

ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF GREATER LANSING

General Assembly - 2013

Annual Reports

Minhas Meghani

2013

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Board of Trustees Report

By Ghazi Mustafa, Chair, Board of Trustees

The Current Board: consists of the following eight (8) voting members of the Society.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Ghazi Mustafa | Jan 1, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2015 |
| 2. Haroun Ikram | Jan 1, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2015 |
| 3. Zubair Ahmad | Jan 1, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2015 |
| 4. Amr AbdelAzim | Jan 1, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2013 |
| 5. Maher Mahmoud | Jan 1, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2013 |
| 6. Mounzer Kassab | Jan 1, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2013 |
| 7. Thasin Sardar | Member by default to represent the ISOGL's Executive Committee |
| 8. Ihab Darwish | Member by default to represent the Greater Lansing Islamic School |

The elected member's tenures are fixed and staggered such that three members are elected every two years. An Elected Board member cannot be reelected or appointed to the Board until two years have passed since the end of his/her term. The Board elects the Chairperson of the Board at the beginning of each calendar year.

Responsibilities

The Board is the guardian of the Constitution with the following responsibilities:

1. Settle disputes regarding the interpretation of the Constitution.
2. Develop the Bylaws of the Society.
3. Develop and maintain a three to five year plan of development.
4. Oversee the general activities of the Society ensure that they are Constitution compliant.
5. Oversee major development projects of the Islamic Center.
6. Approve the annual budgets of the Executive and School Committees.
7. Develop rules and procedures for fund raising.
8. Approve hiring or termination of employment of all salaried employees.
9. Appoint and oversee the work of Endowment Committee and control disbursement.
10. Appoint members the Shura Council and incorporate recommendations.
11. Appoint members of the Fiqh Council.

Current Challenges

- Funeral wash room
- Islamic Center Kitchen remodeling project
- Completion of Bylaws
- Approval of School budget 2013-14
- Activation of the Endowment Committee

Recent Progress and Accomplishments

- Completion of Women prayer area project.
- Appointment of school principal.
- New cemetery lots.
- Appointment of full time Imam.
- Appointment of members of the Fiqh Council.
- Completed the formation of the Endowment committee.
- Update of the rental properties owned by the Islamic Center

President's Report

By Thasin Sardar, President, Executive Committee

Thanks to Allah for bestowing us with the opportunity to serve in his house. Thanks to all the members of the Executive Committee for their team work in serving the community these past two years. And thanks to the many volunteers and financial donors, without whose help, next to Allah's, we could not be what we are today. May Allah reward you all.

Imam search and appointment

After several months of searching for a suitable Imam for our community, we were blessed to find an ideal Imam, Mohamed Mabrouk, to lead our community. Imam Mohamed Mabrouk has been well received by the entire community and has proven to be a great asset for us already. He has made several presentations to both Muslim and non-Muslim audiences in Greater Lansing and beyond already and has assumed several duties that were previously run and managed by volunteers.

Funeral Preparation Facility

We built awareness in the community on the need for owning our own Funeral Preparation Facility with a presentation by a guest speaker who helped establish such a facility in other communities.

With two years of game parking rental revenue now earmarked for this purpose, close to \$41,600 is now available to acquire ownership of our own Funeral Wash Room facility, insha Allah.

A handful of properties have been shortlisted and will be narrowed down in the near future so that we can offer janaza (funeral) preparation as a service to our members instead of them having to pay several thousands of dollars to commercial funeral homes.

A self-owned facility will also ensure respectful handling of the deceased, sisters in particular, in accordance with the modesty required in our religion, insha Allah.

Acquiring of new Cemetery Plots

With a growing and aging population, we are in dire need to acquire additional cemetery plots as only a handful of grave plots are remain from our pool at this time. Br. Maher Mahmoud has been working very closely with the City of Lansing in negotiating the development of a new section for our community. Since July 2013, the City of Lansing has been developing this new 'Section G' at the Evergreen Cemetery for us. As soon as the City of Lansing notifies us of completion of this project, these plots will be made available to members of our community with an *ownership and sponsorship* model to cover the cost of close to \$100,000 that will be due to the City of Lansing upon handover to us.

Securing of Lansing Center through 2021 for Eid Prayer

Based on the size of our congregation and several other factors such as parking, convenience, familiarity of venue and the community's feedback from a survey, Lansing Center in Downtown Lansing has been determined as the preferred venue for our Eid prayer and celebrations.

Lansing Center has been reserved for the next 9 years through 2021 for all but three of the occasions. Dates, details, policy detail can be found at <http://lansingislam.com/psa.htm>

Community Advisories

We issued periodic advisories to the community branded as *PSA of the week* to inform our members and on issues and challenges facing us as American Muslims and our position statements on contentious topics requiring nuanced understanding. All PSA's are available online at lansingislam.com/psa.htm to serve as reminders to us.

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Civil Rights, Stop-Hate, fear efforts

- Served on a *Panel to prevent Hate Crimes* organized by the U.S. Department of Justice
- Participated in programs conducted by Michigan Department of Civil Rights
- Invited a former Canadian Security Intelligence agent to bring awareness on the perils of youth falling victim to disapproved ideologies and to remind ourselves as responsible citizens of the United States of America, on the need to put our Islamic faith values in action, in the service of our country and our faith.

Workshops conducted this year

1. Presenting Islam to fellow Americans –by CAIR-MI
2. Full Weekend seminar by Imam Suleiman Salem
3. Workshop on Wills and Trusts by Muslim Legal Fund of America
4. Presentation on increasing home ownerships – Ingham County Treasurer
5. Presentation on rights of students in area schools by a leader from ELHS parents group
6. Civil rights presentation by CAIR-MI
7. Funeral Preparation Facility – presented by a Muslim Funeral director; we learned requirements and the *how-to's* of owning our own Funeral preparation facility

Interfaith and Civic engagement

- Increased interfaith participation with area faith groups.
- Partnered with Congregation Shaarey Zedek, the ELCA Center for Mission & Ministry, the Red Cedar Community Association and the University Lutheran Church in organizing an Interfaith Event every quarter.
- The Islamic Center serves as an active member in the following organizations, attending their regular meetings and activities sponsored by them
 - ◆ Michigan Veterans Task Force - A Faith based approach to healing
 - ◆ Red Cedar Community Association
 - ◆ East Lansing Interfaith Clergy Association
 - ◆ Action of Greater Lansing (serving as a Board Member)
 - ◆ United Nations Assembly – Greater Lansing Chapter
 - ◆ Interfaith – MLK remembrance
- Increased civic engagement. Courted several political leaders to the Islamic Center and increased our visibility and needs/rights to them.
- Engaged in relentless effort to defeat HB4769, the house bill targeting Islam and Muslims. Happy to report that efforts by our opponents to push the bill was defeated, alhamdulillah.
- Organized the biggest ever Michigan Muslim Capitol Day so far, along with fellow Muslims from across Michigan.
- Partnership with Michigan State University
 - Partnered with MSU libraries in securing a grant for the Muslim Journeys program
 - Continued working closely with MSU on an upcoming documentary on Muslims in America
 - Represented in the Muslim Mental Health Conference
 - Increased cooperation with various departments of Michigan State University namely, MSU Libraries, Office of inclusion and inter-cultural initiatives, Muslim Studies Program, Department of Psychiatry

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Partnership and sponsorship of events held by State level Muslim Organizations

- Cosponsored activities, contributed to, and facilitated events locally and across the state for the following national organizations and initiatives:
 - ❖ Muslim Community Council (MMCC)
 - ❖ Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU)
 - ❖ Muslim Studies Program at MSU
 - ❖ Council of American Islamic Relations – Michigan Chapter
 - ❖ National Coalition To Protect Civil Freedoms (NCPCF)
 - ❖ Refugee Development Center – Lansing
 - ❖ Blood Drives by the American Red Cross
- Represented Islamic Center in various statewide events, banquets, fundraisers
- Actively participated and supported charities, social justice and peace groups such as Action of Greater Lansing, Meta Peace Team, Habitat for Humanity, Muslim Legal Fund of America, Niagara Foundation, Mayor's Ramadan Unity Dinner

Other initiatives – (ongoing)

- Acquired an Automated Defibrillator that will be accessible to anyone in the facility in the event of an emergency.
- Continuous effort on facility and equipment improvement.
 - Installed new audio equipment and acquired state of the art wireless systems.
 - Received new prayer rugs as a donation. May Allah reward the donors.
 - Installed a new fence on the North side of the property
 - Work in progress – donation box replacement, vinyl fence on West side, benches for seating, automated parking lot lights, card based secure access for the entire facility etc.
- Continued mentoring and supporting the Muslim Students Association of MSU, other student led initiatives whenever assistance is sought in any form.
- Vibrant social networking via facebook and twitter.
- Conducted Voter Registration drives, promoted civic engagement, engaged politicians during election season
- Acquired a Trailer for increasing our recycling efforts. All paper, board, plastic, metal is now taken weekly to MSU Surplus Recycling Center and foam is transported to Dart Containers in Mason.
- Increased brotherhood and sisterhood by organizing Community Picnics, Dinners and Carnivals
- Held a Graduate Recognition Party for High School Students
- Promoting learning opportunities in surrounding cities
- Facilitated exercise classes for sisters
- Conducting classes for refugees and recent arrivals to our city helping bring them up to speed to excel in area schools.
- Adopted a conservative approach on procurement, switched energy company after studying cost saving proposals, several other cost saving measures adopted.

Dawah Committee Report

By Bassam Mahmoud, Dawah Coordinator

Objectives

The goal of the Dawah Committee is to serve the spiritual needs of the Muslim community in Greater Lansing and to expand our outreach efforts to non-Muslims in the community by hosting and informative workshops and tours of the Islamic Center for them.

Dawah committee conducted the following activities / programs this year so far:

- New Muslims Social Hours – First Tuesday of every month.
- Arranging Khateeb for the Two Jumah (Friday) prayers when Imam is unavailable.
- Friday Khateras – weekly study circles after Maghrib/Isha prayers on Fridays.
- Ramadan programs – Daily taraweeh prayers, Khateras in between Taraweeh prayers, Qiyamul Lail prayers during the last ten nights of Ramadan, Quran recitations etc.
- Eid payers – Eid prayer and khutbah arrangements for two Eid prayers.
- Timely reminders for important Islamic days such as the Day of Arafah, Muharram, Ashoora, awareness of Prophet's birth day.
- Keeping an inventory of Mushaf, Quran English translation, dawah fliers and replenishing them as needed.
- Representing the Islamic Center, and arranging speakers at the public schools, universities and churches.
- Arranging visits to the Islamic center when requested by the public school, university or church groups that want to learn more about Islam.
- Dawah in Prison – sending speakers twice a month to teach / enrich Islamic knowledge to inmates in prison, and also send them the Islamic study materials regularly.
- Conducting wedding services, funeral services and knowledge workshops

Dawaa For Non-Muslims

By Allah's grace, we were able to coordinate and accommodate many requests from non-Muslim organizations such as schools, churches, etc.

- We have expanded our outreach to many venues and regularly send representatives to several schools, Churches, MSU, and LCC.
- Some of these visits are all day and educate the audience about Islam and Muslims.

We strived hard to offer our service to the utmost satisfaction of our visitors.

Interfaith Activities

The Dawaa committee was involved in several Interfaith Activities. Along with our interfaith partners, we co-hosted a major open House style event this year:

- ABC's of Islam – A 'Beyond Coexistence, is it possible?' event, in coordination with Congregation Shaarey Zedek, the ELCA Center for Mission & Ministry, the Red Cedar Community Association and University Lutheran Church.
- Participated and Co-sponsored Thanksgiving interfaith services with other interfaith organizations in Lansing area.

These events helped us to assimilate with the Non-Muslim Community and helps dispel phobia and increases acceptance.

Please forgive us for any shortcomings in Dawah programs.

Bassam Mahmoud

Youth Committee Report

By Bara Aldsouqi, Youth Coordinator

B'ismillah IrRahman IrRaheem

Since the beginning of this term, the Youth Committee held the vision of establishing a youth community in which youth felt welcome and found the tools and inspiration needed to grow and develop. The Youth Committee also sought to establish a framework which future committees could adopt and build off of, since no such framework existed beforehand.

Allah has blessed us with success in many different areas and we've come a few steps closer to these two goals, but plenty of work remains to be done by the upcoming committee.

It has been found that, largely due to the dynamics of our community, serving the needs of the youth is no simple task. Many different attempts have been made at finding the activities and strategies that are both attractive to the youth and meet their needs for brotherhood/sisterhood, mentorship, and guidance, but few of these attempts stood out as truly successful.

As such, the recommendations of the current Youth Coordinator for the upcoming committee are:

- Look seriously into the possibility of enlisting professional help to develop long-term youth programs
- Consider the possibility of hiring a qualified Youth Coordinator, on a part-time basis at least
- During the first portion of the term, meet with the youth leaders of the community to discuss big-picture items, including what's worked before, what hasn't worked, and the best strategy moving forward
- Stay in contact with previous youth volunteers since they all have experience in different areas and most are available and willing to help and be part of the team

Acknowledgement:

Many, many volunteers are involved in organizing youth activities. Some have been dedicated to the youth for many years. Most activities are led by such individuals, with little to no support from the Youth Coordinator. Although they remain nameless in this document, it is their contributions and commitment that have allowed any degree of success to be possible, w'alhamdulillah.

Milestones Achieved:

- Established Youth Fund
- Established online project documentation and planning system
- Adopted an official Youth Facebook page, and increased subscription from 50-60 to 195

Events/Activities (past and *current):

- Social Activities for brothers and sisters (including Eid Activities):
 - Cedar Point trip 2012
 - Laser Tag Lock-Ins (2012)
 - Skiing Trip (winter break)
 - Paintball
 - Basketball Tournaments

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- Annual Brothers Summer Camp
- Friday Night Live weekly youth event
- Eternal Destination Seminar w/ Br. Suleiman
- Ramadan Youth Qiyams
- Ramadan Service Event
- Ramadan Food Drive
- Weekly Tafsir Class w/ Br. Siraj*
- Weekly Brothers Halaqah w/ Imam Mohamed and Br. Khaled*

Projects in the works:

- Streamline online documentation system to be usable and reference-able to future committees
- Print Youth Group shirts to foster a sense of community among youth

Community Services Committee Report

By Nureni Dinki, Community Services Coordinator

- Serve the community at large with their needs.
- Served as a representative for the Somalian community
- Serve as a bridge between the Islamic Center and those in need.
- Helped with organizing Community Dinners
- Built awareness and secured a donation from the Somali community towards cemetery plots

Education Committee Report

By Mujiburohman A. Abas , Sunday School Administrator

Sunday School Report (2012-2014)

In accordance with the ISOGL constitution, Sunday school under the guidance and oversight of the education committee, strived to fulfill its responsibility of holding “Weekend and/or evening Islamic and Arabic language classes for children in the K-12 age group”.

The Sunday school personnel consists of an administrator, a teacher coordinator who is also a senior teacher, and seven other teachers. The school Administrator takes care of the supply needs and the teacher coordinator oversees the curriculum, teacher recruitment and parent-teacher communications etc.

Sunday school classes meet every Sunday other than on public school holidays and aligns with the Public School calendar.

Registration open most of the time. Parents came to register in the first day of the school time in early September. Student registration is processed online.

Sunday School Tuition is now on a tiered system.

2012-2013 student enrollment was 82. In 2013-2014, the enrollment stands at 80 to-date.

Mujiburohman A. Abas

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Financial Report

By Rasheed Ahmed, Treasurer

Islamic Society of Greater Lansing				
Income Statement				
For Eleven Months Ending November 30, 2013				
	Year to Date This Year		Year to Date Last Year	
	362,470.07	100.00	410,069.44	100.00
Revenues				
Donations Received-General Fun	47,735.45	13.17	48,981.64	11.94
Membership	2,584.00	0.71	-	0.00
Pledges - General Fund	37,925.00	10.46	45,947.00	11.20
Rental Properties	13,550.00	3.74	8,650.00	2.11
Gym Rental	2,400.00	0.66	2,100.00	0.51
Parking Rental Revenue	18,405.00	5.08	18,200.00	4.44
Food Sale Revenue	15,501.40	4.28	6,293.50	1.53
Sadaqa	36,038.98	9.94	43,688.00	10.65
Kitchen Revenue	1,600.00	0.44	4,743.00	1.16
Ramadan Donation	101,056.00	27.88	17,400.00	4.24
Community Dinner/E Sponsorship	7,422.00	2.05	-	0.00
Meijer Donation	32.92	0.01	103.03	0.03
Sunday School Revenue	9,620.00	2.65	7,392.14	1.80
Youth Committee Revenue	388.25	0.11	2,000.00	0.49
Other Income	773.07	0.21	830.00	0.20
Donations Received-Building Fund	11,590.00	3.20	80,573.00	19.65
Pledges-Building Fund	12,914.00	3.56	31,745.00	7.74
Fund Raising 1-Building Fund	1,110.00	0.31	70,780.00	17.26
Transfer to school-Fund Raising	(84,500.00)	(23.31)	(73,000.00)	-17.80
Dar Al-Quran Revenue	5,725.00	1.58	2,950.00	0.72
Zakat Almal Revenue	81,297.00	22.43	75,758.13	18.47
Zakat Alfitir Revenue	17,642.00	4.87	14,935.00	3.64
Imam Salary Fund	300.00	0.08	-	0.00
Funeral Wash Room Donation	5,000.00	1.38	-	0.00
Cemetery Fund Project Acct	16,360.00	4.51	-	0.00
				0.00
Total Revenues	362,470.07	100.00	410,069.44	100.00

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Expenses				
Advertising	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.18
Payroll Service fees	23.41	0.01	-	0.00
Bank & Processing Fees	918.94	0.25	1,227.77	0.30
Telephone	2,565.59	0.71	2,519.41	0.61
License & Fees	1,222.20	0.34	-	0.00
Professional fees	8,038.20	2.22	15,000.00	3.66
Office Supplies	436.02	0.12	1,256.35	0.31
Postage & Mailing & Printing	411.60	0.11	381.70	0.09
Speaker Expenses	1,250.00	0.35	8,931.99	2.18
Imam Expenses	695.91	0.19	3,000.00	0.73
Ramadan Expenses	18,650.00	5.16	17,494.74	4.27
Community Lunch/Dinner Expense	2,619.34	0.72	1,612.00	0.39
Eid & Kid Toys Expenses	5,251.18	1.45	4,504.96	1.10
Books & Publication	2,540.00	0.70	967.15	0.24
Donation Expenses	4,200.00	1.16	5,845.36	1.43
Salaries & Wages	28,063.32	7.76	-	0.00
Health Insurance	8,603.20	2.38	-	0.00
Janitorial Purchase Services	8,990.78	2.49	10,108.09	2.46
Rental Expenses	3,000.00	0.83	4,639.50	1.13
Property Taxes	2,113.87	0.58	2,004.15	0.49
Supplies-Center	8,087.44	2.24	3,481.25	0.85
Heat Expenses	9,631.82	2.66	7,623.83	1.86
Electricity Expenses	31,636.64	8.75	28,239.71	6.89
Utilities- Houses	2,345.94	0.65	817.42	0.20
Water & Sewage	3,003.80	0.83	5,993.32	1.46
Trash Removal	810.60	0.22	1,886.45	0.46
Snow Removal & landscaping	1,500.00	0.41	5,284.62	1.29
Maintenance & Repair-Center	12,412.33	3.43	11,368.13	2.77
Maintenance & Repair-Houses	1,365.29	0.38	3,792.00	0.92
Building - Insurance	7,108.02	1.97	8,868.73	2.16
Computer Software	24.14	0.01	451.00	0.11
Other Expenses	2,775.00	0.77	46.99	0.01
Social Committee - Expenses	425.00	0.12	150.00	0.04
Youth Committee - Expenses	1,505.15	0.42	990.59	0.24
Public Relationship Expenses	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.73
Sunday School Expenses	5,577.45	1.54	13,281.00	3.24

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Dar Al-Quran Expenses	6,132.00	1.70	2,566.55	0.63
Building F./Building Improvements	889.48	0.25	-	0.00
Building/Fund Raising Expenses	0.00	0.00	2,243.60	0.55
Zakat Almal Expenses	76,260.00	21.10	57,411.14	14.00
Zakat Alfitir Expenses	20,500.00	5.67	18,329.00	4.47
				0.00
Total Expenses	291,583.66	80.67	256,068.50	62.45
Net Income	70,886.41	19.33	154,000.94	37.55
Beginning Retained Earnings	1,402,468.67		1,187,776.69	
Adjustments To Date	0.00			
Unrealized Loss/Gain on Invest	21,139.27		22,351.00	
Ending Retained Earnings	1,494,494.35		1,364,128.63	

Islamic Society of Greater Lansing		
Income Statement		
As at November 15, 2013		
ASSETS	Center 11/15/2013	Center 11/15/2012
Current Assets		
General Fund-4253868332	\$ 77,981.63	86,301.46
Funeral Wash Room Fund-40583	34,408.28	71,471.09
Zakat Fund-4253868359	56,411.38	53,140.88
Dar Al-Quran-4251301228	1,266.29	10,541.29
Other Receivables	18.55	40,197.00
Greater Lansing Islamic School	0.00	(1,000.00)
Total Current Assets	170,086.13	260,651.72
Property and Equipment	0	9322.30
Furniture and Fixtures(NOT USE)	1,484.72	0.00
Equipment's & Furniture	10,021.30	0.00
Leasehold Improvements	2,740.00	1,400.00
Construction in Progress	4,674.72	435,070.52
Building	1,018,826.12	474,130.05
Building Improvements	12,945.00	19,766.73

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Rental Houses Improvements	50,347.42	0.00
Total Property and Equipment	1,101,039.28	939,689.60
Other Assets		
Merrill Lynch Wealth Mang.	33,346.04	30,503.85
Saturna Capital Corporation	194,196.89	172,549.64
Islamic Centers CO-OP Fund	736.52	701.45
Total Other Assets	228,279.45	203,754.94
Total Assets	\$ 1,499,404.86	\$ 1,404,096.26
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities	\$ 2,005.00	\$ 4,840.48
Accounts Payable	\$ 0.00	\$ 32,221.64
Women Committee Fund	1,075.51	1,075.51
Women Crisis Fund	1,830.00	1,830.00
Total Current Liabilities	4,910.51	39,967.63
Long-Term Liabilities		
Total Long-Term Liabilities	0.00	0.00
Total Liabilities	4,910.51	39,967.63
Capital		
Retained Earnings	1,402,468.67	1,187,776.69
Unrealized Loss/Gain on Invest	21,139.27	22,351.00
Net Income	70,886.41	154,000.94
Total Capital	1,494,494.35	1,364,128.63
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$ 1,499,404.86	\$ 1,404,096.26

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Comments

Fund Raising

We experimented with a novel idea for raising money during the past Ramadan. We came up with a different idea which was a complete departure from the previous fund-raising efforts which usually relied on an outside speaker to spearhead the fundraising campaign for the community. Alhamdulillah, the effort which was low-key, done without the usual fanfare of the past, such as the printing of invitations and the entertainment that goes with it, and yet it yielded a total of \$101,056 in cash donations and total pledges of \$26,400. As of the date of this report, we have already collected \$13,400 out of the pledge sum, leaving a balance of \$13,000 to be collected.

Therefore the total donation from the past Ramadan fundraising was \$114,456. We thank our brothers and sisters - the gold, silver and bronze sponsors for their generous donations. May Allah (SWT) reward them abundantly for their efforts, Amen.

Revenues

Total revenues during the current period reduced by \$48,599 when compared with total receipts collected last year. This translates to about 11.85% less revenue than we earned last year. Similarly, our fund raising drive in the past year yielded less revenue than last year, with shortfall of about \$51,106.

The Center relies on funding by and donations from our brothers and sisters to stay afloat and we encourage continuous support from members.

Expenses

Total expenses during the current year increased by \$34,515 from \$256,069 to \$291,584 this year. Most of our expenditures were curtailed or remained at last year's level except those that we have no control over like Heating and Electricity which are based on usage that we do not have control over.

Because we have hired a new Imam, we now have the obligation to pay his salaries and wages and health care costs. This cost accounted for more than 10% of our total expenditure.