

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



**Muslim Social Services**

- > New Website is a go
- > Over 500 meals served at St. John's Kitchen
- > \$1720 raised in summer food drive
- > Thanks to the Waterloo Region DV Police Branch, Islamic Centre of Cambridge, and Catholic Family Counselling for another successful *Safer Families* Workshop

# Muslim Social Services KW

## Message from the coordinator

Assalamualaikum members of the Muslim community,

Ramadan Kareem to all of you!

With the Blessings of Allah, MSS has had a very busy summer organizing events, serving people, doing community outreach and interfaith dialogue. Thanks to the invitation from our local MPs, Mr. Peter Braid and Mr. Stephen Woodworth, both of whom are very appreciative of MSS' work in the community, I, along with other community leaders, had an opportunity to be part of a round table discussion on issues pertaining to multiculturalism with Minister Jason Kinney and another representative attended a discussion on immigration issues with Minister Peter Kent. These opportunities allowed us to share concerns of the Muslim community with our political representatives, who intently listened and very graciously took note of our concerns.

MSS is grateful for the new partnership we have with the Catholic Family Counselling Services. Our thanks are due to Cathy Brothers, the Executive Director of CFCS and all other

members of her team for her willingness to partner with MSS on our programs and provide help and support. Alhamdulillah, MSS received a grant for designing creative programming for refugees this year. The Welcome to Canada: Storytimes is the first such program being offered this Fall led by our very own volunteer, Sr. Fran Pappert-Shannon who brings a wealth of experience in children's programming from her CTV Romper Room days.

MSS continues its commitment to safer Muslim families and the last workshop at the Cambridge Islamic Centre was well received. Insha'Allah, the next workshop will focus on ending violence in the family from an Islamic perspective.

Alhamdulillah, the soup kitchen at St. John's Kitchen was a success as was the halal meat drive. May Allah Bless all those that contributed to both programs—financially and by volunteering their time.

This Ramadan we are not just providing assistance to the needy but also asking you, the members of the community, to adopt a refugee family and

make them part of your reaching out plan for Ramadan. We hope that we will have a successful Ramadan program, Insha'Allah.

There are many other exciting programs coming up and we will keep you posted.

As always, none of what we do in the community is possible without our wonderful and dedicated volunteers. I thank everyone for their efforts. May Allah reward you manifold. Amen! If anyone wants to volunteer their services please email us or call us.

Wasalam,  
Idrisa Pandit  
Coordinator

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## MSS New Website Launched!



Congratulations and thanks to Zainab Ramahi, our webmaster for her hard work recreating and redesigning our website after we experienced a breach of security. It was an arduous task and we apologize for any inconvenience caused to our patrons during the time of website re-construction. It is now up and running, visit it often to check for updates! If you would like to reach us, please email us at: [info@muslimsocialserviceskw.org](mailto:info@muslimsocialserviceskw.org).

To volunteer, please fill out a volunteer form available on the website.

To subscribe to the newsletter, please email: [subscribe@muslimsocialserviceskw.org](mailto:subscribe@muslimsocialserviceskw.org)

[www.muslimsocialserviceskw.org](http://www.muslimsocialserviceskw.org)

[info@muslimsocialserviceskw.org](mailto:info@muslimsocialserviceskw.org)

[subscribe@muslimsocialserviceskw.org](mailto:subscribe@muslimsocialserviceskw.org)

Many thanks  
to all the  
volunteers,  
who helped  
serve 500+  
meals!

## St. John's Kitchen

Once again with the generous support of the Muslim community of Kitchener-Waterloo, MSS volunteers cooked and served a delicious meal at the St. John's Kitchen on July 27th. Over 500 meals were served and as always the food was a big hit with everyone. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped raise funds, buy groceries, cook and serve the meal. Special thanks is due to the youth volunteers!

## Safer Families Workshop III

Continuing our commitment to building safer Muslim families, MSS in cooperation with the Waterloo Region Domestic Violence Police Branch and Catholic Family Counselling held a workshop for Imams and other community leaders at the Islamic Centre of Cambridge. Our speakers were Officer Paul Lobsinger, head of the DV Branch and Pamela Mank, Executive Director of Family Violence at Catholic Family Counselling. About fifty people attended the workshop which covered topics of various forms of abuse and how to seek help if abuse occurs in a family.

Our thanks to the administrators of ICC and Imam Kabbar for hosting this program, which was very well received by the community.

## Ramadan Mubarak!



*Be good to orphans and the very poor. And speak good words to people  
-Surah al-Baqarah: 83*

## Summer Food Drive

Given the economic downturn, many families are struggling to make ends meet. MSS has been in making halal food available for the clients at emergency food hampers in the region for several years now. Many Muslim families depend on food assistance from these shelters, hence a great increase in demand for halal food.

This summer MSS issued an online call for a summer food drive, which was a great success. Members of Muslim community contributed \$1720 for the halal food drive. MSS presented a cheque for \$1000 to the House of Friendship Emergency Food Hamper and a \$500 cheque to the Waterloo Region Food Bank. The Region of Waterloo Food Bank doubled that amount and dedicated \$1000 for halal food. Halal meat worth \$220 was delivered to the Chandler-Mowatt Community Centre.

**Please note that the halal food program is a year round program. Anyone who wishes to contribute to this program can write a cheque directly to the House of Friendship or the Food Bank and mail the cheques to MSS. We then forward all the contributions together to the respective agencies and you are guaranteed a tax receipt.**

## Ramadan Assistance and Adopt-a-Family Refugee Program

Alhamdulillah, the call to adopt a refugee family has generated a great response from the community. We have been able to assist many new refugee families. Some who could not make a time commitment to be hosts to these families throughout the year, offered a financial gift for Ramadan. This program has helped many orphan children who are just beginning to find their way in the new Canadian system. May Allah be pleased with everyone who reached out to help these families.

Assisting new refugees coming to town is an ongoing activity of MSS. Insha'Allah, a group of Palestinian families will be arriving with the help of the local Mennonite Churches. We are always in need of volunteers to help the new arrivals. Anyone interested in helping out, please come forward and volunteer with us. We especially need volunteers who speak Somali and Arabic.

## Welcome to Canada: Storytimes

MSS will be offering free storytimes to children ages 5-7 at Catholic Family Counselling Centre starting in October. Kids will enjoy a warm welcome, inspiring stories, joyful songs, fun finger plays, playful puppets and creative crafts. There will also be an informal sharing time for mothers, allowing them to share their experiences of being in Canada and joys and challenges of settling down.

For more information or to register, call 519-772-0124.



**“May Allah be pleased with everyone who reached out to help these families.”**

**New to Canada? Have a young child? Check out Storytimes!**



## Mennonite Central Committee Kit Packing

As part of the on-going Mennonite Muslim dialogue, MSS partners with our Mennonite brothers and sisters. We have several joint activities during the year. One ongoing activity is packing medical and relief kits at the Mennonite Central Committee of Ontario once a month. Insha'Allah, the kit packing sessions will resume in October. Please watch the website for updates.

## Pandemic Update

MSS is a member of the pandemic preparedness focus group of local faith community representatives led by the Grand River Hospital. A preliminary meeting was held at the Grand River Hospital in August to work towards a "statement on religious practice in the event of pandemic limitations". All faith communities are expected to have a plan in case of a pandemic. It is even more important for our Masajid to have this plan in place since Muslims congregate five times a day at the Masjid. Simple precautions such as avoiding shaking hands, frequent washing and sanitizing of hands, and staying home from work and school when feeling sick can help prevent the spread of infection.

You can get more information from the website for Public Health Agency of Canada at [www.pandemicinfluenza.gc.ca](http://www.pandemicinfluenza.gc.ca).

For Waterloo region's pandemic plan, please visit [www.waterlooregionpandemic.ca](http://www.waterlooregionpandemic.ca).



The Best of People are Those Who Benefit Others



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## What is MSS?

Muslim Social Services of Kitchener Waterloo is a Muslim volunteer organization that provides culturally and spiritually sensitive humanitarian and social services to the Muslim and non-Muslim community of Waterloo Region. MSS was started in January 2007, although members of the group have been actively serving the community for many years.

For more information about MSS, or how you can get involved, please visit [www.muslimsocialserviceskw.org](http://www.muslimsocialserviceskw.org)

### Upcoming Events:

**Dr. Abuleish at U of Waterloo** Sept 21

**Storytimes series begins** Oct 15

**Joseph and Forgiveness-more** Nov 2  
info TBA