

## **Report of the Director of Education By Hanan Elbardouh.** **March, 2017**

Alsalamu Alaikum Wa rahmato Allah wabarakatuh,  
Much like previous years, this past term has been busy, challenging, and endlessly rewarding as the Director of Education. It has been my honor to fill this position, and I am so proud of all this school has accomplished, and look forward to seeing more growth in the future.

The Islamic Arabic Weekend School has 85 students registered, 10 teachers, 3 Assistants, and 4 volunteers in Sunday school. All registration fees have been made alhamdu l Allah. A special "thank you" goes to the parents who volunteered to sponsor some children who were not able to pay registration fees for the year.

The school operates on Sundays from September to the end of May, from 10:15-1:15.

### **The following is a brief summary of the tasks that where completed this term:**

#### **A) Islamic Arabic Weekend School**

- Revising the report cards for the Islamic Arabic Weekend School in 2016.
- Creating a kindergarten report card in 2016.
- Revising Arabic, Islamic Studies, and Quran for levels KG- 6 in 2016
- Registration procedures.
- Updating the information about the school program, and having it posted on the IAS website.
- Collecting all registration fees.
- Hosting breakfast for the Sunday school families.
- Hiring teachers, assistants, and volunteers to run the Sunday School program.
- Starting a collection of Islamic books, donated by Dr. Raazi, to be read during library time.
- Communicating with parents via e –mail to provide updates.
- Piloting and implementing a Youth program and a Koraanic Aracic program for adults.

Please note that I have been releasing many of these responsibilities to Sister Momina Mateen Butt, hoping that the transition to a new Education Director would happen seamlessly in sha' Allah. Jazaha Allah Kheir Sister Momina has been working tirelessly this year.

#### **My recommendations for the Arabic Weekend School Program:**

- Have children register as early as possible, in order to facilitate proper staffing requirements and assure for a good quality program.
- Help your children attend regularly and punctually.

All of this work could not be completed without the help of a great team of community members, teachers, assistants and volunteers, Alhamdu li Allah.

**B) Outreach responsibilities include:**

- Serving as a member of the Copland Crescent Neighbourhood Community
- Bridge building activities with the Jewish, Mennonite, and different dominations of the Christian faith through dialogues and scriptural reasoning dialogues
- Serving as a member of the media committee
- Coordinating and hosting Saint Thomas College visits to the mosque

**My Outreach recommendation from the community is to Continue to be good ambassadors of Islam by:**

- Showing our fellow Canadians who the true Muslims are. We can demonstrate what Islam is by applying what our Prophet (PBU) taught us, and by using what we learn from the Qura'an. Our neighbours of Copland Crescent are our first connection with the Saskatoon community at large, and are therefore a critical part of our image. We need to demonstrate courteous behaviour by respecting their private properties, and by building strong positive relationships which foster understanding, cultural responsiveness and mutual respect. This will inevitably lead to building a stronger unified community.

**C) New Comers Settlements:**

- Heading the steering committee for creating a refugee settlement plan in 2015.
- Collaborating with Open Door society to supplement their own settlement plan by providing them with a list of volunteers from our community.
- Creating an IAS brochure listing the services that the IAS provides to refugees in 2016.
- Co-sponsoring a family of five with the Jewish community- the Co-sponsorship in known as CARS (Children of Abraham Refugee Sponsors) in 2016.
- Organizing and hosting a fund raising event for CARS in 2016.
- Chairing and facilitating volunteer meetings in 2016.
- Beginning the process of sponsoring another Syrian family under the umbrella of IAS
- Offering on-going translation services to hospital staff members during medical appointments.
- Partnering up with the college of Pharmacy and nutrition on a research project that aims to increase their understanding of food insecurity issues faced by Afghan & recently arrived Syrian refugee families, and the impact of socio-economic and cultural factors on household food security of refugees in Canada.

The cross-sectional study uses mixed methods to collect data from recently arrived Syrian refugee families and policy makers and service providers involved in refugee resettlement and food security. Surveys are used to determine level of food security and socioeconomic and education status. Semi structured interviews with refugees and key informants collect in-depth information on the challenges associated with achieving food security and the capacity of settlement agencies and other community based organizations to address issues related to food security. Results will: 1) identify the dimensions of food insecurity in recently-arrived Syrian refugees, 2) determine similarities and differences in socioeconomic and cultural determinants of food insecurity across different refugee settlement programs and urban contexts; 3) produce in partnership with community organizations, appropriate knowledge mobilization activities and a set of recommendations for improving food security for refugees during the early integration period.

**My Recommendation to community members:**

- To continue to work for the sake of Allah when embarking in projects, which should be aimed to service the community as a whole, rather than targeting a certain group of people based on personal needs and the interests of few.
- To remember that we all share the responsibility of keeping our center clean, well-funded and well maintained.

Finally, while my term as the Director of Education is ending, I would like to conclude with a sincere promise to continue to serve our community to the best of my ability, and in every capacity possible.

Again, I thank each and every one of the members of the committees in which I have served for their continuous help and support.