



THE MECCA CENTER

22 YEARS

CONNECTING HEARTS

and

INSPIRING MINDS







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 will design programs to develop the spirit, mind and a sense of civic responsibility.

OBJECTIVES & 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 BOARD MEMBERS

2024

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THE MECCA CENTER STAFF

2024

Dr. Ahmed Arafat, Resident Scholar

Sh. Tariq Musleh, Outreach Director / Imam

Sh. Yousef Wahb, Education Director / Imam

Sh. Mohamed Abbas, Imam

Ghada Awwad, Director of Operations

Firas Zogbi, Facility Manager

Mhd Yaser Heimour, Comptroller

Sh. Ahmad Alsheikhi, MQI Director

Diana Khankan, MQI Administrative Director

Mai Jawich, Principal – Quran Blossoms

Nader Hamdan, Civic Engagement Director

Phatma Mreziq, Communications Manager

Aymin Bakr, Administrative Assistant

Manal Taqatqa, Administrative Assistant

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THE MECCA CENTER COMMITTEES

2024

Academic Affairs & Tarbiyah Committee

Civic Engagement / Interfaith Committee

Communications Committee

Education Committee

Election Committee

Finance Committee

Fundraising Committee

Funeral Committee

Governance Committee

HR & Operations Committee

Library Committee

Maintenance Committee

Mecca Connect Committee

Membership Committee

Religious Affairs Committee

Scholarship Committee

Special Events Committee

Technology Committee

Volunteer Committee

Wellness Committee

Youth Committee

Zakat Committee



PRESIDENT OF THE MECCA CENTER



السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته
وان تعدوا نعمة الله لا تحصوها

Dear Members of The Mecca Center Community,

As I prepare to step down from my role as president of The Mecca Center, I want to take a moment to reflect on our journey together and express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you.



Over the past 6 years, we have fostered a vibrant community that embraces diversity, inclusivity, and compassion. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones: from expanding our programs and services to enhancing our facilities, all aimed at serving the needs of our community more effectively. Your unwavering support, participation, and enthusiasm have been the backbone of these accomplishments.

I have been continually inspired by the dedication and passion of our volunteers, staff, and members. Each of you has played an essential role in the fabric of our center, contributing to a welcoming space where everyone feels valued and empowered. The friendships and connections forged here are truly the heart of The Mecca Center.

As I transition into the next chapter of my life, I am excited to see how the center continues to grow and evolve under new leadership. I am confident that the future holds great promise, and I urge each of you to remain engaged and supportive of the initiatives aimed at enriching our community.

Thank you once again for the honor of serving as your president. I carry with me cherished memories and invaluable lessons learned from our time together. I look forward to witnessing the continued success of The Mecca Center and to staying connected with all of you.

With warmest regards,

Hani Atassi
President, The Mecca Center

EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR



Dear Supporters of The Mecca Center,

I address you tonight not only as the Chair of the Education Committee but as a grateful member of this incredible community. Thanks to your unwavering dedication, we have witnessed remarkable growth since our humble beginnings in 2002, when just 15 students gathered in a rented room.



Our Quranic programs have become the heartbeat of our center, with The Mecca Quran Institute (MQI) impacting over 1,000 students in recent years and our Quran Blossoms (Baraem) program now nurturing 118 young minds—plus an excited waitlist eager to join. This is the future you are building, the result of your commitment. We are proud to report that every educational initiative is thriving. MQI exceeded expectations this year, contributing significantly to our success, while Quran Blossoms saw unparalleled engagement, surpassing all expectations. The Sunday School is thriving, as well, welcoming 370 students with many more eager learners waiting to join. This is a testament to your contributions and reflects our shared commitment to fiscal responsibility and the stewardship of your trust.

Our journey has required faith and resilience. Securing a space for The Mecca Center was a challenge we overcame with perseverance and the will of Allah. The zoning permit was won by a single vote from DuPage County—a day many of us will never forget. We continue to work toward our goal of securing approval for a minaret, InshaAllah. Despite every challenge, we broke ground in 2012, and today, our community stands united at The Mecca Center, stronger than ever before.

But, dear brothers and sisters, our journey continues. We must keep strengthening these pillars of faith, education, and community. We call on your continued support to ensure that every child who wishes to learn the Quran can do so, that every parent stays engaged, and that every program reaches new heights. Together, we can build on the extraordinary legacy of love, learning, and service that defines The Mecca Center. May Allah bless us as we move forward!

Syed Ajaz Hussain, Ph.D.
Chair, TMC Education Committee

RESIDENT SCHOLAR



One of the great images permeating throughout the Quran is the image of light. *Al-Nur* or light is mentioned in the Quran 45 times. Allah is “*the light of the heavens and the earth*” (Q. 24:35). The prophet ﷺ is described as “*light from your Lord*” (Q. 5:15). The Quran is called “*brilliant light*” (Q. 4:174). True believers are granted “*light with which they can walk among people*” (Q. 6:122).



Remarkably the Quran tells us that the essential source of light is to be found “*in houses of worship that Allah has ordered to be raised and where His Name is mentioned. He is glorified there morning and evening*” (Q. 24:36-37). The Quran moves to highlight the spiritual qualities of the light carriers. These true servants of Allah “*are not distracted, either by commerce or profit, from remembering God, keeping up the prayer, and paying the prescribed alms, fearing a day when hearts and eyes will turn over*” (Q. 24:37). In other words, carrying the torch of divine light is graciously bestowed upon those who focus on Allah, serve others and carry an *akhirah*-oriented heart.

In The Mecca Center community, we are blessed with countless carriers of light. Today we celebrate the great impact of this light. With the grace of Allah, we see this light shining in the eyes of the many orphans and needy families who receive your help with gratitude. We see this light shining in the eyes of brides and grooms as they express their vows to honor marriage as “*a tightly-woven covenant.*” We see this light shining in the eyes of the couples who are counseled to resolve their conflicts and choose to remain married. We see this light shining in the eyes of our children, youth and adults who are given the chance to grow in faith and wisdom as they connect with the many inspirational and educational programs that are daily offered in the masjid.

Through our daily services, civic engagement, charity work, da’wa projects and waqf program, we similarly see this light shining in the beautiful creation of a masjid community that helps us center our life on Allah, connect with others, communicate Allah’s message and engage in community service. With these blessings in mind, continue to be a light carrier, not a light barrier. Keep supporting your masjid. Keep shining your light.

Dr. Ahmed Arafat
Resident Scholar

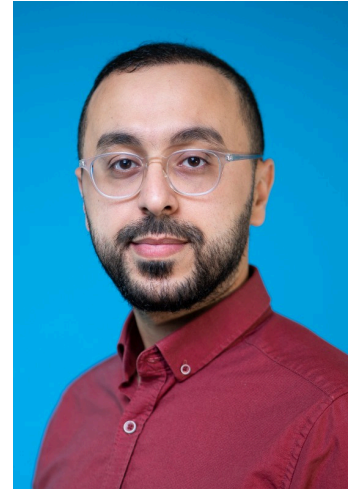
EDUCATION DIRECTOR



In the Name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate

It is a profound honor to contribute to this year's Annual Fundraising Dinner and reflect on our shared theme, "Connecting Hearts & Inspiring Minds." In today's world, our hearts and minds are in constant need of connection, nourishment, and inspiration.

The Mecca Center has been a beacon in fulfilling these needs, serving as a place where the love of Allah, the teachings of our beloved Prophet ﷺ, and the values of our faith are brought to life in the hearts of every visitor.



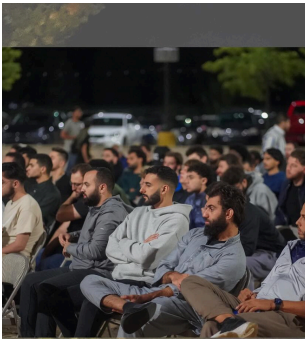
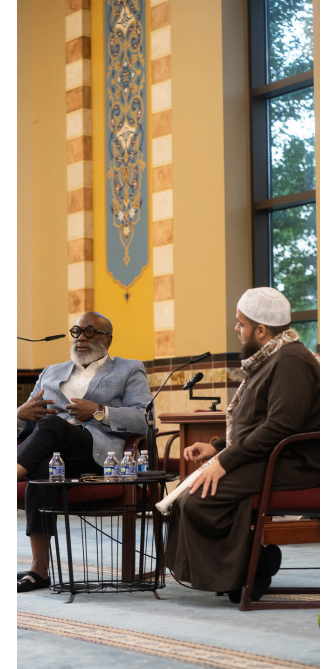
In every endeavor—whether it is nurturing our youth, supporting new Muslims, or fostering community through education—The Mecca Center has remained steadfast in its mission to inspire minds and unite hearts under the banner of Islam. This center has provided an environment where individuals can grow spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally, learning to walk in the path of Allah while forging meaningful connections with one another.

The Qur'an reminds us, "The believers are but brothers, so make peace between your brothers and be conscious of Allah that you may receive mercy" (49:10). Indeed, The Mecca Center is a living embodiment of this Qur'anic directive, continually fostering unity, empathy, and a shared vision of mercy and understanding in our community.

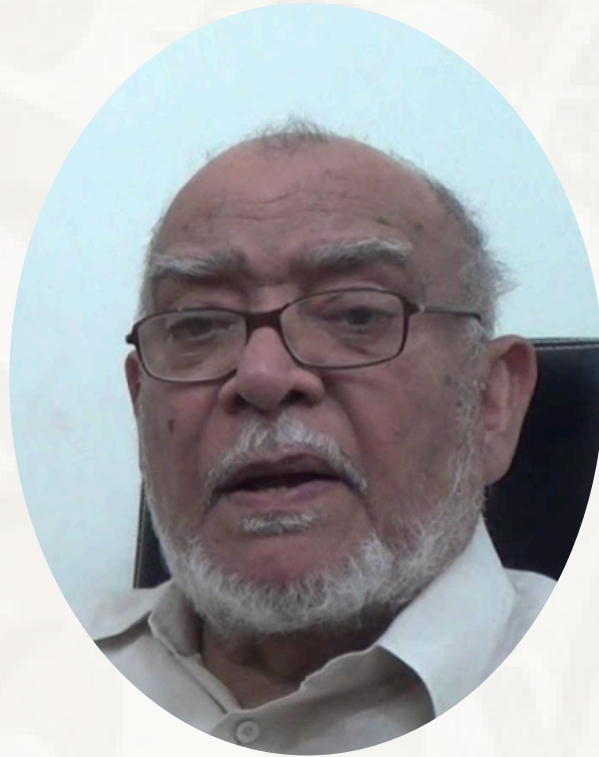
As we gather to support the growth and sustainability of this institution, may we all be reminded of the power of coming together for a common cause—striving to build a future where our hearts are linked by the love of Allah and our minds are illuminated by His light. I encourage everyone to contribute to this noble mission, and I pray that Allah accepts our efforts and grants success to The Mecca Center in its endeavors for many years to come.

May Allah bless this event, our community, and grant us the means to continue connecting hearts and inspiring minds for generations.

**Sincerely,
Yousef Wahb**

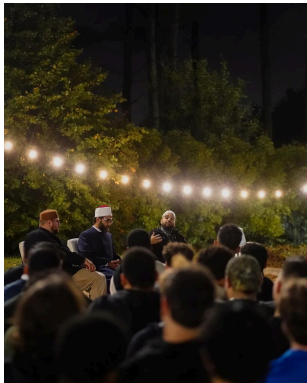


*Jazakum Allahu Khairan
For Your Service*



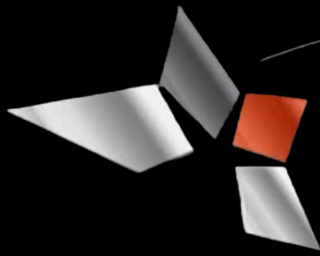
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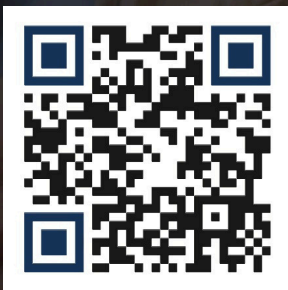


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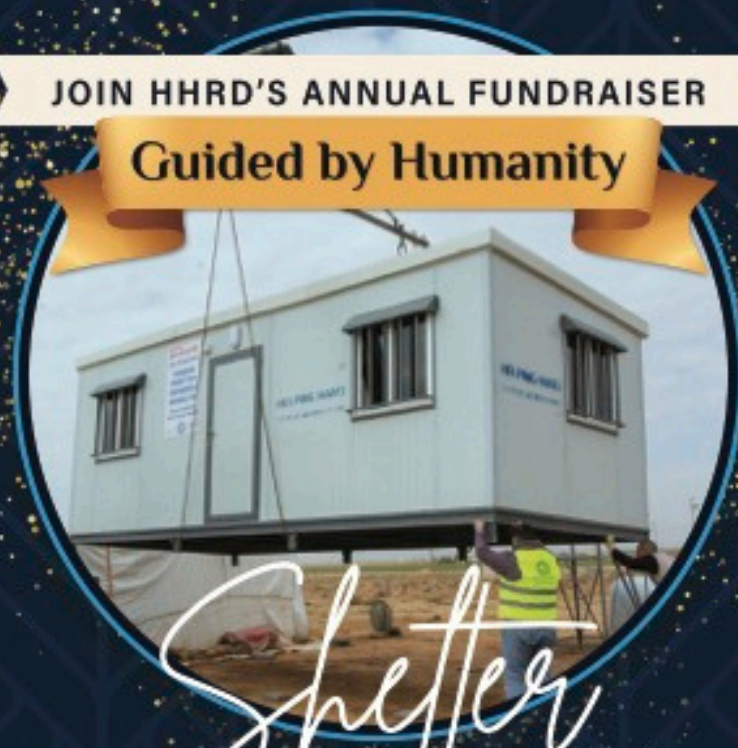
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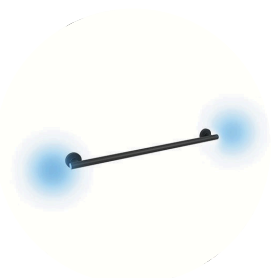
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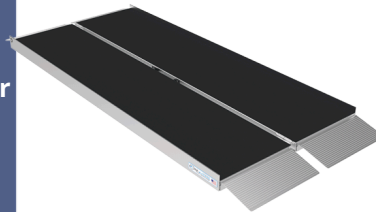
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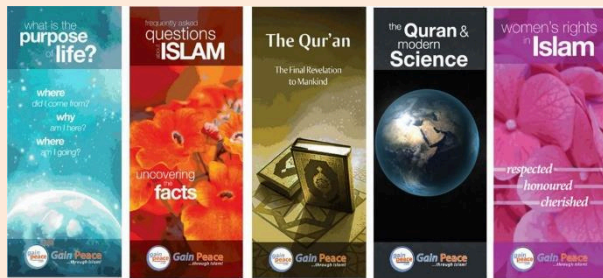
- o To train and equip Muslims in sharing Islam
- o Youth empowerment & dawah workshops

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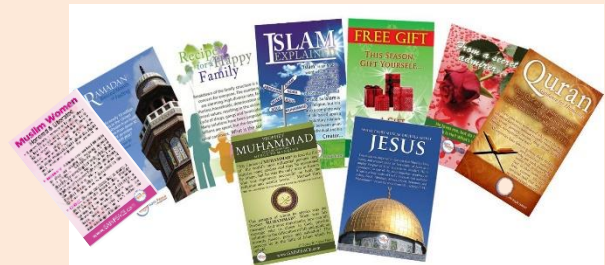
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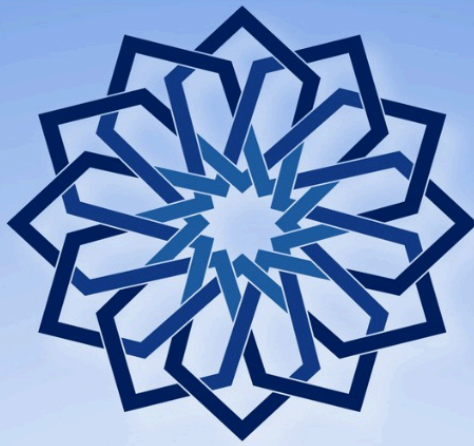
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