

MAY 1ST - AUGUST 31ST
2021

2021 - 2022

**FIRST
TRIMESTER
REPORT**

Muslim Students' Association
University of Toronto - St. George



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INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the highlights of the first trimester of the Muslim Students' Association (MSA) at the University of Toronto -St. George campus, which took place from May 1st to August 31st, 2021.

The trimester kicked off with the MSA welcoming aboard the eight elected members of the executive leadership team for the 2021-2022 year. The executive team was soon joined by the 40+ hired directors that comprise the MSA council.

One of the most long-standing and focused initiatives of the MSA is the Orphan Sponsorship Program (OSP), which gives the MSA a global reach and demonstrates the essence of charity, as envisaged in our glorious religion of Islam. The details about this program are captured separately in this report.

The first trimester falls during the summer term at the University of Toronto, during which the student population on campus is significantly smaller. This year, this trend was even more exaggerated as the St. George campus of the University of Toronto was primarily closed during this period due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to the closure, the MSA moved its summer programming online and introduced new and innovative ways to support the community during this difficult period. By taking full advantage of the online platform, the MSA was able to plan and execute the numerous successful events that are discussed in greater detail in this report.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE

HAYA FAISAL

Assalāmu‘Alaykum wa-Rahmatullāhi wa-Barakātuh. I pray this message reaches you in the best of health.

I am very honoured and excited to have been re-elected as a member of the MSA executive team for the 2021-2022 year and look forward to playing my part in helping the MSA achieve its objectives. As Vice President Finance, my focus will be to ensure vigilant usage of our funds and timely and accurate reporting to all of our stakeholders in an open and unbiased manner. It goes without saying that my success is dependent on the support that I receive from each and every member of the MSA.

As one of the largest student clubs on campus, catering to over 1,500 students, faculty and staff, it is my sincere belief that the MSA has a responsibility to be clear and transparent about its financial affairs to all of its stakeholders. It is through their continuous help and support over the years that, since its establishment in 1965, the MSA has grown to become one of the leading Muslim student organizations in North America. Therefore, through my role, I aim to consistently publish financial reports over the course of the year, in order to demonstrate to our stakeholders, as well as the general public, the great impact that their funds have had on our operations.

With the help of the MSA Accounts team, Anoosha Rahim and Muhammad Arham Malik, and the guidance of our President, Fatima Mohammed, I aim to publish an interim report covering each trimester of our activities. The three reports will focus on the summer, fall, and winter months individually, in coordination with the University of Toronto academic calendar. In preparing these reports, we promise to do our best to ensure transparency and full accountability of our finances.

Although the public health guidelines laid out in response to the COVID-19 pandemic made it impossible for us to hold in-person summer activities this trimester, we viewed this as an opportunity rather than an obstacle. In taking full advantage of the lack of expenses required for online programming, we proved that it is possible to execute numerous events while still achieving a high level of engagement from our audience. This report highlights how we were able to carry out all of our activities in a financially efficient way during these unprecedented times by making best use of the resources available to us.

ABOUT THE MSA

Founded in 1965, the Muslim Students' Association (MSA) at University of Toronto - St. George was the first MSA to be established in Canada. Since then, it has since grown to become one of the largest student clubs at the University of Toronto, with a membership of over 1,500 students, faculty, and staff. The purpose of the MSA is to first and foremost serve and represent the needs of Muslims on campus and the surrounding area. What started as a club to facilitate Jumu'ah prayers for some 20 students, has now grown to become a student group that is at the forefront of social justice, community service, faith practices, academic support, and campus social life.

Throughout this period, the Muslim Students' Association has been part of many historic initiatives, such as the inclusion of women in Hart House, the raising of over \$1 million with OSP, and the development of Canadian Muslim leaders who now are leading Muslim communities across North America.

Guided by three virtues—service, fellowship, and excellence—the MSA strives to be a vibrant, integrated, and contributing member of the campus and the Toronto community.

ABOUT THE MSA

Services offered by the MSA include:

- Prayer spaces across campus
- Jumu'ah (Friday) prayers
- Lectures, workshops, and seminars
- Community service and volunteering
- Social events and trips
- Orphan Sponsorship Program
- The Muslim Voice Magazine
- Mentorship and academic help

As per its constitution, the objectives of the MSA are:

1. To serve as the representative voice of Muslims at the University of Toronto;
2. To cater to and accommodate the intellectual, spiritual and social needs of Muslim students;
3. To build a cohesive and unified community of Muslims on campus;
4. To expand the MSA's scope of work and influence within the larger campus community;
5. To provide opportunities for leadership development within the MSA's student body; and
6. To participate in community initiatives that complement the MSA's mission

All of the aforementioned objectives are achieved through the organization of a host of activities and initiatives throughout the year. A summary of the programming carried out in the reported trimester is provided in the "Events Held This Trimester" section below .

EVENTS HELD THIS TRIMESTER

NINE EVENTS HELD BY MSA

1ST TRIMESTER

1

EID UL-FITR E-CARDS

MAY 7TH

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, many families were unable to celebrate Eid al-Fitr together this year. Thus, in an attempt to spread the joy of Eid virtually, we collaborated with the University of Toronto Students' Union to organize an online initiative aimed at keeping the community together. Through this initiative, the MSA allowed members to send personalized e-cards designed by our graphics team and a \$20.00 Amazon or SkipTheDishes gift card to over 100 students on the night of Eid.

2

FIQH OF EID

MAY 10TH

Prior to Eid ul-Fitr, we hosted a virtual session with Shaykh Abdalla Idris to familiarize our attendees with the religious rulings of Eid and how to celebrate it, as per the Islamic tradition.

3

EID UL-FITR KHUTBAH

MAY 10TH

On Eid morning, we invited Chaplain Yasin Dwyer, of the Muslim Chaplaincy at the University of Toronto, to give an online sermon on our Facebook page in place of the usual in-person Eid congregation & prayers hosted by the MSA. The session has over 130 views on our Facebook page.

EVENTS HELD THIS TRIMESTER

NINE EVENTS HELD BY MSA

1ST TRIMESTER

4

FUNDS FOR PALESTINE

JUNE 11TH - JUNE 25TH

The escalation of Israeli military violence at Al-Aqsa Mosque, the dispossession and forced expulsion of Palestinians from their homes, and the ethnic cleansing of Palestinian civilians, many of whom are children, cannot be ignored. Therefore, in collaboration with OCADU MSA, we raised funds for Palestinians who are in need of our support.

Donations were raised by encouraging people to purchase a “relief basket”. All proceeds were donated to Human Concern International and Islamic Relief.

5

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES & ISLAMIC RESPONSIBILITY

JUNE 23RD

In collaboration with the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) and MSAs all over the country, we hosted an event on our responsibility as Muslim settlers in Canada to engage in meaningful Indigenous allyship.

6

JUMP START YOUR MSA

JULY 7TH - PRESENT

In collaboration with 10 post-secondary Muslim Student Associations across Ontario, we created a database for graduating high school students interested in joining their respective universities’ MSAs. On a monthly basis, the information from the database is sent to each partnered MSA, in order to facilitate ease of communication and foster a connection with incoming first-year students.

EVENTS HELD THIS TRIMESTER

NINE EVENTS HELD BY MSA

1ST TRIMESTER

7

EID UL-ADHA KHUTBAH

JULY 20TH

Similar to how we commemorated Eid ul-Fitr, for Eid ul-Adha, we invited Imam Yasin Dwyer again, to deliver a live, online sermon through our Facebook page. The session has over 130 views on our Facebook page.

8

JUMU'AH GEMS

ONGOING (EVERY FRIDAY)

A weekly session we organized in lieu of the in-person Friday sermon and prayers that we usually host on campus. Every Friday, we had a leader from the Muslim community go live from our Facebook page (or send in a prerecorded video, if unavailable) for a virtual reminder. These reminders serve to boost morale, foster a sense of community, provide comfort and solace, and encourage spiritual reflection.

9

HUMANS OF THE UMMAH AT UOFT

ONGOING (BIWEEKLY)

With the aim of expanding our scope of work and influence to a much larger community, through this platform, we hope to shed light on major crises that are happening around the world in Muslim countries and/or to Muslim people. Our goal is not only to raise awareness, but to also establish a sense of responsibility within our readers to be informed of social injustices happening globally. Recently, we have published posts regarding injustices such as Islamophobic attacks in Canada, the European Union Hijab ban, the humanitarian crises in Afghanistan and Palestine, the implications of COVID-19 on refugees, and many more.

FIRST TRIMESTER INCOME STATEMENT

Muslim Students' Association, University of Toronto - St. George
May 1st to August 31st, 2021

REVENUES		
DONATION FROM ASSOCIATION OF PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS	\$400.00	
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO STUDENTS UNION (EID UL-FITR)	\$2,500.00	
TOTAL REVENUES		\$2,900.00
EXPENSES		
EID UL-FITR	\$2,500.00	
FUNDS FOR PALESTINE	\$125.00	
WEBSITE UPDATE	\$306.88	
OSP PAYPAL FEES	\$479.50	
BANK CHARGES	\$134.79	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$3,546.17
NET INCOME (LOSS)		(\$646.17)

DESPITE THE SITUATION CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WHICH FORCED US TO CONTINUE TO HOLD OUR EVENTS ONLINE THIS TRIMESTER, WE MANAGED TO INCREASE REVENUES THIS TRIMESTER COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS. THIS ENABLED US TO EXECUTE MULTIPLE INITIATIVES EFFICIENTLY AND SUCCESSFULLY, INCLUDING THE ONLINE EVENTS OUTLINED ABOVE, AS WELL AS OUR EID UL-FITR E-CARDS IN PLACE OF OUR ANNUAL IFTARS THAT WE INITIALLY PLANNED TO HOST THIS TRIMESTER.

ORPHAN SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Orphan Sponsorship Program (OSP) is a branch of the Muslim Students' Association at the University of Toronto - St. George campus. As the OSP, we strive to highlight the plight of orphans across the globe and help them live more fulfilling lives by securing their basic necessities.

Our affiliation with three recognized and credible Canadian charities ensures that 100% of the money raised is used to sponsor orphan children and cover necessary expenses, such as food, shelter, health, and education.

OUR PARTNER CHARITIES



**ISLAMIC
RELIEF
CANADA**

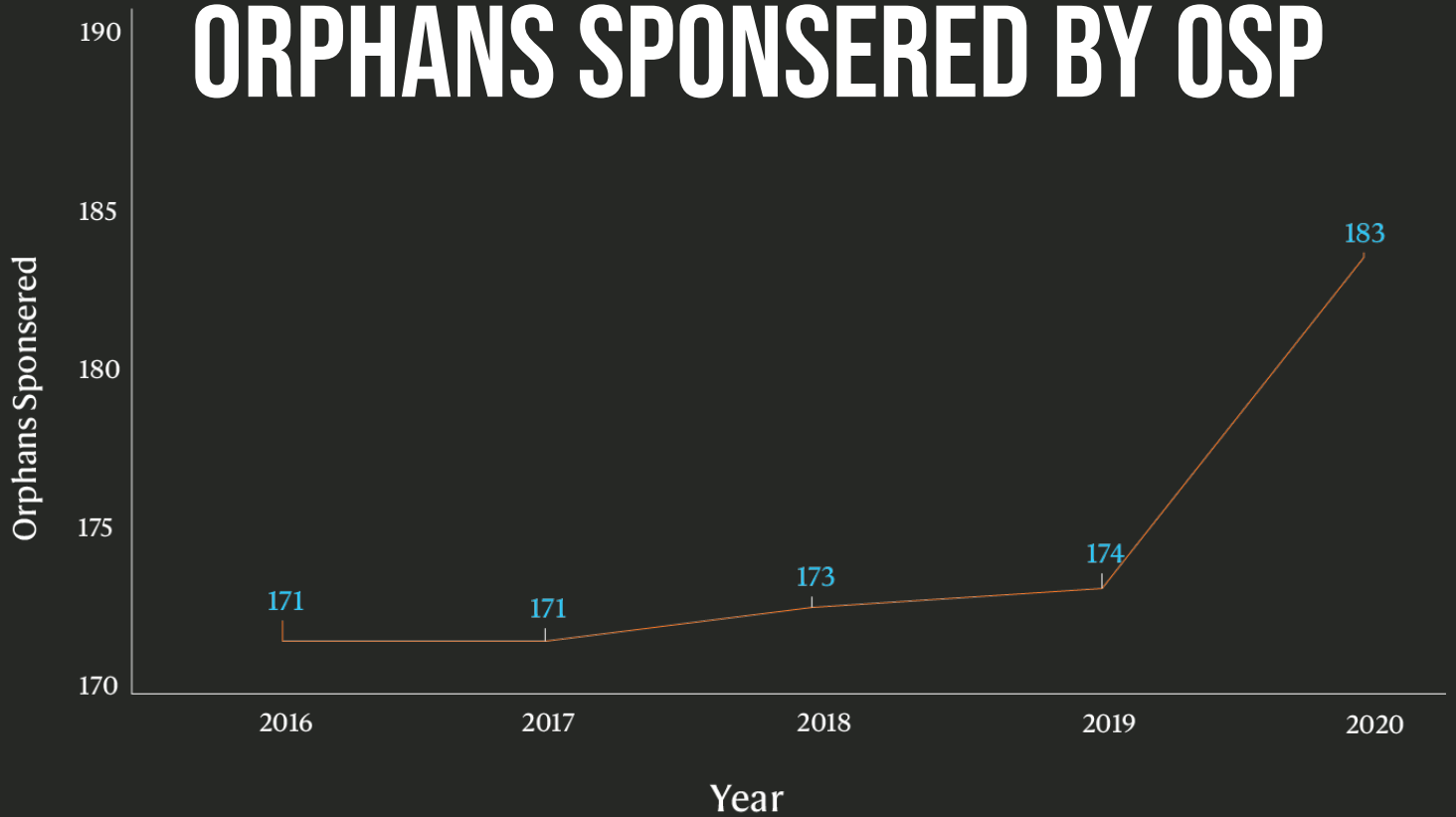


**HUMAN CONCERN
INTERNATIONAL**

Overview:

Since our establishment in 2003, we have disbursed over \$1,000,000.00 in aid. Having steadily expanded our global footprint, we are currently sponsoring 183 orphans in 26 different countries. During the 2019-2020 year alone, we managed to raise \$81,012.05 for our cause.

ORPHANS SPONSERED BY OSP



Outlook:

Continuing on our trajectory of growth, this year, we plan to diversify our fundraising efforts by employing a number of strategies. These strategies include, but are not limited to, enlarging our social media footprint, experimenting with online and semi-online events, and continuing to foster a sense of community through organizing events for students, staff, and faculty at the St. George campus.

MESSAGE FROM THE OSP VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE AND DONOR RELATIONS

MANAL QURAISHI

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu.

Since its establishment 18 years ago, the Orphan Sponsorship Program (OSP) has been fortunate to serve hundreds of orphans globally. As one of the OSP's Vice Presidents, I am humbled by and eternally grateful for the privilege to contribute to such a noble cause while working alongside a team of outstanding volunteers.

In the past year, the OSP has had to adapt to a number of unexpected challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. These difficult times have further impressed on us the value of our cause. With the unwavering support of our dedicated donors, partner charities and the Muslim Students' Association, we were able to raise funds to sponsor over 180 orphans in 22 countries. We are proud to report that 100% of the money raised by our organization directly covers the necessary expenses for each sponsored child, including food, shelter, healthcare and education.

I am excited for the OSP to spend this year engaging with the community through thoughtful events and campaigns as we continue to strive to improve the lives of these children. May Allah SWT continue to grace us with the ability to do so.

EVENTS HELD THIS TRIMESTER

ONE EVENT HELD BY OSP

1ST TRIMESTER

1

RAMADAN CAMPAIGN 2021:
SPIRIT OF GIVING

APRIL 13TH - MAY 12TH

During the merciful month of Ramadan, we aimed to transform 30 lives in 30 days. Our goal was to raise \$11,000 in order to sponsor 30 orphans for a full year. This campaign included reaching out to all of our past and prospective donors through email, Instagram, and Facebook to seek their help in meeting our goal. Our social media platforms featured multiple hadith and Quran verses related to orphan sponsorship. There were also giveaways of art pieces (created and donated by talented local artists) to those who share our campaign and advocate for our mission. This campaign was met with an overwhelmingly positive response, with the OSP raising \$34,000 - reaching our goal **3 times over**.

FIRST TRIMESTER INCOME STATEMENT

Orphan Sponsorship Program
May 1st to August 31st, 2021

REVENUES		
RAMADAN CAMPAIGN*	\$24,724.34*	
PERSONAL DONATIONS BY PAYPAL	\$7,084.91	
PERSONAL DONATIONS VIA E-TRANSFER	\$1,210.00	
PERSONAL DONATIONS BY CASH OR CHEQUE	\$0.00	
TOTAL REVENUES		\$33,019.25

FIRST TRIMESTER INCOME STATEMENT

Orphan Sponsorship Program
May 1st to August 31st, 2021

EXPENSES		
ISLAMIC RELIEF (IR)**	\$5,940.00	
ISLAMIC CIRCLE OF NORTH AMERICA (ICNA)**	\$10,440.00	
HUMAN CONCERN INTERNATIONAL (HCI)***	\$0.00**	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$16,405.38
NET INCOME		\$16,613.87

Notes to Income Statement:

*Only includes Ramadan campaign donations that were received during the second trimester (May 1st - May 12th, 2021)

**Denotes a semi-annual donation to partnered charity

***The OSP did not send donations to HCI in the first semi-annual donation in 2021 due to a Canada Revenue Agency-mandated suspension on HCI issuing tax receipts. Donations for orphans sponsored with HCI will be sent in December 2021 after discussion with the donors.

CREDITS

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