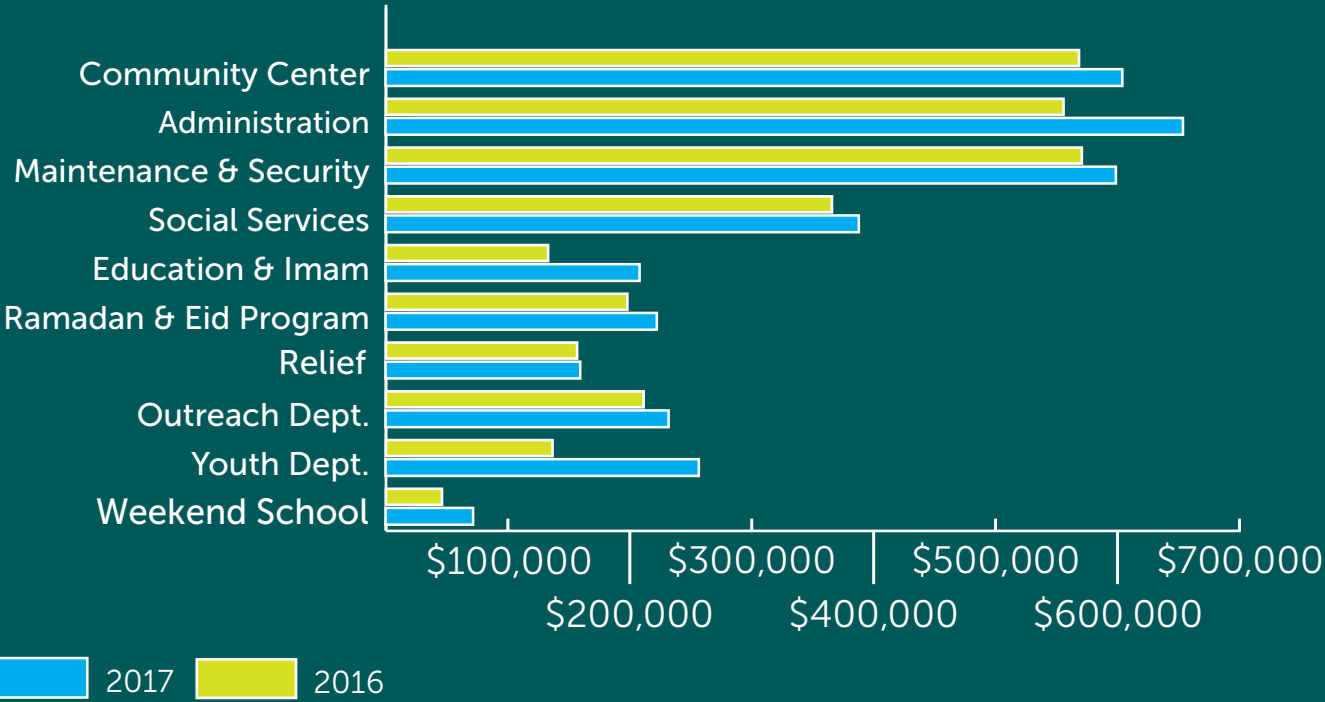
**\$3,660,192**

2017 EXPENSES

**\$3,496,608**



## 2016 VS. 2017 EXPENSES





# OUTREACH DEPT

**In order to achieve the goals from the strategic plan of Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center, the Outreach Department has calibrated and targeted its programs, events, and activities to achieve the implementation of our strategic goals.**

**This year, the Outreach department has added two new staff members to lead in specific areas of our work. The Office of Government Affairs is directed by our Deputy Director of Government Affairs, Colin Christopher. The Office of Interfaith and Community Liaison is headed by Fazia Deen.**

## Office of Government Affairs

### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

This year we had several meetings and briefings with local police, sheriffs and federal law enforcement personnel to increase understanding and to produce better community service and cooperation. We also participated in White House briefings on critical issues as well as a meeting by our Deputy Director of Government Affairs, Colin Christopher, with President Barack Obama during his historic visit to the Baltimore Islamic Center. We also forged strong partnerships with our local and state-level elected officials and have hosted them to speak on civil rights issues. Leaders include Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring, Delegate Alfonso Lopez, and many others.

### CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Government Affairs has helped many community members navigate the halls of government both at the state and local levels working on issues from immigration to workplace discrimination. Elected officials have a relationship with Dar Al-Hijrah in a way that when we call, they know us and provide us with services that are the rights of every individual in this country.

### GET-OUT-THE-VOTE (GOTV)

Throughout the year, during both the primary and general election season, Dar Al-Hijrah has been consistently involved in voter registration, education, and political advocacy efforts. In the months leading up to the general election, nearly 400 voters were registered, 15 volunteers were trained, and dozens of voter education sessions were conducted in both formal and informal sessions. In addition to our registration and education efforts, Dar Al-Hijrah created an “Early Voter Van” program, multiple phone banking sessions, Election Day-Eve robo-calls from top mosque leaders, a GOTV video, and conducted our first Mason District community-wide voter rides service, ‘Souls to the Polls’. Comprised of over 20 taxi drivers from our congregation, Dar Al-Hijrah’s “Souls to the Polls” provided free rides to all 30 polling precincts in the Mason District of Fairfax County to anyone who needed a ride. A phone number was dedicated for the public to call, and Election Day dispatchers matched riders and



drivers. With the help of a grant from a local Muslim women’s organization, DAH was able to provide childcare while parents went to the polls on election day.

### COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Dar Al-Hijrah is a founding member of VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement), which is a non-partisan dues-based coalition of almost 50 faith communities and community organizations in Northern Virginia working together to build power in middle and low-income communities.

In over 10 years of partnership with VOICE, this year Dar Al-Hijrah increased its participation in VOICE organizing to its highest level to date. Throughout 2016, the “DAH Core Team” conducted over 50 relational meetings with Dar Al-Hijrah community leaders in order to survey top issue areas, analyze community dynamics, expand overall capacity, and create a culture of power organizing at every level within the community. From small children to older adults, congregants demonstrated enthusiasm for the VOICE model of organizing, and generated significant victories for our community. DAH VOICE/Team promoted listening sessions at Skyline Plaza, and The Jefferson Apartments.

Congregants at a local Skyline apartment complex, which is home to hundreds of Muslims, repelled discriminatory building regulations affecting the location of a school bus stop through a community action at a condo board meeting. This group continues to receive guidance and facilitation from our Core Team and VOICE.

Additional VOICE trainings and educational videos created by the DAH Core Team have generated other organizing activities among other Dar Al-Hijrah attendees interested in taking action on discriminatory practices in the local school system. Ongoing efforts continue as the Department seeks to increase the size of the team and train additional congregants about the importance of building power within the Muslim community. Four DAH staff & members went to an IAF/VOICE 3-Day

## TRAINING WORKSHOP

Over 100 Dar Al-Hijrah members in October joined 2,000 representatives from other VOICE congregations at a “Public Action” addressing (1) Affordable housing, (2) Justice in Immigration policies, and (3) Gun safety. Attorney General, Mark Herring, pledged his support to the VOICE agenda, providing public accountability for our agenda.

Government Affairs has continued to deepen our partnerships with government and civil society groups in order to support community issues. Among them are New Virginia Minority (NVM),

Virginian American Coalition of Latino Organizations (VACOLO) and CASA De Maryland.

## GREEN TEAM

The Green Team’s primary purpose is to reignite the environmental spirit of Islam at Dar al-Hijrah through a culture shift towards sustainability, conservation, and eco-consciousness. The Green Team is in its initial stages and is comprised of community members representing diverse ethnic communities and generations. The Green Team held a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Energy Star Benchmarking Training at DAH with multiple faith leaders from NOVA, a Sierra Club-Interfaith Power and Light Virginia Clean Power Plan Advocacy Strategy Meeting, and has saved hundreds of dollars and reduced the masjid’s carbon footprint through green technology upgrades implemented by Building Engineer, Mohammed Mohammed.

## GUN VIOLENCE

Gun violence prevention (GVP) has become one of our department’s top policy priorities, and has culminated in some significant victories. DAH Government Affairs spearheaded the Metro IAF’s “Do Not Stand Idly By” campaign within VOICE and

other faith-based partners. Within 5 months, DAH, together with other VOICE congregations, met with over a dozen top political leaders and law enforcement officials in Northern Virginia to ask gun manufacturers what they are doing regarding “smart gun” technology and gun distribution and tracking practices.

We received signatures from both elected officials and law enforcement officials from both major political parties, including the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Finally, we gave multiple speeches on gun violence prevention, including holding a Prayer Vigil in Alexandria for victims of the Orlando Night Club Shooter with Mayor Silberberg. We are creating a faith-based Gun Violence Prevention Congregation Pledge that encourages congregations nationwide to address gun violence at both the individual, congregational and policy level.

For the first time, Dar Al-Hijrah transported over a dozen volunteers to participate in the Falls Church Memorial Day Parade. Muslim men, women and children joined with “The Gun Violence Prevention Coalition” and walked the parade route receiving overwhelming positive responses.

Dar Al-Hijrah has attended and spoken at many interfaith prayer vigils after incidents of gun related violence – gathering and transporting volunteers to DuPont Circle, West Moreland Presbyterian Church, and others.

## ISLAMOPHOBIA/CIVIL RIGHTS

DAH Government Affairs has attended multiple meetings with top administration officials at the White House to address the hate-filled and discriminatory anti-Muslim atmosphere in the United States. Meeting attendees included: President Obama, Secretary of Education, John King, Deputy Attorney General, Sally Yates, Top Presidential Advisor, Valerie Jarrett, Speech Writer, Ben Rhodes, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, Vanita Gupta, and others. Our advocacy efforts contributed to the U.S. Department of Justice’s historic announcement of providing implicit bias training to the more than 23,000 agents employed by the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), as well as the approximately 5,800 attorneys working in the 94 U.S. Attorney’s Offices across the country.

The Dar Al-Hijrah Outreach Department also met with top national education and civil rights advocacy organizations to





encourage implicit-bias training for administrators, teachers, and other educators. Efforts to secure funding for such training at the local levels are ongoing, and recently led to a meeting with Fairfax County Board Chair and Mason District Representative Sandy Evans.

Finally, DAH Government Affairs has increased its education around anti-bullying and students' rights through an informational video about reporting bullying with a phone app, a mosque town hall on Islamophobia, and community discussions around appropriate steps that both students and parents can take to prevent and report such incidents. These efforts have led to parents and students documenting instances of Islamophobia towards children and organizing to take steps at the local level to address such an atmosphere in apartment buildings and schools in our community.

## **MEDIA/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

This year we increased our media engagement, creating proactive approaches to reaching the media, helping the media with new sources, information and new perspectives on how to report on the Muslim community. We were featured on over a dozen television stations from around the world, including CNN and Al-Jazeera, Japan TV; French TV; Spanish TV, Turkish TV; Voice of America TV; Washington Post; Muslim Link; ABSN News, Thomson Reuters TV, and were quoted in over ten written news publications, including the New York Times and Washington Post. Dar Al-Hijrah convenes press conferences or participates in major

press conferences whenever there is a need to speak out for the rights of Muslims and others sponsored by any of the national Muslim organizations such as CAIR, USCMO or others.

We expanded our presence on the radio through multiple stories on National Public Radio (NPR) and WAMU, (88.5FM Washington, DC), and held meetings with top NPR personalities to discuss how Muslims and Islam can be more accurately and fairly covered.

Dar Al-Hijrah played a pivotal role in the writing of the books, *A Nation of Nations*, by renowned NPR journalist, Tom Gjelten and *Objective Troy (A Terrorist, A President and The Rise of the Drone)* by New York Times writer, Scott Shane.

Finally, throughout the 2016 Presidential Election, a plethora of media outlets called on us for political and Muslim community analysis and featured us in a variety of stories.

To improve our relationship with the media, we have created an Electronic Press Kit (EPK) located on our website. With the support of DAH Communications, media or guests to our website can see selected articles about, and biographies of, our leadership.

## **The Office of Interfaith and Outreach Liaison**

Fazia Deen has identified that there is a need for not only outreach but “In-Reach”. The work of her office has focused on relational work with members of the community, especially women (younger and older), and has successfully engaged them in the work of our community.

## Interfaith Out-Reach

INTERFAITH Understanding: faith-based groups in Virginia and Greater Washington areas.

Interfaith Conference of Washington MLK Service: Each January, the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington coordinates the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Prayer Service. The service is the only multi-religious and multiethnic gathering in Washington D.C. to celebrate the life of the civil rights pioneer. The event, which recognizes and emphasizes Dr. King's principles and commitment to non-violence, highlights a particular theme for each service, a theme that is culled from the words of Dr. King himself. This theme guides the sermon of the featured preacher, the scriptural readings from many different faith traditions, the inspirational musical selections, and the participation of local non-profit organizations. The service drew four hundred people of different faiths from across the region. Imam Talib Shareef was the keynote speaker for this year's event.

Interfaith relationships to build and strengthen our alliances with other faith groups:

- **ICD:** Interfaith Community Dialogues is an interfaith group based in Annandale. DAH serves on the executive board promoting collaborative dialogue events and service projects with various faith groups; Day to Serve; Feeding program at The Eleanor Shelter and the Fort Belvoir Food Kitchen. ICD hosted community understanding events at Sikh Gudwara , Bahai Center, Hindu and Dar Al-Hijrah.
- **Solidarity Events:** In this year of public attacks on immigrants, Muslims and Jews, we have had tremendous engagement with our Jewish neighbors, WHC – Washington Hebrew Congregation (Dr. King Day to Serve); Adat Shalom (Anti-Bigotry Program) and co-sponsored with Temple Rodef Shalom Syrian refugees to “Welcome Refugee Event” that was attended by over 300 people and was covered by the Washington Post.
- **Spread Hummus Not Hate (SHNH):** attend regular meetings, participate and engage in activities on Bus Tour (MD-DC) and rally; promote and procure participants at American University including Brother Idrissi for Adhan.

- **Operation Understanding:** Operation Understanding's mission is to develop a group of young African American and Jewish leaders that are knowledgeable about each other's histories and cultures to effectively lead the communities to a greater understanding of diversity and acceptance. The group receives a tour of the masjid and then participates in a series of lectures on Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

## OPEN-HOUSE: TASTE OF ISLAM

The open house was a great success with hundreds of neighbors in attendance getting a “taste of Islam” at the refreshment table, getting hennah done in the traditional Arabic Bedouin tent set up in the courtyard, enjoying films in the library followed by a discussion/question-and-answer period, and tasting international foods from the market-place in the parking lot.

## RAMADAN INTERFAITH IFTAR PROGRAMS

It has become a tradition for the friends of Dar Al-Hijrah to be invited for iftar during Ramadan. Each week a different group of organizations, churches and public officials are invited including (1) Kaleidoscope-Supervisor Penny Gross and ICD, First Christian, and other area churches, (2) Interfaith Local Officials and (3) VOICE Congregations.

There are also organizations that like to host iftar events at their location. For instance, an Annandale Interfaith group co-sponsored an Iftar Dinner at Rock Spring Congregational Church.



## “RAMADAN-FAST WITH DC MUSLIMS DAY”

In conjunction with the DC Office of Human Rights and Islamic Relief, Dar Al-Hijrah provided the food and transportation of Muslim participants to Washington, DC for the “Ramadan-Fast with DC Muslims Day” event. The event was in recognition of the discrimination and attacks on American Muslim in recent months.

## “BRING-A-FRIEND” TO IFTAR PROGRAM

Each week during Ramadan usually on a Tuesday/Thursday we encourage Muslims to invite their friends of other faiths to come to the masjid for the nightly breaking of the fast, or iftar. We host a short program in the library with a short film about fasting in Ramadan, discussion, Q/A, a brief masjid tour, experience salah and of course have an amazing dinner. This year we were blessed with a full house in the library each night.

“Understanding Lent” Members of the Arlington Interfaith group hosts a Ramadan iftar event every year with Dar Al-Hijrah. This year we participated in their program to learn about fasting in their season of fasting, Lent.

## INTERFAITH: A CUP OF TEA

The ‘Cup of tea’ National movement was designed to stop the growing threat of racism against Muslims in Norway. According to the campaign, there was a growing distrust and distance between the native population and the immigrant Muslim community in Norway and the divide was growing by the day. Now this is not unheard of in recent times, especially in the post 9-11 world. Every other month members of Dar Al-Hijrah and families from other religious traditions get together at their homes, have a cup of tea and share their feelings about community life together. Hundreds of neighbors have gotten closer and built relationships of trust and fellowship.

## COMMUNITY OF KINDNESS

Community of Kindness is focused on making our obligations to care for our neighbors a high priority for us, outreaching to institutions in our local community, showing our gratitude to Allah by acts of kindness to our neighbors. Programs such as “Day to Serve” volunteers collect food donations from shoppers at area



supermarkets (ie. Giant, Safeway, Food Lion Stores) and deliver the provisions to area food banks including the Dar Al-Hijrah Food Bank and others in Fairfax.

## SAFE HAVEN - FEED THE NEEDY

Once a month Dar Al-Hijrah sponsors a wonderful hot lunch at the Safe Haven “Homeless Day Drop-In” Center hosted at First Christian Church across the street from Dar Al-Hijrah, every other Thursday throughout the year. Volunteers from Dar Al-Hijrah cook and serve the guests with respect and compassion. The Outreach Director visits throughout the year to offer prayers and encouragement. Safe Haven at First Christian Church seeks to be a welcoming sanctuary of warmth, sustenance, and respite for those experiencing homelessness and poverty. The primary focus of this outreach is abundant food, fellowship, services, and a kind and welcoming environment. What began as an outreach program to an average of 15-20 individuals a day has grown to a drop-in program serving over 150. Now an interfaith coalition of faith-based communities like Dar Al-Hijrah contribute by providing hot meals and volunteers to the program, which brings increased awareness and support from the community.

Hypothermia Shelter at Dar Al-Hijrah: In partnership with Fairfax County’s Bailey’s Crossroads Shelter, Volunteers for America, and other churches in our neighborhood, the Masjid hosted homeless men during the coldest months of the year and now hosts exclusively homeless women from the cold, Monday through Thursday nights. The program can accept up to 35 women per night. The program has seen fewer women in need of shelter this



year. We pray that we are making a difference in our affordable housing campaigns to end homelessness in our community.

## HALAL TURKEY GIVE AWAY TO NEEDY FAMILIES IN DC

Partnering with PennyAppeal and The DC Department of Youth and Rehabilitative Services (DYRS) we distributed turkey dinner baskets to DC youth and their families who are participating in our “Covenant of Peace” Project to reduce violence in DC.

Location: South East Washington, DC

## 911 UNITY WALK

On a Sunday afternoon each September, people of all faiths and cultures from around the DC region walk down “Embassy Row” and visit houses of worship and other religious centers in a public celebration of unity and support for our diverse community. The Unity Walk is open and free to everyone.

## CULMORE COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

For almost 15 years Dar Al-Hijrah has been a co-sponsor and a leader in the development of this annual community event. The program has now expanded to a fall and spring clean-up. Many Muslim youth, families and their friends from J.E.B. Stuart High School and community groups attend the event walking through the neighborhood picking up trash and building a sense of community solidarity.

## MASJID TOURS:

The Masjid Tour has become very popular with hundreds of guests from area church groups and schools from our region visiting the masjid annually. The length of the tour and discussion should not exceed 1 ½ hours. Regular tours are available on Sundays beginning 30 minutes before the noon (Dhuhr) prayer. Special tours may be arranged other times excluding Mondays and Fridays. Almost monthly we receive guests from the US State Department for Friday prayers, a tour of the masjid and discussion.

## “JUSTICE FOR JUNIORS” MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

This year under the leadership of Sr. Fazia we joined a program in DC, “Justice for Juniors.” In this program volunteers drive weekly to the DC Juvenile Center to provide interfaith education and the development of ethical and moral problem solving skills to help them get their lives back on track. Although many of these youth are not Muslim, many of them have Muslims in their families and are interested in the life-giving message of Islam.

## INTERFAITH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- **MAC:** Multicultural Action Committee: a collaboration with Fairfax Health Department- attend regular meetings; promote and speak at events: Mental Health and Wellness Seminars.
- **MIC:** Washington, DC Mayor’s Interfaith Committee - attend regular meeting in DC; participate and collaborate with events.
- **MPD** command Center educational forum.
- **IFC and WIROC:** Interfaith of Greater Washington Committee and Washington Interfaith Response Committee: attend regular meetings; participate in collaborative events; draft and distribute notes.
- **FCIA** – Fairfax Community and Interfaith Association: disaster readiness training; domestic violence awareness and prevention.
- **FACES:** Faces of Our Children-Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) Foundation, Outreach to the African-American communities and those at risk of inheriting SCD.

## Intra-Faith In-Reach

The Family Care Committee (The FCC) has established a relationship with Virginia Hospital Center, INOVA Hospital System, Capital Hospice and Howard University Hospital.

The team has recruited over 50 volunteers to visit the sick and hospitalized in our area. They visit patients of every faith but with a special outreach to Muslims. The volunteers have undergone pastoral care training and many have been certified to visit patients in area hospitals. The team visits area hospitals every week as a group on Sundays.



## NEW MUSLIM SUPPORT - “CONVERT CARE”

New converts to Islam now have more support with “Convert Care”, a program in conjunction with the Dar Al-Hijrah Youth Department. The new Muslims are coming to the class more often than before since we are embracing them and making them feel welcome. This new group lead by our youth is making a difference in the lives of young converts. We are supporting the new Muslims by partnering them with members of the group, giving them support from our Imams, and encouraging them to attend Sunday’s class with Dr. Hajjaj along with regular educational programs in the masjid.

## ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION

With the leadership of our department, ISNA hosted a panel session at their annual ISNA Convention in Chicago this year, The International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) hosted a “Fiqh Forum” to discuss the issue of organ donation/transplantation for American Muslims and a new fatwa approving donation/transplantation will be issued in the coming months by the ISNA Fiqh Council of North America. The Director of Outreach was awarded by WRTC and Donate Life America for our outreach.

## SPEAKERS BUREAU AND TRAINING PROGRAM

The director and staff of the outreach department are called upon to speak around the country and around the world on the issues of outreach, the environment, interfaith and civic engagement. Although Dar Al-Hijrah has many dynamic speakers, there are often not enough qualified speakers to cover all of the requests for speakers as we need to send the “right” messenger. This year Imam Johari and his team spoke at over 30 churches, synagogues or other houses of worship to thousands of people of other faiths, in addition to Toast Masters orientation meetings preparing for the establishment of Dar Al-Hijrah Toastmasters (Speakers Training) club.

Dar Al-Hijrah attended the Bangladesh-American Dinner with Keith Ellison and the Ambassador for Bangladesh to support development and cooperation with the US.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOR MOBILIZATION

MOBILIZATION: Gathering participants to engage in civic activities that benefit our community: The Dar Al-Hijrah outreach director and community liaison attended BLM planning meetings and transported Dar Al-Hijrah volunteers to Black Lives Matter



rallies and events in DC after the shooting deaths around the country. Imam Johari spoke on a panel at the Kennedy Center after the play “Every 28 Hours” somewhere in America a black American is killed by the police.

MSA at NOVA – education on our Interfaith and outreach department – volunteerism.

“Know your Right” – hosted with EMERGE and MPAC.

Government and public affairs: EMERGE USA meetings to educate our community about why it is important to vote especially in 2016 elections; assist in registering voters in-house.

## COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

USCIS – The staff of the Outreach Department attends many government, civic/interfaith forums, and educational seminars to assist and direct community members to resources in the community and often make referrals and draft letters for community members.

IOU – As free service to the community, Dar Al-Hijrah is a host site for testing and supervision for students taking their exams for the Islamic Online University ([www.islamiconlineuniversity.com](http://www.islamiconlineuniversity.com)).

## INTERDEPARTMENTAL SUPPORTIVE (SOYA)

To achieve better coordination and synergy we have begun meetings with the staff and directors of the departments responsible for social services, outreach, youth and the administration (office management and communications); SOYA. This integrated team has been able to maximize the talents, relationships and core capacities in order improve the performance of each department.

The Outreach staff works closely with other departments within Dar Al-Hijrah such as the Women’s Empowerment Event, Tuesday morning educational forums, Youth lectures and provides guest speakers to support the greater work of Dar Al-Hijrah, sometimes as a substitute ESL instructor or a van driver. The motto of the team is “Be What Is Necessary”, as our community needs us.

The outreach staff is cross-trained and often covers the duties whether they be led by Interfaith/Community work or Government

Affairs. All staff work to mobilize support from the community by having hundreds of relational meetings (one-on-one) to help find the passion for justice and engagement that lies inside each and every one of our committee members at Dar Al-Hijrah.

## FUTURE PLANS

The director of outreach has been able to train the new staff members to become competent in coordinating the work of their respective offices. In the coming year the department director will work:

- To develop metrics for each of the offices in the department with the intent of improving our outreach effort known as one of the best outreach departments of any masjid in America.
- To activate segments of the Outreach Departments Strategic Framework that have yet to be achieved.
- Business Outreach
- Media Roundtable
- Muslim Holiday Recognition
- Development of a speakers bureau
- Virtual Masjid Tour
- Media/Information Center
- To develop new projects that will have significance at the regional and national level due to our proximity and engagement with Washington, DC.



# DAR AL-HIJRAH WEEKEND SCHOOL

The Dar Al-Hijrah Weekend School was built on the foundation of the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah. We strive to provide an Islamic environment to guide students to reach their full potential, and we have done so since 1995. The teachers find and use innovative teaching strategies to provide the best education possible for our students since the majority of them attend public school. Our ultimate goal for each student is for him/her to be able to read and write any Arabic text.

## Activities that took place throughout the year include:

### QUR'AN COMPETITION

The school tries to find ways to encourage students and parents to take a more active interest in the Holy Qur'an. The school holds competitions among the classes, and students are evaluated based on pronunciation, fluency and accuracy.

### ISLAMIC STUDY PROJECT

Individual classes work on projects corresponding to what the students are learning in the Islamic Studies class.

### PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

This is done once a year to update the parents on their child/children's progress.

### GUEST SPEAKERS

Speakers from our local community come to the classes to speak on various topics.

In May, the school had a Fun Festival for the students to end classes for the 2015-2016 school year.

In order to ensure a safe and physically comfortable environment, the following changes should be made:

Renovate bathroom facilities in the school; make them more kid-friendly.





# SOCIAL SERVICES

## ABOUT DAR AL-HIJRAH SOCIAL SERVICES

**Dar Al-Hijrah (DAH) Social Services is dedicated to creating a positive and profound difference in our community. Our goal is to support our community members on their journey toward self-resiliency and self-sufficiency in order to create and solidify a diverse, purposeful, and welcoming community. As a preface to further details, we would like to sincerely thank all of our donors, partners, and volunteers who continue to tirelessly work with us towards accomplishing the DAH vision of building a wholesome community.**

## In 2016, we geared many of our program developments and expansions towards family empowerment and connection. We thus launched many programs that target this goal in accordance with our community's feedback and through a needs assessment of our community.

One of the most notable programs helping us accomplish this goal is the Family Support & Resources Project, which aims to educate families on a variety of topics such as how to navigate the resources available to them.

### **FAMILY SUPPORT & AWARENESS SESSIONS**

#### **Every Tuesday Morning**

One of the major issues our refugee and/or immigrant clients face is the inability to cope with the United States' culture. The Family Support and Resources Sessions is a new program launched in partnership with the Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services. This program is intended to provide you with a better understanding of your community so that you are knowledgeable about the services that are available to you and your family. The topics vary each week and include affordable housing programs, mental health services, parenting skills, CPR certification, food handling certification, naturalization, how to navigate the governmental resources available to you, and many more. This program launched on October 4th, 2016 and now takes place on Tuesdays in the DAH Courtyard from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

### **FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS**

#### **Emergency Assistance Program**

Annually, around 420 families seek various types of assistance through this program, and they receive the help they need in the form of financial assistance and/or referral to other organizations that could serve them. The Emergency Rental Assistance program was able to provide \$59,500 through which Dar Al-Hijrah was able to aid 112 cases, most of which were families facing eviction. These cases also included a variety of other situations including, but not limited to, single mothers, widows, disabled persons, and persons injured at their jobs. The Rental Assistance program was thus able to accomplish its goal of giving these individuals the financial support needed to resume their rental payments and jobs on their own.

### **DAR AL-HIJRAH WEEKLY FOOD BANK**

#### **Every Thursday morning**

We at Dar Al-Hijrah Social Services run one of the largest, most successful food banks in Northern Virginia. We currently serve upwards of 285 families of all faiths and backgrounds every week, feeding a total of over 50,000 individuals in 2016.

The program's operations cost \$96,000, including in-kind donations. In order to further offset these costs, the Social Services Department has been working to increase its volunteer base and strategic partnerships. Our vision of this project is to increase access to healthy foods for our low-income residents, as maintaining a healthy and well-fed community for those in need is the main priority of the Food Bank. Up to 50,000 parcels of halal chicken and fresh produce are distributed annually. The Food Bank supplies fresh produce, which we specially order at a cost of \$600 a week to ensure the highest possible quality, as well as halal chicken distributed based on family size and needs, pita bread, and non-perishables. Our most recent upgrade to this program was the creation of a digital database of the families who receive this aid. This database now allows us access to the most recent, accurate information about our clients, which therefore grants us the opportunity to serve them most efficiently. Not only does Dar Al-Hijrah's Weekly Food Bank program serve the needy, but it also encourages our younger volunteers to perform a community service, which teaches them the importance of being actively involved in their community.

We welcome these youth to our center every Wednesday between 3:00 and 5:00 pm to assist us with the food packaging process before the Thursday morning distribution.

## FUNERAL EMERGENCY FUND

The Funeral Report Program was able to assist several low-income families and individuals who suffered the loss of a loved one but were unable to afford the costs of a funeral. After completing the application process, each family or individual received financial aid and other assistance in the arrangement and organization of the funeral. Through our Funeral Program, we were able to provide a total of \$30,000 to 12 individuals and families who suffered the loss of a loved one.

## ZAKATUL FITR DISTRIBUTION

This program takes place toward the end of Ramadan. Zakatul Fitr Distribution helps make Ramadan the most spiritual and most joyous time of the year for many Muslims in our community. Through this program, we were able to distribute \$69,000 to aid 165 families during this holy month.

## EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

### **Thrift Shop, Sewing Program, ESL, and Tutoring Program!**

To map a road toward economic self-sufficiency and prosperity within our community, the DAH Social Services

Department has initiated three major programs aimed at providing income-generating opportunities and empowering individuals. An on-site thrift shop, a 100-hours sewing class for women, and a family program “From Generation to Generation” has been formed for these purposes. The latter is comprised of two sub-categories: tutoring for children and ESL classes for parents. New classes begin each semester, and each semester consists of four months.

## DAH COMMUNITY THRIFT SHOP

The shop sells gently used secondhand clothing and household goods. Donors receive a charitable contribution receipt for tax purposes in exchange for their generous donations. Moreover, any profit made from this program is used to supplement the critical cases of our social services programs. Simultaneously, buyers are able to further stretch their household budgets while buying essential items of intrinsic value for their families. The store generates critical revenue to support Social Services programs and emergency needs of clients on a case-by-case basis.

The thrift shop serves a second critical purpose of accommodating our TANF clients by accepting them as volunteers into our shop, as we are now a registered site through Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria Counties. These clients are part of the VIEW (Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare Program)—one of Fairfax County government assistance

programs, and are therefore referred to us on a regular basis. The goal of TANF work program is to end the dependence on public assistance by preparing the candidate for a job by helping with job readiness and skills training, vocational training and assisting them in finding and keeping a job. Through the program, 15 Muslim sisters, through DAH, volunteer an average of 20-30 hours per week at the DAH Thrift Shop in order to gain retail and customer service experience.

## THE ROAD TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

### **100 Hours Sewing Class “Sew ‘Til You Know”**

This program was launched in 2013 in collaboration with the family shelter in light of our community’s need to help women. Many low-income shelter clients of various faiths and backgrounds benefited from this program, as it granted them the opportunity to learn the skill of sewing. In this program, 12 women learn the marketable trade of sewing via 100 hours of instruction in order to eventually become financially independent. The FIFTH semester commenced in September of 2016. These women not only had as much success in this program as their predecessors, but they also demonstrated their successes in a variety of ways. These included enrollment in EWI’s Entrepreneurship Workshop, Computer C.O.R.E. Program, and DAH’s ESL Program. We at Dar Al-Hijrah Social Services were delighted to be part of these women’s path to independence, and we ensured that they received the support they



required every step along the way. This class empowers women in the community by providing income-generating opportunities for otherwise unskilled and minimally educated women who, due to language barriers and raising families, have been severely financially handicapped. This program teaches a marketable trade to housewives and single mothers. Not only do these students learn an important craft, but they also learn unique skills that include patience, focus, and detail-orientation. Additionally, our students are taught how to fashion home décor items like handkerchiefs and custom-made draperies. We envision a viable workforce of stable, gainfully employed, self-sufficient, and confident women who will be a source of economic stability to their families and to their community. There is a charge for the course to cover class materials, books, and instructor fees. Nonetheless, due to the fact that many of these women have no steady income, this fee is often waived, rendering their classes free of charge. A generous grant allows for the students to take home their sewing machines so they

may continue to work on sewing projects from home, therefore initiating their lives as self-employed seamstresses and members of the workforce.

Empowered Women International (EWI) partnered with DAH to host a three-month entrepreneurship workshop which gave priority to previous and current sewing class students in order to enable them to market their newly acquired skills. The program was launched in October of 2015; first semester graduation took place on December 12th of 2015 (26 students graduated). We will launch another semester of this program in mid-February of 2017.

### THREADING DREAMS

After graduating in December of 2015, this group of women gave rise to their own group, which they named Threading Dreams. They now work together as part of their newly established business, wherein each member of the group contributes her own unique skills and talents. This group held showcases of their various products on March 12th and September 3rd of 2016.

## WOMEN-CENTERED SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

As mentioned above, the Social Services Department has taken a new direction to provide programs focused on helping women advance their professional and personal well-being and independence. We believe the role of women in society is profound, and that strategic programming and support for women will have a direct impact on our larger community.

### COMPUTER C.O.R.E.

#### In partnership with Computer Core & Job Training of Falls Church

This program helped 12 women acquire the computer and job skills training they need to get a new job, earn a promotion, or further their educational goals. Graduation celebration took place on May 28, 2016. This program targets individuals of our community whose computer literacy skills are limited and teaches them the proficiencies necessary to use a computer, thereby helping them on their mission to attain employment and gain independence.

### ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

Similar to the Computer C.O.R.E. program, the Dar Al-Hijrah ESL program aims to assist women of our community gain financial independence. This is accomplished by teaching women beginner, intermediate, or advanced linguistic skills in the English language depending on their level of proficiency. Three ESL teachers were recruited to run the program. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday





from 6:00-8:00pm. We made sure to offer the ESL classes at the same time as the tutoring sessions, thus offering the participating mothers an opportunity to attend the class while their children get help with their homework. We found that this approach has encouraged many mothers to participate in the ESL program. We always strive to enhance the students' learning experience. To do so, we provided the teachers with assistance in attending training sessions. In fact, both ESL teachers attended Instructor Training classes (hosted by the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia) on the 30th of January and the 6th of February from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. These classes helped them learn more on the best approaches to teach English as a Second Language.

## GENERATION TO GENERATION

### **A Tutoring Program for 4th-12th grade Students**

As of today, the Generation to Generation program focuses solely on the tutoring of 4th-12th grade students. It is held at Dar Al-Hijrah Social Services building every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00-8:00pm (running for the third year). Up to 30 students attend these sessions. The tutoring program has thus far been a success, as several qualified tutors and tens of motivated students currently participate in the program. In the upcoming months, we anticipate more students and tutors to join us in our efforts to educate our youth as the influence of the program grows.

## IKRAM FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

### **DAH Social Services Department**

recently established a partnership with Ikram Foundation that will enable this Department to pre-screen candidates for Ikram's college assistance program. Ikram's program provides financial aid to Muslim women who are widowed or divorced, helping them to pursue higher education. Social Services Department has already referred nearly 10 women to Ikram who are now enrolled in colleges and universities. We are so excited to provide this option to eligible women who may knock on our doors for years to come.

## FOSTER CARE ORIENTATION

### **How to become a foster parent**

As you may know, numerous members of our community face difficulties after first moving to the United States, and many such difficulties become very complicated. As a result, in recent years we witnessed an increased number of incidents in which Child Protective Services (CPS) became involved. Through this problem, many parents temporarily lost custody of their children due to their traditional child-rearing practices.

On March 21st, Dar Al-Hijrah hosted a Foster Care Workshop in cooperation with Fairfax County. In this workshop, we cooperated with Fairfax County representatives to help Muslims become well-informed of the process of becoming foster parents. In many cases, parents lose custody of their children to CPS, and these children face difficulty adjusting to life with

their new foster parents due to factors like culture shock and difficulty assimilating. As a result, it is important that more Muslim families open their hearts and homes to these children in order to provide a safe and comfortable environment for them to grow up in. We hope to witness an increase in our community's parenting skills and a decrease in unfortunate incidents with CPS.

## OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### **Dar Al-Hijrah & First Christian Church Safe Haven: Feed the Needy**

We began this partnership in late 2011 in pursuit of diminishing the rates of food insecurity in northern Virginia. During 2016, approximately 1,700 meals were cooked by Dar Al-Hijrah staff and delivered to the neighboring First Christian Church as part of the Feed the Needy program. This program takes place on the fourth Thursday of every month to serve pre-cooked lunches to low-income families in the area. Safe Haven was thus run quite successfully, and we are pleased to announce that dozens of families benefited from our efforts.

## DAH SOCIAL SERVICES OUTREACH

### **Alexandria County**

On February 23rd, the Dar Al-Hijrah Social Services Director shared information via a PowerPoint presentation about our programs with the Alexandria County staff as part of the Social Services outreach program. Our staff was invited by

Alexandria County to present information about how the DAH Social Services offer aid to our community, and we were happy to accept this invitation. During this event, Alexandria County staff obtained some vital information about both DAH Social Services as well as cultural knowledge about our community. As a result, Alexandria County staff is now better versed in the work we do and how our community functions, so we hope to witness an increase in our strength as a community in years to come. On October 6, 2016, we became involved with Alexandria County once again, this time at an event called “Resources for Immigrant Populations” where we discussed some of the challenges faced by the immigrants – documented or undocumented.



## INTERFAITH MEDICAL SPECIALISTS NETWORK (IMSN)

In partnership with Culmore Clinic

This is an interfaith program centered at Culmore Clinic which works towards building a network of healthcare professionals who treat a few patients pro-bono each year. The idea behind this program is that health professionals would accept low-income patients whom we refer to them at their own locations during their normal hours in exchange for a waiver rendering the practitioners liability-free. They may also specialize a day out of each month for seeing the patients we refer to them, if they wish. This is therefore a network of health professionals in the medical field who have agreed to treat low-income patients at their own expense.

## OTHER COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

### DAH & Local Counties TANF Work Program

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a cash assistance program for families with dependent children. The goal of TANF Work Program is to end dependence on public assistance by preparing the candidate to join the workforce.

DAH Social Services has established a partnership with the Fairfax, Alexandria, and Arlington County Social Services that allows them to refer clients to us whom they think will benefit from this program. Between the months of January and October, fifteen clients were referred to the DAH Social Services in order to participate in the TANF work program.

These clients volunteered at our Thrift Shop and the Weekly Food Bank in order to gain the social skillsets that would present work opportunities for them in the future. Many of them also joined the DAH Sewing Program, which in turn provided them with additional opportunities for financial independence.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Dar Al-Hijrah Annual Health Fair

Held on November 5th, 2016 in partnership with the Sudanese American Medical Association (SAMA). Several free health services were offered to the community, such as various health screenings, recommended children’s exercise regimens, nutrition seminars, blood drive, demonstrations of health insurance applications, and family fun activities.

## CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION WORKSHOP

### In partnership with Hogar Immigrant Services

On December 10th of 2016, DAH will hold the annual citizenship workshop. The mission of this workshop is to help members of our community fill out the appropriate forms to apply for citizenship.

### Syrian Children Eid Toy Drive

Our brothers and sisters in Syria continue to face extremely horrific circumstances on a daily basis. In collaboration with a Syrian non-profit organization we began an active effort to collect Eid toys and new/ lightly used clothing for these children until May of 2016 in order to ensure the shipments arrived by the time of Eid. This was a way of raising these children's spirits and self-esteem at these trying times.

## DAH & RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Our annual blood drive was held on December 17th thanks to our partnership with The Red Cross. Our collaboration enables DAH to serve our community members who wish to donate blood by utilizing the Red Cross bloodmobile. This blood drive was a great success.

## WEEKLY FOOD HOME DELIVERY

Our Food Bank efforts extend to encompass the delivery of food to those who cannot access our premises due to old age, disabilities, or having younger children, amongst other reasons. We were able to deliver 3,543 parcels of food to 26 households this year, serving 9 more households than last year. We were able

to provide food for more families in large part thanks to the generous act of two sisters who donated their personal vehicle to our center. Our volunteers are now able to utilize this reliable and efficient transportation when delivering meals and food bank parcels to the families who cannot get to Dar Al-Hijrah.

## QURBANI MEAT DISTRIBUTION

Islamic Relief has generously donated 5,000 pounds of Zabiha/Qurbani meat to the DAH Food Bank. DAH Social Services was able to distribute the meat to over 365 families encompassing approximately 1,700 individuals on September 27th of 2016. IR also donated 250 parcels of non-perishables to the DAH Food Bank on June 2nd of 2016.

## RAMADAN IFTAR PROGRAM

Starting on June 6th, which marked the first day of the holy month of Ramadan, the DAH Ramadan Iftar Program was launched. DAH utilizes this program to host iftar (breaking fast at sunset) on all thirty days of Ramadan. This program therefore provides up to 1000 meals every night of the month.

Additionally, we have dedicated Wednesdays as Interfaith Outreach nights during which we reach out to different faith-based organizations and host Iftar with them.

## RAMADAN IFTAR DELIVERY

Similar to the Food Bank Delivery Program, the Ramadan Iftar Delivery Program focuses on delivering food to families who cannot access our premises due to





old age, disabilities, or having younger children, amongst other reasons. Through this program, our volunteers were able to deliver cooked meals for Iftar every day of Ramadan at 4:00 pm to the 25 registered families who cannot get Iftar on DAH premises. The same vehicle used for the Food Bank Delivery Program is used for this one, enabling the program to run at maximum efficiency. We were able to provide approximately 3,000 meals to these families during Ramadan.

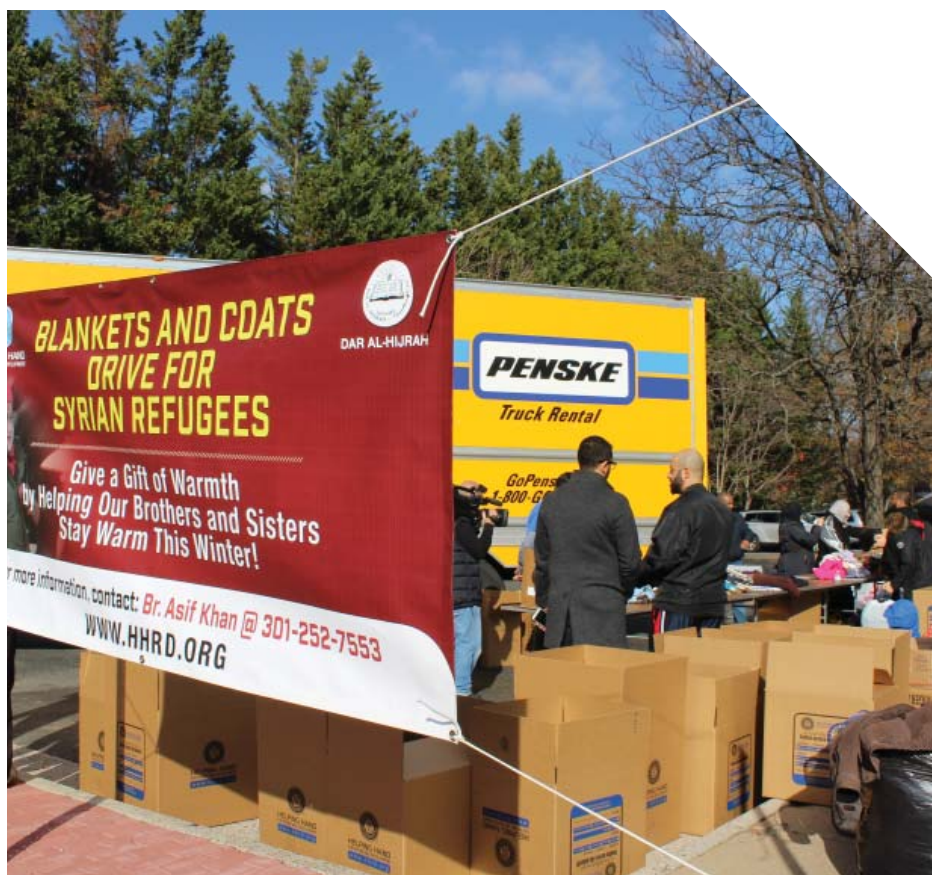
## FOOD BANK DRIVE

Each year, Dar Al-Hijrah holds a Food Bank Drive, during which we ask our generous community to donate non-perishable goods within their means. These goods are then delivered to the less fortunate. We made it our goal to collect 10,000 pounds of food for the needy, and we are happy to announce that we achieved this goal at the conclusion of the Drive, on August 20th. With our community's ceaseless support, we were able to make a significant difference in the lives of the underprivileged.

Annual School Supply Distribution for those who qualify. Backpacks and school supplies are distributed to low-income families at the beginning of every academic year. 63 families benefited from this program and received school supplies for their children.

## FURNITURE DONATION

DAH connects donor families of furniture to needy families in need of donated furniture. 27 families were connected with donors through this program.



## SOCIAL SERVICES NEW PROGRAM PROPOSED FOR 2017

### DAH SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAM

We are in the planning stages of launching a program for senior citizens of the DAH community that can offer them opportunities for entertaining activities, socialization, and lunch between the Thuhr and Asr prayers. We will keep you updated on the progress of this program and when it is expected to launch. Dar Al-Hijrah Social Services Department deeply appreciates the support it receives from countless individuals and key organizations. Without their steadfast support, we would not be able to provide ongoing and expanding services to our community.

### Thank you for your support!

We are ever grateful to all of our donors, volunteers, and partners for their endless support. Our success would not be possible without you. If you have the means to provide assistance to any of our programs, please contact the Social Services Office at [SocialService@DarAlHijrah.net](mailto:SocialService@DarAlHijrah.net). Any and all forms of help are welcome.

***Working Together For A Stronger Community.***



# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

**This report covers the activities of the Dar Al-Hijrah Educational Committee from January 1st of 2016 to December 31st of 2016.**

**The main goal of the committee is to elevate the quality of Islamic knowledge, and train the community so that they can represent the contemporary ideal Muslims in North America. Another goal the committee had set was the revival of the Masjid's message, and its pivotal role in the community's affairs.**

**To achieve these goals we set educational and community programs that fit the needs and aspirations of the community by bringing in excellent guest speakers. The lectures have been spiritual, health-promoting, educational, civic, and family-centered. Last year we added in our program the Qubaa Islamic Institute. The response of the community has been positive and encouraging despite the fact that their needs are enormous.**

## The DAH Education Program has two main components:

Daily, Weekly, Bi-Weekly, Monthly and Bi-annual activities.

Qubaa Islamic Institute.

Below is the table of major activities which have been completed so far.

MONTH	ACTIVITY/EVENT	SPEAKER(S)	TIME
Jan, Fri 29	Khutbah	Sh. Dr. Mohamed Moussa	1:30 pm
Jan, Sat 30	Islam Between Reality & Claims	Sh. Dr. Mohamed Moussa	Maghreb-Isha
Jan, Sat 30	Dinner	DAH	----
Jan, Sun 31	Community Breakfast	----	After Fajr
Feb, Sat 20	Islam in America	Amir Nathari	Asr-Maghreb
Feb, Sat 27	Qiyam Al-Layl	Sh. Mahamed Nabil	After Isha
Feb, Sun 28	Community Breakfast	DAH	After Fajr
Mar, Sat 19th	Diabetes and the Prophetic Guidance	Dr. Zubair Saeed Community Health Specialist	5 p.m.-7:30 pm
Mar, Sat 19th	Islamic Science	Dr. Siraj Husain	Maghreb-Isha
Mar, Fri 25th	Khutbah (3rd in Arabic)	Dr. Salah As-Sawi	1:30 pm
Mar, Sat 26th	Preparing our Children for the 21st Education	Mr. Shawn Derose Principle of Glasgow Middle School/VA	2pm – 4pm
Mar, Sat 26th	Fiqh of the Islamic Transactions	Dr. Salah As-Sawi	Maghreb-Isha
Mar, Sat 26th	Dinner for All	---	After Isha
Mar, Sun 27th	Community Breakfast	---	After Fajr Prayer
Mar, Sun 27th	Fatawa Night (Q&A)	---	Maghreb-Isha
Apr, Thu 14th -Sun 17th	The Science of Tajweed	Dr. Mamoud Mohamed	Magreb-Isha
Apr, Sat 29th & Sun 30th	Miracles of the Qur'an	Dr. Ahmed Abu-Elaa	Maghreb-Isha
May, Sat 14	Open Forum: Family Matters	Sh. Shaker El-Sayed	Magreb-Isha
May, Sat 21	Maqasid Al-Shariah-1	Dr. A. Al-Shaiji	Magreb-Isha
May, Sat 28	Maqasid Al-Shariah-2	Dr. A. Al-Shaiji	Magreb-Isha

MONTH	ACTIVITY/EVENT	SPEAKER(S)	TIME
June 6-July 5	Ramadan Khawatir	Sh. Shaker El-Sayed	Fajr & Isha
August, Sat 27	Community Picnic	---	2:00 pm-7:30 pm
August, Sat 27	Fiqh of Zakat	Dr. Monem Qudah	Maghreb-Isha
September, Sat 3	Fiqh of Hajj	Sh. Shaker El-Sayed	Maghreb-Isha
October, Sat 1	Free Dinner	Sh. Okasha Kameni	After Fajr Prayer
October, Sun 2	Khatirah /Community Breakfast	Sh. Okasha Kameni	Maghred-Isha
October, Sun 23	Committing the Straight Path III	Sh. Ahmed Nathir	Magreb-Isha
October, Sun 30	Belief and Steadfastness	---	---
Community Breakfast	---	---	---
November, Sun 13th	Misunderstandings in Islam I/ II	Dr. Jamal Badawi	Asr-Isha
November, Sat 26th	Islamophobia and How to Deal With It	Dr. Jamal Badawi	Asr-Isha
November, Sun 27th	What Muslims Need to Know About Islam I/II/III Lectures	Dr. Salah As-Sawi	After Fajr Prayer
	Community Free Dinner	---	---
	Community Breakfast	Dr. Salah As-Sawi	---
	Fataawas (Q & A)	Dr. Salah As-Sawi	Asr-Isha
Dec Sat 25	Lecture (TBA)	Sh. Ahmed Nathir	Magreb-Isha
Dec Sun 26	Community Breakfast	---	After Fajr
Dec Sat 31 - Jan 8	Tajweeed Class/Certification	Dr. Mahmoud Mohamed	TBA

## WEEKLY & BI-WEEKLY LECTURES:

**Tarbiya/Tazkiya by Dr. Dawoud Abdulrahman**

**Wednesdays**

**Tafseer of Qur'an by Sh. Shaker El-Sayed**

**Fridays**

**Happy Family by Sh. Shaker El-Sayed**

**Thursdays (Twice/Month)**

**Fiqh of Worship/Transactions by Sh. Abdelmoniem Elmani**

**Saturdays**

In addition to the daily short talks (khatirah) by Imam Shaker, we also had many short talks by scholars who visited DAH center time after time. Among these scholars: Sh. Mohamed Idris (Somalia),

Sh. Mohamed Sharqawi (Morocco), Sh. Abdurahman Aden (Somalia), Sh. Maulid (Morocco), Sh. Abulaziz Al-Usayri (Morocco), Sh. Abdallah Walad-Haj (Mauritania), Dr. Esam Tallawi (USA), Dr. Esam Omaish (USA), Sh. Abdelfattah Moro, and others.



## QUBAA INSTITUTE

Qubaa Islamic Institute is a Dar Al Hijrah education committee project. The purpose of the institute is to provide structured Islamic education in a classroom setting to allow for quality academic research and discussion. Students who complete the program will receive a certificate which will enable them to head halaqas, lead youth groups, and teach in weekend schools.

Qubaa Islamic Institute aims to empower Muslims in the west by providing sound Islamic knowledge through various classes and seminars, in order to produce generations of young Muslims who understand and apply Islam in their daily life.

## MISSION

Striving for academic excellence by providing each student the unique opportunity to develop a clear understanding of Islam and a deep spiritual connection to its morals and values.

## COST AND TUITION

Each student will be required to pay a \$25.00 registration fee and \$200.00 tuition per course. Each student will be responsible for full tuition payment at the time of registration. Payment installments may be applied on a need basis.

### Academic Calendar

The institute will operate on a semester basis. The duration of each semester will be 16 weeks. There will be two semesters per year.

## INSTITUTE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Qubaa Institute will offer a certificate for students who complete a total of 12 required courses and any 2 electives. In addition, students will be required to attend a total of 2 seminars offered throughout the semesters.

## REQUIRED COURSES

- Aqeedah 101
- Aqeedah 102
- Fiqh of Worship 101
- Fiqh of Worship 102
- Fiqh of Family 101
- Fiqh of Transactions 101
- Hadeeth 101
- Hadeeth 102
- Tafseer 101
- Islamic History 101
- Quranic Sciences 101
- Common Misconceptions about Islam 101
- Electives
- Fiqh of Family 102
- Tafseer 102
- Islamic Manner 101
- Spirituality in Islam
- Contemporary Islamic Thinkers
- Women in Islam
- Islamic History 102
- Quran Tajweed
- Seminars
- Islam & Terrorism
- Islam & Abuse (physical & psychological)
- Raising our Children in the West
- History of Islam in America
- Islam and Science
- Feminism & Islam





# IMAM'S SECTION

**As I was writing this annual report for 2016, I thought I would try to put our community in the picture as we see it from inside the DAH leadership. Besides what our community members have attended, witnessed and seen of regular and new programs, activities, and our departments' tremendous efforts to lead our community forward, while working against the odds, I thought of sharing with you some of the challenges we faced this year, and how we tried to face them head on.**

# The State of Our Community

## CHALLENGES

This year, 2016, has proven to be the year that brought new challenges for the Muslim community unlike any other year before. The most serious challenge came from Islamophobia, which manifested itself in the forms of attacks on mosques, Muslim organizations, businesses, women, and children in their schools, etc. Unfortunately, some Muslims got killed as a result of pumping fear, bigotry, anti-Islamic false allegations, and anti-Muslim statements by politicians, media personalities, and national noted leaders. Undoubtedly, this atmosphere created un-necessary hostilities against Islam and Muslims.

DAH met such challenges with increasing our outreach programs, educational and da'wah activities, open house meetings in which we received and hosted non-Muslim groups, and outreaching to media outlets, local and national. We also increased the level of and depth of engagement with civic and social organizations and institutions. We increased and intensified our partnerships with our interfaith partners in the Washington metropolitan area. These huge efforts are to be credited to our outreach Department with its leadership and the addition of two new staff members, Sister Fazyza and Br. Colin.

The second challenge was the unrelenting government campaign targeting the Muslim community with preemptive prosecutions, entrapment of mostly vulnerable and even mentally sick young Muslim men, and the increase in

targeting Muslim women as well. All of this led to some threats to some Muslim communities.

DAH responded by increasing its security measures and staff. We have successfully partnered with lots of groups, organizations, and religious institutions, Muslim and non-Muslim, to better serve our community and face those challenges. We also focused some of our educational activities on civil rights. We invited specialized organizations and leading figures- as guest speakers- to explain to our community the importance of knowing our rights as residents and citizens of our country. As a responsible leader of the community, the Imam warned the community during the sermons to educate the youth to be cautious and to avoid any gatherings or meetings that may lure them into radical thoughts or behavior, or engagements that may invite them to think of anything nefarious or illegal. Through the educational programs, the Imam encouraged the community members and families to be engaged in the larger society, and to encourage and support their youth to get engaged as well, considering the fact that engagement is the best way to inform, remove fear, and create common understanding.

The Imam continues to offer regular community programs in the following areas:

- **Deaf Community Education and Support Programs**
- **Educational Series Sermons (khutab)**

- **Personal and Family Counseling**
- **Daily Prayers and explanation of the Qur'an**
- **Weekly Tafseer Class**
- **Fatawas**

This year, besides the programs mentioned above, the Imam started two new programs; "Family Matters", a bi-weekly class for sisters, and "Quran for Youth", a monthly lecture/discussion aimed at the youth in particular to make them familiar with the Qur'an, its meanings, how to understand it and apply it in their daily lives. In addition to these existing new programs, the Imam plans to set up two "Internet-Based TV Shows"; the first is titled: "Ask Imam Shaker", which will be a questions-and-answers program. It will offer open phone, email, tweets for Muslims and non-Muslim viewers. Another show is called: "The Muslim Forum", which is an open forum with guests and audience discussing issues. This will be moderated by the Imam.

The purpose of these internet-based programs is to take Islam, its knowledge and its message to the audience outside the walls of the mosque itself, and to engage the public in a civil discourse about Islam. We are currently working on the technical setup of a studio in one of the rooms of DAH, which will be equipped with the needed computers, microphone systems, connections, software, and special internet line/s, etc. We hope to start these new programs this coming spring season of 2017, in shaa Allah.

# YOUTH DEPARTMENT

**For the first time in Dar AL-Hijrah and within the DMV community, our youth department has become institutionalized.**

**We have created a structure within our department and put place risk management. AlhamduAllah, we have added new programs and activities that cater mostly to all ages. We have made a space in our Masjid for youth to come and experience their faith within their context. They feel comfortable to come inside the Masjid, to get involved, and to ask questions that are challenging to their paradigm. We have made Dar AL-Hijrah Youth great again.**

**#dahyouth**





## MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR, MOHAMMED KIBRIYA

AlhamduAllah! We have come a long way since the inception of our youth department at Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center. With the blessings of Allah and the tremendous support of donors, we were able to create dynamic youth programs and services to our beloved community. For the first time in Dar AL-Hijrah and within the DMV community, our youth department has become institutionalized. We have created a structure within our department and put place risk management. AlhamduAllah, we have added new programs and activities that cater mostly to all ages. We have made a space in our Masjid for youth to come and experience their faith within their context. They feel comfortable to come inside the Masjid, to get involved, and to ask questions that are challenging to their paradigm. We have made Dar Al-Hijrah Youth great again.



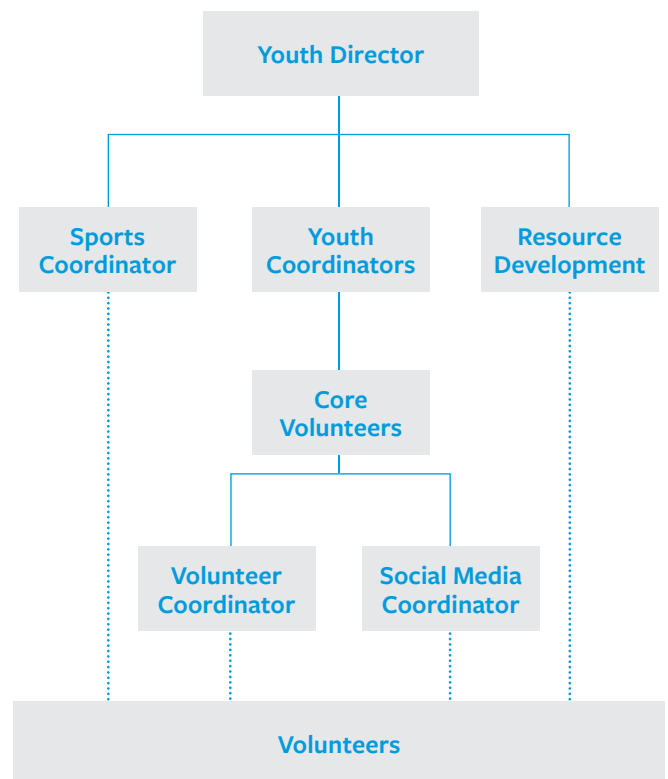
### DEPARTMENT GOALS:

- Provide a diverse array of programs that will appeal to the youth of Dar Al-Hijrah and beyond.
- Provide programs that develop youth Islamically, whether its directly or indirectly.
- Provide opportunities for youth to be empowered in the planning, implementation, and participation in activities.
- Provide opportunities for families to play a greater role in their youth’s growth and development.

### EVENTS & PROGRAMS:

- MAS and DAH Ski Trip
- Jr. Soccer League
- Fast and Learn
- Youth Conference
- MSA Night
- Open Mic Night
- Masjid Beautification
- Rising Souls
- Community Service
- Book Club
- Jr. Movie Night
- Qiyam
- Youth Movie Night
- Combined Effort + Perspective
- Eid Celebration
- Marriage Circle

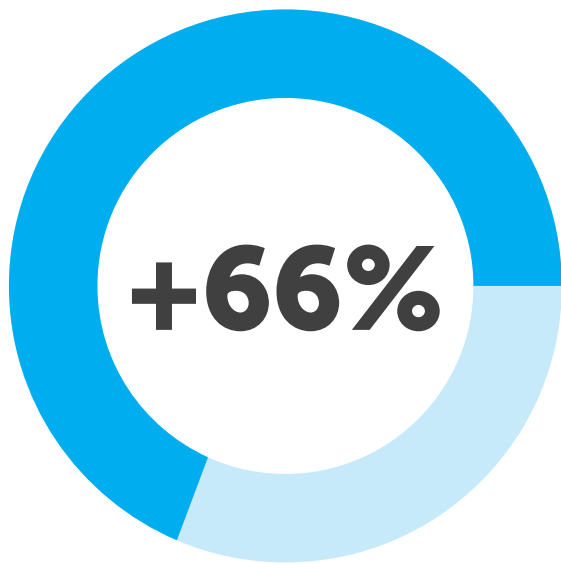
### DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE:





## Fast & learn

With our signature program “Fast & Learn”, we were able to create a space that was welcoming and safe. Back in 2014 when we started this program, our weekly attendance was less than 15 youth. As the year progressed, our program improved. We reached out to local MSA’s and a partnership was made between us. By improving our space and inviting different, inspirational speakers each week, the youth were able to connect more with the topics and feel relevant to their paradigm. In the year 2015, our attendance doubled. Each week new faces appeared, and we were able to sustain them. As we remodeled our youth lounge and gave it a more welcoming appearance, we were able to engage the youth to take some responsibility of Fast & Learn. We asked them to suggest topics of their interest, and in the end we were able to deliver their suggested topics. As of today, our weekly attendance has reached over 60 participants, ranging from young professionals to parents attending our program. We have invited some key speakers throughout the year, such as: the wife of Muhammad Ali, Imam Suhaib Webb, Dalia Mogahed, and Suzy Ismail. Each of our special Fast & Learn events consists of more than 100 participants.



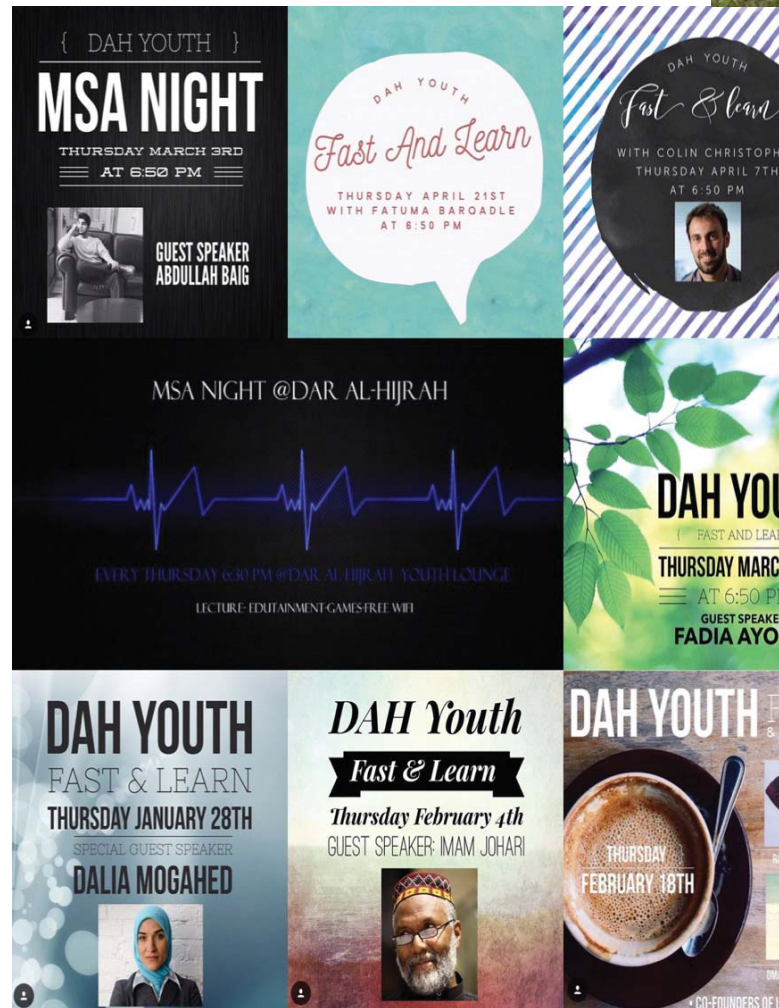
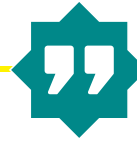
**Increase in average  
Fast & Learn attendees from 2015**



**#dahyouth is...**

*A place filled with amazing people and a constant reminder to stay connected to Allah.*

*- Bushra*





## JR. JUMMAH

Jr. Jummah is another one of our very successful programs, which takes place every Friday. This program is primarily for youths ranging in age from 6 to 10. Every Friday when the youth meet we have interactive halaqas. Each halaqa consists of interactive sessions with the speakers and talks about topics that are relevant to their needs. Jr. youths come and enjoy this event very much and benefit tremendously. A few of the youth have drastically changed their behavior due to the program and its content. For the first few minutes they listen to an interactive lecture and then they are involved in an open discussion about that topic. We give the youth a handout relevant to the topic discussed, to complete at home with their parents and discuss the day's topic with them. Every Friday we have about 10-15 boys and girls come forth and enjoy the weekly Jr. Jummah event.

## Junior Programs

### RISING SOULS

Rising Souls is a program for children ages 11-14. It promotes mentorship and leadership. This program features lessons from the Seerah and The Quran. It includes outings and fun activities for the youth. The youth continue their bonds with their mentors after the program is completed.

This program harvests love and understanding in our Youth.



Inspire

Aspire

Rewire

Ages  
11-14

YOUTH DEP/





## Ramadan

Every Ramadan, Dar Al-Hijrah's Youth Department provides a program for the youth, ages 7-14. The program provided is there to keep the kids busy while the parents pray. This year our program consisted of competitions that inspired the youth to enjoy Ramadan. The competitions consisted of memorizing Surat Al-Mulk, fasting the entire month of Ramadan, and praying all 5 daily prayers. We had 5 youth winners of the competition. For First Place, we gave a bike as a prize, and Kindle Fires to the other 4 contestants. Our Ramadan program provided an opportunity for our youth to learn while enjoying Ramadan. When the youth walked in, they all got together and prayed up to four raka'as of sunnah. Mentors lead the prayers but at times we chose someone from the crowd to lead the salah. After the prayer ended we sat down for a lecture. In the lecture we talked about relevant topics with our youth that were transforming. We had a total of 92 participants, and over 110 registered families for our Ramadan program. We had another program; a mentorship for girls ages 7-17, in the classrooms upstairs. Everyday we started with checking in with one another, and then we had a 20-minute, interactive, halaqa. We had a cupcake decoration session, made friendship bracelets, and played Qur'an Trivia. We also did a series on the companions of the Prophet (pbuh). We had lectures on the importance of Ramadan, Laylat Al-Qadr, adab, and respecting parents. There was a change in the characteristics of the girls; they became more interested in getting involved with Dar Al-Hijrah, and the youth department.



**#dahyouth is...**  
*An environment of  
change & opportunity.*  
- Safa



**#dahyouth is...**  
*Hope for future  
generations.*  
- Naim



## Shedding Light on Perspective

Dar Al-Hijrah Youth hosted an event with the First Congressional Church of Granby. This event highlighted the importance of "combined effort" and interfaith-action. Over a 100 youth participated and benefited from this event.

### GUEST FEEDBACK:

*I just wanted to send you this email to let you know that I had an amazing time at your youth group I met many new people that I either became friends with on face book or Snapchat or followed on Instagram. Several of the girls I still talk to today. I love socializing, making new friends and meeting new people - understanding their view on the world and everything else. The youth gathering was a positive experience for me and allowed me to do all of those things above. I will be traveling to DC during late June next year and if welcomed back would love to join your youth group again for one more night. I had such a life changing experience, I would go back in a heart beat. As I left that night I said; "this was by far the best night of my life - wouldn't trade it for anything." I still stand by that statement.*

- Olivia





**The Youth Conference featured nationwide guest speakers and it appealed to many youths with +300 attendees.**





# Goal Number of Social media Followers in 2017

Actual 2016  
Projected 2017



## Renovated #DAHAYOUTH Space

Our new look serves to make the youth lounge more comforting and appealing to all of our youth! #dahyouth made space in Dar Al-Hijrah. Our new look does not only make the lounge more beautiful, it allows the youth to feel welcomed and accepted. It transformed into a place where the youth can dress and practice the way they feel, a place where there is no fear of judgment, and a place where they can worship Allah in peace and unity.

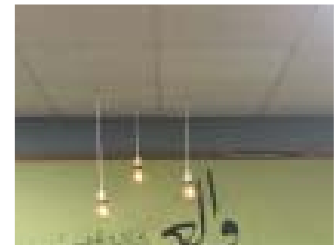
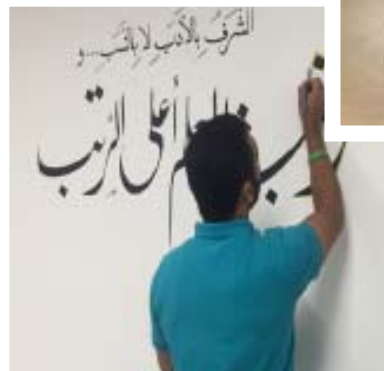
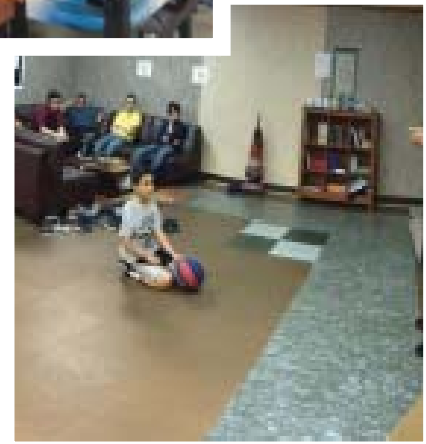


**#dahyouth is...**  
A place where heart strings are created and mentorship is provided.  
- Ahmed



←  
**Before**  
↓

**During**  
↓



**After**  
↘







**DAR AL HIJRAH  
ISLAMIC CENTER**

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**DAH**