# Living **Prophetically**

The Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center



## Introduction to Living Prophetically

Allah (swt) said, 'The Messenger of God is an excellent model for those of you who put your hope in God and the Last Day and remember Him often.' (33:21)

Assalamu 'Alaykum, may the Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon you,

Through the grace of Allah (swt) we have reached another Ramadan. This year at the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, we strove to imbue each effort and service with the example of our Beloved Messenger, may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him. We, as ever, strove to create a home away from home, a tadhkira, a spiritual sanctuary and reminder of Allah (swt).

Through the past year, Shaykh Yasir taught repeatedly on what it means to live Prophetically. Through – ilm (knowledge), ihsan (lived spirituality), ummah (community), and khidma (service) – we orient ourselves to a journey in the footsteps of the Prophet Muhammad .

The ISBCC sought to embody these four spheres. The pages to come delineate how our programs have been shaped by them and how they truly impact our community's spiritual and religious maturation.

We encourage you to read this report to see the impact of your commitment to this center for the sake of Allah (swt).

With peace and blessings, The ISBCC team



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#### **Our Community**











20%

are converts



#### **Our Reach**

Today, the tradition of dawah is more generally spoken of as marketing. Through the use of best practice marketing strategies, we can help to spread the teachings of authentic Islam in the tradition of our Prophet. This includes the use of social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) that allow the ISBCC to spread the news of our actions and events to people locally and globally. In particular, the ISBCC regularly livestreams Khutbahs (sermons) and Halaqas (lectures) so that community members who cannot make it to the center can still benefit from the teachings of the Prophet and from the feeling of inclusion in a community. With the help of our Marketing Director Mustafa Hannigan, we have made the following accomplishments:





7,000

users per month



#### minutes

ISBCC's Khutbahs and Halaqa have accumulated over 7 million minutes of viewership

#### **Our Supporters**

of I urge all national Masjid directors to take some time off and go visit/study the operations of the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC).

#### **Imam Tahir Anwar**

An Imam for twenty years in the Bay Area

of the board of rabbis, said the leadership of Vali and Fahmy [at ISBCC], 'who I now feel I know personally,' has made a difference [in Muslim-Judeo relationships]. 99

**Boston Globe** 







Scholars are the inheritors of the Prophets

Tirmidi



#### **Seekers of Knowledge**

This year, Shaykh Yasir blessed us with knowledge of the traditional Islamic sciences through five courses: Imam Al-Ghazali's Etiquettes of Engaging the Quran, Etiquettes of Seeking Knowledge in the Islamic Tradition, Aqidah (Islamic theology) Intensive, and Aqidah Level 1.

#### **Umrah**

The footsteps of the Prophet  $\leq$  lead to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. To follow in these footsteps, members of our community joined Shaykh Yasir and the Medina Institute's Ustadh Moutasem Atiya to make the magnificent Umrah.



#### **Communtiy Hikes**

Shaykh Yasir has also led ISBCC members on community hikes which revive the Prophetic tradition of reflection and tadabbor - to find Allah (swt) and oneself among His signs in nature.

#### teamFajr

Part of Shaykh Yasir's vision includes creating a greater reverence for the blessed time surrounding the pre-dawn prayer, Fajr. The ISBCC's teamFajr consists of a group of dedicated aspirants who join together to support one another's efforts to participate in the early morning supplication. The teamFajr experience includes Fajr prayer in congregation, recitation of the Mathurat and Quran together, Duha prayer followed by a communal breakfast.

#### **Office Hours**

Twice a week for two hours Shaykh Yasir counsels and provides fatwas to community members, so that they can live their lives in accordance with the pleasure of Allah and His Messenger.

To be with and studying under Shaykh Yasir is to nourish oneself from a beloved teacher who models living Prophetically.

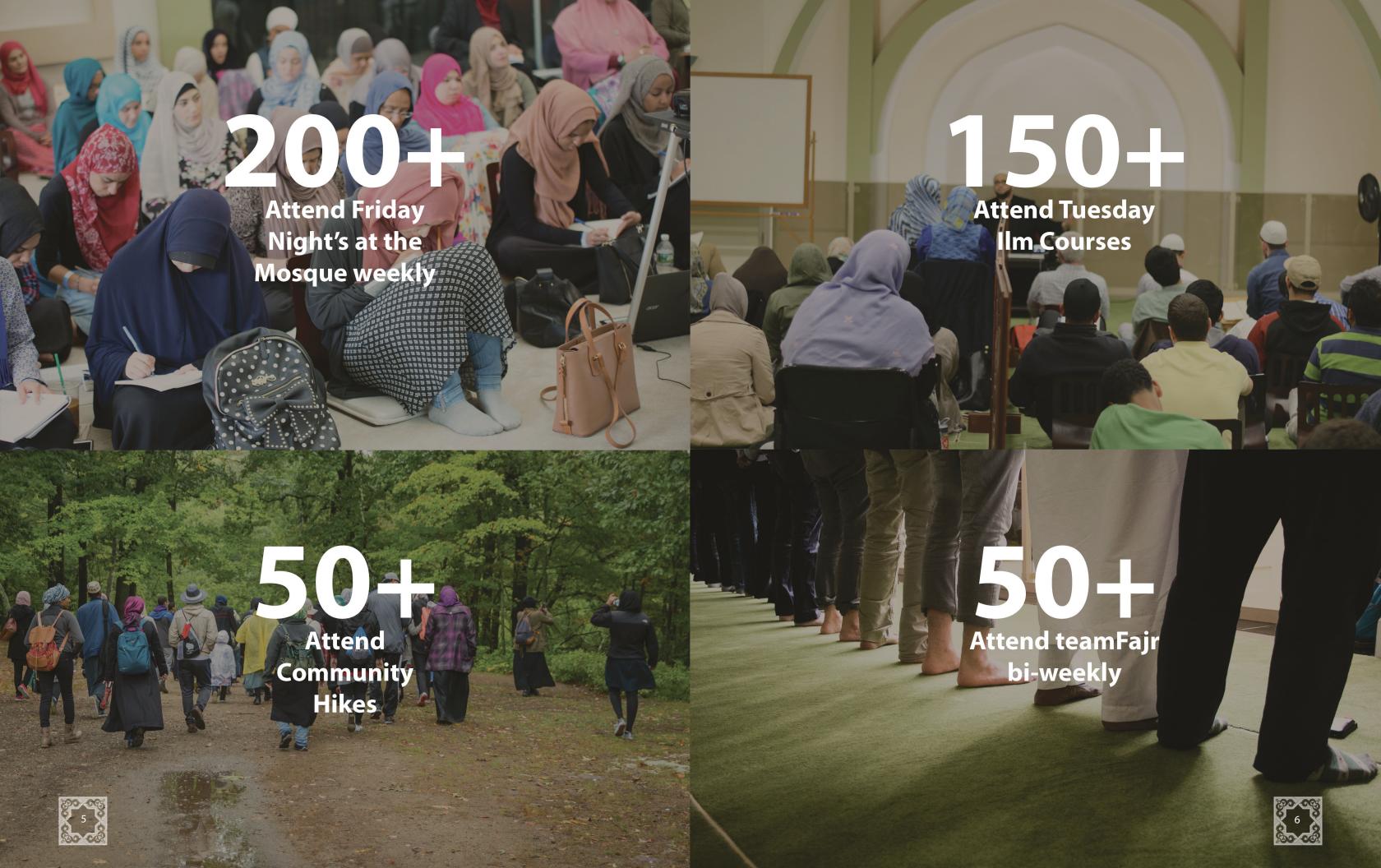
#### **Religious Programming Team**

By Allah, if a single person is guided by Allah (swt) through you, it will be better for you than a whole lot of red camels. [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

It is through the work of Hayfaa Ali, the Executive Assistant to the Senior Imam, and the team of diligent volunteers that our religious programs —classes, halaqas, and umrah trips— are possible. May Allah bless them and increase them in knowledge, rida, and levels of Jannah for each community member who benefits.

Hayfaa Ali Maryam Ismail Ameerah Saker Muhammad Haque





# Guest



Shaykh Mokhtar Maghraoui



Shaykh **Abdullah Hamid Ali** 



Nobel Peace Laureate
Tawakkol Karman



Ustadh Moutasem Atiya



Imam
Suhaib Webb



Shaykh Said el Kamali



Ustadh AbdelRahman Murphy



Doctor
Altaf Husain



Shaykh Muhammad Mendes



Shaykh
Joe Bradford



Mufti **Hussain Kamani** 



Shaykh Jamaal Diwan



Shaykh Hasib Noor



Shaykh Kamal el-Mekki



Shaykh Sohail Hanif



Shaykh Mowlid Khalif Ali





## Imam **Abdul-Malik Merchant**

Associate Imam

After ten years of intensive study in Mecca with respected scholars, Imam Abdul-Malik has effortlessly joined the spiritual team this past year. Imam Abdul-Malik brings a rich crosscultural sensibility to his position of Associate Imam, one that encompasses working with inner city youth in Washington, D.C., as well as giving khutbas and teaching classes as a Junior Resident Scholar. His valuable experience as a mentor and life coach has further prepared him for his pastoral care responsibilities within the ISBCC.

The community has been overjoyed and delighted with his addition, as was requested by the ISBCC family, he is regularly present to assist with personal, familial, and communal welfare. Like a shepherd caring for his flock, Imam Abdul-Malik tends to to our community's needs on the ground by watching over, nurturing, and guiding us through, not only moments of difficulty, but also celebration. His pastoral care work centers on caring for the spiritual, emotional, and social needs of our community. Imam Abdul-Malik is often the bridge to an oasis of care from mental health practitioners and is leading the way in overcoming the stigma of mental health in our community.

# 21 Shahadas

**New Muslim Engagement** 

A convert to Islam himself, Imam Abdul-Malik understands the pressures, questions, and anxieties that may exist for a new Muslim, as well as the beauty and richness of newfound faith. His firsthand experience has allowed him to care for and engage New Muslims on their journey of transitioning into the community. Statement about welcome bag.

Marriages

Nikah's and Matchmaking

Imam Abdul-Malik has stabilized and polished our Nikah service. Imam Abdul-Malik is also working to strengthen our community by matchmaking suitable young people with one another, while also mentoring our young adults on preparing for marriage.

10

Prison Visits

#### **Prison Outreach**

Our beloved messenger would command prisoners of war, who were combatants of his, to be well taken care of by his companions. If they were his enemies, what about those that are a part of his ummah? Imam Abdul-Malik has been visiting two prisons on a bi-monthly basis building meaningful relationships and offering spiritual pastoral services to one of the most oft-forgotten parts of our community, those behind the wall. Imam Abdul-Malik is also researching and strategizing how we can best serve those beyond the wall by supporting successful reentry back into the community.

Khutbahs

#### Khutbahs around the city

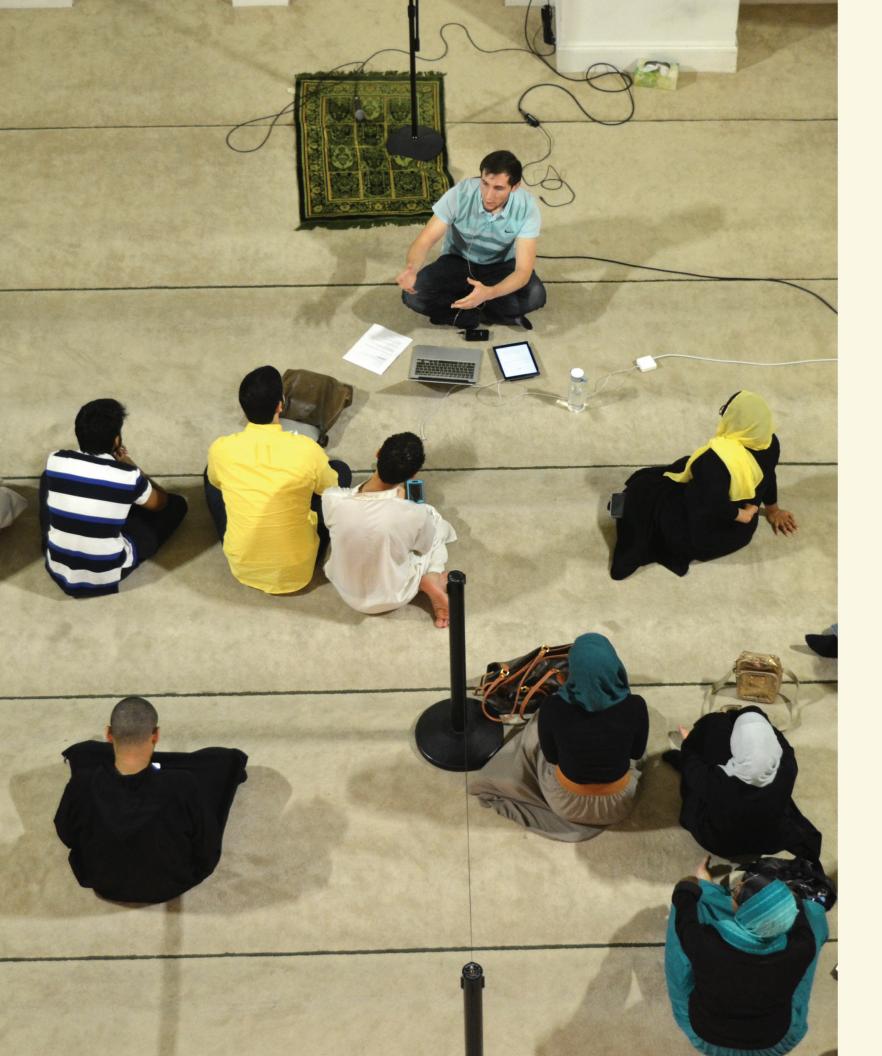
In addition to giving the khutbah at ISBCC regularly (7 times), Imam Abdul-Malik has given khutbah at Northeastern (3) and Downtown (7) times.











# People are like mines of gold and silver

Muslim



A hallmark of what makes our Boston community so unique is the droves of students that come to pursue higher education at the assembly of acclaimed universities and colleges nearby. They are our future leaders. With this in mind and due to a strong plea from our Boston area parents, we were blessed to bring on our MAS Youth Director at the ISBCC, Samer Naseredden. Samer enjoys working with young people and seasoning their unbridled passion with unparalleled commitment, consistency, and discipline. His mission is to cultivate leaders by refining the gold our beloved Messenger proclaimed is within people to produce shining examples of what it means to live prophetically.

#### Samer Naseredden

Through Samer's connections with local MSAs and universities he is now the Muslim co-chaplain at MIT and spiritual advisor at Northeastern University. An extension of Samer's work and a result of his relationship building, Imam Abdul-Malik and Abubakr Fakhry now work as chaplains at Northeastern and Tufts university, respectively. Collectively, this triumvirate is bringing the distinctive spirit of living prophetically to our nearby colleges.



2 Youth Qiyam

150 Attendees

Leadership Retreat

**MSA Board Attendees** 



MAS Youth Waves

15

**Attendees** 

MAS Youth Waves is a safe, open, and diverse, weekly space at the ISBCC for 17 to 23 year olds where lived Islam is authentically learned, discussed, and experienced.

MSA Showdown

6

MSA's

Basketball Tournament, Quran Competition, Spoken Word, Poetry, and Nasheed Competitions Winner: **Wentworth MSA**  Hearts 4 Humanity

MAS Youth Retreat

**Attendees** 

\$8,830

Rasied for the Yemen Humanitarian Crisis

**₩** 

**4** Coffee Talks

150 Attendees

**4** Campuses

Northeastern University







College Night

**250** 

**Attendees** 

College Engagement

100

Regular Attendees







Northeastern Deen and Dine's







ARKanum-ISBCC, led by Abubakr Fakhry, is a comprehensive youth upliftment program serving 80 youth, ages 12-16. The ARKanum mentors and mentees come together on Saturdays to study the deen, build bonds through a fun group activity, and inspire our young people to Live Prophetically. A team of dedicated volunteers and nearby college students mentors them. This program attaches the hearts of our youth to the masjid and community. It nurtures excellent companionship, deep study of our deen, tathkira, and awe and love for the accomplishments of our pious predecessors. Each month, the ARKanum takes a field trip, prays qiyam, or goes on a retreat in nature. Once a year, they take an international trip to learn about our incredible Islamic heritage!



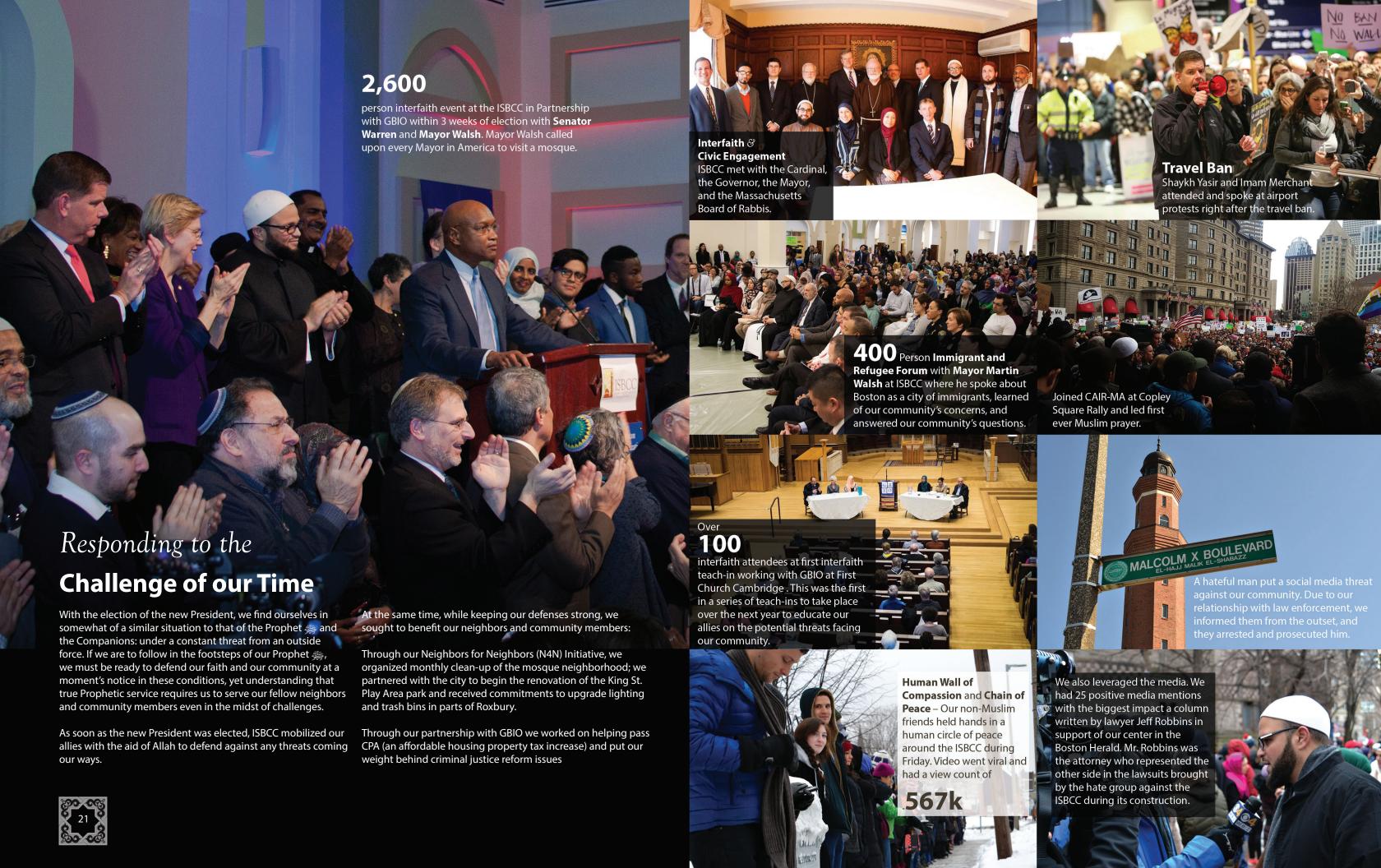






Anyone of you who sees wrong, let him undo it with his hand; and if he cannot, then let him speak against it with his tongue, and if he cannot do this either, then (let him abhor it) with his heart, and this is the least of faith.

Muslim





The similitude of believers in regard to mutual love, affection, fellow-feeling is that of one body; when any limb of it aches, the whole body aches, because of sleeplessness and fever.

Muslim



#### Uniting

#### the Ummah

It was with the spirit of this hadith in mind of living prophetically, and upon request from our community, that last year we initiated the first Masajid Collaboration meeting. We have come along way since last year and with a rotating leadership model of 16 mosques, and the support of an ISBCC staff member, have built off our initial successes to have consistent quarterly meetings. The collaboration has produced beautiful fruits culminating in several successful initiatives.

quarterly meetings between 16 masajids

1,899
Visitors

110
Tours

It was a delight visit to the mosque. No doubt you opened the students' minds to the fact that Islam is a religion of peace and respect for God.

50 Schools

30 Interfaith groups







#### Neighbors for

#### **Neighbors**

As we all know, taking care of one's neighbors is an essential part of being a Muslim. Indeed, members of the ISBCC's community have expressed their concern that we were not doing enough for our neighborhood. Therefore, the ISBCC launched the Neighbors for Neighbors program (N4N) in order to better embody the example set by the Prophet ... Our efforts to foster a benevolent community have flourished thanks to the vision of Shaykh Yasir, the leadership of Ayesha Kazmi, and the dedication of a team of volunteers. N4N has established key relationships with Boston's municipal agencies in order to address persistent community concerns, such as the safety of the streets, adequate street lighting, and the cleanup of abandoned lots. In addition, the N4N program has made the following accomplishments:

#### **N4N Team**

Tahirah Dean Sajid Shahriar Matther Roth Madelaine Bustamante Aisha Ahmed Shamso Ahmed Hajjah Kamara

- Resolved lighting and safety issues around the masjid
- Conducts regular clean ups of the streets around the mosque
- Ran 12 monthly neighborhood cleanups
- Organized 50 votes to pass the Community Preservation Act (CPA)
- Held an action with 85 people and 3 public officials to address neighborhood concerns
- Initiated an Alcoholics Anonymous program
- Provided Family Counseling
- Conducted various outreach engagements with neighboring churches and universities

#### Ummah

#### Health

The Prophet recognized the fact that it is very difficult for a person to live prophetically when he or she is struggling just to survive. When any member of the ummah suffers, we all suffer. In order to strengthen our community, we must ensure we ourselves are fit and healthy (not sure if this is correct doctrine). In this spirit, the ISBCC does its utmost to enable community members to obtain the healthcare services they need through its Ummah Health team. To this end, we have collaborated with:

- Health Care For All, a Massachusetts heath care advocacy organization
- Harvard Family Van, a nonprofit that parks outside of the mosque and provides free blood pressure screenings
- Neighborhood Health Insurance, to assist community members in getting coverage

Assisted

60 community members in finding affordable

dental care

Helped

attend weekly Alcoholic Anonymous meetings 1000

community members sign up for health insurance

175 counseling referrals

65
requests for free health talks

assisted with weekly counseling

Hospital visits for community members

#### **Social Services**

The ISBCC has partnered with the Massachusetts Council of Social Services (MCSS) and the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) Relief in order to better help those in need. In particular, we have provided the following services to community members:

- Housing Assistance
- Women's shelter
- Food Pantry

#### **Al Marhama**

It is important for our community members to know that when they or their loved ones pass from this life to the next, their remains will be cared for in accordance with the Islamic tradition. The ISBCC has a special facility specifically designed for the washing and wrapping of bodies and has partnered with Al Marhama for the arrangement of burial services. In this way, we have helped # families.







#### Get

#### **Involved**

The ISBCC would not be able to function without the commitment and dedication of our community members. We are blessed to have so many people who are willing to give their time and talents for the sake of Allah. There are even people of other faiths and of no faith who have come forward to help the ISBCC achieve its vision. No matter the faith, helping others allows one to grow. In the Islamic tradition, we believe that volunteerism is the lifeblood of a community. It is essential for developing spiritually and for living Prophetically. If our organization is to continue to flourish, we are going to need more people to join our cause. If you are interested in volunteering, visit http://isbcc.org/get-involved

100+
volunteers engaged

50+
non-muslim volunteers
engaged

#### **ISBCC**

#### **Sustainers**

At the heart of the ISBCC is a community of people/seekers who donate not only their wealth but also their time, talent, and feedback. Whenever a critical decision is needed, we meet with our Sustainers to discuss how to best move forward on each issue.

In this way, the ISBCC strives to mirror the example set by the Prophet who would seek guidance from his companions on issues that the early community faced. It is through such team efforts that Islam was able to flourish through the age to this very da.

It is through the support of our community that the ISBCC can ensure that this house of Allah truly instills the message of Islam is our hearts and reflects the beauty of that message throughout the New England area. Today, the strength and unity of the community is essential. Both the commitments and contributions are needed to respond to the challenges facing our community.







We are so grateful to our incredible facilities team that keeps this house of Allah – the ISBCC – clean, perfumed, and always taken care of. We encourage our community members to thank them for their tireless effort at every opportunity. They do more than anyone can imagine.

#### **Projects Completed**

Sister's wudu area Nursery tiles Office tiles LED Lights to reduce energy costs Chandeliers Minaret Light Camera Surveillance System Enhanced A/V 3rd Floor Café Developments

#### **Facilities Team**

Helal Alwaz Salah Kheznadji Hajj Mohamed Hammou Abdeljabbar Hamiddene Ricardo Maestre

#### **Partnerships**

The success of the ISBCC is made possible in part thanks to the organizations that operate independently within the center.

#### **Boston Islamic Seminary (BIS)**

Now a separate 501(c)3 non-profit from the ISBCC, The Boston Islamic Seminary (www.BostonIslamicSeminary.org) endeavors to be a world-renowned Graduate Islamic educational institution in America, offering accredited graduate level degrees with the goal of producing American Muslim leaders. To Shaykh Muhammad Shakir accomplish this ambitious vision, the Boston Islamic Seminary is using an incremental approach that starts with individual high quality relevant courses and certificate programs (Continuing Education), then expand into the Master's program, focused on Islamic leadership education. In its launching phase, the seminary currently operates and offers classes at the ISBCC. Recently, Dr. Tariq Ramadan announced a partnership with BIS, and that he will be teaching through the Seminary in 2018. We pray that Allah blesses this project and makes it a benefit to the Muslim community.

#### **Leadership Team**

Dr. Tariq Ramadan Dr. Hassan Al-Alami Anwar Kazmi Amr El-Moselhy Dr. Basyouni Nehela Salma Kazmi Dr. Sharif El Tobqui Hossam AlJabri

#### **Malik Academy**

A fully functional Islamic School for pre-school to 8th grade that serves over 100 students.

#### **Leadership Team**

Mrs. Amina El-Alami Mrs. Mervat Zaghloul Dr. Mona Abo-Zena

#### **MAS Quran**

A Saturday & Sunday school focused on the Qur'an for all ages that serves over 120 students

#### **Leadership Team**

#### Al Bashaer

A Saturday school focused on teaching the Arabic language for ages 5-15 that serves over 100 students.

#### **Leadership Team**

Hanan Khashaba





#### **Finances**

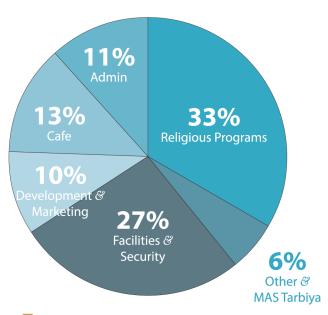
the amana you have given to the ISBCC is being used. Here at the ISBCC transparency is a core value. We invite you to take a look at your center's income and expenses for the past year. We also invite you to meet with our Chief Financial Officer Zahid Siddiqui in the event of any questions. He is a volunteer community member who works for Price Waterhouse and independently reviews our finances. Please email him at zahid@masboston.org.

#### **Accounting Team**

Zahid Siddiqui Cheif Financial Officer

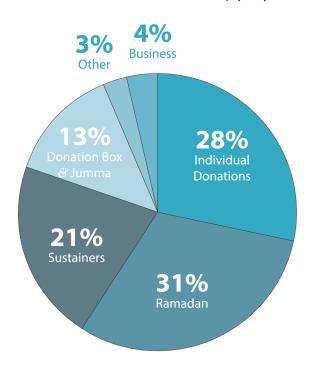
Abdullahi Yusufi Senior Accountant





#### **Expenses**

Admin	\$264,066
Cafe	\$295,238
Development & Marketing	\$224,661
Facility & Security	\$615,898
Other & MAS Tarbiya	\$133,143
Religious Programs	\$772,506
Total	\$2,305,513



### 15% Cafe 65% Donation

Investment

#### **Income**

8%

Religious Programs

& Programs

6% Rental Income

Investment	\$9,91
In Kind	\$36,93
Other	\$81,09
Religious Programs	\$192,15
Rental Income	\$139,94
Café	\$358,77
Donation	\$1,502,38
Total	\$2,321,20

#### **Donations Breakdown**

Total	\$1,502,387
Individual Donations	\$426,077
Ramadan *	\$462,993
Sustainers	\$321,072
Donation Box & Jummah	\$200,308
Other	\$37,719
Business	\$54,218

<sup>\*</sup>This amount referes to actual monies collected during Ramadan. With pledgfes made in Ramadan added to this amount the total is almost 654k. This Ramadan our goal is to collect \$760k insha'Allah. Please give generously.

#### **Income Statement**

Year over year	2014	2015	2016	Q1 2017
Income & Other Income	\$1,975,324	\$1,778,783	\$2,321,200	\$533,949
Cost Of Sales	\$187,830	\$264,416	\$350,654	\$53,968
Expense & Other Expense	\$1,374,978	\$1,516,648	\$1,955,752	\$507,552
Net Income	\$412,516	(\$2,281)	\$14,795	(\$27,572)





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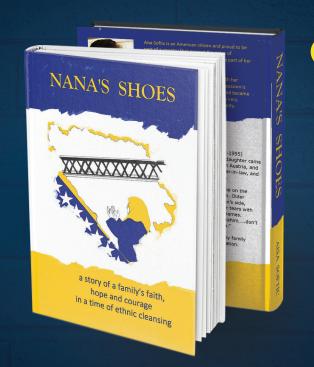
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