



Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati Annual Report 2019

UPLIFTING LIVES AS A *MODEL MUSLIM AMERICAN COMMUNITY*

A photograph of a mosque interior. In the foreground, a group of children, mostly boys, are standing in a line, facing right. They are dressed in casual clothing, with some wearing head coverings. In the background, several adults are sitting on the floor, and there are arched windows and a large decorative wall panel. The floor is covered with a large, patterned rug.

VISION: UPLIFTING LIVES AS A MODEL MUSLIM AMERICAN COMMUNITY

"ICGC is at the very core of the Islamic Community in Cincinnati. From the youth to our elders, there is a space for everyone"

MISSION: The Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati (ICGC) is the Spiritual Oasis for Muslim Americans, Living Islam through Worship, Education, Service, Leadership, and Outreach



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Message from Chair of IEC Board

Amir Izhar

AsSalaam'u Alaikum Dear ICGC families,

I would like to begin by thanking Allah SWT for blessing us with this beautiful community.

As we embark upon a new year with many exciting opportunities, I want to reflect upon the major accomplishments of 2019. The greatest investments we have made are the new people we have brought on board. Beginning with the addition of **Shaikh Mahmoud Khalil**, and the launch of ICGC's Quran Hifz program, we have been blessed with the recitation of the beautiful Quran year round. Shortly after, **Isa ArRazi** joined us as ICGC's full time youth coordinator. He has taken our youth programs to another level, best highlighted by the 400 plus attendance at the Youth Conference in October. Last fall, we were blessed to hire our new Executive Director, **Henry Hane**. He has been doing an outstanding job with his leadership in moving ICGC forward with excellence and professionalism. Finally, the ongoing spiritual guidance from **Shaikh Hossam Musa** is truly invaluable.

ICGC had a **leadership transition** this year with board elections. I would like to thank our retiring board members: Shakila Ahmad, Ghulam Asif, Dr. Nisar Haq, Dr. Nemat Moussavian, Dr. Majid Qureshi, and Dr. Ashraf Traboulsi, for their support and dedication over the years, which we know will continue onwards inshaAllah. I would like to thank all those who ran in the elections, and would like to welcome our new board members: Shabana Ahmed, Dr. Mohammad Dahman, Shazafar Khaja, Hadil Lababidi, Dr. Faiz Sherman, and Dr. Samina Sohail.

ICGC adopted an **updated vision and mission** statement which builds upon the vision of the founders and the tremendous work of the past 25 years. Our new vision is simple: "Uplifting Lives as a Model Muslim American Community," and we aim to achieve this through our updated mission: "ICGC is the Spiritual Oasis for Muslim Americans, living Islam through Worship, Education, Service, Leadership, and Outreach." The annual report highlights many of these in depth, and I look forward to more great things coming from these programs this year inshaAllah.

Infrastructure is an ongoing need at an institution of this caliber and size. Through your generous donations, we were able to have a broad IT/AV upgrade, additional security, updated landscaping and painting, undergo campus wide exterior power wash, remodel bathroom stalls, and more.

Exciting **new plans for 2020** include strategic planning, expansion of existing programs, launch of a civic engagement team, musalla carpet installation, walkway remodeling, a celebration of our 25th anniversary and much more inshaAllah.

The success of our institution reflects the tremendous dedication, commitment, and service of ICGC's staff, volunteers, and donors. I would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you for this support- past, present, and future. May Allah SWT bless you and your families.



Message from Imam Sheikh Hossam Musa

Assalamualaikum My Dear and Precious Community,

I praise Allah SWT and invoke His peace and blessings upon our dear and beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), his family, companions, and followers.

It is imperative to bring attention and awareness to important matters in order to keep our community healthy and strong. Lately, I am seeing a spike in mental health issues, substance abuse, faith crises- especially in teenagers, marital discord, and family problems.

As I interact with our community members, I am often approached for guidance on these matters. Often times, the parents of a teenager say that they had no clue their child was experiencing serious mental health issues or faith crises. But then they are completely surprised when they discover otherwise!

Please try to be more vigilant and aware of your child's mental health and emotional well-being. Don't just assume that since they're not complaining, that there is no issue or problem. Be in touch with them, talk to them, befriend them, converse with them safely, and provide them with the safety, security, affection, and support that they need, especially during these challenging teenage years. Please don't hesitate to educate yourself about mental health and how to deal with mental health issues when they arise. It is a testament to our humanity to have health challenges; mental, emotional, physical, and otherwise. Please don't assume that if I don't have it, it's not that important. Let's increase our awareness and learn together, as a community, how we can address these real, and sometimes serious, challenges. ICGC is offering health seminars through Rahma throughout the year. Please take part in using these seminars, in addition to any and all resources available to you. You owe this to yourself and your family. May Allah SWT bless them and keep them safe and healthy.

While many of us may not be aware, our children are exposed to countless opportunities to use, experiment, and possibly abuse tobacco, drugs and alcohol. Please monitor your children's well-being: talk to them, educate them, instill confidence in them, and advise them to be careful and selective in the quality of friends they choose. Trust, but verify. Show me your friends, and I'll tell you who you are. We are heavily influenced by our friends, peers, and people we hangout with. Talk to specialists in the field of substance abuse and attend the well planned and very important seminars offered this year at ICGC insha'Allah.

Although we do our best to address crises of faith when they unfortunately occur, taking a proactive approach is a much better and much more effective way to avoid serious issues.

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Message from Imam Sheikh Hossam Musa

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Oftentimes, a parent will ask me, “my child is doubting their faith, what do I do!?” I’ll ask, “have you put your child in a fulltime Islamic school?” They answer, no. I ask, “have you enrolled them in the youth programs offered at your local Masjid?” They answer no. I ask, “have you enrolled them in the Quran/Hifz program offered by your local Masjid?” They answer no. I ask, “do they go to the Islamic Sunday School?” They usually answer, no, or they attended for just a couple of years. I ask, “do you as a parent take your family, children included, to the weekly lecture at your Masjid, attend national/regional Muslim conventions, go to Umrah, or participate in the educational programs offered by your Masjid/Muslim community?” They sadly answer, no. My next question is, “do you have younger children?” If they say yes, I suggest to the parents that they make some serious changes in their lifestyles, particularly in the way they are raising their children. I remind them to make sincere duas, and then commit to actively participate in the above mentioned programs. It is the most effective way to ensure the rest of their children don’t end up in the same place a few years later. Unfortunately, they likely will if families don’t change their trajectory.

I can’t emphasize how important it is to regularly and continuously participate in all, if not, as many of the programs your local Masjid and Muslim community is offering, especially full time Islamic schools! Being proactive is much more effective! May Allah SWT bless, guide, and protect our children and loved ones.

Insha’Allah, this year we at ICGC and Rahma will be providing programs lead by specialists to help raise awareness and address these very important matters. Our educational programs plan to focus on family and marriage with its many dimensions. Please look forward to these upcoming programs, and please make sure you participate with your precious families. May Allah SWT bless, guide, and protect our families and loved ones



Message from Executive Director Henry Hane

Assalaamu Aleykum Dear Community,

As times get confusing and less certain for Muslims in America, it becomes clearer and clearer that ICGC is asserting itself as a beacon of hope for our generation and the future ones. The intricacies of the challenges Muslims face require an organized and professional institution that deeply explores and understands the diverse identities, ideologies, and socioeconomic conditions of our community members. And ICGC has proven that such an organization is possible by building a model other Muslim institutions that aspire to uplift the lives of Muslim Americans can emulate.

The path to build such a model institution is through a well-thought-out Vision and Mission. And members, donors, volunteers, board members, and staff commit their time and other resources to create the gem that ICGC is today. This commitment is reflected in the tireless support and services they render to ensure that ICGC is and remains the spiritual oasis for Muslim Americans.

In 2019, we engaged an accomplished very important projects at ICGC. Among such projects were the exterior cleaning of all ICGC building and walkways, the first phase of the wudu area renovation, realignment of services, space configuration to accommodate more services and activities, etc. However, as successful as 2019, the year 2020 promises to take ICGC to even greater heights with several major projects to take place.

As Executive Director, I am truly honored to be part of this amazing community and look forward to a bright 2020 year for ICGC!

JazaKallah Khair.

Quran Programs

Quran/Hifz with Shaykh Mahmoud



Currently with more than 50+ students (young and adults) who are learning Hifz and Taweed

We are delighted to welcome Sheykh Mahmoud to our ICGC family as Quran/Hifz teacher. He is a world-class reciter and hafiz who has received his certification from Shaykh Mohamed Jibreel, one of the highest-ranked reciters in the world. He has traveled and led tarawih prayers in Argentina, Brazil, Spain, and here in the United States.



ICGC Quran Hifdh School **SUPERSTARS**

Celebrating the Success of Students who have Recently Excelled in their Memorization



Arhab Ahmed



Kulsoom Ahmed



Shazeb Abid



Ahyan Ahmed



Yusuf Zafar



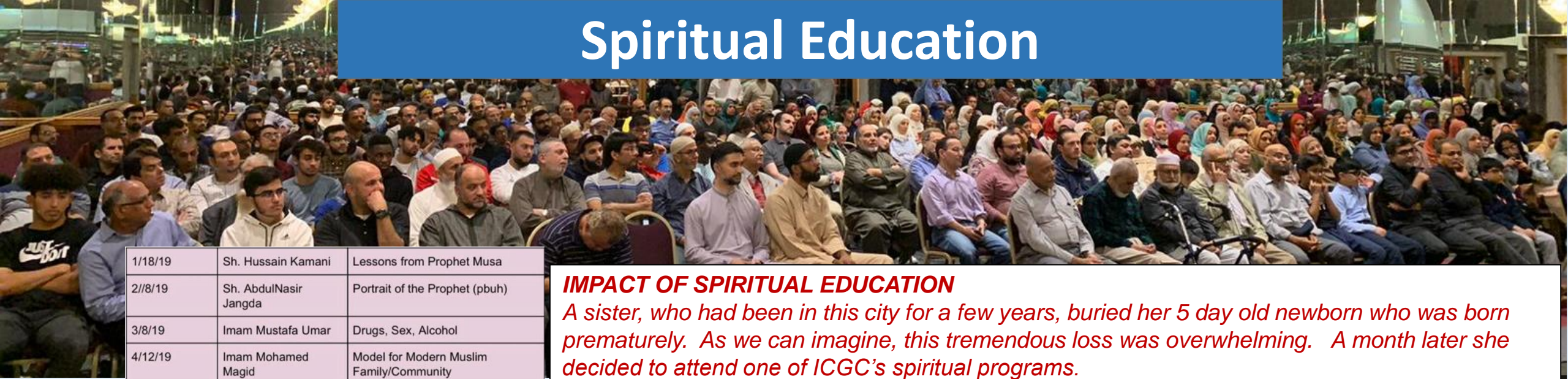
Yousuf Jafree

Quran Connections



Currently with more than 150+ students Quran Connections is a unique Quran program that not only makes individuals proficient in reading the Quran but also deepens understanding of the Quran and Sunnah. This is a 12 step program for all ages and proficiency levels

Spiritual Education



1/18/19	Sh. Hussain Kamani	Lessons from Prophet Musa
2/18/19	Sh. AbdulNasir Jangda	Portrait of the Prophet (pbuh)
3/8/19	Imam Mustafa Umar	Drugs, Sex, Alcohol
4/12/19	Imam Mohamed Magid	Model for Modern Muslim Family/Community
9/6/19	Sh. Joe Bradford	Balancing Faith/Financial Success
9/27/19	Dr. Abdul Majid Khan	Islamic Will Seminar
10/11/19	Imam Suhaib Webb	"Muhasabah-the Ultimate Selfie"
11/8/19	Sh. Ammar AlShukry	Riya- Sincerity in Actions
12/6-7/19	Dr. Haifaa Younis	FRI: Purification of the Heart SAT: Ladies- Menstruation
Wednesdays	Sh. Hossam Musa	Riyadh UsSaliheen
Fridays	Sh. Hossam Musa	Seerah of the Prophet (pbuh)
Jun/Jul 19	Sh. Hossam Musa	Reflections from Surah Yusuf (4 sessions)
Misc	Sh. Hossam Musa	Umrah/Ramadan/Hajj Prep Ramadan Taraweeh/Fajr Khatiras
Ramadan	Misc Speakers	Ladies Ramadan Halaqa
Tuesdays	Misc Speakers	Ladies weekly Halaqa
Jan/Feb 19	Misc Speakers	Malik Lecture Series
March 19	MUHSEN	Special Needs Individuals
Ramadan	Sh. Ahmed Billoo	Inspiration Fundraiser
9/26/19	Victor Begg	BookSigning- Muslim Neighbors
10/18-20/19	Multiple Speakers	Youth Conference/Parenting

IMPACT OF SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

A sister, who had been in this city for a few years, buried her 5 day old newborn who was born prematurely. As we can imagine, this tremendous loss was overwhelming. A month later she decided to attend one of ICGC's spiritual programs.

She relayed how much that helped her with the healing process. She said it reminded her of how her faith could carry her through the hardest trials, and more importantly hearing how others navigated their way reminded her of the light at the end of the tunnel.



Youth Activities



In 2019, we welcomed Isa Ar-Razi as ICGC Youth Coordinator to drive Youth Engagement

A very successful ICGC Youth Conference with more than 400 participants, national speakers and youth relevant topics



"ICGC is a great hub for our youth; it's a safe nurturing place where the youth can learn, play, pray, and get connected to others and their Lord"

Muslim Girls Teen Club (MGTC) is aimed for girls between the ages of 12 and 18, serving around 85 girls, while focusing on three main areas: Social, Spiritual, Service. For example, they went to Hands Against Hunger to help pack meals for less fortunate kids around the world

Highlights

- Youth Networking and Brainstorming
- 30 Days of Fajr
- Youth Qiyam
- Youth Iftar
- Muslim Girls Teen Club (MGTC)
- Al-Zahrawat Girls Club
- Boys and Girls Soccer
- Pottery, Art 1 and Art 2
- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Hiking and Enrichment Trip
- 30 Days of Fajr Trip to Hidden River Cave KY
- ICGC Youth Middle School Boys Halakah
- Friday Meetings
- Friday Fun Night
- ICGC Youth Companion of the Cave Program
- Youth Board Elections



Weekend School

Transformational weekend school with 480+ students and 50+ teachers and volunteers

The Islamic Weekend School is dedicated to providing a complete Islamic education to our youth in a caring environment. Students, ages 4 to 17 years, learn about Islam, learn Arabic to better understand the Qur'an, form lasting friendships, learn about other cultures, play sports, participate in community service, and develop pride as Muslim Americans.

"Keys to Jannah" is part of Sunday School addressing the needs of special needs children. ICGC is the only Masjid in Ohio that is MUHSEN certified as a special needs friendly Masjid



A very successful Annual Day Quran Competition and Basketball with more than 1,000 participants and visitors for many cities

Social Services



Success@Work approximately 200 individuals were provided employment support services including building resumes, searching and applying for jobs, interview prep, onboarding support and post placement support that may last upto 6 months or less as needed.



Success@Home served over 500 families by providing Clothing & Household items, Food & Hygiene bags, Rent & Utility Assistance, Transportation Support as well as Legal & Medical Referrals.



Success@Learning helped 50 adults develop literacy, language and life skills through weekly ESL & Civics lessons. We also began introducing the concept of digital literacy / blended learning into our classrooms.



Success@School continued to provide tutoring/mentoring services to approximately 20 kids.



Success@Life empowered women with knowledge and resources to take better care of themselves and their families through a series of monthly workshops on topics such as marriage, women's health, nutrition.

Sister Ibtisam fled war torn Syria in 2013 because of the desperately tragic situation - no food, no water, no electricity, and no safety. Sister Ibtisam enrolled in ICGC Social Services' ESL classes, receives ongoing support through services such as employment, food pantry, family assistance, transportation and more.

"If volunteers were not here for us, we would not and still can not move forward in the United States, we are truly blessed for everything you have helped us with."

Rahma Community Services



Family and Faith - Family Connections (Marriage Connections, Senior Connections); Visiting the Sick



Life Essentials - Feed the Needy (Breakfast and Lunch at Shelters, Downtown Masjid); Drives (Ramadan Drive, Eid Gift Cards and Toy Drive, Udhia Drive, Community Food Drive, Computers for Needy Drive)



Health and Wellness - Health Fair was a successful event which served around 250-300 clients



Education: Educational events that helped bring awareness of different issues to the community

One Croissant, One egg, Half muffin, One fruit, One cup of juice these above items in a plate are luxury for some people who are without homes and who don't know when they are going to get the next meal. Giving them joy with breakfast or lunch is the least thing we can do.

Many came and thanked us so much for providing this breakfast. One lady with tears in her eyes came and told us "I never imagined I would stand here in line and take food. Please pray to Allah that I get job" and she went away crying.



As families arrived for the distribution one child stated, "This is a great toy land!" While children were choosing their Eid Gifts, their faces lit up with joy as their hearts were content with happiness.

New Muslims

"ICGC has made strides over the years and have made improvements. The new Muslims group is a great help, jump starting my learning"

New Muslim programs focus on providing support to those that are new to Islam, religiously and socially.

New to Islam classes and programs cater to more than **100 individuals**.

More than **20 have accepted** Islam on over the course of the year.



Volunteers

"ICGC is an embassy to our local Muslim and broader community. Doing my little part to support it contributes to making ICGC alive & vibrant"

Volunteer Philosophy: Cultivate and facilitate a volunteer environment with a spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood where performance is recognized.

200+ volunteers (adults and youth) help make ICGC a vibrant and thriving place, helping out and leading programs and services. Volunteers have spent many hours from labor intensive projects with 400 hours on one weekend to frequent but less intensive labor programs such as "Know your Neighbor" with 4 hours every month.

During the application week, we made posters for community members to participate in giving **thanks to our volunteers**. We organized a volunteer pizza night for our **youth volunteers** to engage and share their challenges and aspirations for volunteering. Award program recognizes talented and committed volunteers.



VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP TEAM PRESENT:
**ICGC OUTSTANDING
VOLUNTEER AWARDS**

THE RECIPIENT OF THE OUTSTANDING ADULT
VOLUNTEER AWARD:

BR. AHMED SHEIKH

Thank you ICGC volunteers for your outstanding service to the community. May Allah bless you and continue to grant you the strength and passion to keep serving with excellence. Thank you to Br. Akram Syed for sponsoring this award program.

THE RECIPIENTS OF THE OUTSTANDING
YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD:



**SHOIRA GULOMBEKOVA,
15 YEARS OLD**

Outstanding service and character: Shoira is the dream volunteer of any organization. She completed more than 40 hours in less than 4 months. She is very disciplined, diligent, always punctual and highly dependable.



**NOORALDEEN BAKRI,
19 YEARS OLD**

Outstanding character and service: Nooraldeen is a sophomore at Miami University who made service to his local community his priority. He has fulfilled all his responsibilities with great spirit and efficiency.



**ZANE CHARIF,
15 YEARS OLD**

Outstanding character and leadership: Zane has demonstrated leadership skills by taking on difficult positions. She has all the qualities of an excellent volunteer. She is responsible, reliable, and pleasant to work with.

Appreciating our volunteers: Enjoyed having volunteers and families join our picnic to get to know each other and develop bonds of brotherhood as we all strive to serve the Creator.



Social, Recreation and Sports



Seerah Dinner



Eid Fireworks



Eid Carnival

Social events brings the community together and celebrates our diversity

Forum for Muslim professionals to connect, engage and empower one another and our community



"Blessed"
Food Tent

Sports, recreation-a way to bring community together and connect with each other

Basketball – Boys, Girls
Soccer – Adult, Boys, Girls
Cricket
Badminton
Ping Pong
Karate
Ladies Zumba & Fitness



Ping Pong Tournament



Ladies Fitness



Cricket Tournament

Outreach



More than 5,000+ are exposed and educated via ICGC Outreach programs,

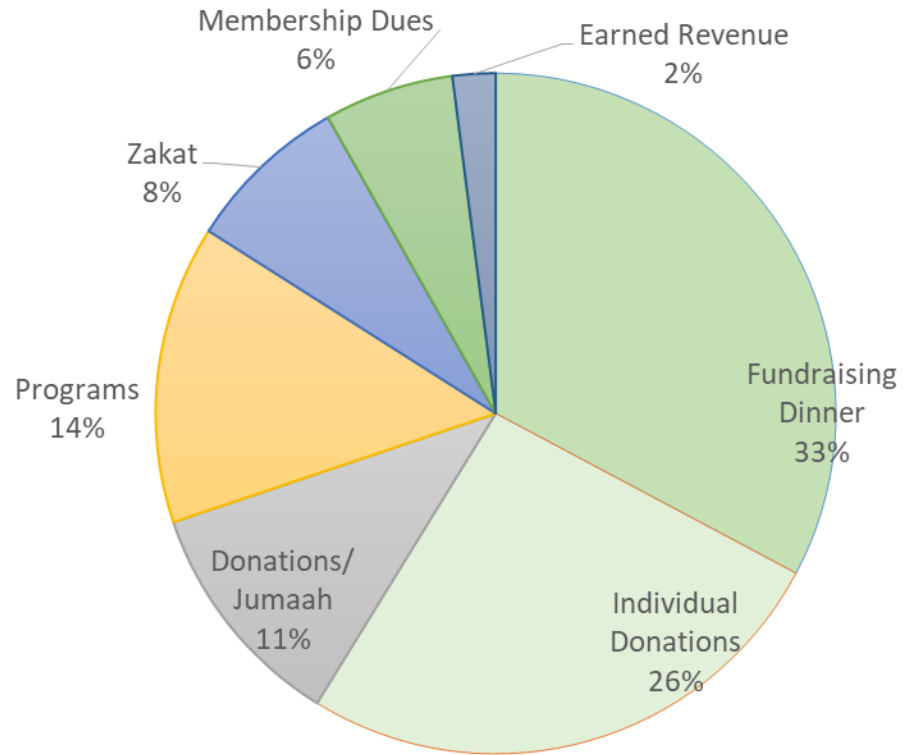
These include monthly "Know Your Neighbor", Tours, Talks to businesses, schools, civic, faith organizations. Influencer Dinner had more than 100 of Cincinnati's civic, faith and business leaders, Co-Founder Festival of Faiths, Bridges of Faith Trialogue

"For 20+ years ICGC has worked hard to be inclusive of all Muslims and non-Muslims alike. I always get complements from visiting family members about the uniqueness of this community. May Allah continue to bless us to grow as one and remain central in the hearts of Cincinnati Muslims!"

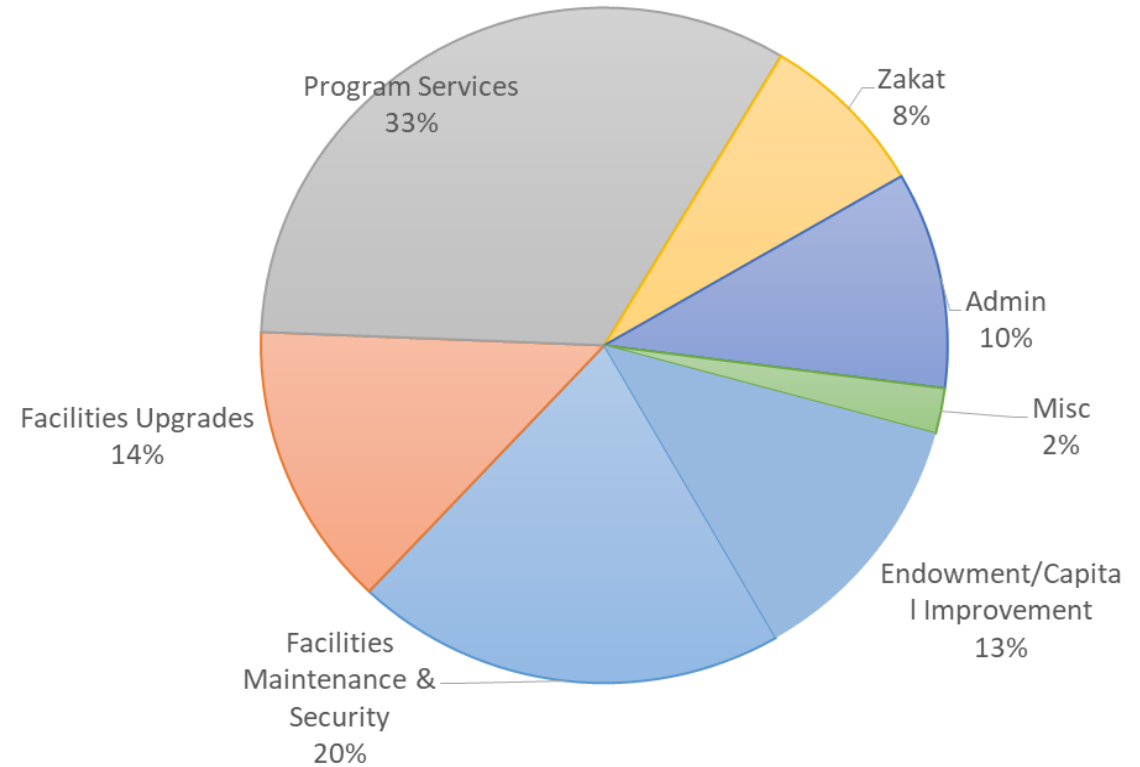


Funds and Expenses

Funds = \$2.10 Million



Expenses = \$2.01 Million





2020 Board of Trustees

EC = Executive Committee



Amir Izhar - Chair
2nd Term: 2018-21
Appointed



Nazim Fazlani - V-Chair
2nd Term: 2018-21
Appointed



Inenhe Khalid - V-Chair
2nd Term: 2018-21
Elected



Samina Sohail Secretary
1st Term: 2020-23
Appointed



Maria Munir - Treasurer
1st Term: 2018-21
Elected



Shahzafar Khaja
Elected - Trustee + EC
1st Term 2020-23



Hadil Lababidi
Elected - Trustee + EC
1st Term 2020-23



Shabana Ahmed
Appointed - Trustee + EC
1st Term: 2020-23



Imran Arif
Appointed - Trustee
1st Term: 2018-21



Mohamed Dahman
Appointed - Trustee
1st Term 2020-23



Syed Moqeeth
Appointed - Trustee
2nd Term: 2018-21



Rick Schwen
Appointed - Trustee + EC
1st Term: 2018-21



Faiz Sherman
Appointed - Trustee
1st Term: 2020-23



Ayman Sheatt
Appointed - Trustee
1st Term: 2018-21



Tariq Sultan
Appointed - Trustee
1st Term: 2018-21



Operations Staff



Faiza Abid
Accounting Asst.
2015-Present



Yousuf Alani
Parking Att.
2017-Present



Leanna Allouch
Case Coordinator
2016-Present



Racine Diallo
Security
2019-Present



Henry Hane
Executive Director
2019-Present



Shaykh Hossam Musa
Imam
2016-Present



Isa Ar-Razi
Youth Coordinator
2019-Present



Amany Eldeeb
IWS Administrator
2018-Present



Nadia Hidayatullah
Admin. Asst.
2014-Present



Hanaa Ibrahim
Custodian
2019-Present



Ramatulai Jalloh
Custodian
2019-Present



Shaykh Mahmoud Khalil
2019-Present



Samira Jaweed
S.S. Operations Mgr.
2014-Present



Huma Khan
A.R. Clerk
2002-Present



Noor Mustafa
Admin. Asst.
2018-Present



Jackie Othman
Service Coordinator
2016-Present



Ali Salahudeen
Adhan and Facilities
1998-Present

- S.S. = Social Service
- A.R. = Account Receivable
- IWS = Islamic Weekend School

Team Leaders

Abdul Rahim	Member Services
Abdussalaam Tarabishi	Youth Development Program
Ahmad Sheikh	Technology
Alaa Minkara	CMP, Ladies Fitness
Aysha Rasool	Communication
Dima Almeniawi	Al-Zahrawat
Faiz Sherman	Security, YDP
Fatma ElMaery	Al-Zahrawat
Hasan Idrees	Adult Education

Hoda El-Gamal	Quran Connections
Imane Khayat	Volunteer
Khitam Abuzeyada	Muslim Girls Teen Club
Maram Khabbaz	Rahma Community Services
Maria Munir	Seerah Dinner
Munam Syed	Sports
Nasreen Fathima	New Muslims
Nehad Omara	Quran Connections
Rick Schwen	Welcome

Samina Sohail	Adult Education
Samreen Arshad	Social Events
Shabana Shakir-Ahmed	Tours & Talks
Shahid Malik	New Muslim
Shaimaa Garaween	Al-Zahrawat
Shazadi Khawaja	Rahma Community Services
Shazafar Khaja	Information
Shazia Dahr	Keys to Jannah
Zeinab Schwen	Welcome

DONORS STAFF VOLUNTEERS THANKS

To the hundreds of donors, staff and volunteers who give their support, time, commitment and passion in making ICGC a vibrant community.

You put in countless hours to make these programs and services possible.

All of the work that you see is made possible by the blessings of Allah SWT and YOUR efforts.

May Allah SWT bless you and protect your families.

