



ANNUAL REPORT



DAR

AL-

HIJRAH . 1403/1983

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دار العلم



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Dr. Akram Elzend
Chairman

DAR AL-HIJRAH ISLAMIC CENTER

Board of Directors 2021 Activities Report

Introduction

In 2021, the Dar Al-Hijrah community had a productive year in which the Board of Directors started a new phase of planning strategic goals to face the new reality after COVID, with all praise to Allah.

Looking forward to a brighter future full of accomplishments, successes and challenges to overcome, the Board identified new challenges that the community faced and responded in the following ways:

- **Mental Health Issues:** Every report that the community receives declares mental health problems are increasing for the younger generations and their parents. For that reason, Dar Al-Hijrah is going to plan how to address this crisis that is affecting many family members in our area. We are looking for professionals in the mental health field to contract for multiple educational and therapeutic sessions and seminars in the near future. This will be a joint partnership with other non-profit organizations and community professionals.
- **Identity Crisis within Young Professionals and Youth:** With our work in our own masjid and other centers, we found it's fundamental to have a place for praying and practicing our Deen. It is also important to find another venue for our youth to have a place to meet and discuss their issues, and provide counselors and mentors to play a role in helping them face any challenges. Dar Al-Hijrah opened its first "Third Space" in Alexandria to have specific activities, educational programs and social gatherings for our youth. Also, DAH formed a professional team to plan and execute programs and activities. This is a joint program between Dar Al-Hijrah and the Muslim American Society - DC Chapter.
- **Human Resources:** Dar Al-Hijrah is reviewing and updating all human resources related policies and procedures of the center. Each policy and procedure will help the center and its employees grow and receive the proper training to face and act correctly with the daily issues and challenges that our community is facing. Dar Al-Hijrah has a strategic action plan in place to address all the needs and a new reality. A budget has been allocated by the Board of the year 2022.
- **Financial Stability:** Despite the economic crisis, Dar Al-Hijrah worked very hard to find other financial resources to keep the facility open and its functions and programs running and serving the community. Dar Al-Hijrah used the online platform and applied for grants as additional ways to increase its financial revenues and donations. A detail of this is in the remaining parts of the annual report.



- Educational Development Programs: Islamic education and self-development of our community and our youth is one of our indispensable strategic objectives. We had a successful year full of programs and activities including the Muslimah Fest, Seera conference, leadership training, Ijaza certification, Imam lectures, educational series, Quran recitation nights and spiritual activities. In 2022, we are looking for a more focused program where our educational programs revolve around thematic concepts that follow the approach of Quran and sunnah in character development. We thank our Imam Farhan Siddiqi for his leadership and we are still in the process of hiring a daily prayers leader Imam to help serve the expanding needs of the community.

- Washington International Academy (WIA): As the educational board is finished, Dar Al-Hijrah sought the help of community members who are in the field of education, finance, and management and have the ability to run the school. A group of nine experienced and well-versed educational board members have been appointed by the DAH Board to serve the WIA until June 2024.

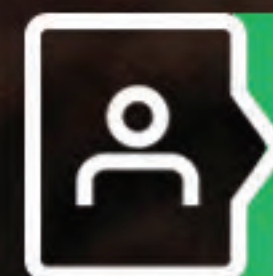
- Masjid Renovation: As everyone knows, the Dar Al-Hijrah Board approved conceptual drawings for the Dar Al-Hijrah facility. This renovation is meant to serve many generations in the future. Within a few months, we will be able to finalize a report on the limitation of growth in this area.

- Waqf and Emergency Fund: With a new reality growing among the community, the Dar Al-Hijrah Board made a strategic move to establish an emergency fund and grow the waqf fund. Having these two funds will help Dar Al-Hijrah face any emergency more efficiently. Having funds aside for emergencies will also help the institution have financial stability. And intentionally grow the waqf fund to secure the future of the center.

The board members of Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center are deeply indebted to our executive team lead by Samir Abo Issa, Dar Al-Hijrah Executive Director, for leading all these efforts and making these successes a reality.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT



Samir Abo-Issa

Executive Director



I ask Allah swt that He give us the strength to finish the year of 2021 successfully and guide us to the next year 2022.

May Allah swt reward all of our community members who always give their hearts and best efforts to make Dar Al-Hijrah a model center to the community at large. By the grace of Allah, the year 2021 had many successes to share with everyone. Even as the Dar Al-Hijrah mission and vision remain clear, we are always working to improve our process.

Introduction

Vision

A model Muslim community striving for a just and virtuous society.

Mission

To serve the Creator by:

- A** Educating, developing, and empowering our congregants.
 - B** Providing services of faith and care for our community.
 - C** Engaging society by building bridges and advocating for social justice.
- To help us implement our mission & vision, we created vehicles (departments) to carry out these steps:
- A. Educating**
 - a. Educating, developing, and empowering our congregants:
 - b. (Religious Affairs, Women’s Department, Family Services, & Youth)
 - B. Serving**
 - a. Providing services of faith and care for our community:
 - b. (Social Services, Interfaith Outreach , & Public & Government Affairs)
 - C. Engaging**
 - a. Engaging society by building bridges and advocating for social justice:
 - b. (Social Services, Interfaith Outreach , & Public & Government Affairs)
- We also created support teams to work hand-in-hand with other departments to achieve these efforts:
- A.** Communications department: to promote these vehicles.
 - B.** Resource development department: to support all center Activities.

- Our departments worked very hard to meet the community needs:

Religious Affairs:

Led by Imam Sh. Farhan, we created a model for departments to work together where they intersect:



- Departments collaborated in these areas:

1 Invest in the Generation:

- Social Programs.
- Strategic relationships with third spaces Classes.
- Mental Health First Aid Training.

2 Be an Inclusive, Diverse Community:

Developing closer relationships with each department.

3 Development through Education & Participation:

Khatiras, Khutabahs, Classes, Semester, Courses, Accessibility, Appointment, System, Mental Health Awareness.

4 Contribute to Society:

Increasing Channels of Access (Instagram page, Facebook, Email, Text/email)

➤ **Family Services Department:**

Dar Al-Hijrah created this department to fulfill the vision and mission through pastoral care and spiritual consultation for the local and larger community. This department is led by Sh. Shaker Elsayed.

Because of major issues that were revealed and heightened during the pandemic, this department will concentrate in the following areas:



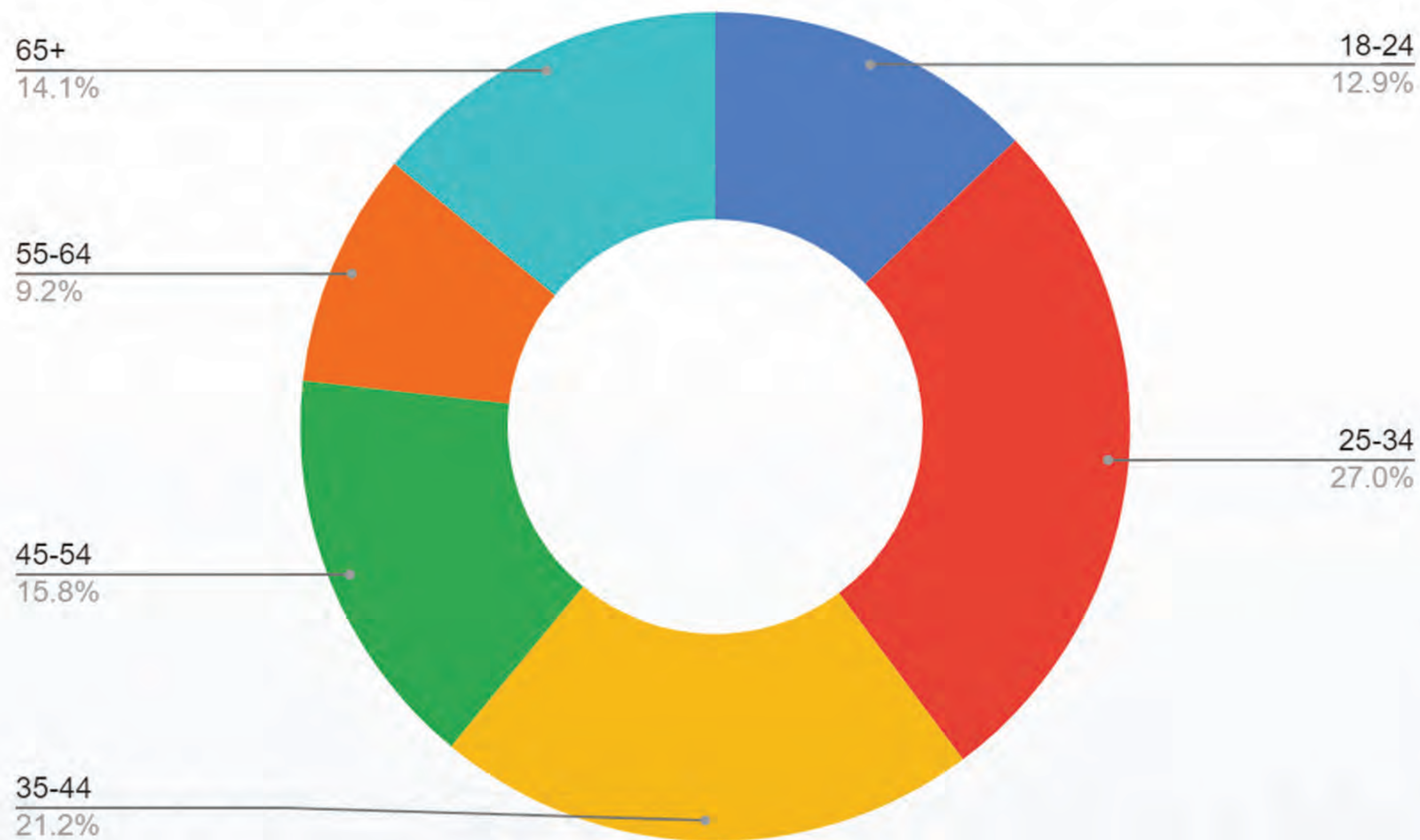
Pastoral Care, Family Social Support, Marriage/Divorce Services, Estate Planning, Business Arbitration

➤ **Communications & Resource Development:**

While we were not fully opened, Dar Al-Hijrah engaged with a marketing company to improve our communication within the community.

Alhamdulillah, the impressions of our ads online for 2021 totaled : **4,009,950**, while in 2020 the number totaled **1,920,865**

Below is a breakdown of donations received by age and gender.



➤ **Interfaith Outreach Department:**

Even with all the difficulties of in-person meetings, the outreach department maintained the same energy to gather virtually and engage the interfaith community to work together for the betterment of society.

➤ **Youth Department:**

The youth department worked to get the youth back to the Masjid, instead of meeting virtually.

Additionally, the department launched several new activities onsite for the youth. They had very successful programs including: Rising souls, summer camp, and movie nights, and launched weekly sports activities in the parks.

➤ **Public and Government Affairs:**

This department is the public voice of Dar Al-Hijrah, and works tirelessly to amplify the voices of the Muslim community at large. They are ever-present in the community and continue to educate and organize members on the issues that are important to them and their families.

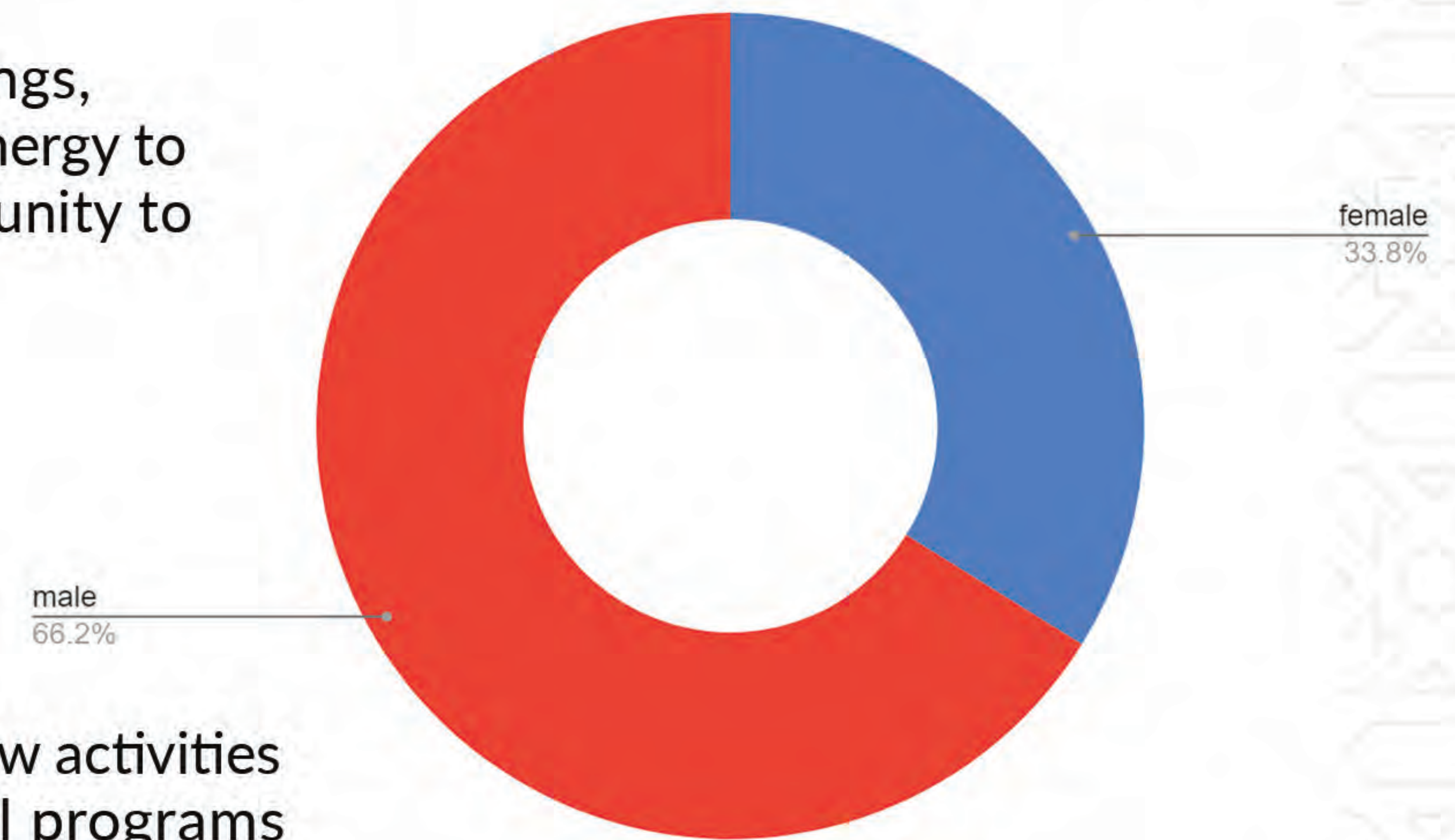
➤ **Women's Department:**

Despite COVID, the women's department finally had the ability to have the Muslimah Fest onsite. It was an amazing experience for all sisters and mothers to meet with each other and discuss the difficulties and hardship that they faced during the pandemic, and to highlight the many success stories of Muslim women in the community.

➤ **Social Services:**

Social services was the main force of the center that never stopped working throughout COVID, from early morning until the last minute of every day. They continued to serve the community, whoever was in need. Finding funds to support community members, feeding the hungry and providing trainings for families to be able to stand on their feet, were all efforts toward their mission of providing services of faith and care for the community

Finally, I ask Allah (swt) to reward every member of our families and community-at-large, to bless them and guide them for all they do to help the community strive for justice.





FINANCIAL REPORT

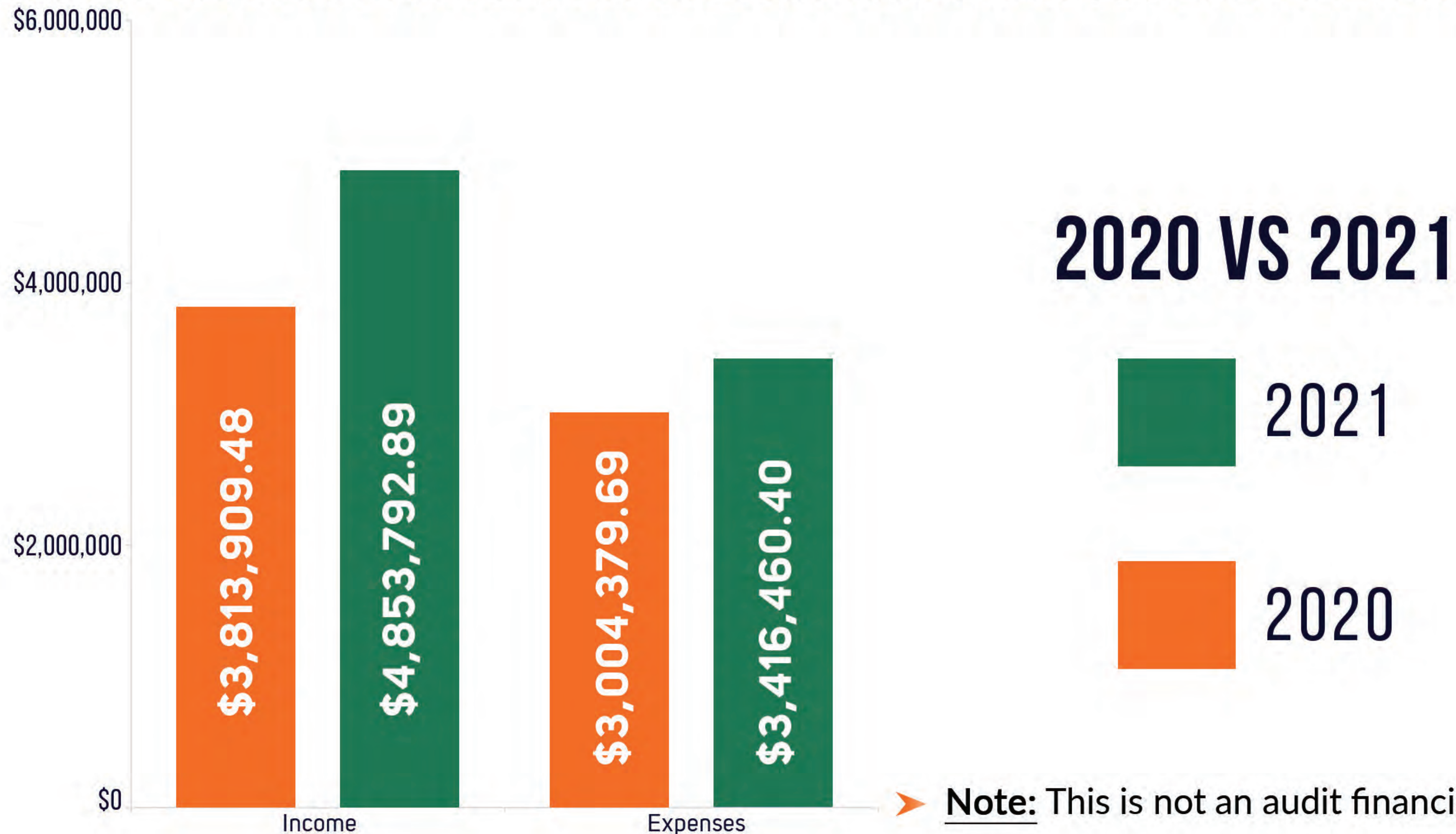
2021 Report

2021 Income

\$4,853,792.89

2021 Expenses

\$3,416,460.40



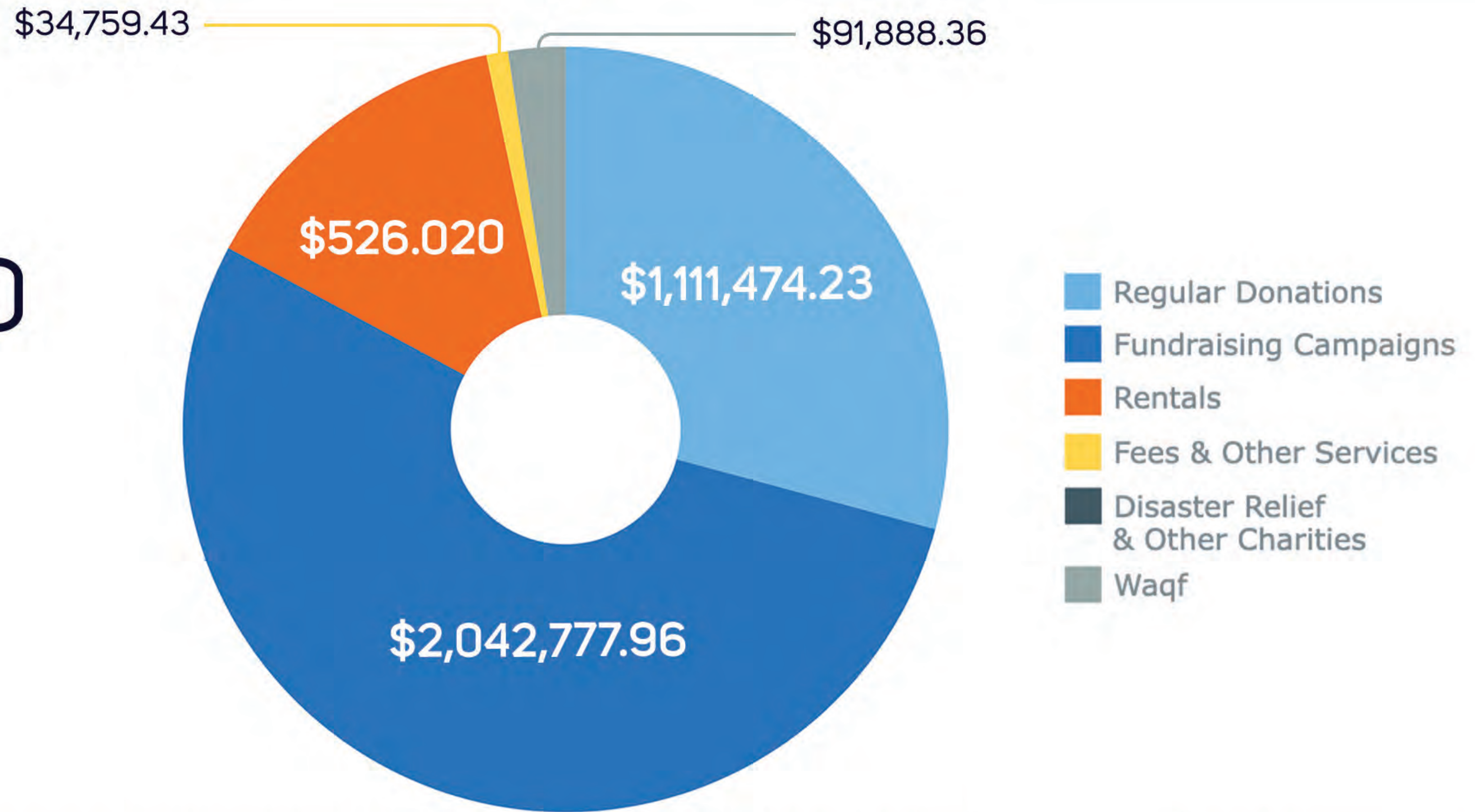
2020 VS 2021



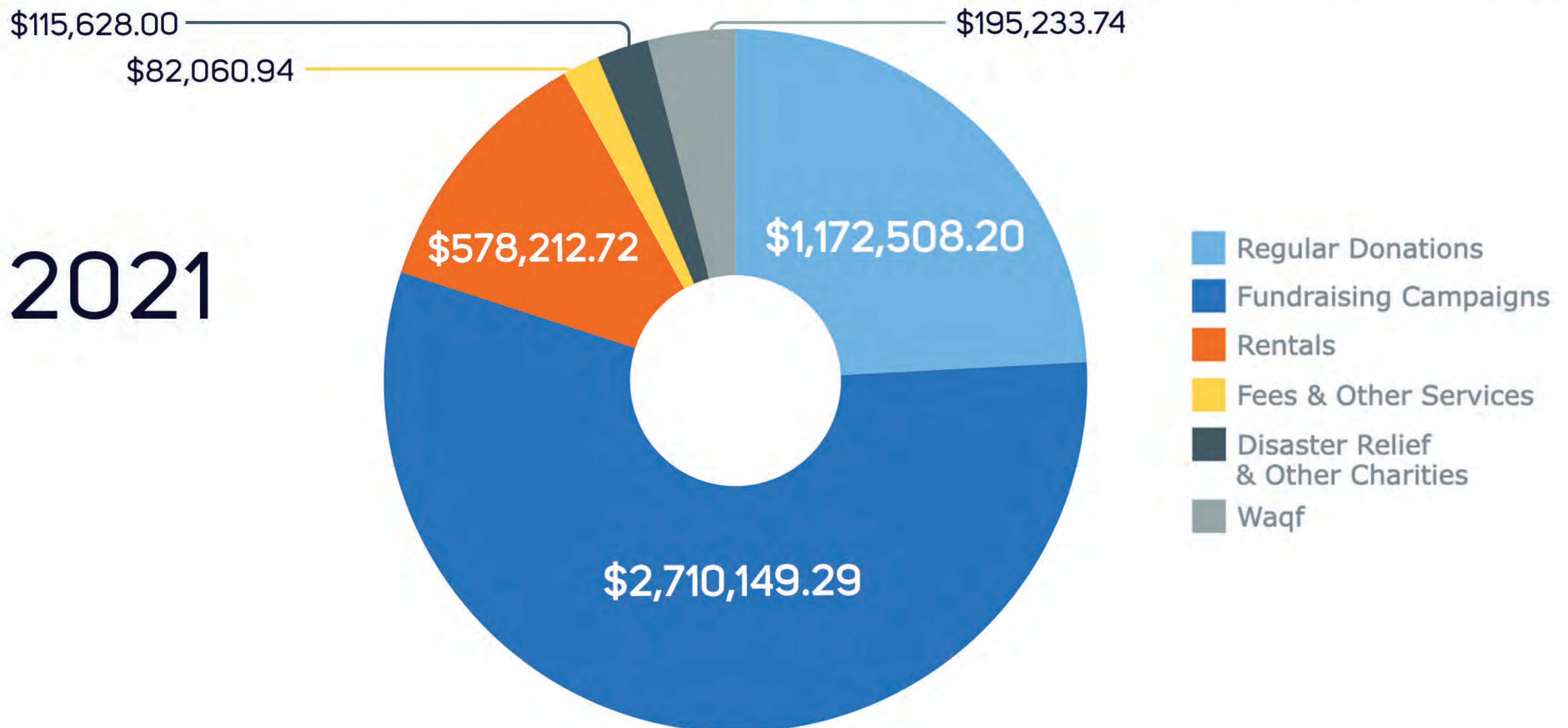
➤ Note: This is not an audit financial record.

2020 VS. 2021 INCOME

➤ 2020

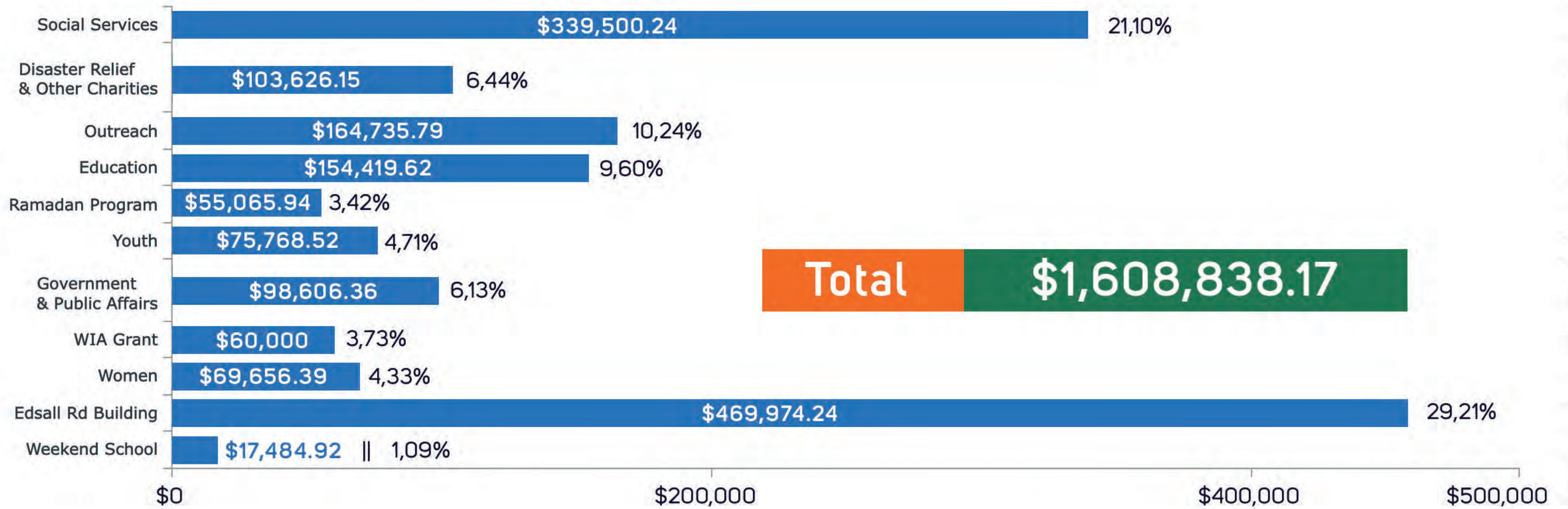


➤ 2021

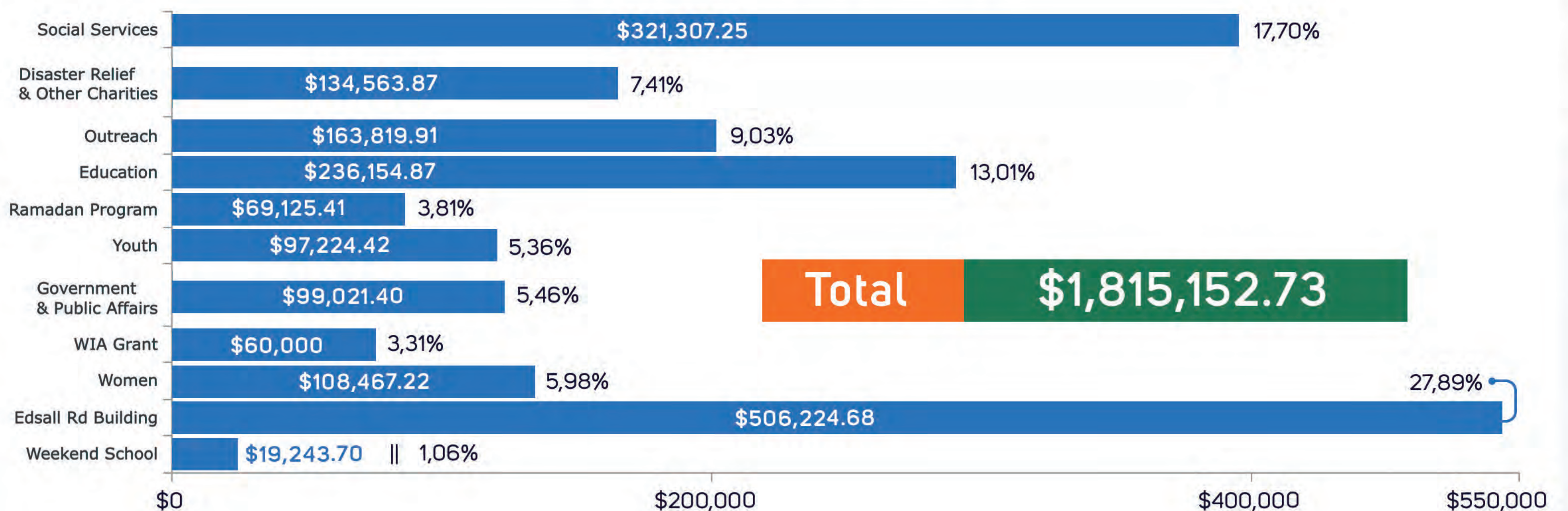


PROGRAMS EXPENSES

➤ 2020 Expenses



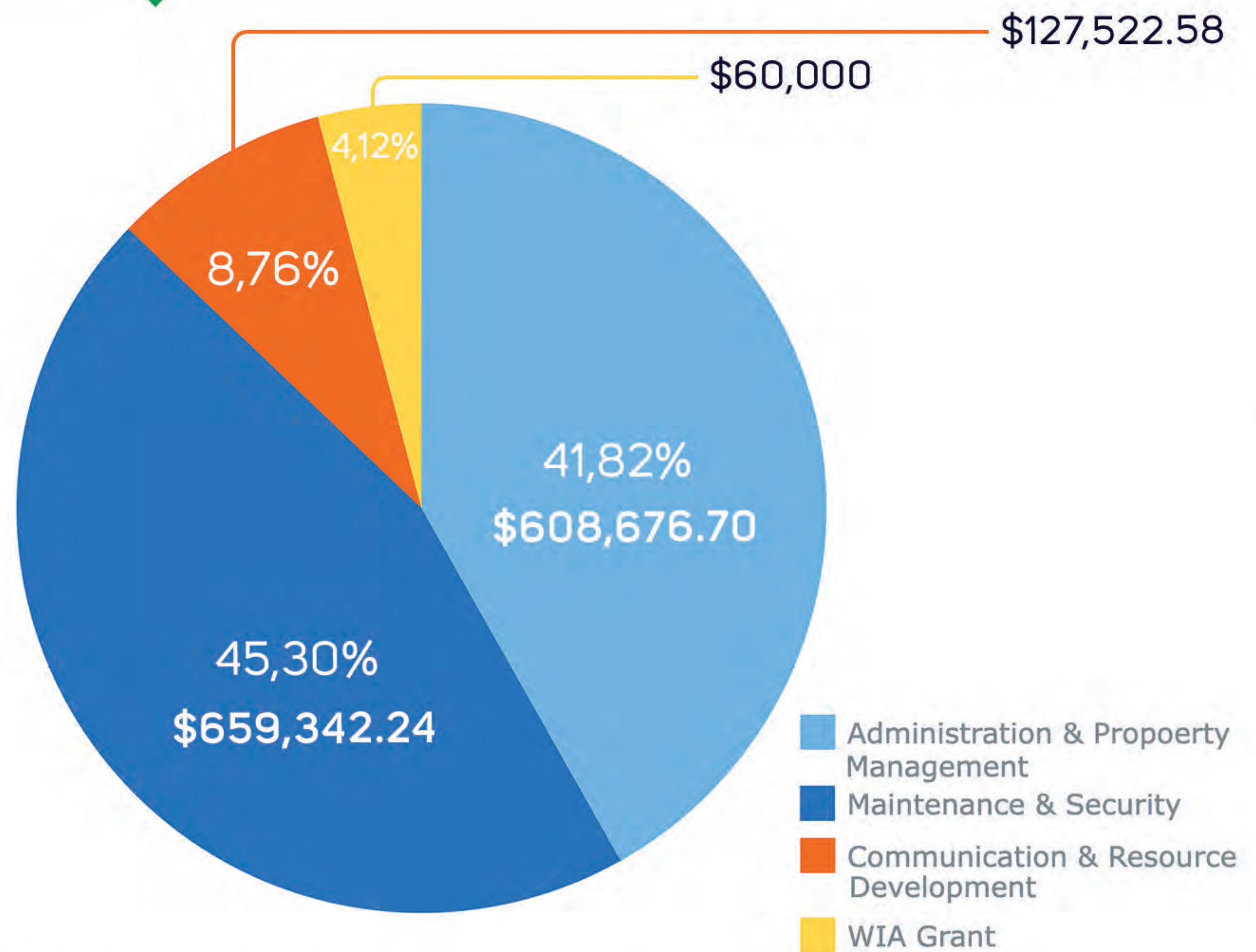
➤ 2021 Expenses



OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

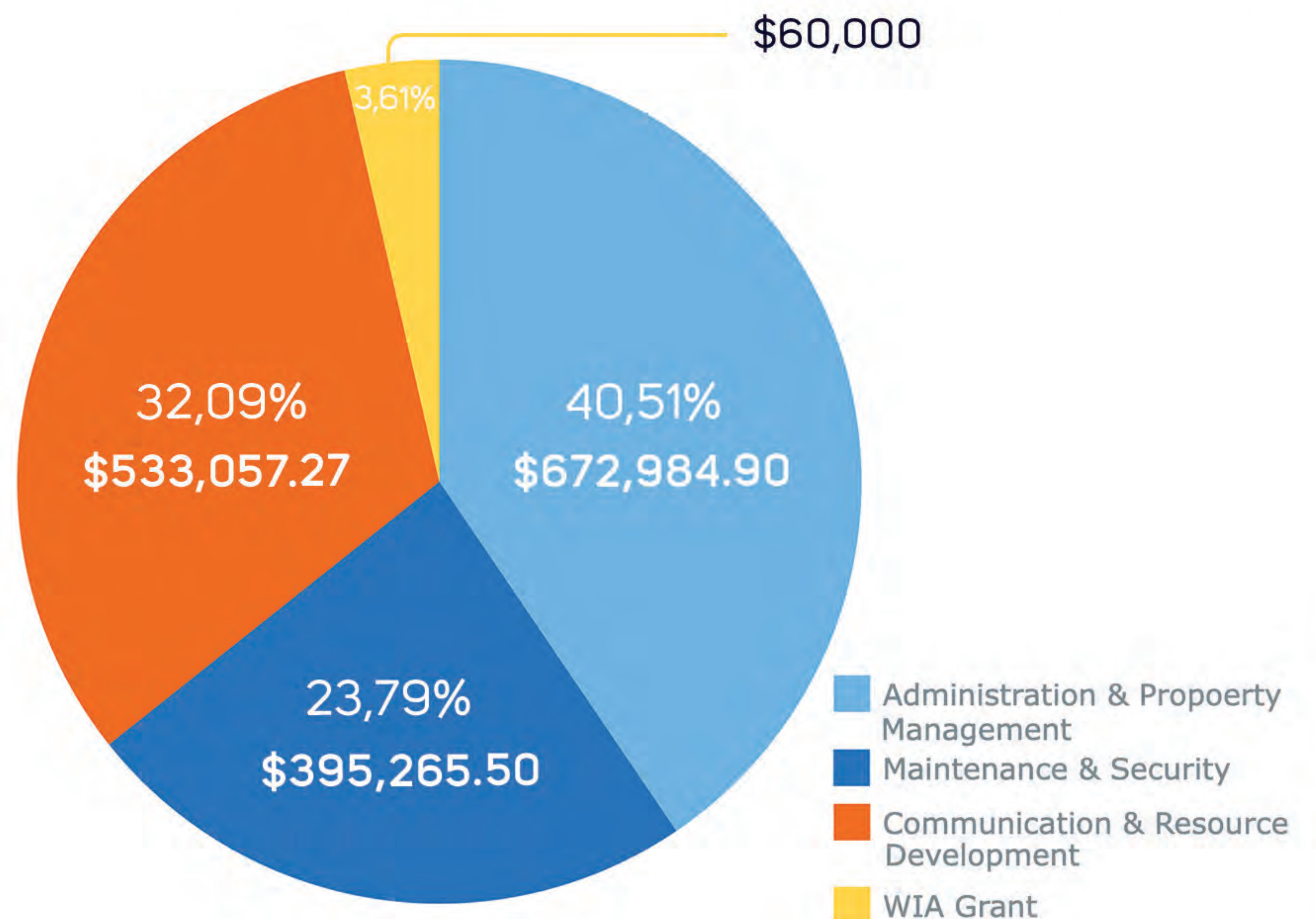
➤ 2020 Expenses

Total **\$1,455,541.52**



➤ 2021 Expenses

Total **\$1,661,307.67**



RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS



Summary

In 2021 the Department of Religious Affairs of Dar al-Hijrah Islamic Center embarked on new initiatives to empower the Dar Al-Hijrah Community in addition to creating a feedback system to improve on current services and provide an avenue of offering additional ones. The initiatives focused on transparency, consistency, cohesion and streamlining processes. Some of our signature events and services included well-attended Fiqh and Tazkiyah classes, spiritual counseling, daily reminders and fatwa services.

Team



Farhan Siddiqi
Director

Volunteer Committee

Khatibs and Ramadan Qari(s)

Team lead: Samir Abo-Issa

Qaris

Team lead: Abdirrahim Hussein

Main Qari: Mohamud Diriye

Mukhatirs

Team lead: Farhan Siddiqi

Teachers

Team lead: Athman Jilo



Initiatives and Significant Programs

Educational Initiatives

Fiqh Class

This class covers the entirety of al-'Umdah with a discussion of some of the viewpoints of the other madhāhib. The class is foundationally Hanbali but will touch on other positions and opinions. The program is offered every Wednesday.

Tazkiyah Class

This class covers Imam Ghazālī's Iḥyā' 'Ulūm al-Dīn. This book is one of the most monumental works in tazkīyah and serves as means of truly helping understand experiential knowledge. The program is offered every Wednesday.

The Third Rail (with YD)

A series that deals with a number of taboo topics and issues, mainly geared toward young professionals. The purpose is to create an open floor discussion of hot-issue topics to help discuss them through an Islamic lens. The program is offered once a month.

Jumuah Q&A

The community faces challenges in different arenas and at different levels. This platform was created to cater to those difficulties and help provide answers to help navigate them in a meaningful way. The Q&A is held before every Jumuah prayer.

Weekend School Teacher Training

This training was created to help not only the weekend school teachers, but for teachers throughout the DMV. Dr. Saleh addressed the skill sets required for teachers to become more effective in the classroom, including education theory and classroom management.

Quranic Building Blocks

By community request, a weekly reading program was established to help congregants with their recitation of the Quran. This program is held every Monday before Isha and every Saturday after Fajr and is hosted by our qari, Mohamud Diriye.



Ramadan Series

A daily program we held during Ramadan that helped viewers appreciate the blessed month even more. Each video discussed a different element of Ramadan to focus on and was released daily.

Training Videos

A number of videos made to help khatibs and mukhatibs understand the mission and guidelines of Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center.

Muslim Series

Extremism is a problem in many of our Muslim communities today. This series is meant to tackle the issue of takfir (expulsion from Islam) in an easy and digestible manner to help us not fall into it.

Quran Recitation Night

The book that is most important to the Muslim is no doubt the book of Allah. This night celebrates his book with nationwide renown reciters who beautify their recitations and captivate audiences with their presentations and vocal prowess.

Seerah Conference (with outreach & interfaith department)

A program celebrating the best of all creation, our beloved Messenger, Muhammad (ﷺ). Each year, a different aspect of the beloved messenger is focused on and presented to the community.



➤ Social Initiatives

Counseling

Spiritual counseling is fundamental to every community and DAH provides this service through our online appointment system. The system removes any 'gatekeepers' and gives direct access to the imam without the need of intermediaries. Fatawa and short questions are free of charge, while spiritual counseling requires a nominal donation.

Letters

DAH is a facilitation institution and wants to support its community with as many means as possible. We have created templates for students and employees to help them with Islamic dietary restrictions, dress code, holidays and even certifications for new Muslims. These templates are available by request and do not require the presence of the Imam.

Marriage and Divorce Services

The most fundamental relationship in a community is that of the family. DAH is here to facilitate that service and has two certified civil celebrants. A session of premarital counseling is required for ALL marriages performed at DAH. With marriages, divorce is also an unfortunate reality and DAH has helped multiple sisters who were, in many cases, held hostage in their marriage as a means of divorce.

Community Engagement at the Cultural Level (with PGA)

The best way to establish a relationship with a community is to 'break bread' with them. In order to quell some of the discontent with the transfer of imamship, an initiative was made so that any potential issues could be addressed directly to the imam, and to show his accessibility.

Accessibility Initiatives

An Imam's position rests on the relationship that he has with his community. This relationship cannot be established if he is not accessible to them. In order to facilitate this accessibility an appointment system, an Instagram page, weekly Q&A, and business number were all established.

➤ General Assessment of 2021 Department Plan

	Long term SMART Objective	Short-Term Objective	Beginning Date	Completion Date	Measurement	% Complete
1	Improve Organizational Performance	Create a series of mandatory courses	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Syllabi, course structure, content need to be created and shared in basecamp	100
2		Create a series of supplemental courses	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Syllabi, course structure, content and potential instructors need to be created and shared in basecamp	30
3	Develop the Community Through Education & Participation	Create a series of mandatory courses	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Syllabi, course structure, content need to be created and shared in basecamp	100
4		Create dynamic and effective messaging	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Theme creation, seasonal messaging, quarterly meetings	20
5		Educational Programming	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Syllabi, course structure, content need to be created and shared in basecamp	100
6		Increasing Accessibility	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Creation of relevant social media accounts and dedicated website presence	100

➤ General Assessment of 2021 Department Plan

	Long term SMART Objective	Short-Term Objective	Beginning Date	Completion Date	Measurement	% Complete
7	Develop the Community Through Education & Participation	Expanding Office of Religious Affairs	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Creating a network of local talent and basic knowledge base to help with succession planning	15
8		Mental Health Awareness	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Identifying a host date for trainers	Delegated to SS
9		Self Development and Life Skills	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Arranging regular meetings with different departments to create a shared trajectory	10
10		Creating Social Activities	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Arranging regular meetings with different departments for ideas and assess ability	20
11	Contribute to Society	Defining Scope of Participation	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Arranging regular meetings with different departments to provide spiritual/religious input	10
12		Developing Outside Relationships	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Identify and arrange regular meetings with different institutions for ideas and assess ability	10

➤ General Assessment of 2021 Department Plan

	Long term SMART Objective	Short-Term Objective	Beginning Date	Completion Date	Measurement	% Complete
13	Contribute to Society	Creating a Channel of Access to the Imam	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Create social media and a dedicated website space	100
14	Invest in the Next Generation	Create Social Programs	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Arranging regular meetings with different departments for ideas and assess ability	20
15		Strategic Relationships with Third Spaces	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Identify and arrange regular meetings with different institutions for ideas and assess ability	30
16		Creating Mentorship and Internship Opportunities	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Creating advertisements and arranging regular meetings with different departments for ideas and assess opportunities	20
17	Be an Inclusive, Diverse Community	Increase transparency and cohesion within DAH	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Arranging regular meetings with different departments for ideas and assess ability	20
18		Increase transparency and cohesion with DAH and other institutions	9/1/2020	12/31/2021	Identify and arrange regular meetings with different institutions for ideas and assess ability	5
					Avg	39

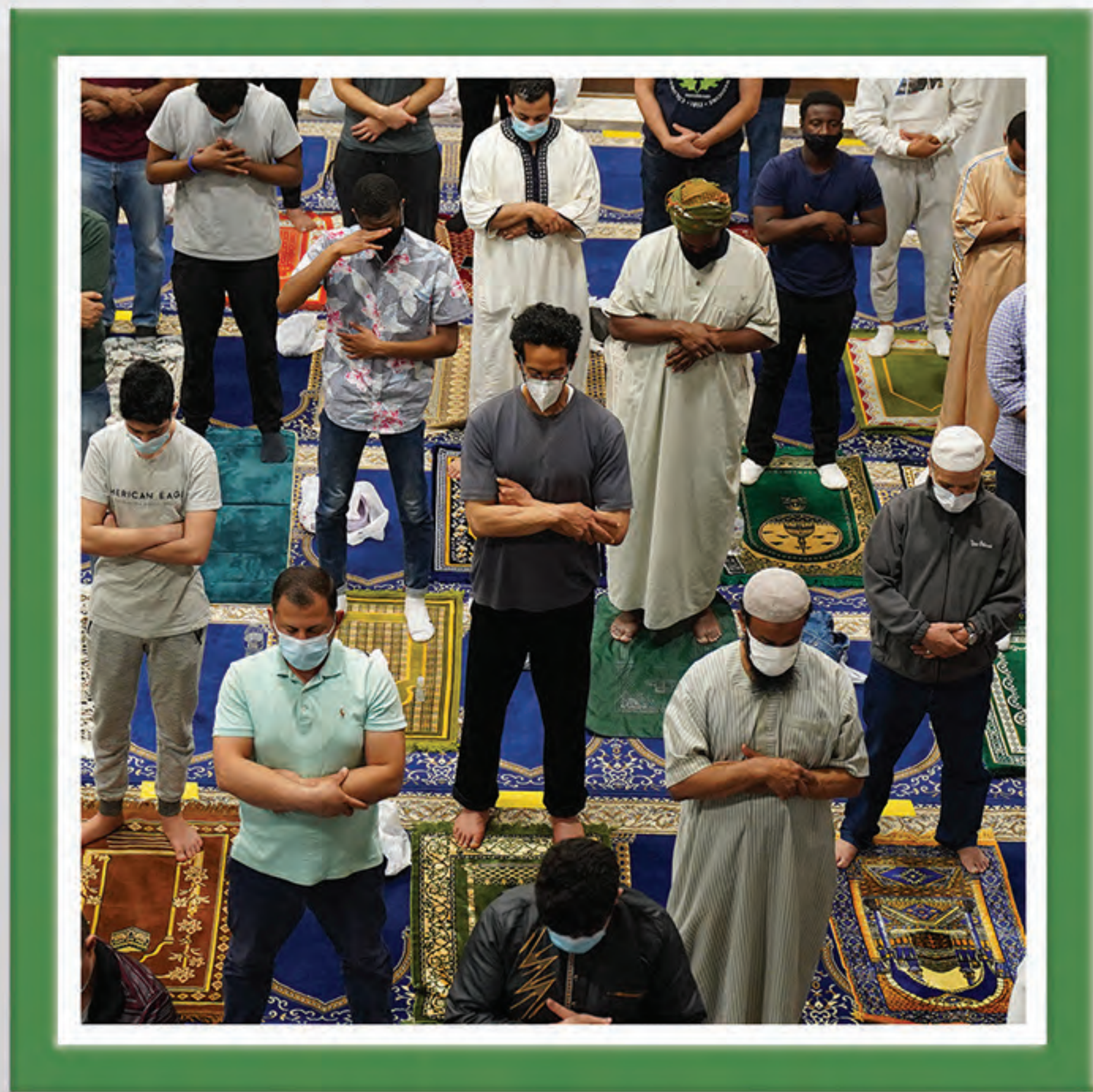
➤ Areas of Growth

One of the most challenging areas for the department has been outreach both internally and externally. The goal is to create a cohesive vision internally and fill gaps in services that other departments are providing. Externally, it is an opportunity for brand awareness and exposure.

Internally, one of the failings seems to be a lack of motivation to meet regularly. The reasons behind this need to be explored further so that the desired cohesion can be reached. Externally, far too much focus has been placed on internal development of the department. While this lacking needs to be acknowledged, it is understandable that the department is still in its infancy and is still gauging how best to interact with the local community.

A lot of ground has been covered, but a renewed vigor, with additional volunteers, a possible understudy and strategic relationships both internally and externally can help the department reach new heights.





OUTREACH AND INTERFAITH DEPARTMENT



Team



Naeem Baig
Director/Imam

Fazia Deen
Deputy Director

Committee

Abdul Rahman Mikail
Ali Sidiqi
Hossein Goal
Janine Saleh
Rachael Priore
Zeeshan Mahmood
Sairah Khan
Dr. Mahmoud Nour

All praise to Allah SWT, and may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon the Messenger of Allah. This year, outreach and Interfaith was impacted by Covid and most of our regular physical programs are still not taking place. The following is a summary of activities and programs of outreach and interfaith department:

Reverts Support Department

We were able to focus on Dawah (proselytization), new Muslims and their educational, spiritual and social needs.

- Educational Initiatives (converts/reverts to Islam): We had 10 Shahadahs during this reporting session.
- Educational classes: Alhamdulillah (thanks to Allah), we are holding weekly zoom Islamic studies classes on every Tuesday and Thursday
Number of classes: 70+
- Quran study 101 & 102: Learning to recite the Quran and simple steps towards understanding of Quran are covered in these classes
Number of classes: 36
- New Muslim brunch: 7 Brunches were held.
- Reverts counseling: 50 sessions
- Mentorship: Alhamdulillah, we have a few volunteers who are now assisting in offering mentorship to our new Muslims.

Educational classes



Quran study



Reverts counseling



Dawah Literature Distribution:

Community members are reaching out to the outreach department for copies of Translations of Quran and Dawah brochures. We offer brochures in English and Spanish languages and Quran translations.

- Patient and Family Care Program: We work with Virginia Hospital and INOVA Alexandria hospitals. Few visits were made on families requests during the first half of the year. Chaplain Naeem Baig now visits INOVA hospital on a weekly basis.
- Friday Khutbas (prayer sermon) at INOVA Hospital: Alhamdulillah after a discontinuation of about 3 months we are once again organizing Jummua at the INOVA Alexandria hospital.
Number of volunteer khateeb: 7



VOICE Action:

Outreach and PGA are active in VOICE activities.

- Moms Demand Action: This organization advocates for measures against gun violence. The outreach department regularly participates in the programs and actions.
Moms Demand Action Programs: 5
- SOSS - Sisters of Salaam Shalom monthly meetings of Muslim and Jewish women on building bridges between Muslims and Jews;
Number of meetings: 6
- Solidarity Cup of Tea: A monthly interfaith program organized by OID
Number of meetings: 4

The outreach and interfaith department of Dar Al-Hijrah is a member of the following interfaith, interfaith and social justice organizations and regularly participates in the activities of these organizations:

- Culmore Clinic: We sit on the board of the Culmore Clinic. We provide lunch once a month to the needy at First Christian Church.
- Fairfax Multicultural Action Committee: Participated in programs and meetings, attended monthly updates on COVID restrictions and community effect.
- Interfaith Committee of Greater Washington: 911 Unity Walk: This is a yearly event done with IFCW .
- US Council of Muslim Organizations: Dar Al-Hijrah regularly participates in the meetings and program of USCMO.
Number of meetings and engagements: 15
- Virginia Council of Muslim Organizations: Dar Al-Hijrah is a founding member of VCMO and currently we sit as Vice Chair on the board of VCMO.
Number of meetings and programs: 8
- ICD Interfaith Communities for Dialogue: Dar Al-Hijrah is a founding board member of ICD.
Number of meetings 12+
- Clergy Leadership Council of Fairfax and CCFAC: We are a member of this council and regularly participate and represent Dar Al-Hijrah in zoom meetings. Deputy director was appointed to the elections sub-committee.
- Tysons Interfaith: Number of engagements: 9



COVID EDUCATION AND AWARENESS: AUGUST 2021 TO APRIL 2022

Dar Al-Hijrah just received a grant from the CDC to promote Covid education and vaccine promotion in the Muslim community and the larger community around Dar Al-Hijrah. OI is leading this effort:

- Covid clinics: 6 clinics were held, 3 mobile clinics.
- Street banners: 5 banners, 3 in English and 2 in Spanish.
- Yard signs: 20 yard signs in English and Spanish.
- Videos recorded: 9 in 6 languages.
- Social media campaign for Covid Vaccination:
 - Social Media reach: **242,421**
 - Impressions: **96,266**
 - Views: **39,880**
 - Videos watched 100%: **37,625**

On December 14, a Dar Al-Hijrah Covid awareness campaign was presented to the CDC Foundation region 6 meeting. Br. Naeem Baig gave the powerpoint presentation which was appreciated by the members of the regional meeting. Ms. Caitlyn Gudmundsen, Federal Program Manager of the CDC Foundation sent the following remarks:



“Thank you all for a great December Monthly Meeting and thank you especially to Naeem for his excellent presentation! I have uploaded the meeting agenda, which includes the Zoom recording link, the CDCF presentation slides, and the Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center presentation slides”.

ANNUAL SEERAH CONFERENCE 2021

The Annual Seerah Conference 2021 was held at Dar Al-Hijrah on Saturday, December 11. The theme of the conference was, “Loving the way the Prophet (pbuh) Loved”. Six presentations, a panel discussion and the quiz competition on Seerah kept the audience energized and engaged.

Speakers:

Imam Farhan Siddiqi
Imam Abdul Malik Merchant
Dr. Altaf Husain
Ustadah Ieasha Prime
Saif Abdur Rahman
Dr. Akram Elzend

The all day long conference was held in the courtyard, and people were served lunch and dinner. **About 75-80 people** attended and benefitted from the program.



PUBLIC & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



Summary

In 2021, the Public & Government Affairs Department of Dar al-Hijrah Islamic Center planned on building initiatives starting in 2020 both within and outside the community to strengthen the bonds of community and increase activism and civic engagement of the Dar Al-Hijrah Community. The Initiatives focused on areas of policy and education as well as creating stronger local bonds with community and government partners for longer lasting and sustainable relationships. This year, PGA focused on some disparate activities that may not clearly fall into the purview of the Department but worked towards the overall success of the masjid. Some of our signature events included well-attended forums on political engagement, VOICE programs on Rent Relief and Eviction Moratoriums, and close coordination with state and local officials on elections and policy issues.

Team



Volunteer Committee

Volunteers

- Mounia Moujtahid
- Thoria Hussein
- Ahmed Emam
- Samia Khalil
- Zari Bashir
- Blawal Asghar
- Mehmona



Initiatives and Significant Programs

➤ Government Relations Initiatives

Fairfax County Committees

Public & Government Affairs strived to ensure Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center was present and active in larger community functions both in Mason District and Fairfax County. The most important Committee that Dar Al-Hijrah represented was the Fairfax County Redistricting Committee. They were responsible for redrawing the districts in Fairfax County post census. Subsequently, the Director of the Department was asked to join the Fairfax County Renaming Committee to study names of historical places in Fairfax and ensure they represent the community. As part of the effort, members of the Dar Al-Hijrah team have been appointed to several Fairfax County Government boards including the Fairfax County Census Complete Count Committee, Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee, School Board Calendar Committee, amongst others.

Candidate Forums

The Public & Government Affairs continued coordinating with candidates interested in running and ascertaining their impacts on the Dar Al-Hijrah community while also inviting them to speak at Dar Al-Hijrah. Dar Al-Hijrah coordinated three meetings with Gubernatorial candidates with the Muslim leadership through the VA Council of Muslim Organizations. The first meeting was in person with Terry McAuliff and subsequently Dar Al-Hijrah invited the candidates for Attorney General and Lt. Gov. to a lunch meeting and to address the community. Dar Al-Hijrah also arranged introductions with the Youngkin campaign and two meetings were arranged which precipitated the Governor-elect's first visit to a masjid after his election.

Civic Engagement

This year we continued our focus on getting our community members active in Fairfax County and state level board seats so that Muslims can continue to serve the larger community and society. Post gubernatorial election, Dar Al-Hijrah coordinated with campaigns to appoint Muslims to the Governor's transition team. Two young Muslims from the Dar Al-Hijrah community were appointed to the transition team. Dar Al-Hijrah is also coordinating a faith advisory council which we shall serve in. Alhamdulillah, we were also able to have more Muslims engage civically, through NAACP activities as well as having another community member run and win a school board seat in Alexandria.

Voter Registration & Get Out the Vote Drives

The Dar Al-Hijrah Civic Engagement Team worked diligently to educate and mobilize our community to vote in all of the primaries and elections that were held in 2021. We worked on educating our community about early voting and mail in ballots to ensure a high voter turnout.



➤ Public Affairs Initiatives

Neighborhood Meetings

As part of our efforts to engage with the neighborhood regarding the long term vision and plan for the expansion of Dar Al-Hijrah, we reached out and had constructive dialogue with our neighbor across Row Street (Priscilla Gibson). She visited Dar Al-Hijrah and toured the masjid for the first time in 30 years and has been attending events ever since. We also engaged the neighborhood association of Lee Boulevard Heights to discuss our future planning and received letters of support from First Christian Church. We wrote letters of support for their project to build senior affordable housing across the street from Dar Al-Hijrah.

Community Meetings

Public & Government Affairs held a community meeting in 2021. While we fell short of our goal of holding quarterly meetings with the community and executive team, our plan is to continue those meetings, so programming and issues can be addressed. We hope to get the community more involved in the planning of functions and programming at Dar Al-Hijrah so that we remain attuned to community needs.

Fairfax Council of Masajid

Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center has also been working hard on bringing together the leadership of the masajid in Fairfax County to strengthen community impact and increase civic participation across the community. Most of this work has been organized through VCMO and we continue to gather people through that mechanism including holding meetings with Sen. Kaine and Sen. Warner on the evictions in Jerusalem as well as stopping the automatic re-authorization of the USA Patriot Act which has eroded the civil liberties of American Muslims since September 11, 2001.

Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE)

Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center has been an integral part of the VOICE teams and campaigns. Sisters Fazia, Thoraia, Mounia, Samia and brothers Ahmed, Abdulraman, and Abdulrazaq from our community civic engagement team were involved in efforts to have Fairfax candidates commit to providing funding for affordable housing and criminal justice reform issues. The Director of the Department has been appointed to the VOICE Strategy Team which helps set policies and strategies for the organization. We have also been instrumental in rent relief and eviction moratoriums in Virginia and led several meetings with the Governor, Attorney General, and county officials regarding this subject. Dar Al-Hijrah was also instrumental in license privileges being reinstated for returning citizens or those who were not able to pay court costs.

Miscellaneous Programming

The Public & Government Affairs Department has been working on a young professionals program that focuses on the needs of a group that is notably absent from the masjid. This program has included a weekly mentoring meeting on Mondays, a matrimonial site which is managed as a project of the program and interviews conducted by the Director. The site alhamdulillah now has over 300 users and is growing weekly. A third space project was started on the 3rd floor of the MAS building. The project construction is now complete and programming has started and will become regular in the first quarter of 2022. Finally, the PGA department has been working through the county process to amend the comprehensive plan of Fairfax County to allow the masjid future expansion. This has required numerous public meetings with the Mason District Land Use Committee as well as staff and engineers. The process has also required public engagement with the neighbors of Dar Al-Hijrah.



➤ General Assessment of 2020 Department Plan

	Program	Frequency Goal	Accomplished
1	Listening Sessions	Quarterly	Held 2 listening sessions to address policy issues impacting community
2	Volunteers	Monthly	This continues to be impacted by Covid but we were able to coordinate volunteers to work on phone banking and VOICE actions
3	Neighbor Meetings	Quarterly	This was accomplished digitally but not at the frequency required
4	Council of Masajid	Quarterly	We had several meetings this year through VCMO and we continue to lead with this element
5	Voice Advocacy	Yearly	This continued strong and was able to transition to digital means with a lot of effort and time required
6	Community Meetings	Quarterly	Held one community meeting this year and we need to improve the engagement here as it was not well attended by community members.
7	Candidate Nights	Twice this year	Held candidate lunches and community meetings. Also ensured the community was represented and issues raised mostly done through digital means.
8	Local & State Official Mtgs	Quarterly	This continued effectively through digital means and is ongoing alhamdulillah. This was accomplished and we were able to achieve more than planned for.
9	GOTV	Yearly	We worked on the GOTV for both the primaries and the general election effectively to get our people to attend as well as messaging to have people vote early.



WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT



Pastoral Care



Sisterhood



Religious Learning



As Dar al Hijrah faced a new year with new possibilities, the women's department joined the institution to reopen, refocus and reconnect. We worked diligently to actively engage women both online, in person and in hybrid events. There were many meaningful programs to rebuild the Sisterhood of Dar al hijrah, support the women of our community and reinvigorate them into active engagement.

Introduction

Counseling

Providing counseling hours and sessions has been crucial during the Covid-19 pandemic era. Many faced anxiety, a spiritual crisis, domestic violence and marital strife due to the lockdown. These struggles and needs for pastoral care spanned across age, race and class. Alhamdulillah, we were able to provide such needed pastoral care, religious advice and mental health support for over **45 women and families**. We addressed matters such as family conflict, violence, depression, loss of faith, marital strife, pornography addiction and advice regarding mentorship.

Clients

45+

Counseling & Pastoral Care

130+
Hours



Education

Education in the women's department is focused around three areas:

1. Seerah of the Prophet
2. Wives of the Prophet and their role in forming a Muslim women's identity and participation in the Muslim community
3. Female companions of the Prophet and their role on changing the world

Religious teaching

50+ hours Sister's halaqa and small group instruction on traditional texts of Aqeedah, Seerah and Tazkiyah

50+
Hours

Weekly Women's Halaqa

≈ 30
women

Every Tuesday from 7:00-8:30 there is a women's halaqa attended by 25- 30 women weekly. We have covered such topics as Aqeedah, stories of women in the Quran, Tafseer and meanings of Prophetic dua.

This group has developed a Whatsapp forum of about 230 women.

They are very active in using Whatsapp for follow up questions about weekly classes, sharing notes for those who weren't present, presenting lectures by scholars on similar topics and showing support to anyone with spiritual or family struggles.



Mindful Mondays

This was a ten week series dedicated to inspire and encourage the Dar al Hijrah Community and beyond. It was attended by **more than 40 people each week**, with **over 500 live views on Youtube and Facebook live**. Topics ranged from practicing patience and steadfastness to **HOLD FAST TO PRAYER**.



Falling Into Place

This annual fall event is an opportunity to build sisterhood, inspire hope and promote self care. Muslim women, especially since the pandemic, focus majority of their attention on the care and attention they provide to others via family, work and often extended family. Events such as these provide the opportunity for women to take a moment and reconnect with themselves, spark their own creativity and learn lessons about the importance and role of spirituality.

This year's event was a huge success and attended by **more than 40 women**. They painted together, socialized and had a lecture on the deck of Dar Al Hijrah.



Muslimah Fest

Muslimah Fest is a time to celebrate everything great, powerful and enlightening for Muslim women's past and present. We showcase successful models of Islamic values implemented in professional, religious and personal lives in order to highlight the practical solutions to the challenges Muslim women face in America. It's an opportunity to be educated about everything from Islamic finance and business, to civic engagement & social justice, to health and wellness all by Muslim professional women in their fields. Muslimah Fest also provides a network of support and collaboration between diversifying Muslim women across career disciplines, age gaps and ethnicity.

From 10 am until 6 pm the program is filled with motivational lectures, panel discussions, health and wellness sessions, and a modesty fashion show to promote strong Islamic identity. The program is filled with delicious food, artistic displays, spoken word and business expos. Muslimah Fest is a celebratory festival of Islamic culture and values and their inherent empowerment of women. This year's event was well attended by **more than 200 women** coming from various states. **186 pre-registered and more than 50 additional tickets were sold at the door.** The theme was reopen, refocus & reconnect and the highlight was cultivating hope and trauma. Many women during Covid experienced domestic violence and abuse. It was a topic the women's department wanted to address and provide steps and resources for healthy lifestyles.



Sister's Fajr Club

Sister's Fajr Club is a time for getting together, praying fajr, doing the morning adhkar and providing spiritual and moral support for each other. Normally, it is a daily program that happens virtually. However, once a month our sisters get together to pray at Dar al Hijrah. We meet for breakfast and do a morning nature hike. During the nature hike, we recite the Quran and the morning adhkar. In addition, we stop along the way and do morning exercises. It is usually attended by ten or more sisters who are feeling the need to connect to their community to provide emotional and sisterly support.

We choose different locations around the DMV area to provide opportunities for learning and development. It allows the women to bond around a shared experience.

Winter Retreat January 2021

This year's winter retreat was at the Massanutten Resort in Shenandoah, Virginia. It was attended by 20 women of diverse backgrounds with different ages and ethnicities. The retreat consists of lectures that are focusing on spiritual development, mindfulness and connections with the Quran.

We began Friday night with a small workshop on self care, ground rules and building sisterhood. The morning began at fajr with prayer, recitation of Quran and adkar. It continued with Islamic meditation and yoga exercises. Afterwards, we had a series of lectures and workshops. Some women went horseback riding, nature hiking and swimming. It provided a wonderful opportunity for deeper reflection, religious learning and sisterhood building.



SOCIAL SERVICES



Summary

After an extraordinary year of shut-down and pandemic relief work, we began to ramp up to full programming at the beginning of 2021.

We increased our referral resources and navigation support to assist families in need, and expanded our community health outreach.

With our strategic partnership with Islamic Relief USA finalized, we greatly expanded and improved our Empowerment Program in order to help transition people to professional, living wage jobs.

We added Community Programs and Events to better engage community members and connect them with needed services.

And we responded to Afghan refugee arrivals in unprecedented numbers.

During this unprecedented year, this is a recap of our social services work.



Working together to make a positive and profound difference in our community

Social Services Staff



Tahani Jabarin
Director



Stacey Picard
Assistant Director



Taiba Haidari
Office Staff



Sawsan Bayazid
Thrift Shop Manager



Mohammed Jalali
Food Bank Support



Latifa Ojja
Food Bank Support



Lamees Althiabat
Office Staff



Asmaa El Bakkari
Sewing Instructor



Hamida Kedish
Thrift Shop Staff



Riadh Troudi
Food Bank Support



➤ FAMILY ASSISTANCE

We serve an immigrant and refugee community that often experience barriers to accessing the resources and services available to them. We know that when in need, the masjid (mosque) will be the first stop for many of them. So, we work to distribute Zakat and to connect them to other community services beyond what we can provide.

Emergency Assistance Program

In the wake of COVID there were many new or expanded assistance programs funded by CARES Act and pandemic recovery and resilience funds. In 2021, our office staff attended 12 professional development sessions in order to learn more about these programs and how to refer or apply. By improving our intake, screening and case management of clients, we were able to connect many with rent relief, health insurance, Child Tax Credit benefits, immigration assistance, domestic violence resources, medical care and medications.



Of course, many of the families we serve are newly arrived immigrants who don't yet qualify for most benefit programs and rely on us as their only source of relief. For those cases, we appeal to the community, and our community responds, as it always has. With these donations, we were able to provide emergency rental assistance to many families.

Funeral Emergency Fund

The Funeral Assistance Program helps low-income families cover burial costs and organize the arrangements after the death of a family member. We also continue to work with families after their loss of a loved one to provide emotional support and whatever assistance is needed as they transition to their new normal.

Food Bank

After a year of parking lot food distributions, in 2021, we moved back inside. We have always provided Halal chicken, bags of fresh vegetables and bread. This year we experimented with a self-select table of surplus vegetables, shelf-stable pantry items, community garden donations and recipe/nutrition cards for the vegetable items on hand that day. This gives the clients more agency by allowing them to pick what they like and will use, and pass on other items. It's been a very popular addition.

Our continued partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank allows us to receive many items at no cost, including fish, eggs, fresh fruit, oil and rice. And grants from CAFB along with community donations has allowed us to maintain the dry goods pantry that began during COVID.

We are proud to provide nutritious food to families who experience food insecurity and lack equitable access to these items otherwise. In 2021, the "Wellness Score" issued to DAH based on our CAFB orders was 99.7%. Pandemic-level numbers decreased as folks returned to work, but were still significant. We distributed food to over 1,800 unique individuals in 626 unique households this year.

In partnership with SevaTruck, we also provide hot meals to the homeless, day laborers, and the sick, through community partners that include the Culmore Family Resource Center and CASA. Over 46,000 hot meals were distributed in 2021.

46,000
hot meals

1,800
individuals

626
households

Weekly Food Delivery

With the help of our volunteers, we continued to deliver food each week to those who are not able to come to our distribution due to old age, disabilities, or having younger children, among other reasons.

To this day, we continue to send food to families who are COVID positive and in quarantine through Fairfax County Care Workers.

Safe Haven: Feed the Needy

Through this decade-long partnership with First Christian Church and New Hope Housing, on the fourth Thursday of every month, we provide hot lunches to homeless and low-income families of all faiths and backgrounds in the neighborhood. Over 10,000 hot lunches were served in 2021.

DAH Thrift Shop

Our Thrift Shop reopened gradually throughout 2021, and is now back to full operation. We accept donations of new or like-new clothing, or small household items where we sell them at a low cost to help clients in need of basic necessities. For individuals who are transitioning, out of a shelter, or for example, recently released from prison or escaping a domestic violence situation, we provide vouchers ranging from \$25-\$100 so they can obtain these items at no cost whatsoever.



Community Health Outreach

In 2021, in partnership with George Mason University, we finally began hosting the MAP (Mason and Partners) Clinic once a month allowing us to provide blood pressure and glucose screenings, Tele-health sessions with a doctor, prescription services, free school/sports physicals for kids and COVID vaccines.

Dental Clinic

In 2021, in partnership with IRUSA and Fenwick Foundation, our DAH Smiles Dental Clinic treated over 150 patients, exceeding our projection of 60 patients.

We provide cleanings, x-rays, exams, and non-surgical extractions for low-income, uninsured adults. When Medicaid was expanded this year to include full dental coverage, we looked at our patient data to see how many would still qualify. Because we serve a large immigrant community, many of whom are not yet eligible for Medicaid, we learned that 72% would still need our services.

We receive referrals from local refugee resettlement agencies and the Culmore Clinic, and have managed to trim our initial waitlist of 15-20 people down to 4-5.

In'sha'Allah, by mid-2022, we hope to add another dentist, and increase the number of patients we can treat each month.

Access to Care

In 2021, a special ACA open enrollment period was opened, and in the Commonwealth, the 40-quarter work requirement for Medicaid eligibility was dropped, making health insurance more accessible for many in our community. In partnership with Virginia Family Services, Inova Partnership for Healthier Communities and Young Invincibles, we have helped enroll over 60 families in these programs.

As one of the local community partners with Kaiser Permanente, we enrolled another 227 people in the Charitable Health Access Plan (CHAP).

For those turning 65, and wanting to learn more about Medicaid, the Fairfax County VICAP office has offered regular Medicare 101 sessions during open enrollment, and have actively promoted these sessions to the community.

Additionally, we have secured \$4,600 of needed medications and medical supplies for those who could not afford them any other way.

Health and Wellness Sessions

In an effort to help community members live healthier lifestyles and avoid chronic health issues that require expensive care and medication, we incorporate health education in all of our health programs.

In partnership with Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension, we continue to offer free nutrition and wellness classes to needy families. Topics include: shopping for healthier foods, reading and understanding nutrition labels, cooking healthier, simple exercises to stay active and how to do all of these things with limited finances.

With Virginia Hospital Center and NovaScripts Central we offer Diabetes Management classes.

We provide literature in English and Arabic on Nutrition, Diabetes, High Blood Pressure and Women's Health on MAP Clinic days. Nutrition/recipe cards are distributed at our food bank, and we give all dental patients an oral health bag with dental hygiene items and a card that lists oral health tips.

COVID Response

Early in the year, our office offered assistance for scheduling vaccine appointments for priority groups. And in partnership with Neighborhood Health, Skyline Pharmacy, MAP Clinic and Red Sea Homecare Agency, we offered drive-thru COVID testing and vaccination throughout the year.

Blood Drive

In response to the ongoing blood shortage and as diverse blood types are especially needed, we hosted the American Red Cross Blood Drive. At our first drive, Alhamdulillah (thanks to Allah) we filled all our appointment slots, with a 100% show rate and collected 31% more units of blood than our target. These drives will continue every three months.



➤ SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND EMPOWERMENT

Pathway to Empowerment (P2E)

For many years, we have offered a progressive track of classes to help empower women in our community and help them become self-sufficient. Our outputs, the numbers of people taking the classes were satisfactory, but this year, with the support of Islamic Relief USA, we wanted to focus on our outcomes – truly making a transformational change for our clients. There are many women in the community, often widowed or divorced, who need help upskilling and securing a job, and there are many men and women who were educated, skilled professionals in their home country, but their credentials don't often transfer to the US, so they end up working in low-wage survival jobs. And because it's such an expensive place to live, they have to work many hours just to make ends meet. They don't have the luxury of focusing on training and certification needed to secure a good job.

With IRUSA's help we have been able to build a program where the clients described can be paid stipends to ease their expenses and let them focus on their training. Clients have to apply, and interview to be accepted into the program. Once accepted they agree to an action plan developed just for them based on their situation and needs, and as long as they continue to show progress on their plan, they are paid stipends for up to a year.

We interviewed 40 people for the P2E program in 2021 and 24 were enrolled. 60% were women. These students are pursuing jobs in IT, Engineering, Hospital Administration, Dental Hygiene and more. Securing a job in their chosen field is the requirement for completion and full payment of the stipends.

At the end of 2021, one brother, a skilled Afghan who recently arrived in the US, graduated from our program with a job monitoring and evaluating programs for a global non-profit at \$95,000 per year. We believe that just like this brother, graduates of this program will become successful, contributing members of the community and their families will thrive.



ESL Classes

ESL classes offered in partnership with the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, continued to be virtual throughout 2021. In addition to the classes, we helped clients register for USA Learns, a self-paced platform that offers on-demand ESL video lessons. We also started a virtual English Conversation Class led by a volunteer who received the LCNV instructor training. We are planning to return to on-site classes in 2022, but will keep these additional virtual options as well.

Additional Newcomer Supports

Learning English is a top priority for any newcomer to be successful in the US, but there are other needs as well. The pandemic pushed us to find or develop additional online resources, and in 2021 we began helping clients access and use these resources. They include USA Hello for GED study modules and GED.com for exam prep. In partnership with Britepaths, we began offering free, virtual, personal finance classes on topics like budgeting, creating an emergency fund, banking, understanding pay and benefits and building your credit score in the US.

DAH Sewing Academy

In 2021, after modifying our classroom space to accommodate distancing and upgrading all our machines, we returned to on-site sewing classes. Students receive 100 hours of hands-on instruction and a new sewing machine they can keep, so they can begin work as a seamstress from home. Beginners focus on the basics like common stitches, cutting patterns and fabric, and making simple items like an abaya (womens dress) or tote bag. This year we added an advanced class for graduates to learn more in-demand items like alterations, commercial draperies and cushions. This program creates a community for women, and helps build their confidence while teaching an income-generating skill for those who are under-skilled and minimally educated, due to raising their families and the language barrier.



Urban Gardening

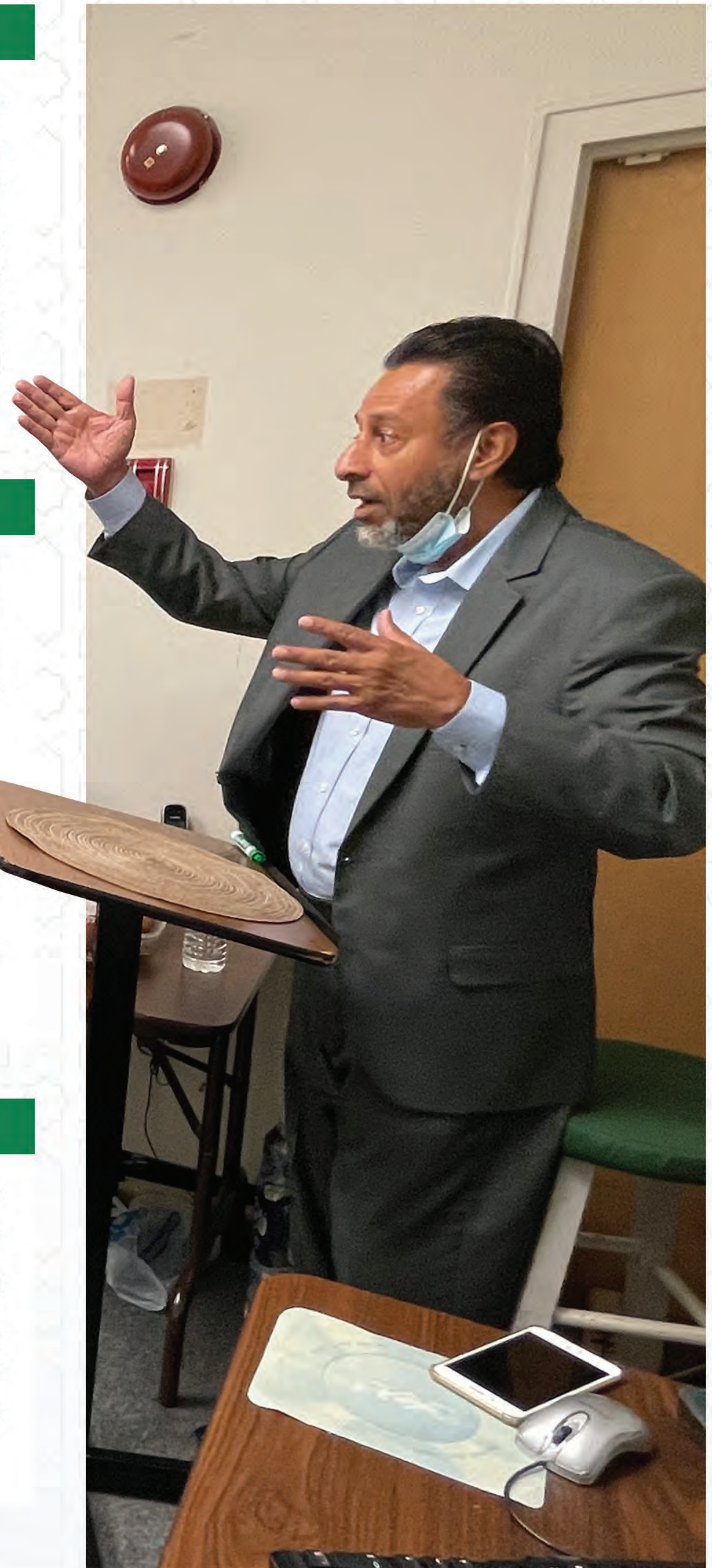
In partnership with Food Uniting Neighbors (FUN), we added a new urban gardening program this year. Women and others in the community work with a master gardener at the First Christian Church, to learn everything from planting to harvesting. Urban gardeners provide more affordable, nutritious food for families, and while donating to local food pantries like our own, they have the potential to earn income selling at farmer's markets.

Computer Skills

For several years, we have offered a basic computer skills class with a focus on learning Microsoft Office, in partnership with Computer CORE. But, we found that even basic computer classes were far too advanced for many newcomers who hadn't used technology at all. In 2021, we worked with Computer CORE to develop a Tech for Daily Living class that focuses on email, voicemail etiquette, using Zoom, and learning Google Workspace tools. Advanced classes on several topics are offered for free through Computer CORE as well as SkillUp and LinkedIn Learning.

Computer Technician Workshop

For those who have a more advanced aptitude for technology, we began offering a hands-on computer technician workshop, in partnership with ImpactTek. This four-week workshop covers fixing laptops, desktops, installing items, configuring and troubleshooting Windows administrative tools, and helps to identify good candidates to pursue more advanced IT training and certification.



CPR Certification

In partnership with Khals CPR, we restarted on-site Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED classes in multiple languages at 25% below the average cost in our area. This program is beneficial to many women in the community who work in health care or childcare, and can earn a higher position and better pay with the certificate. Nearly 160 people have been certified at DAH since classes began.

Entrepreneurship Boot Camp

We have continued our partnership with Empowered Women International, a program from the Latino Economic Development Center, to offer a yearly entrepreneurship bootcamp for women who want to open a small business. Entrepreneurship is an important path to self-sufficiency for many in our immigrant community who might face barriers to traditional employment. We were able to hold the bootcamp onsite in 2021. 18 women applied to be part of this program. In addition, we offered a class on “How to Start a Business and Access Capital” for Brothers from LEDC this year, where 62 registered.



Ikram Foundation Partnership

Ikram Foundation provides funding for higher education and certification classes for divorced and widowed Muslim women. We partner closely with the Ikram foundation to refer eligible women for support, and in return they refer quality candidates for our P2E program.

Job Connect

As a result of coordinating and hosting large Job Fairs in recent years, we have worked very closely with local workforce centers, employers, and receive many notices of current opportunities for paid apprenticeships, training programs and job search workshops. Job seekers who are registered for our Job Connect program receive 2-3 emails each week with 25-30 current opportunities. There are 182 job seekers registered for this program, and in 2021, over 1,300 opportunities have been sent.



182
Job seekers

The infographic features a large, stylized number '182' in a dark red color, with the text 'Job seekers' in a smaller, matching font below it. The entire graphic is enclosed in a decorative, green, scalloped border with small green leaf-like accents at the top and bottom.



1,300
opportunities

The infographic features a large, stylized number '1,300' in a dark red color, with the text 'opportunities' in a smaller, matching font below it. The entire graphic is enclosed in a decorative, green, scalloped border with small green leaf-like accents at the top and bottom.

Job Fair

Job fairs can be intimidating in normal circumstances. In 2021, job seekers faced an additional challenge of navigating a virtual platform – registering, introducing themselves by text chat in online waiting rooms, uploading their resumes, etc. In response, we reached out to local workforce centers in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria to collaborate on a two-day event, where day one offered a series of six, one-hour prep sessions with guest speakers from Microsoft and Upwardly Global, ultimately ending with a mock job fair where the job seekers could practice on the live virtual platform. Day two was the actual Job Fair where over 50 employers and training partners participated. Cumulative attendance for the prep sessions was 278 and 241 attended.

➤ COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

We host a variety of programs and events that include information sessions such as Ramadan and Eid Al-Adha services and special collections and distributions, to help the immigrant families learn about and access resources they may not know about. In 2021, the list of programs follows.

Computer Access and Application Assistance

In 2021, Fairfax County re-opened the Section 8 and RAD Affordable Housing waitlists. Medicaid was expanded and ACA enrollment was extended. Several programs were rolled out or ramped up to get people working again after the pandemic, including the WiOA, ESLA, the G3 Initiative and Re-employ Virginians. When needed, we extended our office hours, and provided computers and application assistance to help clients access resources.



Legal Clinics

In partnership with Just Neighbors and Legal Services of Northern Virginia, we began hosting pro-bono attorneys for assistance with immigration, family law issues and rent relief program issues on the 2nd Thursday of each month. The intent is to provide one-stop assistance one day a month. On the 2nd Thursday, clients can receive food, access the thrift shop, receive treatment at the MAP clinic and consult with an attorney.

Parenting Classes

Previously, we attempted to partner with Family Services Network to bring their parenting classes to DAH, but due to space constraints we were not successful. In 2021, as classes remained virtual, we were able to offer them to our community. We held two sessions of Parenting Wisely for parents of 10-18 year-olds, two sessions of Strengthening Families, for parents of 10-14 year-olds and three monthly Summer Sessions for parents to help navigate the return to on-site school, after a year of remote learning. We also partnered with PEATC to hold a parent check-in and self-care session after the end of the first quarter of onsite school. 90 parents registered.

Parent Engagement Series

Every fall, as school starts, we offer a six-week series of informational sessions to help immigrant parents with school age children connect with the public-school resources available to them. 17 people registered virtually.

Glasgow Mobile Library

We continued hosting the Glasgow Middle School Mobile Library on the second Monday of each month. Remote learning made so many kids and families feel isolated, and the Glasgow administration team wanted to make books easily available to keep kids reading, and also be present in the community to talk with parents and answer any questions.

School Supply Kit Distribution

Toward the end of summer, we partnered with Penny Appeal USA and Staples at Bailey's Crossroads, to procure school supplies, where we packed and distributed 250 supply kits.



250
supply kits

Blanket and Coat Drive

In cooperation with Helping Hand for Relief and Development, a blanket and coat drive was held to assist Syrian and Palestinian refugees. Participants donated new and gently used winter clothing and blankets. 500 hygiene kits, 2,000 masks and over 350 hats, gloves and socks were also distributed to low-income families in the community.



500
hygiene kits

World Refugee Day

In collaboration with our Youth Department, we hosted an Art Show featuring Immigrant and refugee artists. Artwork from area schools were also displayed and refreshments were provided by an immigrant caterer from Turkey.

A very talented artist in our community and refugee from Iraq, Ruby Rawi, was unable to show her work, due to caring for her disabled family member. So, we invited her to display her beautiful pieces throughout the Social Services office. Her work was installed in August, and as a result, she has sold several pieces, where she donated 20% of all her proceeds to our Social Services programs. Ruby is also a graduate from our entrepreneurship program, and has since set up her website and had other exhibitions in the area. Her work can be seen here: <https://www.rubyrawi.com/>

Ramadan Food Boxes

With support from Islamic Relief USA and many food donations, we were able to distribute over 450 Ramadan food boxes to families and other community organizations serving Muslim families.

Remembering the Imprisoned

Each Ramadan, we coordinate with the Chaplain's Office at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center to provide needed Qurans, prayer rugs and kufis to Muslim prisoners. This year, 20 prisoners were supported.



DAH Ramadan Iftar Program

Though small onsite gatherings started to ramp up, the pandemic continued, and we were not able to gather for community Iftar each night. So, our wonderful kitchen team prepared nearly 40,000 Iftar meals. Close to 1,000 pre-packaged, hot meals were distributed by volunteers each night in a drive thru manner.

40,000
Iftar meals



DAH Ramadan Iftar Delivery Program

Our volunteers delivered Iftar every day to families who could not pick-up due to age, infirmity or ability to drive. 540 meals were provided to these families during Ramadan.

540
Families



DAH Social Services in the Community

As part of our strategic partnership with Islamic Relief USA, DAH acts as a best practice site, and convenes other masjids around the country for learning sessions on how to start or grow their Social Services outreach. This year we held our first session virtually on the topic of Food Security.

Early in 2021, we convened a virtual meeting with three local refugee resettlement agencies to learn more about their services and how we can better collaborate and support each other's work. We are now part of a Virginia Community Capacity Initiative (VCCI) work group that meets quarterly on refugee issues, and have been featured to present to the group.

DAH is considered a vital partner in reaching the Northern Virginia Muslim community. In 2021, we were asked to host a Fairfax County Strategic Plan Listening session. Ambassadors from DAH serve on the Governance Committee of the Bailey's/Culmore Opportunity Neighborhood, and were invited to work with the City of Alexandria to interview Muslim residents about their proposed Guaranteed Income Program and to help provide Child Tax Credit outreach to Muslim residents who may not know about the benefit.

School social workers and family liaisons continue to be important partners in helping make families aware of our services by communicating the unmet needs that they see. In 2021, we held two virtual Social Services Open Houses to update these great partners and others in the community on the support that we provide. 91 people attended these sessions.

We are in one of two zip codes where residents have been identified as lacking equitable access to affordable housing, health care and secure employment. To that end, we not only respond to needs, but we look upstream to tackle the structural barriers that exist. Throughout the year we continued our work with Kaiser Permanente and George Mason University, chairing the group of community providers working with the county, KP and GMU to address these issues.



Professional Development

In order to provide professional, and informed support to our community in a rapidly evolving landscape, our office staff attended more than a dozen professional development sessions with groups like Virginia Family Services, The Women's Center, The US Department of State, and the Capital Area Food Bank, speaking about topics that included Medicaid/TANF/SNAP Enrollment, Domestic Violence 101, How to Build a Healthier Food Pantry and the Afghan Parolee assistance Program.

Afghan Refugee Response

Finally, in ways we could not have anticipated, we responded to the unprecedented wave of refugees arriving from Afghanistan after Kabul fell to the Taliban on August 15th. We held a donation day for basic hygiene and household items that were needed in the thousands, and from those donations, we sent five truckloads of supplies through Islamic Relief to the military bases where refugees were held. We worked closely with Senator Tim Kaine's office to submit over 400 names of loved ones who were trapped in Afghanistan for the State Department's evacuee list, and we met with Senator Kaine and a small group of other providers to discuss what we were witnessing. With LCNV, we launched an Intro to English for Afghans class and started a weekly check-in call for Afghan sisters to help them connect with other sisters and access needed services. In partnership with Women Giving Back, we coordinated special Afghan shopping days at their location. Over 65,000 Afghans are being resettled to the US, and most are still being processed at the bases. The work to support them will be long and evolving, and as always, In'sha'Allah, we will work with our partners and the support of the community, to serve in whatever ways we can to help them transition to safe and prosperous lives in the US.



Some of the highlights this year include:

- Launching the new Pathway to Empowerment (P2E) Program
- Growth of our community health outreach and the DAH Smiles dental clinic
- 13 new programs offered
- Unprecedented Afghan refugee response

In 2022, Insha'Allah, our plans include:

- Growing our Pathway to Empowerment (P2E) program
- Further expanding our dental clinic
- Increased collaboration to address ongoing Afghan refugee response
- Increasing the number of learning sessions offered to other masjids



➤ Thank you for your support!

Many thanks to the following key partners that joined efforts with Dar Al-Hijrah in helping us meet the needs of our community in this unique year:

- ACT for Alexandria
- American Halal Meat
- American Red Cross
- Anthem HealthKeepers
- Britepaths
- Capital Area Food Bank
- Career Technology Center
- CDC Foundation
- Fairfax County
- Family Services Network
- Fenwick Foundation
- First Christian Church
- First Presbyterian Arlington
- Food Uniting Neighbors (FUN)
- George Mason University
- ICNA Relief
- Ikram Foundation
- ImpactTek
- Inova Partnership for Healthier Communities
- Just Neighbors
- Islamic Relief USA
- Kaiser Permanente
- Khals CPR
- La Pita Grocery & Bakery
- Latino Economic Development Center
- Legal Services of Northern Virginia
- NOVA Scripts Central
- Neighborhood Health
- Penny Appeal USA
- Red Sea Homecare Agency
- SevaTruck
- Skyline Pharmacy
- Staples at Bailey's Crossroads
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- United Healthcare
- Virginia Hospital Center
- Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension
- Women Giving Back
- Young Invincibles

- We offer our heartfelt gratitude to the non-profit organizations, masjids, and Islamic centers that consistently accept our clients we refer, provide assistance, and tirelessly work alongside us on our mission to build a better community.
- Special thanks to Islamic Relief USA for their partnership in meeting the most urgent needs of our community in creative and sustained ways.
- We are ever grateful to all of our donors, volunteers, local businesses, funders, and community partners who have joined us in serving our community. Our success would not be possible without you. If you would like to support our programs, please contact the Social Services Office at SocialServices@Hijrah.org

YOUTH DEPARTMENT



The mission of the youth department is to empower our youth, young adults and young professionals by connecting them with Allah, and our prophet (SAW). Using sustainable examples of goodness and cultivating a strong sense of belonging, the Muslim-Identity and service to the community provides initiatives that cultivates a holistic manifestation of Islam.

Our Mission

➤ How Do We Achieve Our Mission?

The DAH youth department takes a positive youth development approach to serving young people. To achieve our mission -our goal- we have developed programs that cover one or more areas of positive development in our youth, young adults and young professionals. Below is a chart that illustrates these 6 impacted areas that we focus on through our offerings:



* In his 2007 book "The Good Teen," Richard M. Lerner included this additional outcome



Muhammad Oda
Director

Youth Department Staff



Sairah Khan
Deputy Director



Amnah Sharshouh
Youth Admin
and Treasurer



Hanan Powers
Instructor

Volunteers

NAME	PROGRAMS THEY VOLUNTEER FOR	NAME	PROGRAMS THEY VOLUNTEER FOR
1 Taoufik Aitsi	Basketball, Soccer, Rising Souls (etc)	11 Shahrazad	Rising Souls
2 Marwan	Soccer	12 Najla	Rising Souls
3 Yasin Oda	Basketball	13 Hanan Seid	Rising Souls & Mic Night
4 Mohamed Askar	Rising Souls	14 Mohamed Ali	Cool Beans
5 Somair	Rising Souls	15 Mohammed Dawood	Cool Beans
6 Ousamma	Rising Souls	16 Faisal Khan	Tennis
7 Hamza	Rising Souls	17 Lamees	Cool Beans & The Third Rail
8 Asumini	Rising Souls	18 Usman Khan	Tennis
9 Marwa Farouq	Rising Souls	19 Lucas Crowley	Soccer
10 Mia	Rising Souls		

➤ Youth Department Programing

Jr. Programs

Jr. Journey: For boys and girls between the ages of 5-8

It is attributed to Imam Malik when he was recounting a statement of his mother, “My mother would dress me up and say to me: Go to Shaykh Rabi’ah and learn from his manners before his knowledge.” With Jr. Journey our instructors are exhibiting adab (manners) in their interactions with our children. Teaching them various characteristics through lessons exhibited in the lives of the Prophets. **They also recite and sing various surahs (chapters of the Quran) from the last ten surahs in order to solve interpersonal issues through play, with the assistance and guidance of our amazing staff and volunteers.** This program cultivates **competence** in our youth as they develop new skills and interests through arts and crafts. **Connections** as they build relationships with their classmates and instructors. **Caring and character building** as they are given examples from the life of our prophets and companions and set and respect boundaries discovered through interpersonal interactions.



Jr. Stars: For boys and girls ages 8-11

Jr. Stars - previously called Jr. Jummah- is designed to cultivate a strong sense of identity as muslims who are confident in Islam and fully capable of expressing themselves. In this program the youth recite the last 10 surahs of the Qur'an going over elocution. We select a new khatib (the individual who performs Friday prayer sermon) from among the boys every other week to give a simulated Khutbah (Friday prayer sermon) at the pulpit. The girls practice public speaking by giving a khatara (short reminder). After the khutbah and khatara a simulated Salat (ritual prayer) is conducted by the boys with one boy being the imam and the other being the muadhin. **In addition to teaching our youth the basics of prayer and Qur'anic elocution, alternate between the weeks simulated jummah service and lessons from the stories of the Prophets coupled with art projects designed to cover auditory, kinesthetic and visual learning styles.** This program covers connection as youth are given time to play and develop positive social skills, **confidence** as each student is given an opportunity to speak before an audience of their peers and mentors, **caring** and **character** building as they learn how to share and set boundaries with adab under the supervision of trained mentors, and **competence** and **contribution** as they develop strong communication skills and contribute directly to the content of the program.



➤ Youth Programing

Rising Souls: For ages 12-16

Rising Souls takes our youth on a journey to discover themselves and unpack various topics and concepts with the hope of cultivating resilience, a strong sense of identity as Muslims and an opportunity for youth to unpack various challenges in their lives with trained mentors. Many of our mentors have multiple years of experience mentoring youth and one of the mentors in particular used to be a mentee in this program. The first part of the program starts with a lesson presented by one of the mentors. After the interactive lecture, the youth break out into small groups to further discuss and unpack the presentation given on the onslaught. After that breakout group there's a talk back session followed by game time where the youth can build strong bonds with each other under the supervision of mentors. In this program, youths are learning to be more empathetic with themselves, others (**caring**) and developing a good character through the counseling of their mentors, connecting with old friends, forging new friendships (**connection**), developing critical thinking skills which increases **confidence** and preparation for the world outside of the Masjid.



Daily Qur'an Reflections: For ages 14 and up

Initially utilized as a way to keep the youth engaged during the pandemic and in person restrictions, this nightly program - which happens during the month of Ramadan- which is posted live on Dar Al-Hijrah's Youth Departments' instagram page has become a staple in our Ramadan programming. In this program, various youth and young adults listen to reflections from Dar Al-Hijrah's Youth Director and guests as they unpack lessons they have learned from the Qur'an during the blessed month of Ramadan. The atmosphere of this program is designed to cultivate authenticity, empathy (**caring & connection**), and **confidence** as they engage with folks who often validate their experiences and insights and an opportunity to join the live discussion and contribute (**contribution**) to the live discussion.



ages 14 and up

Oftentimes in our interactions with people, what we know about our community members is very limited and artificial. In this gathering we seek to go beneath the waterline. We plan to make real and authentic connections with our community members and go beyond and below the surface. You may not feel comfortable being yourself anywhere else, just know that these gatherings are designed to be a safe space for you to express yourself and grow in the community. This program is designed to foster empathy (**caring**), **connection**, **confidence** and **contribution** as we lower the waterline, share personal experiences (good and bad) and grow together as a cohort.

DAH Sports

Thursday Night Basketball: For ages 7 and up

Thursday night basketball is an opportunity for the youth to connect socially with one another and learn how to cooperate with each other on a team. 15+ youth come weekly to enjoy themselves and get some much needed exercise. This program gives our youth **confidence** as they compete with their peers and forge new friendships (**connection**), contribute to a team (**contribution**) and develop their skills on the court (**competence**).



Saturday evening Soccer: for ages 7 and up

Saturday night soccer is a major event for our youth. We divide each team into two groups, ages 12 and under and 13 or older. 35+ youth come through weekly to enjoy a competitive game of soccer. Oftentimes fathers will come with their sons and these outings become an opportunity for families to join in on the fun. This program gives our youth confidence as they compete with their peers and forge new friendships (**connection**), contribute to a team (**contribution**) and develop their skills on the court (**competence**).

Sunday morning Tennis: For ages 7 and up

This outing is part instruction and part play time. For the first part of this gathering a tennis instructor goes over various techniques and skills novice players would need to acquire in order to play tennis efficiently. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to come and learn how to play tennis. 10+ youth and young adults come to these outings and get a chance to learn patience and perseverance which are integral components of becoming proficient in this art form. This program gives our youth **confidence** as they compete with their peers and meet new people (**connection**), contribute to a team (**contribution**) and develop their skills on the court (**competence**) and find independence and cooperation whether playing singles or doubles (**character & contribution**).



➤ Young Adults + Young Professionals

Cool Beans: For ages 18 and up

Cool Beans is a monthly coffee social for young adults and young professionals ages 18 on up. For this gathering we bring in local scholars, students of knowledge and content providers to cover various topics relevant to young adults and young professionals. It is also an opportunity for folks to socialize and get to know one another and network over some of our country's best coffee!

The Third Rail: For ages 18 and up

The third rail of a nation's politics is a metaphor for any issue so controversial that it is deemed "untouchable". Any politician or public official who dares to broach the subject will invariably suffer politically. In our repurposing of this term, we bring scholars, experts and skilled content providers to tackle some of the most challenging issues in our tradition. Individuals, primarily in the western world, struggle to reconcile with modern notions of morality. Previous topics we covered in this series have been evolution in Islam, and the authenticity of Ahadith and slavery in Islam. This program cultivates **confidence** and **competence** as young adults and young professionals engage with experts and content providers who are skilled in navigating tough topics. It also cultivates empathy (**caring**), resilience (**character**) as well as **competence** as the knowledge distilled in these gatherings can be internalized and applied in the world.



Mentorship Orientation: For staff, mentors and volunteers

Once a year, we hold a training event that provides classroom management and facilitation techniques designed to equip mentors, instructors, staff and other related personnel with the skills and knowledge needed to properly manage a classroom and hold space in various contexts as a volunteer for the youth department. We review practicums to learn practical ways to manage classrooms and keep the youth engaged! This program allows young adults and young professionals to build with each other (**connection**), contribute to the discussion in talk back sessions (**contribution**) and develop empathy and the **character** needed to engage with young people as mentors. Up and coming mentors leave these training sessions prepared to engage with our youth (**competence & confidence**).



Family Programing

Keep it Reel: for all ages

“Keep it Reel” is a program where families get together to watch classic films, on our amazing 20 foot projector. This outdoor/indoor film allows for discussions and lessons that can be learned from the film. This program illustrates the seemingly infinite scope of our tradition which beautifully addresses any issue we might encounter in life! (Star Wars Episode 4). This program is a perfect opportunity to build community **(connection)**.



Connections: For families

What began as an opportunity for folks to gather in person while maintaining pandemic restrictions, some connections slowly became an opportunity to gather in random and very captivating parts of the DMV. Like various walking trails, the Washington monument, cool outdoor shopping malls like Union Market. This program was intended to connect families together with various outings and locations **(connection), character and contribution**.



➤ Summer Camp

Summer Camp: For ages 6-14

This was an amazing summer camp. We covered the first 10 and last 10 verses of Surah Kahf, used various stories of the Prophets and went over Qur'anic reading, memorization and recitation. The youth played sports, board games, video games and engaged with various instructors on various topics in our tradition from the life of Prophet Muhammad to eschetological issues. The youth really enjoyed the field trips and couldn't wait to be a part of the up and coming semester summer camp 2022. Throughout this program, youth will acquire **competence**, **confidence** through lessons taught, **compassion (caring)** and **character** as well as an opportunity to build relationships (**connection**) and **contribute** through our interactive discussions and Q&As.



Community Events

Pieces of U.S.

Pieces of U.S. was a collaboration between the youth department and social services department in commemoration of World Refugee Day. In this event we highlighted various artistic expressions of various artists from different parts of the world celebrating their uniqueness and brilliance while simultaneously acknowledging their integral contribution to the social and cultural tapestry of this nation! Artists sharing visual art as well as poetry were included in an all day exhibition! This program cultivates **connection, confidence, caring** and **character** as well as **contribution** through artistic collaboration (**contribute**).

Black History Month Program:

For this annual initiative the youth department collaborated with the women's department and government affairs department to put on an event recognizing the contribution of great leaders in the African american community; Muslims and non-muslim. This program cultivates empathy for the struggles of humanity (**caring**), **character, competence, connection** and **confidence**.

The Fiqh (islamic legal ruling) of Fasting

Once a year, we create a program to get our community ready for the blessed month of Ramadan. We collaborated with the religious affairs department completing a two-day back to back workshop on the fiqh pertaining to Sawm (fasting). This program cultivates **confidence** and **competence** in religious matters as we cover the rules of fasting.



Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center • Follow



AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION

PIECES OF U.S.

*Celebrating World Refugee Day with
Art and Culture from various parts of
the world.*

3159 ROW ST,
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22044 |
12PM-4PM | SUN. JUNE 20TH |

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
YOUTHDIR@HIJRAH.ORG



SOCIAL SERVICES



➤ Attendance Data

For more information regarding attendance for the above mentioned programs, the chart below lists the attendance for the entire year of 2021

	PROGRAM	FREQUENCY	ATTENDANCE
1	Jr. Journey	Weekly	240
2	Jr. Stars	Weekly	560
3	Rising Souls	Weekly	420
4	Basketball	Weekly	360
5	Soccer	Weekly	840
6	Tennis	Weekly	240
7	Keep it Reel	One event	30
8	Daily Qur'an Reflections (Online i.e. Instagram)	30 days	5,400
9	Cool Beans	Monthly	300
10	The Third Rail	Two Events	40

	PROGRAM	FREQUENCY	ATTENDANCE
1	Lowering the Waterline	Weekly	120
2	Mentorship Orientation	Annually	13
3	Connections	Monthly	30
4	Summer Camp	Annually	80
5	Pieces of U.S.	Annually	50
6	Black History Month	Annually	30
7	The Fiqh of Fasting	Annually	90

➤ Overview of 2021

In Person	Online/Virtual	People we served in 2021
3,293 (86% increase from 2020)	5,550	8,843

WEEKEND SCHOOL'S REPORT



The Dar Al Hijrah Weekend School is built on the foundation of the teachings of the Quran 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 Weekend School is made up of over **170 students**, **2 volunteers**, and **9 faculty members** that collaborate and work with different teaching techniques that adapt to the learning styles of each student. Each teacher utilizes innovative teaching strategies in every subject to help students fully understand the material of the class.

Introduction

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the weekend school had to shift gears to adapt to the new environment whilst still upholding the high standards of education. Despite being online, our teachers were continuously encouraged to find innovative and reactive methods of education. Upon the switch to zoom, teachers completed training on zoom to ensure the highest quality was taught. Interactive techniques were discussed such as the utilization of the whiteboard, sharing the screen, and class presentations.

This fall, schools reopened to in-person learning. And now that we are back in person, our classes will be filled with hands-on activities that keep our children engaged. The weekend school teachers and staff have been working diligently in order to insure the safe return of our students and parents. A mask mandate is held in our classrooms to protect our students, teachers, staff, and parents. Sanitizations are provided in each classroom as well as our continuous strict cleaning schedule to keep classrooms hygienic.

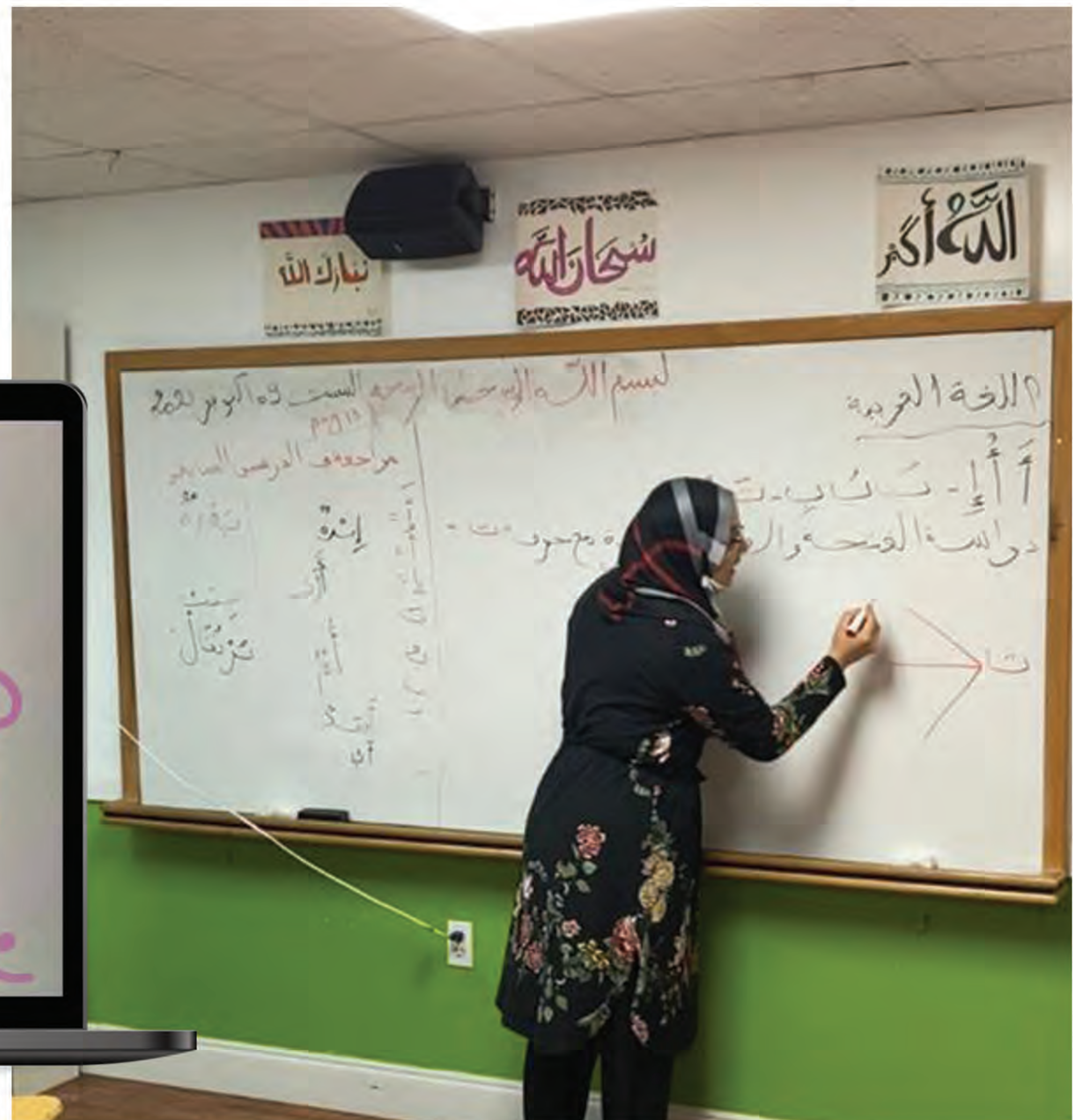
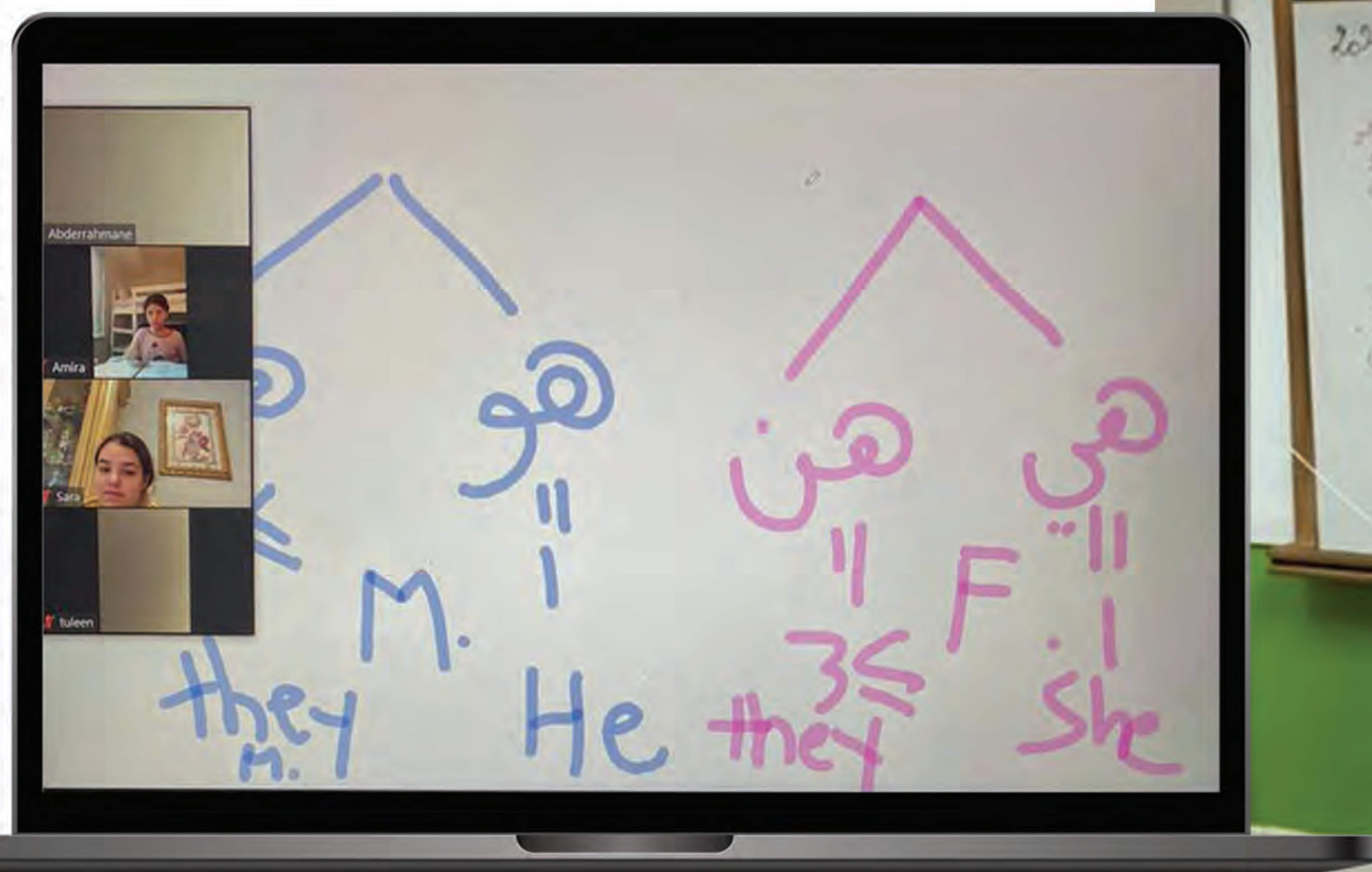
The breakdown of our class schedule is as follows:

Saturdays or Sundays 10:00am- 3:00pm. **Quran:** 10:00am-11:30, followed by a 30 minute lunch break

Arabic: 12:00-1:50, followed by a 15 minute break,

and **Islamic Studies/Seerah:** 2:05pm-3:00pm.

We found this schedule to work best with our teachers and students. We have also added 10 minutes to the Islamic Studies/ Seerah program in order to allow time for more discussion and projects.



Our Quran, Arabic, and Islamic Studies curriculum is reviewed before the start of each school year by teachers and weekend school administrators to ensure that the best educational quality is presented. Our goal of increasing Arabic reading fluency is still present in our curriculum and our switch to online has not hindered our goals. This semester we are focusing less on grammar rules in Arabic and more on vocabulary, readings, sentence forming, etc. The goal is to have our students pick up any Arabic book and read while understanding its content.

The education of our students is our top priority. This is why our teachers undergo evaluations and training to ensure the best quality education is being provided. Interactive, educational activities are encouraged and used in each class. Each student learns differently and using different methods of learning is the best approach.



Every year, throughout the semester, the weekend school has the following activities:

- Quran competition (each year we gather all the students and choose a surah (chapters from the Quran) from Juz Amma and Tabarak to recite depending on their level.)
- Field trips (recently, before the pandemic we took our kids bowling and inshallah we plan on bringing field trips back for the kids.)
- Arts & crafts day (this activity is something new we tried this year for the kids and Alhamdulillah (thanks to Allah) it was a huge success.)
- End of the year activities (at the end of each school year we have different ways to end the year such as: picnics, international day, car wash, bake sale and etc...)



Our goal at Dar Al Hijrah Weekend School is to create a learning environment where students enjoy their time, love the beautiful language of Arabic and the beautiful religion of Islam. The ultimate purpose and goal in the future is for our students to have the ability to read and write the Arabic language by themselves.



➤ Mrs. Nacima Mechkour, Weekend School Principal

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Responsible Staff



Mohamed H. Mohamed
Maintenance Engineer



Sifeddine ElMarhfri
HandyMan

A. General Maintenance:

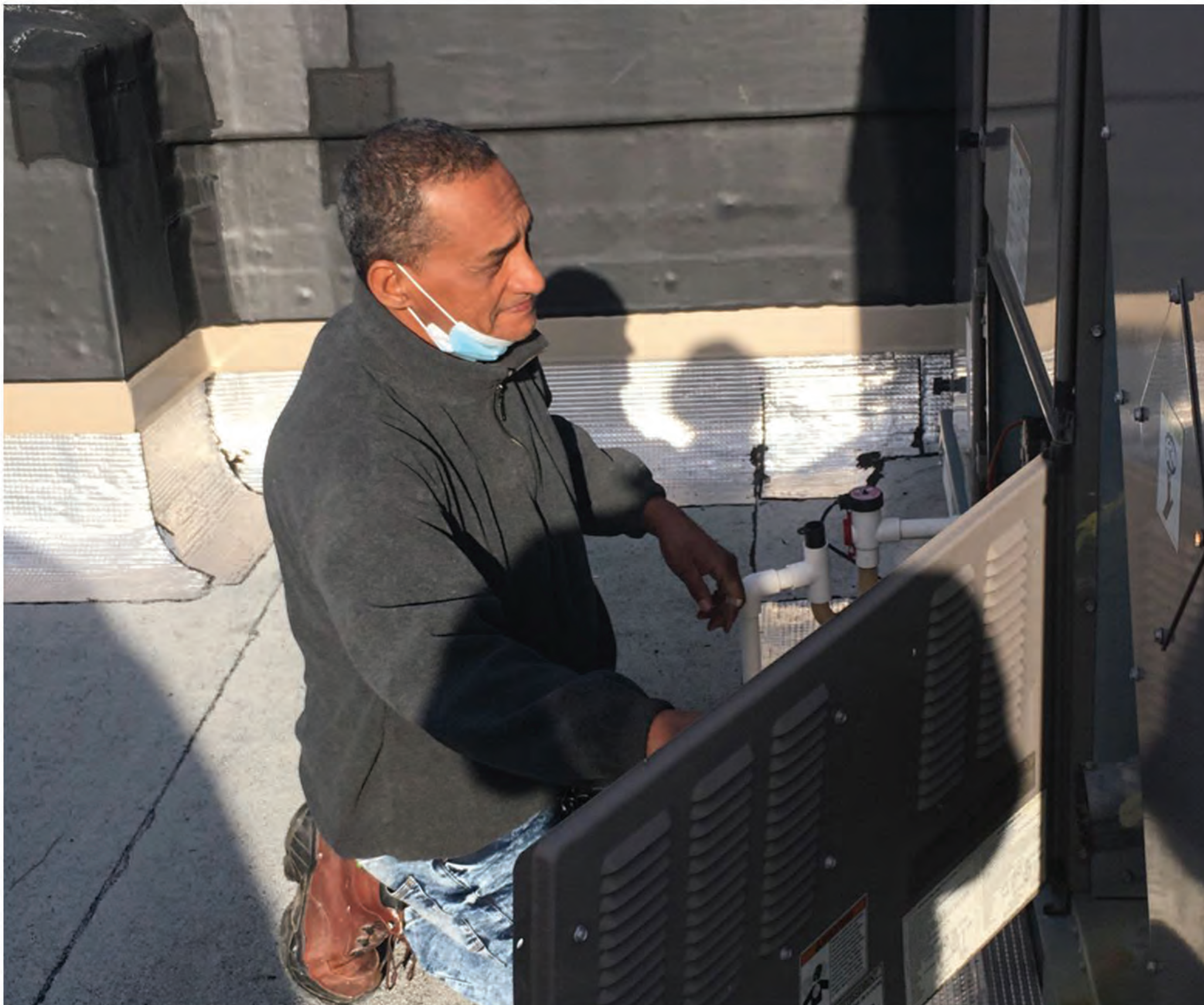
1. ➤ Built Ramadan tents in the deck area with light weighted tarps, open doors between them and install lighting in each one.
2. ➤ Install outdoor speakers in the deck area and all around till the main entrance for outdoor prayers and functions.
3. ➤ Install new Shure microphone outdoor Antenna and indoor one in the courtyard area to improve microphone coverage.
4. ➤ Install outdoor outlets in the front parking lot grass area.
5. ➤ Repair roof top units 10 tons in the Masjid and courtyard areas.
6. ➤ Install new thermostat in 20 tones unit in the Musala (prayer area).
7. ➤ Upgrade all lights in swing class with new brighter LED lights.
8. ➤ Maintain land escaping across the Masjid.
9. ➤ Prepare for snow removal and sign the contract with Relada Snow removal company for the Masjid and MAS Building.
10. ➤ Remove old rocks and sediments from the pond and place new rocks and widening the drain orifice per Fairfax county requirements.
11. ➤ Install new two internet cables from main office to the electric room for new Cox internet service that enter the building to be backup to Verizon service interruptions.
12. ➤ Clean grease trap replacement in the kitchen and opens a clogged pipe caused by grease escaping into the drains.



B. Security:

1. ➤ Install new brighter parking lot lights and wall packs.
2. ➤ Install new concrete pad for new security booth after removing the obstacle tree that was on the way.
3. ➤ Hydrogen extension underground 3 inch pipe under the main entrance to extend electric cables to the new security booth and speakers to the right side of the parking lot.
4. ➤ Purchase and install new security booth, install new AC/heat
5. ➤ pump inside, install drywall, electric plugs, lights and flooring
6. ➤ Install new fences in the back area of the Masjid.

Maintained surveillance system and provided needed videos to the FBI for knife attack incidents.



C. Safety/COVID:

1. ➤ Marked social distancing for daily and Friday prayers inside and outside.
2. ➤ Install electronic air cleaner and virus/germs eliminator in all rooftop AC units.

D. Other Owned Facilities/Properties: (Houses & Edsall Rd (MAS DC and WIA))

1. ➤ Install new sump pumps in MAS building, seal exterior ductwork and reroute balcony drain to stop water from penetrating inside the basement and front door.
2. ➤ Upgrade ceramic tiles at WIA boys and girls bathrooms.
3. ➤ Complete insurance company mandatory recommendations for rental properties in Manson Hill Rd including removing and trimming large trees and installing new storm doors.
4. ➤ Install new AC/Heat unit in Sheik Shaker House, also replace garbage disposal.
5. ➤ Drain the chiller and test the backflow preventer per Fairfax county schedule.
6. ➤ Install new lights in the MAS building elevator and contact Cox communications to fix the elevator phone line.
7. ➤ Repair leaks around roof drains in MAS building second floor balcony.



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



Our Mission

The Mission of the Communications Department is to spread the message of Islam and Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center through creative and engaging story telling using all relevant means of modern communication and media.

Introduction

A lot has happened since we submitted our 2020 annual report. In that report we included a comprehensive strategic plan with action items and we have accomplished many of our goals. Some of those goals included building a functional and professional studio for in house productions, increasing part time staff, and streamline inter-departmental communication.

Build a functional and professional studio:

The studio features a one wall green screen, a three point lighting system, a boom mic, and two 4k cameras.



Increasing part time

Increasing part time staff was a major endeavor and took about 6 months to put together a comprehensive team of strategically selected individuals that had not only a valuable skill set but also a connection to the community.

Our first hire was a Social Media Coordinator, Ramsha Baig. Ramsha is a senior at George Mason University and helps with Marketing at her MSA. We found Ramsha to be a perfect fit for the DAH communications team as she possessed the desired skill set with experience, as well as her dedication to the Muslim community and its growth. She is a proactive learner and works hard and is diligent in her tasks. With her on the team our logistical workflow and project delivery times have significantly improved.

Our second and third hire was Hanan Seid and Haneen Ammar. Both Hanan and Haneen were raised in the area and have been long-time participants of Dar Al-Hijrah as well as other local community organizations. They joined the team as Graphic Designers and have created a significant impact on Dar Al-Hijrah's overall brand identity through their professional and artistic work.

Our fourth and final hire to date is a young, yet classically trained and very professional editor based in Istanbul, Turkey. With the help of our editor in collaboration with our department director, Ibrahim Souadda, we have been able to produce 3 professionally produced series that have streamed on all our social media platforms and are currently in production of 2 more series. With the help of our new editor we are able to greatly increase the volume of video work we are able to produce for our viewers.

Streamline inter-departmental communication:

Coming into the new year, 2021, and climbing out of COVID restrictions allowed for an opportunity to overhaul the way Dar Al-Hijrah project manages and communicates with staff and volunteers internally. With the proactive thinking and guidance of the leadership in place before our Director, Ibrahim Souadda, joined the team, Dar Al-Hijrah invested in a sophisticated project management tool that was ready and available to be organized and implemented. Our team was able to create an elaborate workflow dealing with everything from Graphic and Production requests to event planning and yearly campaign coordination.



Social Media Impact:

Audience Highlights:

- DAH Main Instagram: **4,957**
- DAH Youth Instagram: **1,499**
- DAH Main Facebook: **13,584**
- DAH Youtube: **19,400**

Total Audience across all platforms:



Published Posts:

- DAH Main Instagram: **651**
- DAH Youth Instagram: **653**
- DAH Main Facebook: **635**
- DAH Youtube: **446**

Total Published Content:



Impressions

(Impressions is the number of times that your content was displayed to users)

- DAH Main Instagram: **2,121,364**
- DAH Youth Instagram: **175,837**
- DAH Main Facebook: **8,781,758**

Total number of Impressions:



Social Media Impact:

Engagement

(Engagements is the number of times that users engaged with your posts during the reporting period)

- DAH Main Instagram: **10,110**
- DAH Youth Instagram: **4,245**
- DAH Main Facebook: **215,096**
- DAH Youtube: **20,799**

Total number of Engagement:



What's next and Final Thoughts:

COVID affected Dar Al-Hijrah and the community at large in many ways and it was a difficult effort to get us back on track and on a path forward. Alhamdulillah our communications team has done that. We started the year with one employee in the department, our director Ibrahim Souadda, and now we have 5 total staff members, 1 full time and 4 part time. With a well-oiled team in place we were able to build a professional studio and completely change the way we produce content and elevated the quality of work we create for our community. We were able to, with the cooperation of other departments and guidance from leadership, completely change the way Dar Al-Hijrah communicates and project manages internally. By the grace of Allah swt, we have accomplished a lot but more work needs to be done. We are currently in the process of a full rebrand and website update. We always look to our department mission and the vision of the community and in order to do that, we have to be bold and invest in an online presence that will enhance our communities experience and provide even greater benefit.

We pray that Allah swt puts Tawfeeq in our efforts and that the community finds immense benefit in the content we create.



One of the early decisions we made was to trim the amount of social media channels we had as well as the amount of department specific pages. We made this choice in an attempt to bring a sense of focus for our community as well as centralize information sharing. We removed Twitter and snapchat but plan on incorporating Twitter for the specific use of the Public

Included in this Report

 Dar Al-hijrah Islamic Center

 hijrahva

 dahyouth

 Dar Al-hijrah Islamic Center

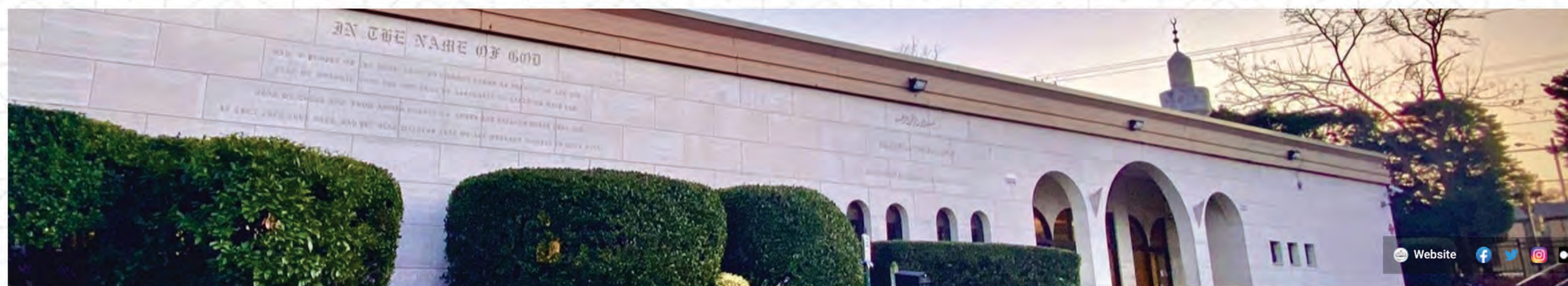
Audience growth is one of the main indicators of the pulse of the community. This report paints a clear picture. As half the year was in the depths of COVID-19, Facebook and Instagram growth was down on average 15% between the two. This indicates that the drop in in-person events directly affects social media. That being said if we look at our YouTube subscribers gained we see a remarkable increase of 34,176.9%. SubhanAllah (glory to God)! What you are seeing is the quick pivot our team took towards rapidly increasing production on original content. Our department has created several informative and creative series that filled the gap in the absence of in person programming.

Impressions is the number of times that your content was displayed to users. As you can see, we have increased the amount of time people have seen Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center **by 80.7%** from the previous year.

The two spikes in impressions you are seeing occurred during Ramadan and when we started our full roll out of original content. In Ramadan we tested the waters with our first production, Ramadan Reminders. It was a more than successful series that was seen by thousands across the world. During the full roll out we released several series, including but not limited too, Mindful Mondays and Spiritual Shorts. We are now in production of a second season of Ramadan Reminders and a brand new series called, The Break Down.

Engagement is the number of times that users engaged with your posts during the reporting period. As you can see engagement is down by 20.5% from the previous year. What we are seeing in this number particularly is the effects of COVID-19. In the previous years programming has been in person and performed very well. This year has been a transition from online programming, which dramatically affected engagement rates, to in person events. The community is still adjusting and that is being felt in every department.

Where you do see a significant increase in engagement is Youtube. With an increase of **210%** we see the fruits of our very successful original series.



Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center
20.5K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

HOME

VIDEOS







PLAYLISTS

COMMUNITY

CHANNELS

ABOUT



					
Ménage . Imam Farhan Siddiqi 3/11/2022	The Quran (20) Imam Shaker Elsayed 3/11/2022	Oath Keepers . Br. Saif Rahman 3/11/2022	Invest in Future . Imam Naeem Baig 3/4/2022	Ostiary . Imam Farhan Siddiqi 3/4/2022	The Quran (19) Imam Shaker Elsayed 3/4/2022



In conclusion the analytics paint a picture of hope and growth but room for more. Alhamdulillah (thanks to Allah) the numbers are trending up but we haven't fully recovered from COVID-19 yet. We have a lot of work to do next year. We need to focus on regular and consistent original content, both written and filmed. We are committed to serving our community through the creation of creative and original content that both informs and entertains our community, resulting in a closer relationship with Allah swt and the Prophet sws.



Dar Al-Hijrah Islamic Center
| 3159 Row Street, Falls Church, VA 22044 |
| Office: (703) 536-1030 | Fax: (703) 536-1035 | info@hijrah.org |