

# Islamic Center of Brushy Creek (ICBC)

## Annual Report 2012



## Foreword by the Shura Council

It has been five years since ICBC was established and the rapid growth in our community has necessitated an expansion in the scope of our various programs and activities. With space becoming a limitation, we embarked on a major project in 2012—the ICBC Master Plan, *Alhamdulillah*. This was predicated with several surveys and discussions with community members as well as leaders of Islamic centers locally and in neighboring major cities. This led us to formulate a Master Plan that serves our diverse needs.

Furthermore, 2012 has been a watershed for the organization as we adopted a formal Constitution that led to the elections for the Shura Council in September 2012. This year also witnessed the launch of several new programs at our Center, while augmenting the existing ones.

It is only by the Grace of Allah (swt) and the continued and overwhelming support of the community that we have been able to sustain the various programs and activities at our masjid in addition to launching the ICBC expansion project this year. The services being offered could not have been possible without your dua'a, time, financial support, and feedback. The Shura Council is truly humbled by the trust you have placed in us. As we strive to continuously enhance the quality of services offered at ICBC and increase attendance at our masjid, we sincerely request your suggestions and feedback to enable us to take ICBC to the next level.

*Jazakum Allahu Khairan*

## MASJID ACTIVITIES: “a retrospective..and in continuum”

The various weekly programs at ICBC that continued in 2012 included the **Qur'an Tafseer class**, **Hadith class**, and the **Sisters' Halaqa**, held once a week. A separate **Qur'an Tafseer class for sisters** was also held weekly. The **Guest Lecture** program was held once a month.

In addition, Mufti Umer Esmail offered several lectures at ICBC in 2012 on a variety of contemporary topics geared towards community relations, particularly the youth.

## RAMADAN AT ICBC

This was the 5th Ramadan at ICBC, and we had a range of activities during the blessed month. *Alhamdulillah*.

Again this year, we were blessed to have the services of Sheikh Abdul Samad from Pakistan, who led *taraweeh* prayers at ICBC and completed recitation of the Holy Qur'an on the 27<sup>th</sup> night. Also this year, *taraweeh* prayers after the 27<sup>th</sup> night were held by the following young Huffaz and Qaris in our community:

- Hafiz Yusuf Zaidi (son of Br. Asif Zaidi)
- Hafiz Arqum Abdullah (son of Br. Momin ur Rahman)
- Hafiz Elyes Benantar (son of Br Messoud Benantar)
- Junaid Tayyab (son of Br. Athar Tayyab)



A short *khatera* (lecture) was held by knowledgeable community members every day after Fajr during the blessed month.

Iftar/dinners were served by community members every Saturday and Sunday as well as on the 27<sup>th</sup> of Ramadan.

During the last 10 nights, we conducted *Qiyam al-Layl* prayers at ICBC, followed by *suhur* meal sponsored by generous community members.

A few brothers spent some days observing *I'tikaf* at ICBC.

May Allah (swt) accept our *Ibaadah* and grant us His Paradise. Aameen!!

## JUM'AH KHUTBAH

During this year, Jum'ah Khutbah at ICBC was delivered by the following community members :

Br. Abu Dawud      Br. Ahmed Mahmood      Sh. Ahmad Momoh      Br. Akif Ali      Br. Ayman Kabir      Br Hasan Ali  
Br. Hassan Al-Sukhni      Br. Junayd Oliver      Br. Karim Shaebik      Br. Mohamed Bedaiwi      Br. Momin ur Rahman  
Sh. Nur Ahmad      Br. Shoaib Malik      Br. Syed Afzal      Sh. Umer Esmail

We were also blessed to have scholars visiting Austin give Khutbah at our masjid on a few occasions. We thank all these brothers for their assistance and pray that Allah (swt) reward them abundantly, Aameen!

## VISITS BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

We had brothers in the **Tablighi Jama'at** visit ICBC this year from Chicago, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Sacramento, and India. May Allah (swt) rewards our guests for their efforts, Aameen!!

## MONTHLY GUEST LECTURES

The monthly Guest Lecture program has continued to benefit us enormously, with topics that ranged from the spiritual to the mundane. Below is a summary of 2012 lectures.

- Jan '12: Raising a Family in the U. S. – Part 1 — Sheikh Umer Esmail, Austin
- Feb '12: Raising a Family in the U. S. – Part 2 — Sheikh Umer Esmail, Austin
- Feb '12: Da'wah Workshop — Sheikh Amr El Samny, Chicago
- Mar '12: Defending Religious Freedom-Understanding Shariah — Br. Naeem Baig, ICNA
- Apr '12: Islamic Financing Model — Br. Aijaz Hussain, UIC, Chicago
- Jun '12: Da'wah-An Obligation for All Muslims — Sheikh Mohamed Shakib, Dallas
- Jul '12: All About Zakaat in the U. S. — Dr. Main Al- Qudah, Houston
- Dec '12: Building a Strong Muslim Community — Sheikh Mamdouh Mahmoud, Houston

## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES: *“investing in our future”*

**Children's education** has been a huge focus since the establishment of ICBC. Programs such as the **Nazira (Qur'an reading) class, Tajweed/Hifz class, Weekend Islamic School,** and the **Weekly Girls-Only program** continued in 2012. A key mission of ICBC is instilling the role of *Deen* in the lives of our children and youth. These future leaders of our Ummah must be first and foremost educated in the Word of Allah (swt). ICBC aims to provide our children an environment in which to nurture their spiritual needs. These programs are targeted to complement the environment that children experience during their weeklong regular school.

The purpose of the Qur'an Nazira program is to teach students how to read the Qur'an. The Weekend Islamic School purports to teach students Islamic studies which include, but is not limited to, understanding the basic beliefs and teachings of Islam in order to be a practicing and responsible Muslim, understand how to perform the Salah, have a good understanding of Islamic history and the life of Rasoolullah (saw), develop a strong sense of morality through the understanding of Qur'an and Hadith, and practice proper Islamic etiquette. With these goals, we have attempted to make the curriculum tailored more to the age group and knowledge level of the students. The Tajweed/Hifz Class attempts to introduce the fluent readers to Tajweed as well as help them to memorize the Qur'an.

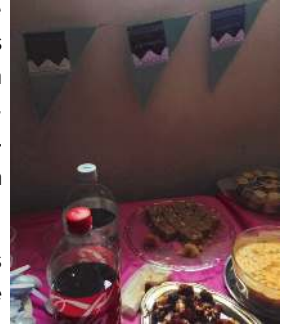
The weekly Girls-only class focuses exclusively on the middle and high school girls in our community. The aim is to provide a comprehensive and interactive program which endeavors to help girls learn more about their Deen and strengthen their Aqeedah. The goal of this program is to reinforce the Islamic identity of today's Muslim girls through the journey of reading and studying the tafseer of the Qur'an.

Another successful **ICBC Summer School** was conducted in July '12 with over 50 students, including several teenaged girls, attending. As in previous years, we had about 15 local high school Muslim students volunteering their time and talent at ICBC. These students earned valuable credits for community service for their volunteer work.

Blessed with highly dedicated, well-qualified teachers and volunteers, enrollment today stands at over 90 students in the various programs. May Allah (swt) reward our teachers and volunteers for their tireless service to Islam, Aameen!

## SISTERS' CORNER: "ladies-only TALEEM"

The weekly **Sisters-only Qur'an Tafsir Class** held every Tuesday during the daytime focuses on the study of Tafsir Ibn Kathir, which is considered one of the most authentic exegesis of the Holy Qur'an. A typical session involves the study in detail of verses in the Qur'an; the explanation is supported by the study of authentic Hadith. The class is held in an interactive format using PowerPoint presentations and usually involves quizzes at the end. Each sister is also given a topic to do research and present during class. In addition to enhancing the understanding of Qur'an, the class educates our sisters about the Sunnah, Sciences of the Hadith, and Seerah of our Prophet (saw) and his companions. It also provides participants an opportunity to learn to do a thorough research based on the Qur'an and the Sunnah and gain the confidence needed to discuss various topics related to Islam.



The program also provides a platform for sisters to socialize with one another. Various events such as the Eid picnic, Welcome Hujjaj Potluck Lunch, and Guest Lectures were held in 2012. One recent activity of the group is the "Happy Muslima Walking Club".

The **Sisters-only Bi-weekly Halaqa** on Wednesday mornings is tailored to the study of various books on Fiqh. Currently, the sisters are studying the book on Salaah. The Sisters have been using the program to volunteer in humanitarian causes. They have pooled their resources to provide assistance to sisters in our community in need.

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: "it's not all work"

We held **Community Potluck Dinner** events on the first Friday of several months; we took a break during Ramadan and have suspended this activity during the winter months. We will resume in April '13, *Insha Allah*.

An **Eid Carnival** was organized at ICBC in November '12, which was attended by over 250 men, women, and children. Thanks to fine weather, excellent food cooked by our community members, and assistance of the community volunteers, the event was a great success!



## FOR THE PRE-SCHOOLERS

A new program for pre-school kids was launched this year.

**JANNATI ISLAMIC PLAYGROUP**

Once a week, 9 am – noon at ICBC, \$75 a month,  
For 3 and 4 yr olds, starting this Fall!!!

3 yr old Curriculum:	4 yr old Curriculum:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading and writing Arabic alphabet.</li><li>• Reading, writing, counting from 1-10.</li><li>• 8 Arabic shape &amp; color recognition.</li><li>• 10 opposite pairs in Arabic (e.g. big/small).</li><li>• Writing first name in Arabic.</li><li>• Memorizing 5+ short Surahs.</li><li>• Basic Aqeedah, daily Duah, hadeeth.</li><li>• Fun Projects for every letter.</li><li>• Lots of songs and games.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Writing and reading Arabic alphabet &amp; simple words.</li><li>• Reading, writing, counting from 1-20 and by 10's to 100 in Arabic.</li><li>• 14 shape &amp; color recognition.</li><li>• 20+ opposite pairs in Arabic (e.g. big/small).</li><li>• Writing first and last name in Arabic.</li><li>• Memorizing 10+ short Surah's.</li><li>• Basic Aqeedah, daily Duah, hadeeth..</li><li>• Fun Projects for every letter.</li><li>• Lots of songs and games.</li></ul>

**REGISTER NOW: SPACE IS LIMITED!**

Contact: **Sr Ariege Muallem**,  
e-mail: [amuallem@gmail.com](mailto:amuallem@gmail.com)  
Phone #: **512 537 1279**.

Playgroup will be held at:  
**Islamic Center of Brushy Creek**  
1950 Brushy Creek Road,  
Cedar Park, TX 78613.

## COMMUNITY SYNERGY:

### "working with sister organizations in Austin"

A new initiative was launched in Austin called the **Austin Muslim Unity**. This is a monthly round table that allowed all Austin Masajid to meet and share best practices.

**ICBC Da'wah** activities are coordinated with other Austin organizations.

ICBC was an active participant at the effort this year to organize a **unified Eid al-Adha sala'at** in Austin.

ICBC continued to provide financial support in 2012 towards the **ICGA Austin Muslim Cemetery** project.

## FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT: "work ALWAYS in progress"

Before Ramadan 2012, the **Sisters' deck** adjacent to the Multi-Purpose Hall was renovated to fit the needs of our sisters.

Since the **site preparation work** has commenced at our premises, we encounter a lot more insects and pests within the buildings. To address this problem, we have contracted a professional pest control firm to treat our facility regularly.

**Lawn maintenance** is done by an outside firm that cuts grass and shrubs as needed. And as part of the annual maintenance, the Septic Tank was cleaned before Ramadan.

With the permission of our neighbor, a large area of the adjacent property was cleared to accommodate **extra parking** during Ramadan and Eid carnival.

## DA'WAH & OUTREACH EVENTS: *"spreading the word"*

*Al-Qur'an: Invite (all) to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious: for thy Lord knoweth, best who have strayed from His Path, and who receive guidance.*

(Surah Al-Nahl, Ayat 125)



*Alhamdulillah*, ICBC Da'wah activities continued in 2012, with continued interaction with people of other faiths.

In February '12, ICBC held its first Austin level **"2-Day Interactive Da'wah Workshop"**. Various techniques and approaches of Da'wah were taught and discussed. Obligations and virtues of doing Da'wah were presented and a fundraising was held during the workshop with all contributions going to support the Da'wah group's efforts.

This year also witnessed two people (a man and a woman) taking *shahadah* at our center, *Alhamdulillah*.

Fortnightly classes were organized for sisters who recently reverted to Islam and need assistance in learning and practicing Islam, effectively.

ICBC **Da'wah material** and copies of the Noble Qur'an were distributed through various means to people of other faiths.

Several individual and group meetings on various da'wah-related topics were made at ICBC. These included people of diverse backgrounds and faiths.

ICBC hosted a non-Muslim student pursuing interfaith studies.

We worked with **Round Rock Library** system in their effort to get funding for Islamic literature and lecture/film presentation series. We plan to participate in a panel discussion on Islam, *Insha Allah*.

We offered **Da'wah lectures online**, which entailed answering questions from non-Muslims from across the globe. This has proven highly effective in many people accepting Islam.

ICBC remained **engaged with the Leander Independent School District (LISD)** initiative to foster closer relations with local faith-based organizations, to ensure kids and youth have access to information, that allows them to fully exercise their potential. Currently, several Churches and organizations are contributing their share of services in this effort, and ICBC participated as well, *Alhamdulillah*.

**ICBC Da'wah Committee** coordinates its efforts with other masjid in the Austin area that includes exchange of Da'wah promotional materials, hosting Open House events for non-Muslims, and conducting periodic meetings. We attended a Da'wah related meeting organized by a local masjid during Ramadan.

ICBC is a member of the national Da'wah program—**Mercy for Mankind**.

We continue to get constant inquiries about Islam through the ICBC Web site. For far-reaching initiatives, we have added a **"Learn Islam" section to the ICBC Web site**. The site offers basic information about Islam as well as a section on 'Frequently Asked Questions'. Those interested in visiting our Center or learning more about Islam can now make requests through the ICBC Web site. There is also a link to obtain free copies of the Holy Qur'an.

*The Prophet of Allah (saw) said to Ali (ra):*

*"If Allah guides a person through you, it is better for you than all that is on the earth."*

(Source: Sahih Bukhari & Sahih Muslim)

## ICBC SCOUTING: *"for both boys and girls"*



The ICBC Girl and Boy Scouts program leverages the tried and tested practices of the **Boys and Girl Scouts of America** while reinforcing the Islamic morals and manners. It attempts to motivate the boys and girls into and community. Several events

becoming role models in their schools were held throughout the year including camping and outdoor trips. The scouts typically meet once a week, usually at ICBC.

This has provided a platform for our boys and girls to not only interact with their peers, but also develop their interpersonal and leadership skills.



## SHURA COUNCIL ELECTIONS: “continued community involvement”

After years of diligent work and consultations with scholars and experts, the Shura Council approved the ICBC Constitution and bylaws in October ‘11, and the documents were subsequently released to the community for feedback.

Pursuant to the ICBC Constitution, we conducted the first elections at ICBC on September 28-29, 2012, As part of the preparation for the elections, we launched an extensive membership drive for several weeks. Approx. 200 community members became eligible to vote based on the criteria set forth in the ICBC Constitution, *Alhamdulillah*.

The election process, administered by a 5-member independent committee, went smoothly. A total of 61 community members participated in the voting. It is truly a blessing for our Center that we had an excellent group of our community members who were nominated for the open positions.

The following 6 members were elected to the Shura Council.

- Br. Asim Humayun
- Br. Faisal Hasan
- Br. Haroon Rasheed
- Br. Hisham Hammour
- Dr. Khalid Siddiqui
- Br. Sheik Abdul Hameed

We thank the community for the candidate nominations and taking the time to cast their ballots. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the following 5-member election committee, whose experience and wisdom were instrumental in helping define and execute a smooth and transparent election:

- Br. Amjad Mahmood
- Sr. Ayzaz Ghouse
- Br. Kamran Naeem
- Br. Momin ur Rahman
- Sr. Nehal Khadr

## ICBC COMMITTEES: “serving the community”

Various committees manage the day-to-day tasks at ICBC to ensure a smooth operation. They are:

1. Administration
2. Community Welfare
3. Communications
4. Da’wah
5. Educational
6. Facilities Maintenance
7. Financial
8. Fundraising
9. Masjid Activities
10. Refugee Outreach
11. Sisters’ Affairs
12. Social Activities
13. Welcome/Orientation
14. Youth Activities

## NEW COMMITTEES

With new families moving to Austin regularly, particularly to neighborhoods near ICBC, we formed a new committee in 2012—**WELCOME AND ORIENTATION COMMITTEE**—to address their immediate needs. As part of its scope of work, the Committee has developed an informational sheet that provides details about local Masjid, Islamic schools, Grocery stores selling *halal* food, etc. New members are immediately added to the ICBC mailing list so they can stay tuned to ICBC activities.

In recent years, several Muslim refugees have moved to Austin from other parts of the world. These families face a lot of difficulties adjusting to their new homeland and thus have very unique needs. To provide the necessary assistance to these families, another committee—**REFUGEE OUTREACH COMMITTEE**—was constituted this year at ICBC. This committee is also engaged with other groups in Austin that work with Muslim refugees.

## AD HOC COMMITTEES

As part of the ICBC Master Plan execution, we have formed an ad hoc committee to explore the logistics involved in operating a **DAYCARE CENTER** at our premises. In addition to offering services to the community, a daycare center will also provide a steady source of revenue for our Center.

ICBC has also formed a committee to study the feasibility of hiring an **IMAM/DIRECTOR** for our Center.

## ICBC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

ICBC is administered by a 19 member Shura Council, with a Coordinator. Members are:

Abdus Samad Shaikh	Kalim Baig
Altaf Hussain	Dr. Khalid Siddiqui
Asim Humayun	Khawaja Murshed
Bazil Farid	Mohammad Farhoud
Faisal Hasan	Dr. Mujahid Masood
Farhat Siddiqui	Salah U Din
Haroon Rasheed	Shaik Mohseen
Dr. Hassan Al-Sukhni	Sheik Abdul Hameed
Hisham Hammour	Umer Makani
Imtiaz Hussain	

## FINANCIAL CORNER: “*money matters*”

**2012 donation receipts have been prepared and are being distributed.**

In Ramadan 2012, we unveiled details of the ICBC Master Plan, including the proposed design for the new masjid, *Al-hamdulillah*. **The community support was overwhelming, with approx. \$310K raised during the holy month.** *Jazakum Allahu Khairan* for your support.

**SADAQAH AND ZAKAT FUNDS:** We collected approx. \$27,000 in sadaqah and zakat funds in 2012. The money was disbursed to the needy after careful review of the applicants.

**ZAKAT UL FITR:** ICBC received approx. \$6,700 in zakat ul Fitr funds this year. The money was distributed to the needy before Eid sala'at.

Several organization held fundraisers at ICBC in 2012, as listed below:

Jan '12	ISAT, Dallas
Oct '12	Amoud Foundation
Nov '12	Darul Uloom Austin (Hifz School)
Dec '12	Furqaan Foundation

*Jazakum Allahu Khairan* for your generous support for all these worthy causes.

## FUTURE PLANS: “*in the works*”

Our focus in the coming weeks and months is the execution of the ICBC Master Plan, *Insha Allah*.

### New programs for 2013, *Insha Allah*

- Monthly **Qur'an Tafseer** (every 3rd Thursday) by Sheikh Islam Mossad
- Monthly **Seerah of the Prophets** class (every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday) by Br. Akif Ali
- The following guest lectures are scheduled for 2013.

**Jan '13:** Sh. Abdullah Hernandez, Imam Beaumont Mosque

**Feb '13:** Ranjana Natarajan, Clinical Professor, UT Austin

**Feb '13:** Islamic Home Financing Model, UIC – Chicago

**Mar '13:** Sh. Zia ul Huq, Richardson Masjid, Dallas

**Apr '13:** Sh. Nader El Marhoumi, Masjid, Dallas

**May '13:** Hafiz Muhammad Humayun, Beaumont

**Jun '13:** Dr. Main Al-Qudah, Katy Masjid, Houston

We request everyone to attend and benefit from these programs at our masjid. We will continue to work on improving the quality of the current programs and add new ones in the future, *Insha Allah*.

### 2013 planned activities for youth, *Insha Allah*

- Super Bowl Get Together for Youth (Boys)
- Ping Pong tournament
- Volley Ball tournament
- Basic Car Workshop—Teach kids how to change car oil and also basic maintenance
- Night Under The Star program: Bring your telescopes and learn about the stars and *samawat*
- 3 on 3 basketball tournament
- Mentor program: Pairing a high schooler with a "big" brother/college student to provide guidance

**None of these will be possible without the blessing of Allah (swt) and your continued support.**

## ICBC MASTER PLAN: "working towards a DREAM project"

In 2011, the ICBC Shura Council formed a committee to execute the **Master Plan for our Center**, which includes construction of a new masjid at our premises.



Taking into consideration the financial resources of our community and its priorities, the project will be executed in multiple phases and modules as detailed below.

Project Execution: A Phased Approach			
PHASE	MODULE	ELEMENTS	TIME FRAME
<b>0</b>	n/a	Architectural Planning Plan Approval by City Site Preparation Work	2012 Q2 - 2012 Q4
<b>1</b>	1 of 1 1 of 2 1 of 2 1 of 2 1 of 1	Masjid Multi-Purpose Hall Classrooms Parking Spaces Children's Play Area	2013 Q1 - 2014 Q3
<b>2</b>	2 of 2 2 of 2 1 of 1	Multi-Purpose Hall Additional Parking Day Care Center	2014 Q4 - 2015 Q3
<b>3</b>	1 of 1 1 of 1 2 of 2	Outside Pavilion Recreational Facilities Additional Classrooms	2015 Q4 - 2016 Q3

**Key milestones** of the ICBC Master Plan are as follows:

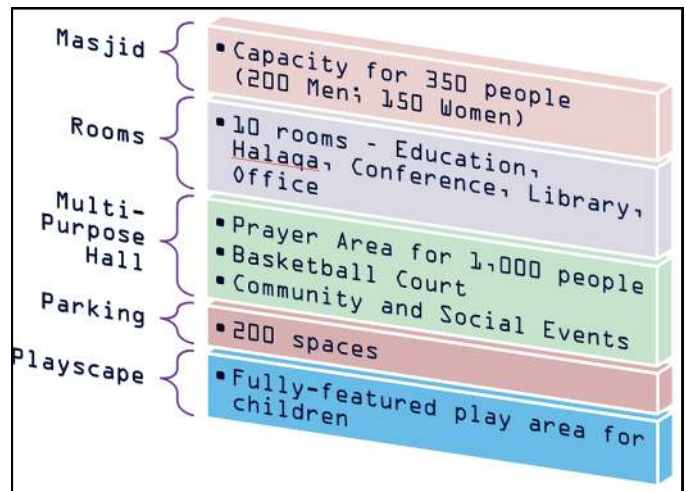
- Dec '11: Constituted ICBC Master Plan Committee
- Feb '12: Visited Islamic Centers in Dallas and Houston
- Apr '12: Professional Search for Architect Firm
- Jun '12: Architect Selection and Signing of Contract
- Aug '12: Master Plan & Design Update to Community
- Oct '12: First Planning Meeting with City of Cedar Park
- Dec '12: Site Preparation Work
- Dec '12: Ongoing effort to finalize Master Plan Design

Since the community update provided during Ramadan, the ICBC Master Plan (MP) committee has been working diligently to finalize the design/plan for our Center.

In October '12, few members of the MP committee together with our Architect had a **preliminary meeting with the City of Cedar Park** regarding the permitting process. This was our first face-to face meeting with the City regarding our Site Plan. The meeting was attended by representatives of various departments of the City, which was a testament to the significant role that the City deems that ICBC will play in the Cedar Park community. **The City displayed a very positive response to our plans, Alhamdulillah.** The preliminary discussions resulted in tasks that needed to be completed to submit a plan for approval.

As part of **Site Preparation**, we contracted a professional firm to remove unwanted trees and brush from our premises. Subsequently, a professional firm was commissioned to perform an **engineering survey** of our property.

The **first phase of construction** is expected to begin in 2013, *Insha Allah*, and will include the following:



Our community support has been overwhelming, *Alhamdulillah*. We raised over One Million Dollars in the first four years, which was used to buy the property and for several enhancements. May Allah (swt) reward you abundantly for your generosity, Aameen!



We're on the Web !!  
[www.icbrushycreek.org](http://www.icbrushycreek.org)      [info@icbrushycreek.org](mailto:info@icbrushycreek.org)


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