

It's a New Dawn at The Mecca Center







YOUTH

FOUNDATION









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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mecca Center is an organization that believes in a comprehensive and inclusive understanding of Islam based on the noble principles outlined in the Quran and exemplified in the Sunnah. It seeks to establish, guide, and serve the Muslim community as an integral part of society at large. It designs programs to develop the spirit, mind, and a sense of civic responsibility.



OBJECTIVE & GOALS

- 1. To establish an environment for the Muslim community to practice Islam and worship Allah (Almighty God) as outlined in the Quran and exemplified in the Sunnah.
- 2. To guide young Muslims towards building a model Muslim character in the community.
- 3. To educate Muslims with the teachings of Islam, provide an Islamic perspective to the challenges of our society, and strengthen ties among community members.
- 4. To present Islam to the society, and build bridges of understanding with other cultures and faiths.
- 5. To strengthen ties with other local and national Muslim organizations.
- 6. To establish institutions, educational centers, and organizing activities to achieve the foregoing objectives.

The Mecca Center

16W560 91st Street Willowbrook, Illinois 60527

www.meccacenter.org

(630) 241-2000 • info@meccacenter.org



Message from the President

Asalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatu,

The Mecca Center has been a project 20 years in the making, with a milestone every 5 years, subhanAllah. In October 2002, the Mecca center was founded and filed the article of incorporation. Five years later in 2007, we purchased our land. Another 5 years later in 2012, we broke ground for our current location. And 5 years later in 2017, we celebrated our grand opening and moved into our center. This year inshallah, another 5 years later, we have completed the second wing, and with it, we launched 7 initiatives

to amplify and grow our spiritual, social, professional capitals for



20 blessed years and beyond, Hani Atassi. President

our community.

The Mecca Center Board Members 2022

Hani Atassi. President Shereen Hussain. VP Anas Riyal, Treasurer Linda Hamadeh, Secretary Abdulgany Hamadeh Adeeb Alshahrour

Ahmad Agha Akram Kholoki Amro Kudssi Belsam Kashlan Khursheed Mallick Mazen Asbahi Nabil Jaber

Omar Dweydari Rand Diab Salam Atassi Salwa Sunbulli Sameer Afsar Samer Kholoki

Sayed Abbas Shakir Moiduddin Syed Ajaz Hussain Talal Sunbulli Zuka labri



The Mecca Center Staff 2022

Sheikh Hassan Aly, Imam & Religious Director Sheikh Tariq Musleh, Outreach Director & Associate Imam Firas Zogbi, Facility Manager Ghada Awwad, Program Director Sehar Syed, Communications Director Yaser Heimour, CPA Accountant

Nader Hamdan, Youth Manager Issam Al Jaghassy, Maintenance Shadi Kazzaz, Maintenance Basma Abu Ayyash, Cleaning Staff Dania Alhawari, Cleaning Staff Amal Saeed, Cleaning Staff Basema Zaidan, Cleaning Staff

The Mecca Center Committees 2022

Executive Committee Civic Engagement Committee **Communications Committee Construction Committee Education Committee Election Committee** Finance Committee Governance Committee Health/Wellness Committee HR Committee Interfaith Committee Library Committee Maintenance Committee

Membership Committee Muhsen Committee Outside Programs Committee Personal Develpment Program Planned Giving Committee Religious Affairs Committee Special Events Committee **Technology Committee Volunteer Committee** Youth Committee Zakat Committee



Awards & Recognitions

Retiring Board Member Award: Sister Zuka Jabri

The Mecca Center Sunday school: Lamis Riyal, outstanding 15 years of service

The Mecca Center Quran Institute outstanding service: Rabab Muhdi Rachid Nuha Mohammad Abushamah

> Hufaz Awards for memorizing the Quran: Hazem Kazkaz Ruba Omira Yaman Alghafeer Omar Almusaddy

Quran Blossom: 2 Outstanding Service: awards: Kaoutar Rouane Hiba Shehadeh

The Mecca Center is honored to recognize these individuals for their outstanding service.





It is my immense honor to have been part of The Mecca Center from its inception and it has been incredible to see how far we have come in twenty amazing years, by Allah's mercy. One of my roles at TMC has been to chair the communications committee. As the pandemic began, there were huge challenges and so much tragedy all around. We felt grateful to be able to function as an E masjid providing virtual programming and services to our community. Now in 2022 it has been heartening to see so many in person events again. However one remnant of the pandemic has been retained as we now offer hybrid events with live streaming for those who cannot attend on site. It has also meant that we are now reaching viewers fromout of state.



The Mecca Center's primary function is naturally a place of worship and has expanded to accommodate hundreds of families. However we strive to follow the prophetic model of a masjid also being a center that benefits its congregants and also the wider community at large. To that end, over 2,000 lbs of produce was donated to a local pantry from our fully functioning vegetable garden. Both elders and children volunteer together- weeding, preening and planting throughout the summer and fall months. This was also the inaugural year of a very exciting 5k race which resulted in a \$80,000 donation to Chi-Care which helps the city's homeless. Earlier in the year, our first ever convert conference was successful and led to regular programming for new Muslims and heritage Muslims alike. The Mecca Quran Institute offers a wide range of classes for all levels including Tajweed for English speakers. As for our youth, there is something for all ages from the Quran Blossoms, to Mecca Mvmt, TTI, Meta and beyond. At our annual Seerah conference we were able to invite speakers from all over the country. This is also the first year that 20 students will be awarded \$4000 in our scholarship program.

Finally, we have also been part of a 3 year collaborative with three other masjids. Through this initiative, we learned about the world of philanthropy and we were awarded a \$200, 000 grant that we will be sharing to implement mental health programming. As we look forward to a second wing including a state of the art weight room, medical clinic, and an expansive library, it is humbling to recall our modest beginnings in a small office building in Burr Ridge. We pray that we always hold onto the original intention of creating an open and welcoming space for all who pass through these doors and of being a beacon of light in the community.

Thank you & JazakAllah Khair, Shereen Hussain, Vice President



Imam & Religious Director

Dear Beloved Sisters and Brothers,

Fourteen centuries ago, the Almighty Allah (Subhanahu wa-ta'ala) has sent the first part of His final message to humanity to His beloved Prophet and Messenger Muhammad (PBUH) in five verses. When we can see that the word (Read) is repeated two times, the word (Pen) is mentioned once and the word (Teach) is repeated twice. In Surah Al-'Alaq, the Almighty Allah (SWT) says: "Read in the name of your Lord Who created.



Beloved community members, building a Masjid or a school and contributing toward maintaining it and keeping its doors open is one of the greatest acts of worship before Allah (Subhanahu wa ta'ala) and one of best ways to contribute in an ongoing charity or Sadaqatul Jariyah. Ibn Maajah narrated from Abu Hurayrah that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "The good deeds that will reach a believer after his death are: knowledge which he learned and then spread; a righteous son whom he leaves behind; a copy of the Qur'an that he leaves as a legacy; a mosque that he built; a house that he built for wayfarers; a canal that he dug; or charity that he gave during his lifetime when he was in good health. These deeds will reach him after his death." Saheeh Ibn Maajah.

This is a call to all of us to make the most of our wealth by giving in charity and spending before it is taken away and we are no longer able to do it. It is truly only through the blessings of Allah (Subhanahu wa ta'ala), then the hard work and generous support of our community that we have come this far. I am very excited to contribute more to this great organization and to set a foundation for new generation as our community continues to grow and prosper in shaa Allah. Oh Allah, give more to the one who spends, May Allah reward you and bless your health, wealth, and family. {Our Lord! Accept from us. Indeed You are the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing} [2-127]

Wa Allahu a'lam, Sheikh Hassan Aly Th.M Imam and Religious Director of the Mecca Center





Asalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatu,

The Mecca Center community has the incredible joy of having the chance to choose programming of any kind from the masjid. There are days that the building is bustling from morning to evening with programs for those 5-years old and under, to those ages 70 and older. We have offered daily classes, inspirational programs, educational seminars, and more within the walls of the Mecca Center. And now, after 5 blessed years with the Mecca Center, I will now watch the community complete two wings to fly.

With these two wings, we hope to expand our outreach services to those who are unable to go to the masjid for whatever reason. Whether it be due to children, family obligations, or otherwise, the Mecca Center is a home to those who come from all walks of life.



The Mecca MVMT's mission strives as a sacred, meaningful, and comfortable space for the growth of Muslim youth and to create within them a connection with the masjid as their own.

The Mecca MVMT has grown immensely in a short period of time, however, this would not be possible without the blessings of Allah SWT, and our wonderful community who have supported and nurtured the MVMT since our beginning. We have held numerous events and programs that have brought youth from the Mecca Center community, as well as the greater Chicagoland Muslim community, together to gain the pleasure of our Creator.

We hope to provide resources and aid to the new initiative The Good Life, which focuses on outreach and inspiration to those ages 25 and older outside of the masjid's direct line of communication. We also hope to provide programming for young families and newcomers to the community through Mecca Connect. As the Mecca Center flies higher and grows larger, we hope to touch the hearts of our community members and community leaders, fostering the growth of our youth in unique ways so that one day they may continue to lead this masjid the way that it needs to be.

Thank you and Jazakum Allahu Khairan, Sheikh Tarig Musleh Director of Outreach & Associate Imam

Secretary & Sunday School Principal



Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahamatullahi wa Barakatahu.

It's a new dawn at The Mecca Center. In a world with much uncertainty, we must ensure to provide our children with a safe space and the necessary tools in order to prepare them to tackle the challenges they may face. The Mecca Center Sunday School strives to empower our future leaders and pave them a path for a bright future to emerge as confident and prosperous adults, succeeding in this life, and in the life hereafter, inshaAllah. By believing that every child can reach her or his full potential, we open the window of success for a new generation of leaders and role models in our community.



SubhanAllah, our Sunday school has grown to immensely, and we are so thrilled to finally have expansion of the much awaited second wing for all of our programs here at The Mecca Center.

The Mecca Center is indeed a window to a bright future, a place where children belong, benefit, and blossom into proud and proactive Muslim Americans. At Mecca Center Sunday School, we have seen the potential of our children and youth first-hand, and how they are developing into upright citizens and leaders in our society.

Many of our Islamic Studies and Quran classes are actually taught by former Mecca Sunday School students! Furthermore, their learning how to read and write Arabic with meaning helps allow them to understand the Quran, thereby deepening their understanding of Islam. It is invigorating to see generations can positively transform themselves, their families, and their communities. By providing our students a space to grow and learn from knowledgeable teachers, who are fellow community members, The Mecca Center Sunday School is inshaAllah preparing them to become actively involved in the Mecca Center community, and in the society as a whole. Help support The Mecca Center empower our younger generations today, so they emerge as tomorrow's leaders, and make the world a better place for all.

Linda Hamadeh, M.Ed., Ed.D. Secretary & Sunday School Principal

Director of Mecca Quran Institute



Asalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatu.

Alhamdulillah, here at MQI we have been blessed to serve our community with programs for students of all ages and levels. Our Vision is to spread the moderate, enlightening, and spiritual message of the Quran and to help build distinctive and active Muslims in American society. Our teaching method at MQI is tailored to a student's individual level so we can help them in growing their skills, and the love of the Quran and Allah (SWT). Our educational mission is to improve (reading - understanding - memorization - tajweed and ijazah).



Our goals are: Teach the students of the Muslim community on how to read, memorize, and understand the Quran to instill the love of the values, teachings, and tarbiyyah of the Quran in the hearts and minds of our students so they may strive to live their life according to Allah's words to develop our students to be future role models and prepare them to be the new teachers to lead the next generation of young Muslims to inspire the older generation to read and understand the Quran. Our Quran institute has grown from 145 students and 15 teachers in 2017 to now over 460 students of all ages and 85 staff members including youth teachers, Mashallah. The Mecca Quran Institute currently has: over 460 students enrolled with 85 staff members including 25 youth teachers.

Our Program/Curriculum Offers learning how to read from letters to a full ayat through bidaya curriculum - Quran Recitation from the mushaf, Certifications in Tajweed for beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels, ljazah in Tilawah, ljazah in Memorization.

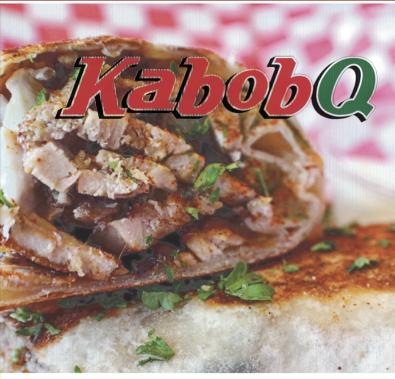
Sahib Al-Quran (memorizing the whole Quran), Preparing young huffaz to become the teachers of our next generation. Quranic behaviors and morals related to the Quran, and periodic workshops for teachers' developments and skills.

Here at Mecca Quran Institute, our journey of giving continues on, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Shiekhi Director of The Mecca Quran Institute 40+ Electric Cars in stock



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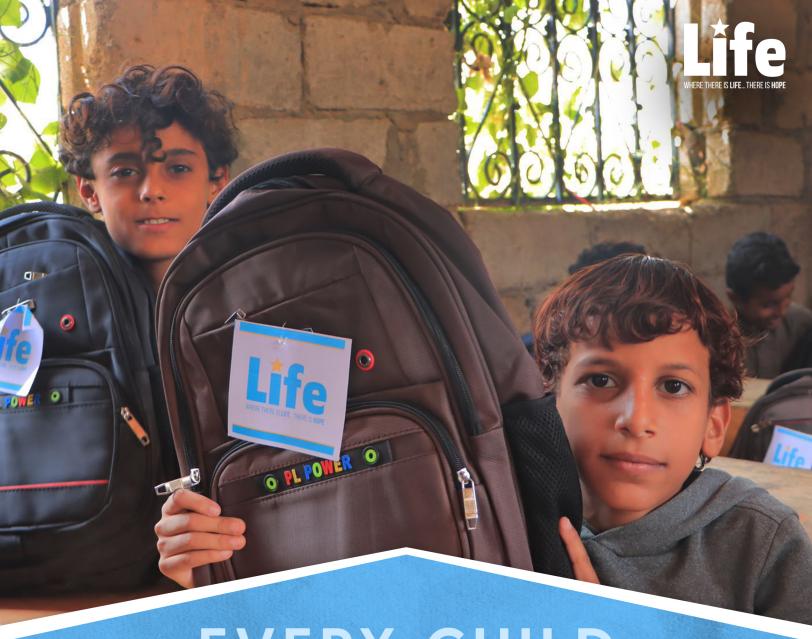
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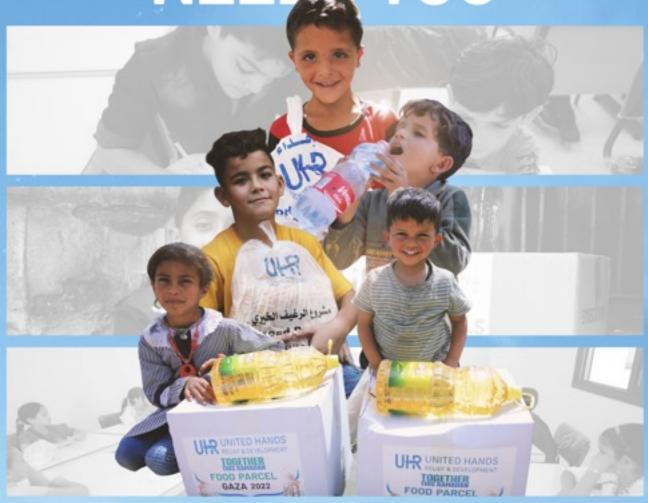


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6k

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33

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133

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23K

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6K

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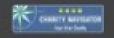
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MUHSEN will assume an active role to advocate and educate, conduct training, and implement programs and services across North America to improve the experience within mosques, conventions, related classes and events, as well as to engender a positive and welcoming community for persons with disabilities.





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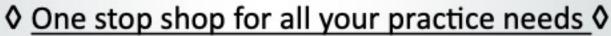












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