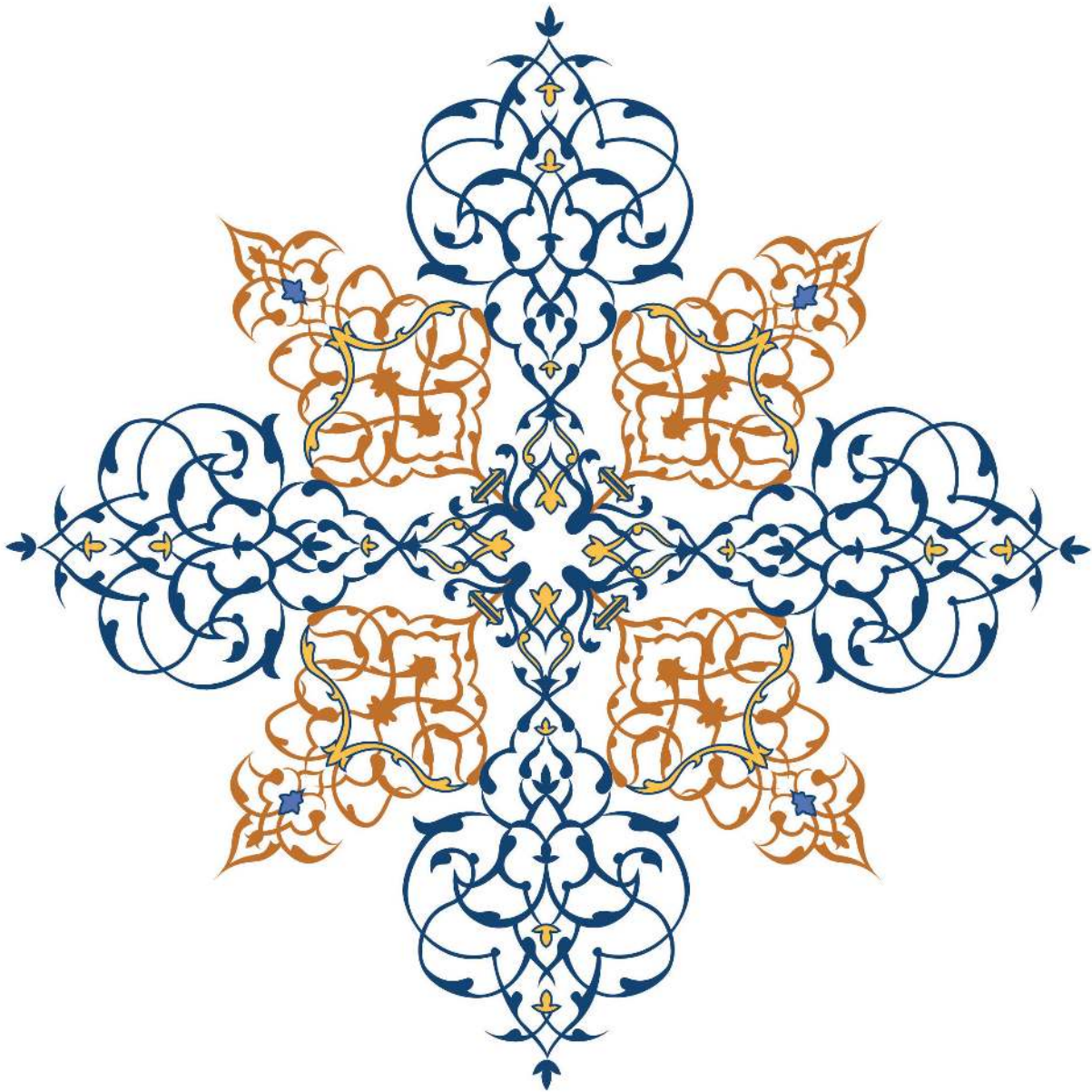




# ISLAMIC CENTER OF BRUSHY CREEK



ANNUAL REPORT **2015**



## OUR OBJECTIVE

To please Allah (swt) by following the teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah of His Prophet, Muhammad (pbuh).

## OUR VISION

To become a comprehensive center of learning and spirituality for all age groups and demographics within the Muslim community.

## OUR MISSION

To serve the Muslim community by providing various services to meet their spiritual and social needs and by promoting the values and teachings of Islam in accordance with the Qur'an and Sunnah of His Prophet, Muhammad (pbuh).

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# Foreword

## *by the Shura Council*

Eight years have elapsed since ICBC was established, Alhamdu lillah; and our community continues to experience a rapid growth. Our general membership crossed 300 last year, with increased participation by our members in various activities. We started a few new programs at our Center in 2015 to meet the spiritual and social needs of our members.

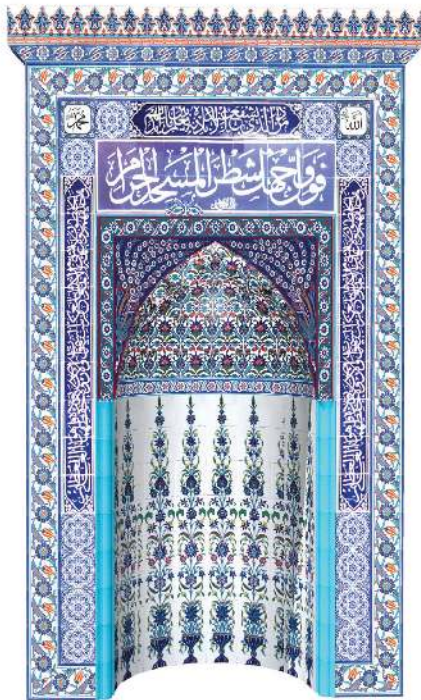
In 2012, we embarked on an ambitious project—the ICBC Master Plan—the culmination of which led to formulating a comprehensive future plan for our Center. After a lengthy permitting and approval process involving the City and other Code Bodies followed by a tedious contractor selection process, construction of the first phase of Master Plan started in January 2015. The parking lot is ready; we have about 230 parking spaces at ICBC now, Alhamdu lillah. Phase I consists of parking lot, detention pond, utilities, landscape & irrigation, basketball court and parking lot lighting. The work will be completed in the coming weeks, Insha Allah. The next step is to plan for the masjid construction.

Another initiative on which we have made tremendous progress is the search for an Imam for our Center. After an extensive search and conducting preliminary interviews with potential candidates, we will have a few candidates visit our masjid in 2016 Q1. Our goal is to hire an Imam by 2016 Q3, Insha Allah.

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 our continued work on the ICBC expansion project. 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*

**ICBC Shura Council**  
**January 2016**



# MASJID ACTIVITIES

*“a retrospective... and in continuum”*

The **Guest Lecture program**, held during the 1st Friday every month, continued to benefit us enormously, with topics ranging from the spiritual to the mundane. The lectures involved discussions with our visiting scholars, contributing to enhancement of our knowledge of Deen.

We held monthly **Qur’an Tafseer Class** every 2nd Friday of the month. The class was conducted by Mufti Umer Esmail, Resident Scholar of Nueces Masjid.

On the 3rd Friday of the month, Sheikh Attia Omara from the Austin Peace Academy conducted a monthly **Hadith Class**.

Br. Jilali Kattass from the Renaissance Academy taught **Qur’anic Arabic** every 4th Friday of the month until June 2015.

We continued the **Monthly Tahajjud program** every second Saturday of the month. Tahajjud prayers were led by several brothers followed by sumptuous potluck breakfast. This program allowed us to not just worship together but also get to know each other, which has been of immense help to the new members in our community.

The **Weekly Sisters Halaqa** was conducted every Tuesday by Sr. Shafaq Kazi in 2015. The halaqa focuses on learning Arabic in a classroom format.

The bi-weekly **Sisters’ Halaqa** was held by Sr. Haela Cloyd on Wednesdays until middle of the year.

The weekly **Qur’an Tafseer class for Sisters** held every Thursday by Dr. Atiya Arshad continued with greater participation in 2015.

## MONTHLY GUEST LECTURES

The Monthly Guest Lecture program was well attended by our community. Below is a summary of 2015 guest lectures.

2015	Speaker	Organization	Topic
February	Imam Amr Elsamny	Mercy for Mankind, Los Angeles	Da’wah Workshop
March	Sh. Islam Mossad	NAMCC (Masjid Aisha), Austin, TX	Building a Strong community
April	Sh. Touqer Shah	Masjid Maryam, Houston, TX	How to attain a high place and protect ourselves on the day where there will be no shade expect the shade of the Almighty.
May	Sh Abdullah Hernandez	Pearland Islamic Center, Houston, TX	How the Bible led me to Islam

June	Sh. Umer Esmail	Resident Scholar, Nueces Mosque	Obligations of Zakat
August	Mufti Hussain Kamani	Imam, Chicago	Islamic perspective on special needs
September	Br. Haider Imam	ICNA Austin	Being effective in the Contempo- rary Society: An analytic Review of Muslim Situation and Relevant Actions
October	Br Amjad Mohamed	ICGA	Story of Prophet Yusuf
November	Imam Qutaibah JaniAlam Abbassi	Duncanville Islamic Center	DOING WITHOUT" - a talk about Zuhd - Not allowing the materialis- tic life of this world to consume the heart and mind.
December	Br. Amjad Mohammad	ICGA	An interactive session about Umar Ibn Al-Khattab ( RA)

As we plan and organize lectures for 2016, we request everyone to attend and acquire valuable knowledge on a variety of topics. We will continue to work on improving the quality of the current programs and add new ones in the future, *Insha Allah*.

## VISITS BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Brothers in the Tablighi Jama'at visited ICBC in 2015 from various cities in the U. S. – Chicago, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio as well as Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom. May Allah (swt) reward our guests for their efforts, *Aameen!*

## JUMU'AH KHUTBAH AT ICBC

During 2015, Jumu'ah Khutbah at ICBC was delivered by the following community members.

Br. Abdul Azeem	Sheikh Islam Mossad
Br. Ahmad Mahmood	Br. Momin ur Rahman
Sheikh Ahmad Momoh	Br. Mustafa Erwa
Br. Akif Ali	Br. Shoaib Malik
Br. Amjad Mohammed	Sheikh Touqer Shah
Br. Hasan Ali	Mufti Umer Esmail
Br. Hasan Al Sukhni	Br. Wael El Essawy

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!*

# RAMADAN REFLECTIONS

All Praise be to Allah (swt) who blessed us with yet another opportunity to worship Him during the holy month of Ramadan, Alhamdu lillah! This was the 8th Ramadan at ICBC and we were privileged to have the services of Hafiz Huzayfah Bhayat and Hafiz Faizullah Bhayat from the United Kingdom.

Taraweeh prayers were led by Hafiz Huzayfah Bhayat and Hafiz Faizullah Bhayat, assisted by youth Huffaz from our community—Abdullah Mohseen and Luqman Haroon. It was a unique experience to listen to the beautiful recitation of young community members. The visiting Huffaz were moved to tears as their recitations of the Holy Qur'an was completed on the 29th night.

Every day after Fajr salah in Ramadan, the visiting Huffaz offered khatera on a variety of topics.

Qiyaam Al-Layl prayers were led during the last 10 nights by the visiting Huffaz. A record number of men, women, and children attended Qiyaam prayers at our masjid.

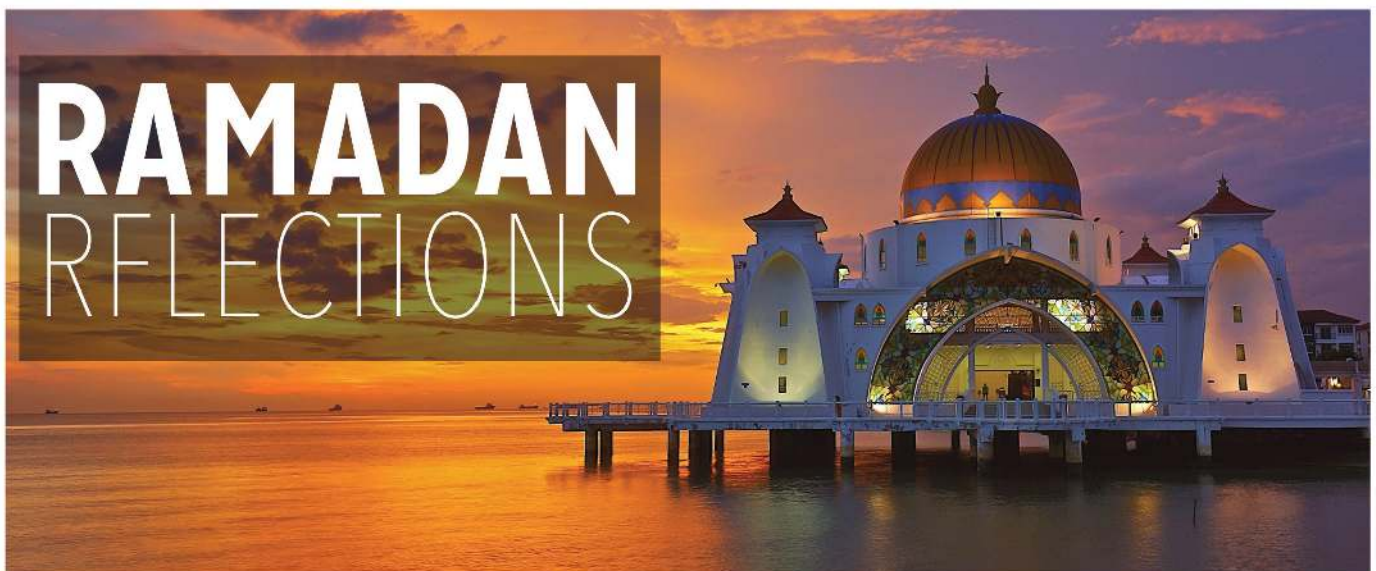
Several community members observed I'tekaf at ICBC during the last 10 days of Ramadan. May Allah (swt) accept their Ibaadah; Aameen.

The visiting Huffaz taught Qur'an to children of community members on weekdays after Asr salah. In addition, the Huffaz took the time out of their packed schedule to hold several discussions with our youth.

Just as in past years, we had iftar/dinners sponsored by generous community members every Saturday and Sunday, as well as the last two Fridays and the 27th of Ramadan. During the last 10 nights, Sahoor meals were sponsored by community members, following Qiyaam al-Layl prayers. Everyday in Ramadan, community members hosted the huffaz for iftar/dinner. Jazakum Allahu Khairan to all the sponsors!

For the first time this year, we had Youth Iftar at ICBC - for boys on Wednesdays and for girls on Fridays. The programs had excellent participation from our youth.

We had a quiz competition for youth during Ramadan. Prizes were awarded at the end of the month.



# EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

*“investing in our future”*

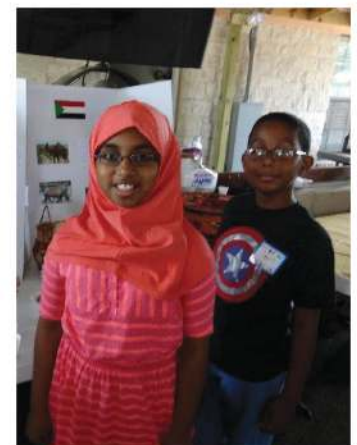
Children’s education has been a huge focus since the establishment of ICBC. Programs such as the Nazira (Qur’an reading) class, Weekend Islamic School and the bi-weekly Teenage Girls-Only program continued in 2015. And with an increasing demand, we added an additional program for elementary-aged children, which is the Weekly Friday Halaqa for young children.

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)–The Holy Qur’an. It is with this aim in mind, that ICBC provides our children an environment in which to nurture and grow their spiritual needs. These programs are targeted to complement the environment that children experience during their weeklong regular school.



These programs have the following objectives—teaching students how to read the Holy Qur’an, learning Arabic as a language, enabling students to better understand the basic beliefs and teachings of Islam in order to be practicing and responsible Muslims and citizens, in addition to providing a comprehensive and interactive forum for girls to learn more about their religion and strengthen the foundation of their beliefs.

With these goals in mind, we have attempted to tailor the curriculum to the age group and knowledge level of the students, interspersed with various activities.





The valuable feedback and support that we have received from the parents is immeasurable. As in previous years, we had several local high school Muslim students volunteering their time and talent at ICBC. These students learned the importance of inculcating Deen and service to the community in their lives, in addition to earning valuable credits for community service for their volunteer work.



Blessed with highly dedicated, well-qualified teachers and volunteers, enrollment today stands at over 100 students in the various programs. May Allah (swt) reward our teachers and volunteers for their tireless service to Islam, *Aameen!*



# YOUTH ACTIVITIES

*“looking to our future”*

The year 2015 saw a renewed focus on developing activities that enabled the youth in our community to stay connected to the Deen as well as served to reinforce the role of masjid in their lives.

We repeated the program—**“Entering Adulthood”**—in Spring ‘15 for adolescent boys. An interactive lecture delivered by Sheikh Umer Esmail, this two-hour session was of immense help in helping the boys understand their duties and responsibilities upon attaining puberty, from an Islamic perspective. We also held a separate session for teenage girls conducted by a community sister.

Girls and Boys had their own **“Night Out”** at the masjid on different days. With lectures and games, these were truly fun-filled events.



During Ramadan ‘15, we held a **Daily Quiz Contest** on various Islamic topics for our children and youth. The contest was hugely popular with several boys and girls participating with great enthusiasm. Prizes were awarded at the end of Ramadan.

We introduced a program—**Youth Iftar**—for both boys and girls separately on Wednesdays and Fridays respectively; it was very successful. In addition to Iftar dinner, the program consisted of lecture and games as well as an interactive session with the visiting Huffaz from the U. K.



**Father-Son Hike** held in both Spring and Fall time attracted participation from about 12 youth, wherein we prayed Fajr prayer at ICBC followed by a 2 hour hike at a trail on Brushy creek.

The winter event of **Top Golf** held at an outdoor golf park endeavored to get the young adults to interact together as a team.

For teenage girls, we conducted a **bi-weekly program** every Saturday. The theme of the program in 2015 was "Under the shade of Surah Yasin". The girls were directed to listen to a portion of a lecture presented by Sheikh Yasir Qadi "**The Denial\*** Tafsir of Surah Yasin" at their homes and take notes. During the program, the participants discussed the assigned sections of the lecture, compared notes, and then got new assignments. Each session concluded with an open discussion on various concerns raised by the girls. This year,



it always related to current, socio-political issues.

Our community girls held a bake sale at ICBC during Ramadan at which they raised \$524 towards masjid construction.

## **SISTERS' CORNER** *"strengthening the bonds of sisterhood"*

The **Weekly Sisters Halaqa** held on Tuesday mornings focuses on learning Arabic in a classroom format. The class provides a challenging and learning atmosphere for our sisters and is accompanied by handouts, exercises and quizzes. Tailored on the popular "Arabic with Husna" course, the program facilitates for a fun and easy learning of the Arabic language, starting from a beginner to an advanced level. Leveraging the teaching skills of Ustadh Nouman Ali Khan, and utilizing teaching aids such as Bayyinah TV, the course teaches Quranic Arabic, supplementing



the learnings with Arabic practice questions and quizzes, posted online by Sr. Shafaq Kazi. These posts on the class social media page engender an interactive and informative learning experience for our sisters. Participants were encouraged to get their own subscriptions to the Bayyinah TV.

In addition to enhancing understanding of our Deen, this program also provide a platform for sisters to socialize with one another. Every year, the class hosts a potluck lunch/gift for all the Hujjaj sisters from Greater Austin.



With the goal of understanding the Holy Quran and the Sunnah to be able to inculcate its teachings in our daily lives, a **Qur'an Tafseer Class** was held weekly on Thursdays for sisters by Dr. Atiya Arshad. With the grace of Allah, the program covered many topics from The Qur'an in 2015.

A typical weekly session covers a set of Ayat from the Holy Qur'an encompassing topics that impact our daily lives. Within the framework of a conventional Tafseer of the Qur'an, the course at-

tempts to impart attendees with an understanding of the Holy Qur'an, applicable to current times, and is primarily based on these authentic sources: Tafsir Ibn Kathir, Sahih Bukhari and Sahih Muslim. In order to better understand the message of the Qur'an concerning a given topic, the lecture is supplemented with explanations from various academic disciplines, such as Medical sciences, Astronomy, Earth sciences, etc., as applicable. The program format heavily emphasizes class participation with intense interactive discussions via analytical questions which not only helps acquire a better understanding of the subject but also maintains the interest level of the attendees.

Another halaqa was held every alternate Wednesdays for sisters by Sr. Haela Cloyd until the middle of 2015. The goal of the **Bi-Weekly Halaqa** was to seek knowledge from the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet (pbuh) and implement Islam as a true way of life. The halaqa involves listening to lectures by learned scholars such as Sheikh Yasir Qadi, Sheikh Abu Ameenah and Sheikh Bilal Philips. The participants also studied several books by various mainstream scholars.

## DA'WAH AND OUTREACH

*"spreading the word"*

*"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."* (Al-Qur'an Surah Al-Nahl, Ayat 125)

Alhamdu lillah, as with prior years, Da'wah activities continued at ICBC. We conducted a da'wah workshop led by Imam Amr ElSamny of Mercy for Mankind in 2015. Several community members attended and benefited from the weekend workshop. This knowledge about the various aspects of Da'wah techniques will help us all our lives, bi-ed-nillah.

We also reached out to people of other faith. People from local churches and other religious organizations as well as several individuals and their families visited our Islamic Center. They were given a tour of the masjid and were demonstrated our prayer rituals. In addition, presentations and discussions were also held about various aspects of Islam, including but not limited to, the oneness of Allah (swt), worship, modesty, and disapproval of terrorism in Islam. We were also invited to present Islam to middle school students at the Cedar Ridge middle school.

We continued to help new Muslim reverts with educational and social support, as needed.

ICBC represented Islamic circle at the TAASA Men of Faith Summit to strengthen working bond with the following area organizations:

*TAASA - Texas Association Against Sexual Assault*

*TCFV - Texas Council on Family Violence*

*Safe Place - for distressed women shelters*

*WAPI - Women Advocacy Project Inc.*

*Houston Area Women's Center*

*National Hispanic Crime prevention organization*

Post-summit, several meetings were initiated with these organizations, such as, presenting to a Round Rock-based Church High School on the topic of Muslim family matters and the status of Women in Islam; observance of national month against sexual assault; participating at the Asian Family Support Services of Austin with an ICBC booth on domestic violence awareness; and providing support to the Houston area safe place.



In November 2014, we hosted Rep. Tony Dale, Texas House of Representatives, who spent over an hour with community members discussing topics of shared interests, centering on the goal of creating a diverse and vibrant community.

In a separate session, ICBC Executive Board met with the Cedar Park Chief of Police, Sean Mannix, to discuss safety and security concerns.

## FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT

*"work always in progress"*

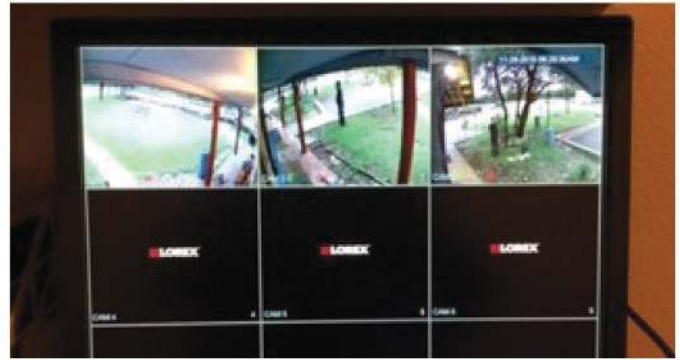
With Ramadan around the corner, the Facility maintenance team was tasked by the Executive Board to implement a plan to accommodate the increased attendance at our Masjid, especially during Ramadan. For this purpose, the Shura Council approved the plan for renovation of the prayer halls and bathroom facilities. Work was completed in about 6 weeks at the cost of approx. \$35K. The Men's prayer hall capacity was significantly increased such that we were able to accommodate an additional 75 people, Alhamdu lillah. This gain was very helpful during Ramadan when over 200 men, women and children attended our Masjid. In addition, our girl scouts also took upon themselves to paint the inside of the Multi-Purpose hall. And as part of the renovation, with the generous donation by one of our sisters, the carpet in the Multi-Purpose Hall was changed as well. The renovation also included new bathroom facilities.



Introduction of new programs demanded additional classroom/teaching space at our Masjid. The Maintenance Committee, with the assistance of dedicated community volunteers, was able to convert the men's deck into usable classroom space so that our programs, especially the Sunday school and the Friday Halaqa, can utilize them.



With heightened concerns about the safety and security of our members and our premises, we have installed security cameras at the property. Additional cameras are in the process of being installed.



This year, in an effort to inculcate the importance of taking care of our natural resources, we installed a special recycling station for plastic water bottles at our Center. We recycled approx. 5,000 bottles during 2015!

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

*"it's not all work"*

The social committee had an active year in 2015. We held **Community Potluck Dinner** events on the first Friday of several months.

In addition, the committee organized iftar/dinner and suhoor during Ramadan.



We also embarked on a new initiative of holding “**CPR Certificate Training Program**” partnering with Heartsaver to provide First Aid CPR/AED training to our community members. The training was provided by experienced professional trainers from Baylor Scott and White Hospital. This program was very well received by the community members and the classes filled up quickly. Over 80 community members participated and earned certificates.



We plan to conduct this training on a regular basis as it trains individuals to be able to recognize several life-threatening emergencies with adult, child, and infant victims and help relieve choking in a safe, effective and timely manner.

### ChAMP – a support group for parents of special needs children

In 2015, ICBC started ChAMP (Championing and Assisting Muslim People) - a peer-to-peer support group for parents of special needs children. Throughout the year, ChAMP had several activities.

- Friday Khutbahs by local and national speakers on precedence in Sunnah to support special needs people
- Interface with a national support group–MUHSEN–for Muslim special needs people
- Educational sessions - speakers from various Texas Agencies discussed rules and regulations as they apply to special needs people.
- ChAMP sponsored Iftar for families with special needs members
- Catered to special needs children’s Islamic education in ICBC Weekend Islamic School
- Provided moral and financial support to a family with special needs children settling in Austin

*ChAMP families would love to increase their support group. Those interested in joining can attend ChAMP meetings and participate in the activities.*



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**“Let’s join hands for a united and inclusive community”**

ICBC Presents

**C**hampioning &  
**A**ssisting  
**M**uslim  
**P**eople



**Prophet Mohammad (pbuh) said:  
 “Whosoever helps his brother in his time of need,  
 Allah (swt) will help him in his time of need” - Sahih Muslim.**

A peer-to-peer support group for families with special needs kids. For more information, please visit our website.

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

*“money matters”*

We conducted fundraisers in April '15 and Ramadan '15 to execute the ICBC Master Plan and the community support was truly overwhelming! We raised approx. \$374K in pledges and donations in 2015.

We also collected approx. \$5K from the community towards hadiya for the Ramadan Huffaz.

Jazakum Allahu Khairan for your support. May Allah (swt) reward you and your families by multiplying manifold your generous donations and effort, Allahumma Aameen!

**SADAQAH AND ZAKAT FUNDS:** We collected approx. \$13K in Zakat funds and approx. \$16K in Sadaqah funds in 2015. The money was disbursed to the needy after a careful and thorough review of the applicants.

**ZAKAT UL FITR:** As in prior years, Zakat ul Fitr was collected and distributed to the needy before Eid sala'at.

Several organizations held fundraisers at ICBC in 2015, as listed below:

- Darul Uloom Austin (DUA)
- Furqan Foundation
- Islamic Relief USA
- Mercy for Mankind
- Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA)

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

ICBC is a tax exempt organization, under IRS tax code 501 (c)(3). EIN 223970054. Your donations are tax deductible.

# WELCOME & ORIENTATION

*“making newcomers feel at home.....”*

The Cedar Park/ Leander area is regarded as of one of the best choices for Muslim families moving to Austin; with good education, attractive housing and an abundance of outdoor and religious activities.

In 2015, the Welcome & Orientation Committee has helped many families that were considering a move to the Greater Austin. Upon receiving inquiries from Muslims from all over the country, the Committee educated them about the various programs we offer for adults, youth, sisters and children. The committee continued its task of welcoming newcomers to our community and addressing their immediate needs. As part of its

scope of work, the Committee has developed a welcome package that provides details about local Austin-area masjid, membership benefits, Islamic schools, grocery stores selling halal foods, etc.

New members are immediately added to the ICBC mailing list so they can stay tuned to our events and activities.

In 2015, we have seen an increase of refugee Muslim families moving to Austin from other parts of the world. This committee is tasked with providing the necessary assistance to our brothers and sisters.



# SHURA COUNCIL ELECTIONS

*“continued community involvement”*

Pursuant to the ICBC Constitution, we held elections for 9 open Shura Council positions in December 2015. This was the fourth elections at ICBC. As part of the preparation for the elections, we launched an extensive membership drive for several weeks. Approx. 260 community members became eligible to vote based on the criteria set forth in the ICBC Constitution, Alhamdu lillah.

We received 13 nominations for 9 open positions. We take this opportunity to thank the community for participating in the election process by nominating dedicated and committed people to serve on the Shura Council. 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.

Below is a list of members who retired from the Shura Council in 2015 and the current Shura Council. We thank the retiring members for their tireless service as ICBC Shura members. May Allah (swt) reward them for their efforts, Aameen!

## **Members whose terms expired in Dec ‘15 and did not return to Shura Council**

Bazil Farid      Farhat Siddiqui      Kalim Mirza      Khwaja Murshed      Mujahid Masood

## **New members elected to the Shura Council (in Dec ‘15)**

Altaf Hussain	Erik Lough	Hassan Al Sukhni
Imtiaz Hussain	Masood Khan	Mohamed Khanfar
Salah U Din	Shaik Mohseen	Tom Cloyd

# ICBC ADMINISTRATION

*“serving the community”*

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

In accordance with the ICBC Constitution, the Executive Board (EB) is the highest executive authority at ICBC and is responsible for running all day-to-day operations. The Executive Board has a 2-year term and a new EB will be elected by the Shura Council in February 2016.

### **Executive Board 2014 - 2015**

Chairman	Shaik Mohseen
Vice-Chairman	Ahmed Mahmoud
Secretary	Imtiaz Hussain
Treasurer	Altaf Hussain
EB Member	Hisham Hammour

# SHURA COUNCIL

The Shura Council consists of 19 members elected by the community. The following members are currently serving in the Shura Council.

Ahmed Mahmoud	Altaf Hussain	Arshad Murtaza	Asif Zaidi
Chand Basha	D'Shah Karanch	Erik Lough	Hassan Al Sukhni
Hisham Hammour	Iba Sambe	Imtiaz Hussain	Kayser Nazmee
Masood Khan	Mohamed Khanfar	Mustafa Erwa	Salah U Din
Sayed Naina	Shaik Mohseen	Tom Cloyd	

## ICBC COMMITTEES

*“divvying up the work.....”*

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

Administration	Education	Sisters' Affairs
Community Welfare	Facilities Maintenance	Social Activities
Communications	Financial	Welcome & Orientation
Da'wah & Outreach	Masjid Activities	Youth Activities

The scope of each of these committees is detailed at the ICBC Web Site. Additionally, the following ad hoc committees are in place—Fundraising, Imam Search, and Master Plan.

## IMAM SEARCH UPDATE

*“investing in the spiritual leadership”*

In 2012, we formed an ad-hoc committee to conduct feasibility studies on hiring an Imam and/or Youth Director for our Center. The charter for this Committee was to understand the needs of our community and plan ahead, in parallel to the master planning process, to ensure we have the best person who will enable us to take ICBC to the next level. After detailed deliberations, the committee conducted a survey for this purpose, and received about 70 responses from community members. Based on the feedback, the Committee recommended to the Shura Council to start the search for an Imam for our Center.

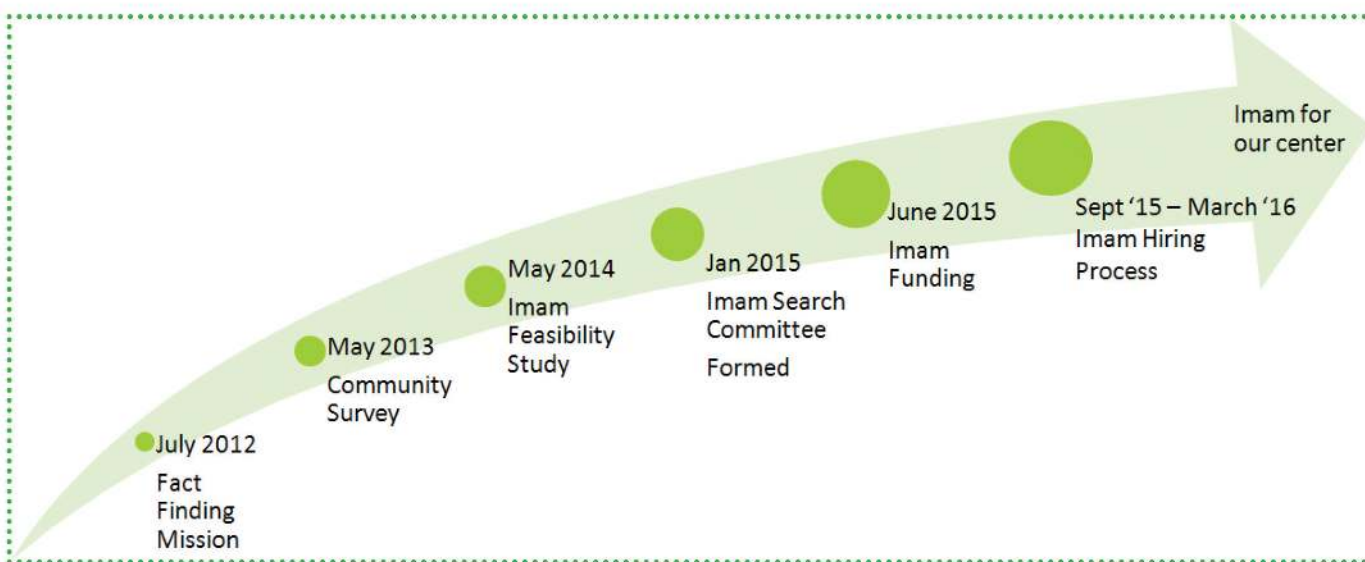
In January 2015, we formed an Imam Search Committee with a mandate to initiate a search and submit a short list of candidates.

Alhamdu lillah, we have entered into the phase where we are interviewing the potential candidates for the position of Imam for ICBC. We went through a detailed exercise of laying down the right process with the help of the community. The following tasks were completed in 2015.

1. Conducted feasibility studies with several deliberations and consultations
2. Advertised for the Imam position through multiple channels
3. Reviewed all resumes received from almost all parts of the world
4. Short listed candidates based on the job requirements
5. Phone screening of Tier 1 candidates
6. Scheduled selected candidates to visit ICBC for community interactions, including special sessions with Sisters and Youth
7. Working to finalize a contract document
8. Updated community on the progress of the Imam search
9. Secured sufficient financial commitments from community members



In 2016 Q1, we will conduct a face-to-face interview with a few candidates and based on the feedback from community members, we expect to finalize the candidate by 2016 Q3, *Insha Allah*.



# ICBC MASTER PLAN

*“working towards a DREAM project”*

We embarked on an ambitious project in 2012—the **ICBC Master Plan**—the culmination of which led to formulating a comprehensive future plan for our Center. At various stages during the planning process, we solicited your opinion and feedback, and organized community meetings to understand your wants and needs, which were greatly instrumental in helping us convert the conceptual Master Plan into a phased-out implementation process. The Master Plan includes a new Masjid, Parking lot, Educational facilities, Sports area, and Multi-purpose Hall.

After several discussions with the City, we received the approval to start parking lot construction in November 2014. Following a thorough contractor selection process, the actual construction work began in February 2015. The work consisted of the following - Parking lot, Detention pond, Utilities, Landscape & Irrigation, Basketball Court, and Parking lot lighting.



A professional play scape for children was installed in March 2014.

Utilities related work was completed around September 2015.

Asphalt paving of the parking lot was completed in December 2015. We have approx. 230 parking spaces at ICBC now, Alhamdu lillah.

Detention pond and basketball court construction work is in progress.

Irrigation and landscape works are in progress and expected to be completed in February 2015 Insha Allah. Thereafter, we will work on parking lot lighting.

## TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE

To allow us to communicate instantly with our community members, we have subscribed to a Text Messaging service for ICBC. Whereas weekly emails and Friday announcements (after Jumu'ah salah) are our primary methods of reaching out to the community, text messaging will be an effective tool in broadcasting urgent messages, Insha Allah.

To signup, please send a text to 77948 and type "ICBC" in the message. You can opt out at any time by sending a text with the message 'STOP'.



## FUTURE PLAN

*"in the works"*

Our primary focus for 2016 is two-fold: Completion of Phase I of the ICBC Master Plan and hiring an Imam for our Center. In addition, we will be launching the following programs in 2016, InshaAllah.

- Qur'an Tajweed class for Men
- Open House for the general community
- Renewed focus on youth activities
- Plan for Masjid construction (Phase II of the ICBC Master Plan)

As always, we will, Insha Allah, continue our focus on the educational activities, for both adults and children, even as we work towards increasing attendance at our beloved Center.



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