



ISLAMIC CENTER OF
BRUSHY CREEK

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REFLECTIONS ON RAMADAN 1444H (2023)

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PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

ALL PRAISE TO ALLAH (SWT) who blessed us with yet another opportunity to worship Him during the blessed month of Ramadan, *Alhamdu Lillah!* This was the 16th Ramadan at ICBC and it was yet another memorable one for us. With the exponential growth of our community, a record number of people attended prayers and other activities at our Center, *Masha Allah.*

Below is a recap of programs and activities held at our masjid during the blessed month.



Tarawih prayers every night

Taraweeh prayers were led by Hafiz Sumama Abdul Waheed from Dallas. He was assisted by Imam Jawad Rasul and the following huffaz in our community.

- o Hafiz Abdul Muhaymin
- o Hafiz Amgad Neematallah
- o Hafiz ElFatih Eltayeb
- o Hafiz Mohammed Elattar
- o Hafiz Wael ElEssawy



Khatam al Quran & Dua'a

Hafiz Sumama completed recitation of the Holy Qur'an on the 29th night followed by a lengthy dua'a. At the conclusion, sweets were distributed to all attendees.





Qiyaam prayers

Qiyaam Al-Layl prayers were led during the last 10 nights by Hafiz Sumama.



“Pearls of Wisdom” from the Holy Qur’an

After 4 rak’ah of Tarawih prayer every day, Imam Jawad did a khatera focused on the social aspects relevant to our lives adopted from the Holy Qur’an.



Khatera After Fajr

Imam Jawad offered a khatera after Fajr on the lives of our beloved Sahabas (Companions of the Prophet PBUH).



Qur’an recitation class (for brothers)

Every Saturday and Sunday after Fajr salah, Br. Amgad Neematallah taught the basics of recitation of the Holy Qur’an.



I’tikaaf

One brother in our community observed *I’tikaaf* at our masjid during the last 10 days of Ramadan. Several brothers spent a few days at a time in *I’tikaaf*. May Allah (swt) accept their *Ibaadah*, *Aameen*.



Khateeb for Jumu’ah prayers

Imam Jawaad Rasul delivered all khutbah for all Jumu’ah prayers during the blessed month

IFTAR/DINNER AND SUHOOR

Community Iftar

We had community Iftar/dinners sponsored by generous community members every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. A record number of people attended, with attendance ranging from 750 to 950 people.

Taking into consideration the health and safety of our community, we contracted with local restaurants to cater food for all dinners. Food was served in pre-packaged boxes only.

At \$300 per sponsorship, we had a total of 343 sponsorships; total donations received was \$102,982. *Jazakum Allahu Khairan* to all the sponsors!



First Responder Iftar

On April 9th, the Cedar Park First Responder Team joined us for Iftar/Dinner.

Revert Muslim Iftar

On April 14th, we hosted a special Iftar for our Revert Muslim brothers and sisters. Organized as an exclusive event for Revert Muslims only, about 25 people attended.



Interfaith Iftar

On April 16th, members of the local Church of Latter-Day Saints hosted us for Iftar at their Church. About 25 members led by our Imam Jawad attended.



Suhoor Meals

During the last 9 nights, Suhoor meals were provided at the masjid at the end of *Qiyaam al-Layl* prayers. The meals were sponsored by generous community members and local Muslim-Owned businesses. *Jazakum Allahu Khairan* to the sponsors!



YOUTH PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Masjid Decoration by our Youth

Our youth had decorated the masjid interior and exterior with lighting and appropriate Islamic decorative elements at the start of Ramadan.



Islamic Quiz Contest

We conducted quiz contest daily for our youth every night. The questions were based on Imam Jawad's Khatera from the previous night. Over 80 children and youth participated. Prizes were awarded to the top performers.



ICBC Kids' Ramadan Journal

Kids 4 and above were encouraged to keep track of their Ramadan activities (daily salah, fasting, tarawih, charity, voluntary work, etc.) to be endorsed by a parent. The journals were submitted to ICBC at the end of Ramadan and all participating kids were given an award.





Youth Qiyaam Nights

We had separate Qiyaam nights for Boys (on April 15th) and Girls (on April 14th). The program involved discussion on spirituality relevant to the younger generation, Halaqa, Ibadah, Games, etc. About 140 boys and 120 girls attended the separate, all-night sessions.

“Bring Your Youth Friends” Iftar

On April 2nd, our community youth boys and girls hosted an Iftar for their non-Muslim friends.



Bake Sale by Youth

During the blessed month, our youth boys and girls conducted bake sale on April 8th and 9th. Additionally, our Girl Scout team conducted bake sale on April 14th and 15th of the month. About \$9,000 was raised from the sales and matching donations from generous community members. The proceeds were donated to the construction funds of the ICBC Educational & Activities Center (EAC).

Jazakum Allahu Khairan to all the community youth girls and their parents for their participation as well as to the general community for their support of this great initiative by our youth.

HELPING THE COMMUNITY

Food Distribution

In partnership with ICNA Austin, we distributed food packages to those in need on Saturday, April 15th. Thanks to all the volunteers for their assistance.



Zakat Al Fitr

Zakat Al Fitr was established at \$15 for every individual in the household. We collected Zakat Al Fitr funds throughout the month. A total of \$53,662 was received and disbursed to eligible Muslim families in the Greater Austin area.



Supporting Worthy Causes

During the blessed month, several outside organizations—Islamic schools, Masajid, Da'wah groups, Relief organizations, etc., set up tables outside the Masjid during every night and Friday Jumu'ah to appeal for funds for their respective causes. A total of 26 organizations were hosted by ICBC and the community support was truly overwhelming. *Jazakum Allahu Khairan!*

Below is a list of organizations that visited our Center in Ramadan.

| Date | Organization | Date | Organization |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Friday, March 24 th | Helping Hands | Thursday, April 6 th | Life for Relief & Development |
| Saturday, March 25 th | SEED—Support for Educational & Economic Development | Friday, April 7 th | Sonar Bangla Foundation A Continuous Charity |
| Sunday, March 26 th | Syrian Forum USA | Saturday, April 8 th | Greater Austin Muslim Relief Committee |
| Monday, March 27 th | Muslim Legal Fund of America | Sunday, April 9 th | ICNA Austin Food Pantry |
| Tuesday, March 28 th | Pure Hands | Monday, April 10 th | Quad City Islamic Center |
| Wednesday, March 29 th | Islam in Spanish | Tuesday, April 11 th | Austin Peace Academy |
| Friday, March 31 st | The Citizens Foundation USA Darus Salaam New York | Thursday, April 13 th | Muslim Aid |
| Saturday, April 1 st | Burmese Muslim Community of Amarillo | Friday, April 14 th | ECHO (Educational Charitable & Humanitarian Organization) |
| Sunday, April 2 nd | Renaissance Academy | Sunday, April 16 th | Darul Uloom Austin |
| Tuesday, April 4 th | Baitul Maal | Tuesday, April 18 th | Georgetown Islamic Center |
| Wednesday, April 5 th | Mercy Without Limit | Wednesday, April 19 th | Council on American-Islamic Relations |

FACILITIES, PARKING AND SECURITY



Families with Special Needs Children

This year, we allocated the Men's Old Masjid for the exclusive use of families with special needs children. There was audio & video feed so the attendees could follow the Imam leading the prayers.



Masjid Cleaning

A professional janitorial services firm was employed to clean the masjid daily during Ramadan. Inside and outside twice every day. In addition, a separate cleaning crew was employed to clean outside after Iftar.



Go Green Initiative

As part of our recently launched ambitious project at our masjid, we adopted/promoted the following initiatives.



No plastic water bottles



Bring your own bottles



Refill water bottles at filling stations



No Styrofoam products



Bike to the Masjid, when possible

In the spirit of environmental conservation, we provided drinking water through water dispensers instead of individual water bottles. We encourage the community members to bring their own reusable water bottles.

Unlike in prior Ramadans, we had minimal water bottles disposed this year. We thank everyone for their support, cooperation, and active participation in this noble initiative.



Security

We contracted with the Cedar Park Police Department (CPPD) to deploy Off-Duty police to provide security at our Center during Friday Jumu'ah prayer times as well as during Tarawih prayers, Community Iftar (Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays), Youth Qiyaam nights, and the five Eid prayer sessions. We used the services of two contracted personnel for traffic control.

Additionally, the Cedar Park Police department had also increased surveillance at our premises throughout the day. May Allah SWT protect us and keep us safe, *Aameen*.



Parking Arrangements

Whereas we are blessed with approx. 220 parking spaces at our Center, we ran out of parking on several days and had to use the in-field lawn area to park ~30 vehicles and secured the land from our next-door neighbor that allowed us to park an additional 70 vehicles. With increased needs, we got permission from the Vista Ridge High School to park vehicles at their parking lot. We arranged a shuttle services to/from VR High School and ICBC. Approx. 100 cars between were parked between the additional locations.

We had secured permission from the Vista Ridge High School (VRHS) to use their parking lot from 9 PM onwards that allowed us to park up to 100 vehicles for those who came for Isha/Taraweeh. We employed shuttle services to/from the Vista Ridge High School to ICBC every 5-10 minutes to facilitate transportation to the masjid.



MASTER PLAN UPDATE AND FUNDRAISING

With the construction of the Educational Activities Center (EAC) in full swing, we presented details of the EAC followed by a fundraiser on April; 15th. The community support was truly overwhelming. We met our target of \$1.6 Million, *Alhamdu lillah*. Our sincere appreciation to everyone for their generous donations and support. *Jazakum Allahu Khairan!*

If you missed the fundraiser and wish to donate, click
<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/charity/1302331>



SCAN THE QR CODE

For details of the ICBC Master Plan, please visit
<https://icbrushycreek.org/icbc-master-plan/>



SCAN THE QR CODE

EID PRAYERS

Eid Al Fitr prayers were conducted at our masjid on April 15th. We had initially scheduled three prayer sessions, with 300 vehicle registrations issued for each session. With all three sessions full and about 300 vehicles on wait list for parking tags, we organized a 4th prayer session, which was also fully booked. We ended up conducting a 5th prayer session as well.

The following brothers conducted the Eid prayers.

| Session | Khateeb |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 st | Sheikh Attia Omara |
| 2 nd | Br. Mustafa Erwa |
| 3 rd | Imam Jawad Rasul |
| 4 rd | Imam Jawad Rasul |
| 5 rd | Imam Jawad Rasul |

About 3,000 people attended Eid salah at our masjid. *Allahu Akbar!*



ICBC VOLUNTEERING TEAM

Our deep appreciation to all the volunteers, especially our sisters and youth boys and girls, for their tireless effort at our masjid during Ramadan.

For the first time ever, we were able to assemble an incredible team of dedicated volunteers. About 100 brothers, sisters, youth and children helped with the various activities such as, Iftar and Suhoor logistics, Parking coordination, Bake sale, Qur'an competition, Fundraising event, Eid prayers, etc. Sporting a colorful vest, the volunteers could not be missed; they were present all over the ICBC premises. Our programs and activities were made possible only with the assistance of our committed volunteers.



We pray that Allah SWT reward all our volunteers for devoting their valuable time in the blessed month for our masjid, Aameen!

To conclude, we express our gratitude to our beloved community for their unconditional support throughout the years. We pray that Allah (swt) accept our Ibaadah in the holy month and admit us into His Paradise, Aameen!

Jazakum Allahu Khairan

The Executive Board
Islamic Center of Brushy Creek (ICBC)

April 27, 2023