

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**1426 H / 2005 CE**

**ISLAMIC SOCIETY**  
**Of**  
**GREATER HOUSTON**  
**3110 Eastside Street, Houston TX 77098**

## **CONTENTS**

ISGH Majlis Al-Shura  
Standing Committees and Chairpersons  
Zonal Councils Members  
President's Report  
Vice President's Report  
General Secretary's Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Committees Reporting To President  
Committees Reporting To Vice President  
Committees Reporting To General Secretary  
Committees Reporting To Treasurer  
Zonal Reports  
    North Zone  
        - Adel Road  
        - Champions  
    Northwest Zone - Spring Branch  
        - Bear Creek  
    South Zone  
    Southeast Zone  
    Southwest Zone

### ISGH Subsidiaries:

1. The Institute of Islamic Knowledge (IIK)
2. Islamic Education Institute of Texas (IEIT)
3. Al-Fajr International

**ISGH Majlis Al-Shura**  
**1426 H/2005 CE**

**Executive Body**

Br. Rodwan Saleh	President
Br. Shabbir Dadabhoy	Vice President
Br. Aftab Silat	General Secretary
Br. M. Rashid Yousuf	Treasurer

**Zonal Directors**

Dr. Muhammad Hanif	North Zone
Br. Bashir Jangda	Northwest Zone
Br. Abdul Hafiz Khatri	South Zone
Br. Marghub Ali Syed	Southwest Zone
Br. Altaf Ali Awan	Southeast Zone

---

**Associate Directors**

Northwest Zone- Spring Branch - Bear Creek	Afaq J. Durrani
North Zone - Adel Road - Champions	M. Obeidur Rahman
Southwest Zone - Synott Road - Mission Bend - New Territory	Ibrahim Badat Dr. Maged Amine Abdul Wahid Munshi Usman Vaid Arshad Hydari

---

## STANDING COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

### Committees Reporting to President:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>
1. Al-Dawa --- Mail Dawah --- New and Non-Muslims Class  --- Prison Dawah	Dr. Laeeq Khan Dr. Mazhar U. Kazi Dr. Mazhar Kazi, Sr. Alia Kazi
2. Education	Dr. Tahir Hussain
3. Main Center Mosque	Shahem Barazi
4. PR & Media	
5. Religious Affairs & Ulama	Sh. Abdelaziz Abouelhassan
6. Refugees	Br. Samy Habib
7. Women	Sr. Farzana Jalali

### Committees Reporting to Vice President:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>
1. Constitution & Bylaws	Br. Syed N. Izfar
2. Eidan	
3. Employment	Vacant
4. Funeral	Br. Ayub Badat
5. Khateeb Committee	Br. Farooq Malik
6. Publication	Br. Farooq Malik
6. Personnel	Br. Shabbir Dadabhoy
7. Social	Dr. Hasan Naqvi
8. Youngmen	Vacant
9. Youngwomen	Vacant

### Committees Reporting to General Secretary:

<u>Committee</u>	
1. Election	Br. Moazzam Ali Baig
2. Membership	Br. Kazi Salman Jalali

### Committees Reporting to Treasurer:

<u>Committee</u>	
1. Budget & Finance	Vacant
2. Central Construction	Br. Shahem Barazi
3. Endowment Trust	Br. Shahzad Bashir
4. Fund Raising	Vacant
5. Zakaat & Welfare	Dr. Fouad Fleyfel

**Members of the Zonal Councils**  
**1426 H/2005 CE**

**North Zone – Adel Road**

Abbas Vaid  
Musaji Chuhan  
Mohammad Bhegani  
Jawed Limbada  
Tariq Khan Lodhi  
Ismail D. Patel  
Jameel Ibrahim  
Zakir Hussain  
Harun Bhuiyan  
Dr. Daulat Shah  
Abdul Q. Badat  
Noveed Malik  
Sohail Ayyubi

**North Zone - Champions**

Mirza Inyat Ashraf  
Mirza A. Baig  
Ahmed Shuja  
Shah Nweed Siddiqui  
Aref Hamad  
Reza Bacchus  
Naeem Raja  
Waqar Khan  
Ahsanul Huq

**Northwest Zone - Spring Branch**

Kehkashan Zafar  
Farhan Shamsi  
Sayyadain Zariff  
Shahbaz Anwar  
Shahid N. Shaikh

Syed Sami Ahmed  
Haroon K. Khan  
Shahid Majeed

**Northwest Zone - Bear Creek**

Aman Rehman  
Zafarullah Abdul Rahman  
Ashraf M. Moton  
Ajaz Umer Khan  
Khurshid A. Qureshi  
Saquib Ahmed  
Mohdudul Huq  
Mohammad Yousuf

**South Zone**

Aijaz Haque  
Abdul Aziz Goplani  
Yousuf Zakaria  
Abdul Rashid Bawa  
Rashid Khalfe  
Mohammed Munawar  
Mohammad Salim

**Southwest Zone**

Syed Imran Hussain  
Zaheer Anwar  
Naeem U. Khan  
Ismail Baker  
Tanweer Ahmed  
Nazir A. Khan

**Southeast Zone**

Saqib Malik  
Ashraf saleh  
Irwan Tantu  
Syed Shahid Hasan  
Ghassan Ramadan  
M. Iqbal Siddiqi  
Bilal Hussain  
M. Ali Khalili  
Sulaiman K. Mohammed  
Syed M. Kadri  
Sheikh Farhat Shahbaz

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rodwan Saleh

In the name of Allah, Most Merciful, Most Beneficent.

I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah (SWT) and Muhammad is His Slave and Prophet (peace be upon him).

In ISGH elections of December 2004, ISGH voting members entrusted me with the responsibilities of President of this organization. I consider it an AMANAH (Trust) and have strived to fulfill these responsibilities with the help and guidance of Allah (SWT).

During this past one year I have learned about ISGH and its workings as well as its Constitution and Bylaws which govern the conduct of official business of this organization. ISGH indeed is a unique experience in the United States for the Muslim communities across the board. Its uniqueness comes from the ideals of the Constitution framers and the foresight of the founding fathers to unite a big community under the banner of one organization. The spirit of the letter has served the community well and the organization itself has weathered all kinds of changes in personalities and events. After the help, guidance of and thanks to Allah (SWT); Alhamdulillah, the wisdom of ISGH forefathers in putting the foundations and infrastructure to encompass all aspects of Muslim life in Houston is commendable and their sincere desire to serve Muslims of Greater Houston and convey the message of Islam to the natives. May Allah (SWT) accept their sincere efforts and grant them AJR in this life and hereafter, ameen.

Following is my report to ISGH members.

**Interfaith.** From the beginning of my tenure, I have actively participated in the interfaith and inter communal events to represent Islam and ISGH. These forums have given me the opportunities to present Islamic view point based on Qur'an and Sunnah without compromise. Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston (IM) has been very gracious to include Muslim representation in most of its activities to reflect the religious diversity of Houston. Late last month, IM CEO asked me to join him in representing Muslims of Houston at the National Day of Prayers declared by President George W. Bush in the wake of Hurricane Katrina disaster at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. I met with Ms. Hughes, advisor to the President on Domestic Affairs.

**Relief Efforts.** In the aftermath of Katrina's devastated affects on human beings and properties, ISGH served as an integral part of combined efforts of more than twenty Islamic and social organizations to extend a helping hand to the evacuees who were located to Houston. Br. Abdul Wahid Munshi, Associate Director of Masjid Attaqwa served as the main linchpin in directing and coordinating all the efforts along with Br. Afaq Durrani, Br. Abdul Hafiz Khatri and Br. Ibrahim Badat. These brothers moved relief goods from one point to another, arranged the overwhelming participation of Muslim volunteers on September 11 at George Brown Convention Center, and coordinated with the City of Houston for the housing and basic urgent needs of the affected people. The food drive in ISGH Masajid produced plenty of needed items. ISGH Masajid also served as temporary shelters for the Muslim evacuees from Louisiana and subsequent housing in hotels and apartments. This experience proved our exceptional organizational qualities when we all got united in serving the humanity in the hours of their difficulty.

**Home Front.** At the ISGH, collectively we have achieved some goals such as naming our Masajid with Islamic names which give them a beautiful perspective.

Ulama Committee (UC) was revitalized under the chairmanship of Sh. Moustafa Mahmoud along with its members listed in the Ulama Committee report. UC have the potential to play the vital role which is expected of it because of its peculiar nature in terms of knowledge of the Deen and the position Ulama hold in our culture. People look up to them to be able to answer difficult questions that are experienced by individuals and families in this society. Some members of UC have also represented Muslims and ISGH at interfaith forums. Sh. Moustafa Mahmoud took part in the rally for the rights of janitors who have been denied their fair share of the American pie.

Youth. They have been an active part and parcel of ISGH activities with their zeal to be involved in our Masajid and the administration of these centers. Needless to say that future belongs to these young Muslims and Muslimaat. Their participation is one of the most important ingredients for ISGH to be dynamic in facing tomorrow's changes. The elections of December 2004 saw the clear expression of the desires and aspirations of these young people to usher in a meaningful change and departure from business-as-usual approach. I have paid special attention to these clear signs and will make concrete proposals for *real* participation of our youth in near future.

Majlis Al-Shura. The beginning of my tenure was not as smooth as I expected given the fact that a change in personnel have occurred because of the community's desire and ISGH collective leadership will pay special attention and make efforts to bring in significant changes. Cooperation and good will only result when the existing leadership structure will accept the change wholeheartedly instead of resorting to arcane rules and regulations to obstruct initiatives. When personality cult takes precedence over discourse of civilized debate and informed decision-making, then result is mere chaos. Insha'Allah, Shura will be able to move ahead instead of looking back. We have highly educated and very intelligent brothers as Shura members who deal with the outside world on professional basis and their ideas rich with their experience and knowledge of management and administration can richly benefit ISGH in making it a vibrant organization that is poised to handle difficult challenges and confident enough to make necessary changes. We have to march forward and lay down the foundations for more responsive organization to the needs and desires of our diverse mosaic of Muslim community. Participation of every segment of the Muslim community in the policy and decision-making process is of paramount importance for us to be united and dynamic.

Alhamdulillah, Darul Arqam schools are playing their roles as community-building segment of Muslim community. Our children are receiving Islamic and worldly education by very dedicated teacher and administrators. These efforts are being done with few resources as compared to public education system. This is an admirable act on part of the teachers.

Main Center. After a long pause, late last year the Central Construction Committee started the process of reconstruction of this very first symbol of Muslim community. Under the leadership of Br. Shahem Barazi, CCC Chairman, 80% of the task has been accomplished. In response to numerous appeals, brothers and sisters have opened their heart with their wallets to make this dream possible. Insha'Allah, it will be a beautiful addition to ISGH Masajid.

Zakaat Committee. Under the able leadership of Br. Fouad Fleyfel, this committee has been consistently serving the Muslims of Houston over more than twenty years with help in rent, food, etc. With the arrival of many Muslim refugees from Somalia, Bosnia, Sudan, and other countries and from within the US the burden on the Zakaat funds has increased more than double. We need to pay special attention to the system of Zakaat collection and ask the community to shoulder this burden with us. These Muslims rightfully expect ISGH to help them as the major Muslim organization in town.

Finally, ISGH has come a long way and has lived up to its name and purpose. Thirty years after its inception, it may be the right time for the community and ISGH leadership to reflect on our past and ponder over future. Any community and organization need some fine-tuning and at times big changes. Definitely, the demographics of City of Houston have undergone a sea of change as compared to twenty or thirty years ago. New comers with their peculiar needs have moved into the town over past few years adding to the changes in form and shape of Muslim community. The potential of the beautiful mosaic needs to be tapped and to achieve that goal, ISGH leadership has to look more outward than inward. The inclusiveness trend has to take firm roots in our psyche. I expect that my esteemed colleagues in Majlis Al-Shura will put their efforts in achieving better life for the community and tap into the resources be it talent, wealth, or ideas. Our collective wisdom and the innate nature of being intelligent humans give us the opportunity to serve our community better.

I pray to Allah (SWT) grant us wisdom and patience to forge brotherhood and endow us with the IKHLAS which is a must to serve His cause. And accept our good deeds for His sake, ameen.

**VICE PRESIDENT's REPORT**

Shabbir Dadabhoy

## GENERAL SECRETARY's REPORT

Aftab Silat

Alhamdulillah, the first year of my tenure as General Secretary has been a useful experience. I performed all the duties of General Secretary as required by ISGH Bylaws which include:

1. Recording and maintenance of all Executive Body and Majlis Al-Shura agenda items and minutes in a timely fashion.
2. All the last meeting minutes were emailed to Shura members prior to the next meeting so that they can ask questions or modify language and then approve.
3. Membership renewal letters for 2005 process started from January and repeated until June.
4. I signed on all membership applications and verified that appropriate dues were attached with each application before they were processed into the data base. All care has been taken to ensure a proper processing of applications.
5. The monthly membership reports (lists) were handed out to all Zonal Directors and Associate Directors in each Majlis Al-Shura meeting to be posted on bulletin board in every Masjid and get feedback from members.
6. Feedback forms (Membership Information Validation) were mailed with membership cards and once received back in Main Center Office any corrections requested by the voting member were updated.
7. For the first time, a voting member's address is printed on the card to avoid any confusion on the Election Day.
8. Alhamdulillah, with appeals and efforts by Shura members, especially the Zonal Directors and Associate Directors an aggressive membership drive was launched. And, as a result there has been a significant increase in the membership (please see the figures below).
9. At my initiative, Majlis Al-Shura adopted the resolution to name the ISGH Masajid with an Islamic name chosen and approved by the local Zonal councils instead of just name of the zone. Now ISGH Masajid has beautiful Islamic names with which these can be identified.
10. In the month of July an Election Commission (EC) was appointed by Majlis Al-Shura as per ISGH Bylaws. EC has started its work under the chairmanship of Br. Rashid Khokhar.

I pray to Allah (SWT) to accept our good deeds for His sake and enable us to work in unison to serve the Muslim community in Houston and further His cause by spreading the message of Islam. I also thank my colleagues in Majlis Al-Shura and Main center staff especially Br. Mahmood for their support and efforts in meeting challenges of this responsibility. May Allah (SWT) accept from us all, Aameen.

### Membership Figures (Head of Household):

North Zone: 417

NW-Bear Creek: 195

NW-Spring Branch: 95

South Zone: 387

Southwest Zone: 378

Southeast Zone: 426

Total (2005): 1898

Total (2004): 1534

Net increase: 364

## **TREASURER's REPORT**

M. Rashid Yousuf

Alhamdulillah – another year – another Audit. This is becoming a regular feature of ISGH. On May 5, 2005, ISGH was presented another “clean opinion” by its Auditors H R Shaikh Seyar LLP for the year ended 2003. Audit procedures for 2004 are currently being performed by this firm.

The Audit Committee of ISGH consists of Br Nazif Sharique CPA (Chair), Sr Futema Jafri CPA and Br Shahzad Bashir CA. This Committee was quite active and instrumental in disclosure of various elements of the Report. On June 16, 2005, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) issued an Audit Committee Toolkit for not-for-profit organizations. We are studying this Toolkit and will implement all applicable segments.

Another year – another budget. Another regular feature of ISGH. We began 2005 with an approved budget – as required by the IRS directive to Muslim Charities. Inshallah in October we will prepare a budget for 2006.

Inshallah, in 2006 we will have a new Treasurer. Some items that I was unable to accomplish during my two terms are listed below :

- Establishment of internship programs.

ISGH is a major Islamic organization and has multiple areas where students could play a vital role. Accounting, Engineering, Marketing, Communications, Creative Writing, Education, Medicine, Nursing etc. We could offer real hands-on experience to students from all these disciplines. We have a budget of approximately \$3 million and assets of over \$25 million. At all times, we have construction projects going on. We have multiple schools. We have clinics. We are at all times conveying the Islamic perspective at various forums. Why is it that we can not have undergraduate or even graduate or doctorate candidates gain practical know-how – and at the same time contribute much needed manpower for all ISGH activities?

- Tighter Internal Controls.

While current controls are adequate and do satisfy all minimum standards – yet there is room for improvement. Follow the money. From the moment a donation is received till its ultimate expenditure to acquire goods and/or services, each step must be documented and such documentation must be available for all to see. This is the ultimate in Internal Controls. Alhamdulillah, there has never been any irregularity and we all pray that nothing of this sort ever happens at ISGH.

There have always been difference of opinion regarding “Authority” and procedures for “Authorization”. The political process at ISGH is well established and is meant to resolve such differences of opinion.

Centralized Fund Raising

The slow rate of donations for Main Center Construction brings out a glaring flaw in the process. This function comes under the Treasurer. While overall collections have

increased dramatically in the past few years, yet there are shortages. Each of our zones have been raising major amounts of funds to pay for zonal projects, yet there is a shortage for Main Center Construction and for centralized management. I was unable to create a consensus within the Shura for this vital need.

## COMMITTEES REPORTING TO PRESIDENT

### Al-Dawah

Dr. Laeeq Khan - Chairman

### Prison Dawah by Volunteers

#### **Annual Statistics & Total since 1/94:**

It began with consistency in January 1994 as visit to two prisons by two volunteers and progressed to the following at the present time:

	8/00	8/01	8/02	7/03	7/4	7/5	TOTAL
• <b>Prisons on scheduled visit/month</b>	56	60	56	55	52	55	
• <b>Visits</b> made per month to prisons	63	66	51	48	42	47	
• <b>Consistent volunteers</b> per month	27	24	23	27	28	30	
• <b>Active volunteers</b>	56	59	62	31	33	32	
• <b>Quran</b> w AYA T/C/month deliv.	64	50	56	58	55	56	
• // // // /year deliv.	588	600	672	694	658	662	
• // // // since January 1994							6085
• <b>ISLAM</b> , Beliefs & Teachings del	250	140	110	301	269	352	1768
• Help Yourself <b>Reading Quran</b>	270	350	335	317	213	300	2980
• Arabic/English <b>Dictionaries</b> Del.	50	8	22	20	32	44	182
• Alif Lam Mim to <b>learn Q. Arabic</b>	52	25	40	29	52	0	284
• <b>Seerah Books</b> Delivered	7	4	29	16	31	33	181
• <b>Attendees</b> in Q. Studies for Visits	7400	7600	9260	6583	6935	9251	80172
• <b>Guests</b> attending Q. Studies	1600	1450	1722	1393	1028	1882	14982
• Recorded <b>Reversions</b> in Visits	156	134	129	155	179	193	1308
• <b>Muslim Chaplains</b> in TX	4	5	5	5	4	4	4
• <b>Dawah Pamphlets</b> to prisons at each visit since 94 guessing at							60000
• <b>Loaner Videos</b> to majority of the prisons since 96 for circulation guessing at							400
• <b>Audiotape for 30<sup>th</sup></b> Juz recorded by Sh. Moustafa Mahmoud provided to each prison.							
• <b>Recommended Dawah Material</b> has developed over the years with these dawah activities.							
• <b>Texas 12th All-Day Annual Prison Dawah Symposium</b> was held on Sunday August 21,2005.							
• <b>Quranic Studies</b> have been the basis for all this activity. It is all due entirely to the Grace of Allah SBW. Presently in and around North Zone alone, as many as 30 Quranic Studies on weekly to monthly basis are held amounting to over 2000 hours of Quranic education per month.							

Prisons lost to volunteers last year and recently reincorporated in monthly rotation are Byrd, Holiday, Ferguson, Pam Lychner, McConnell, Hughes, Beto & Gurney. New prisons included in visits are Connally in Kenedy, Terrance, Sycamore and Trustee Camp in Gatesville and

Trustee Camp in Beaumont federal prisons. Limestone DC, Hodge, Powledge, Hilltop, Garza East and Garza West have no longer been on rotation list of the Islamic volunteers from Houston. Ayub Badat an ICNA worker in association with Muhammad Bey of Huntsville has been in charge for follow-up of the inmates released to Houston. Over 24 have been rehabilitated in the Houston community.

Dr Mazhar Kazi and ICNA have been actively involved in the education of the new Muslims and their integration in the community.

**Dawah by Mail:** Please refer to Report by Dr Mazhar Kazi.

**Interfaith Activity:** A number of volunteers have been active, Dr Javed Aslam, Dr Bashir Khumawala, Sheikh Zubair Boucekhi, Sultan Adil Khan and Rodwan Saleh, to name few. Location has varied from various churches, Islamic Dawah Center, Masjid Attaqwa (SWZ Synott Center) and other Masajid. River Oaks Baptist Church invited Dr Aslam to talk about Islamic perspective pertaining to children of Abraham. Sheikh Zubair participated on TV channel 8 PBS about Islamic Concept of Forgiveness along with representatives of Judaism, Christianity and Hinduism in March 2005. Besides to introduce Islam, he participated in open houses conducted in SEZ and SWZ and centrally in Islamic Dawah Center. At Police Chief's invitation, he participated in the role of the religion in eradication of crime.

**Educational Institutions:** Dr Bashir Khumawala has been the coordinator supported by MSA in various colleges and universities around the Metropolitan Houston. Dr Aslam lectured on Islam to Houston Baptist University class on World Religions. Sheikh Zubair talked about Islam in University of Houston and Rice University. In Medical Center and MD Anderson, concept of life and death was the theme in Islam. Sheikh Zubair was one of the three panelists at 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual ISNA Convention discussing the role of an Imam in community development.

**Radio/TV:** Dr Aslam, Sheikh Moustafa Mahmoud and Sheikh Zubair. Over the past one year Dr Aslam participated at 4-5 occasions by invitation with a Rabi, a Priest and a Minister on the Radio 950 Program "Show of Faith" Sundays 7-9 PM regarding various current issues and their religious perspective.

#### **- Mail Dawah**

Dr. Mazhar U. Kazi - Coordinator

Total number of letters received:	1,193	
Total number of Quran mailed:	4,589	
Details of the Quran mailed:		
English Translation: Requests by mail:	1,191	
Request by internet:	3,345	
Arabic Quran:	9	
Arabic / English Quran:	17	
Spanish Translation:	27	
Total number of books mailed:		1,612
Details of the books mailed:		
Miscellaneous books:	985	
Hadith:	504	

Salat:	541	
Comparative religion:	27	
Spanish	42	
Total number of booklets mailed:	5,001	
Grant total of books and booklets mailed:		6,613
Total from Aug 97 to July 2004		
Total number of letters received:	10,690	
Total number of Quran mailed:	12,449	
Total number of books/ booklets mailed:	23,125	
Grant Total from Aug 97 to July 2005		
Total number of letters received:		11,883
Total number of Quran mailed:		17,038
Total number of books/ booklets mailed:		29,738

Kindly note:

1. ISGH Shura in Aug 97 entrusted me the responsibility of running a mail Dawah program. Since then I have been conducting this program alone. Since the program started in the month of August, my report covers the data of one year of activities from Aug to July for every year.
2. Most of this program is self sustained with a very nominal financial burden on ISGH.
3. ISGH provides a booklet of Salat and the mailing cost. All of the rest comes from my personal source.
4. We have been buying our own Quran since the inception of the Program. IIK offered to provide us free English translation rendered by Br. Farooq Malik. This Quran is too bulky, and costs extra mailing charges. It was agreed that since we are getting free Quran, we will subsidize the mailing charges. I am giving regular donations to ISGH to meet the extra mailing cost of this Quran.

## **ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Dr Mazhar Kazi & Mrs. Alia Kazi

An open class for non Muslims and New Muslims was started in the summer of 1994. Since then this class has been regularly held every week at the ISGH main center from 3P to 4P every Sunday. Since the main center is under constructions, the classes have been transferred to Islamic Dawah center, Down Town, Houston.

The attendance in the class varies from 15 to 35. An advertisement for these classes appears in Houston Chronicle once every month. Besides regular students, several persons walk in the class as visitors. Moreover a number of university and college students, who have academic projects relating to Islam, also visit this class for their specific needs.

The main focus of the class is not just to impart knowledge of Islam, but to help the new converts to grow as Muslims in their new way of life. Special efforts are made to integrate the new comers into a Muslim family system that may help them in their daily needs. This involves not only daily practice of Islam but family counseling, financial help, job placements, locating Muslims neighbors, and also in finding proper spouses.

A number of students have found proper spouses and jobs and are now well settled in Houston. These persons may not come to the class regularly, but keep in touch with the new Muslims and help them to adjust to Islamic values and practices. An important contribution of this class is the fact that a number of new Muslims have close family relations, and help one another as building blocks of a Muslim Ummah.

A few new Muslims need advanced knowledge of Islam and also have a desire to learn the language of the Quran. A separate advanced class to meet these need has been started for women alone and is conducted by Sr. Alia Kazi every Sunday at 2.30.

Another unique feature of the class is that it serves as a support group for the Muslim inmates who come to the free world. Besides helping them to grow in Deen, the class also helps them to find friends and jobs.

For all practical purpose this class serves as a support group for new Muslims and the inmates that come to the free world.

there arise out of you a group of people inviting to all that is good (Islam), enjoining *Al-Ma'ruf* and forbidding *Al-Munkar*. And it is they who are the successful" (The Holy Qur'an, 3:104)

"...It is only those who have knowledge among His slaves that fear Allah..." (The Holy Qur'an, 35:28)

### **Ulama Committee**

Sheikh Moustafa Mahmoud - Chairman

Members: Sheikh El-Sayed Abdel Maqsood

Sheikh Sayed Abul Hasan

Sheikh Zoubir Bouchikhi

Sheikh Hosam Faraj

Sheikh Delawar Shah

Mufti Saleem Akbar

When I was appointed as the head of the Ulamaa Committee by the ISGH President back in January of 2005, we had so many expectations to meet and duties to fulfill. We wanted this committee to have a certain reputation and be of a great rank. We wanted it to provide the best service to Islam and Muslims all across Houston.

Alhamdulillah, we have accomplished the following

1. Holding Islamic Seminars at the many ISGH Masajid. In the beginning, these seminars were held at a different Masjid each week which lead us to cover all the ISGH Masjid in the first four months of this year. In July, we decided to have seminars in two Masjid every week which means we visited all the Masjid in two months instead of four. The seminars attracted many attendees who were delighted by the informative subject matter proposed and the discussions that followed.

2. Answering questions and *fatawa*. We have received a number of questions and enquiries that we have answered and taken care of to the best of our knowledge and

capabilities. InshaAllah, a file will be designed to include all the important *fatawa* which will serve as future reference.

### 3. The Social Aspect:

Counseling is one of the committee's main duties. Alhamdulillah, we have been able to solve many family problems related to marriage, divorce, child custody, and many other aspects of family life. These issues are discussed in organized committee meetings in order to make informed decisions and take necessary action. The Muslim family's well being is our main concern.

### 4. The Educational Aspect:

Establishing educational courses in the Arabic language, *Tajweed*, *Seerah* of the Prophet (SAAW.), and *Fiqh* which are taught by the Imams in the Masjid.

--There are *Tajweed*, Arabic, and *Seerah* classes in Masjid Bilal, Masjid Abu Bakr, Masjid Attaqua, Masjid Assalaam, and Bay town Masjid.

--There is a class in Masjid Assalaam titled *Fiqh* of Women.

--Some Imams have courses where they follow a certain book and study it with those attending such as *Minhaj Al-Muslim* (in Masjid Assalaam).

### 5. The Dawaa' Aspect:

--Holding Open Houses to invite non Muslims to the Masjid and inform them about Islam. Alhamdulillah, these Open Houses have attracted many people who are hungry for knowledge and have a passion for learning more about this great religion.

Some Imams participate in Interfaith functions and in TV programs.

\*\*Sheikh Zubair participated in a TV discussion about peace with the leaders of other religions which was aired on PBS.

\*\*Sheikh Moustafa was invited to visit the Katrina victims in the Astrodome and gave a brief talk which was shown on the local news as well as on CNN.

Participating in seminars designed to teach Police Officials about Islam, clear any misconceptions, and train them on how to deal with Muslims.

Participating in the Islamic conventions and conferences such as the ISNA convention and the conference designed for Imams which was in Minnesota.

### 6. Local Masjid:

The Imams who are members of the Ulamaa Committee carry out many informative and spiritual activities at their masjid such as *Qyam-ul-layl*, community Iftar on Mondays & Thursdays (following the Sunnah of Rasulullah (SAAW) who used to fast on those days), and monthly Question & Answer sessions.

7. The Ulamaa Committee attends the ISGH Shura meetings as well as Counsel meetings to be informed about the situation of the ummah, offer advice, and do what's in our abilities for the cause of this ummah inshaAllah.

8. The Ulamaa participate in Summer Programs in the masjid. These programs target the youth of our communities to help them identify as Muslims as well as strengthen their *Aqeedah* and belief.

9. The members of the committee fulfill invitations to give lectures at the different Masjid, answer questions, and explain any confusion regarding religious matters.

These are only a few things and inshaAllah we hope to achieve more. We ask for everyone's cooperation with the Ulamaa Committee in order for us to serve the Muslim ummah in the best way possible. We pray to Allah to guide us all to what He loves and to make all our deeds and efforts sincerely for His sake.

## **COMMITTEES REPORTING TO VICE PRESIDENT**

Young Women  
Shazia Siddiqi

All praise is due to Allah SWT for giving me and all of the organizers involved in every MIST region the opportunity to serve Him by helping the youth of our Ummah find the motivation to research, reflect, and learn about Islam through the diverse mediums He has provided for us- in order to integrate Islam into the culture of our society. I can never be grateful enough after knowing that out of His Infinite Compassion and Mercy, Allah SWT blessed us with a single solution to an array of problems facing our high school age youth: the Muslim Inter-Scholastic Tournament!

This year's 4<sup>th</sup> annual MIST Texas Regional took place on Friday, April 1- Saturday, April 2, 2005. Students from 27 different high schools (in teams ranging in size from 10-40 students), along with teachers accompanying them from their schools, arrived on buses at 8am Friday morning to take part in MIST at the University of Houston Main Campus's University Center. This year's competitions and workshops revolved around the MIST 2005 National Theme: Passion of the Proactive. Competitions included 2D and 3D Islamic Art, Graphic Design, Photography, Webdesign, Knowledge Exams, Tajweed, Memorization of the Quran, Essays, Oratory, Poetry, Short Fiction, Debate, and Islamic Scholastic Bowl, Short Film, Nasheed/Rap, Research Project Presentations, Community Service Projects, MSA/Islamic Club Scrapbooks, and Science Fair. Registration for MIST 2006 will inshaAllah start on Eid-ul-Fitr, introducing four new competitions!

So what are the problems that MIST continues to target in every city it hits? To begin with, in the late 1990's in Houston, there was the challenge of keeping the few high school MSA's that existed active year to year. Even when I was in high school, the greatest challenge was trying to figure out what to do to keep students coming. No matter what we did, most of the members would pick other organizations over MSA because of the opportunity they had to take part in competitions (like speech and debate, academic bowl, etc) and feel a sense of accomplishment, along with other perks like medals, letter jackets, and scholarships. So we were always in a disadvantage because we didn't have an annual competition specifically for high school MSAs that would keep members active and consistent. The year after I graduated high school, I saw that the consistency problem was not just with my school, but with high school MSAs in cities all across the country- there was either no incentive to start one, or they were falling apart because the officers were losing hope in finding a single focus that would keep members on board every year. Other issues were about how high school students were consistently being faced with many challenges in educating teachers and peers about Islam, as well as how difficult it seemed to keep a majority of high school students who weren't part of masjid youth groups or

Islamic schools motivated to learn about Islam while also keeping up with all the demands of high school.

MIST, in a nutshell, not only opened doors for MSAs and bridged gaps between Muslims and the public school system, but finally gave high school students from all walks of life a reason to get excited about learning Islam. Regardless of which city, just about everyone involved found it exciting to reflect on Islam and apply what they had reflected to something they already love to do (like writing, art, photography, singing, filmmaking, etc). Students who never ever came to Islamic events in the past realized how much they could learn about Islam by simply using the talents that made them unique. In addition to this, cliques within high schools (amongst Muslims in particular) were eliminated because they all came to MIST together as a team. Supporting one other made them the best of friends, which really hit them when they came back to school the next week. Many students of other faiths took part, and it was amazing seeing their reflections about Islam as well! Teachers of other faiths who came along with their students (as sponsors/coaches) were so happy at the end that they were eager to come the next year and help in any way that they could. The number of high school MSAs quadrupled in size after the first year of MIST in Houston- an effect we hope that MIST will inshaAllah leave on every region it enters. A surprising bridge developed between the college MSA and high school MSAs (since college MSAs host MIST and serve as mentors/team leaders for the high schoolers.). Through the incentive of competition, students were brought together to take part in workshops where they could collaborate with peers in coming up with solutions to the many challenges faced in high school. Basmah Salam, a Senior this year at Clear Brook High School states: "Man, MIST is so cool. To a kid like me who's always been like "where the Muslims at?", and who never really had muslim friends either, seeing something as big as MIST where all these Muslim KIDSSSS get together and they each have some CRAZY TALENT...it's like AMAZING for me. Sometimes it's not so much a competition to me because I'm just happy that we have a very gifted and thriving Muslim Ummah"

By the Compassion and Mercy of Allah SWT, MIST continues to serve as a solution to new and different challenges in every city it hits.

## **ZONAL REPORTS**

### **North Zone**

Dr. Muhammad Hanif - Director

Dr. Maged Amine – Associate Director (Champions)

Br. Ibrahim Badat – Associate Director (Adel Road)

- Masjid Bilal @ Adel Road

- EID carnival for Darul Arqam.
- Fund raiser for Darul Arqam.
- Award ceremony and fund raiser for Sunday School.
- Extension of a frame under week.
- Tajweed and Arabic classes by Shaikh.
- Qiyamul Lail every month.
- Katrina Relief almost 20 families were placed in different apartments.

- Huge participation in Geroge Brown Convention Center.
- @nd fund rasier for Darul Arqam.
- Sunday School about 200 children.
- Darul Arqam about 200 children.
- And many more activities.

- Masjid As-Sallam @ Champions

- Completion of Masjid building.
- Meet with Majlis Al-Shura members in January.
- Eid Carnival.
- Monthly Halaqa on first week of Fridays and intermittently Halaqa on Fridays in between library completion.
- Children playground.
- Video tele-conferences.
- Sunday Halaqa with Sh. Moustafa.
- Qiyamul Lail.
- Youth Night.
- Open House for non-Muslims.
- Katrina relief participation.
- Joint venture with Muslim doctors for Katrina victims.
- Sunday School about 200 childre.
- Tuesday ladies Halaqa with Sh. Zoubair Buchikhi.
- Tajweed classes with Shaikh Dilawar Shah.
- And many more activities.

### **Northwest Zone – Bear Creek**

Bashir A. Jangda - Director

Obeidur Rahman – Associate Director (Bear Creek)

- Masjid Al-Mustafa @ Bear Creek

The Muslim community is growing rapidly in the Bear Creek area. The Bear Creek management has been working diligently to meet the needs of the community.

For any information about the Masjid or renting the community hall please contact, Associate Director, Br. Obaidur Rahman phone 281-731-2907.

### **Education activities:**

1. Quranic lessons (Nazira) for the children: Hafiz Ilyas Siddiqi, who is recovering from illness, Hafiz Fahad and Hafiz Nauman have more than 150 students listed and attending the classes regularly. Out of this number some of them are memorizing parts of the Holy Quran. Since there are three Hufaz teaching Nazira classes the students have more one to one Nazira lessons.
2. Weekend Islamic school.  
Weekend Islamic school is growing leaps and bounds with increase of the students every year. This year we have 220 students and the projection is 250. The school is going very

smoothly because of the tremendous efforts of Br. Saquib Ahmed, School Principal and more than 70 volunteer teachers. Computer classes are also being taught for brothers and sisters.

### **Community Activities:**

1. Free GRE/GMAT tutoring by Dr. Shah Haque. This is a high level course conducted by Dr. Haque since last year and is a very unique programme started at Masjid Al-Mustafa @ Bear Creek.
2. Ladies program: We have ladies Dars program every Thursday between 6.30-8.30 P.M and Saturday Mornings.
3. Dars programme after Maghrib prayers everyday.
4. Tajweed programme after Fajr prayers on Saturdays.
5. A Eid fair will be held in the Masjid compound on Sunday, November 20, 2005 where rides, games, food, cooking competition and much more will be provided for all ages.

### **Construction and Masjid facility improvement:**

The management of Masjid is working hard to improve existing facilities and services, and adding new facilities whenever needed. The new prayer facility is complete and sisters are using for prayers and Dars programmes. New play area for children has been a big success and families are using during the Nazira classes for small children and parents hang-out area.

The next big goal is to purchase the adjacent land for the future growth of this area.

### **NORTHWEST ZONE- Spring Branch Islamic Center (SBIC)**

Afaq Durrani - Associate Director

The NW-SBIC facilities at 1209 Conrad Sauer are among the most heavily used of all ISGH properties in Houston. The classroom facilities are used 7 days a week. From Monday through Friday, the ISGH Dar ul Uloom conducts daylong Hifz classes and afternoon Quranic recital Nazira lessons. There are weekend schools on both Saturday and Sunday. Additionally, the Community Hall is often in use on weekend afternoons and evenings for a variety of community activities.

### **1 New School Building Facility for Spring Branch Islamic Schools:**

With Allah's guidance and help, construction has started on the new school building and the building permit to extend the building to two stories has been approved by the City of Houston. Bid packages are being prepared to go out shortly and we expect the construction to re-commence in the next few weeks.

Approved Construction and Architectural plans call for the construction of a 2-story 18,000 square foot facility. The actual building will be built in phases. Construction of Phase I ground level single story structure has been completed. The permitted and approved Phase II will be the extension to the second story and completion of the front half so that 4,500 sq ft of classroom space plus restrooms will be available. This project is being ably managed by the dedicated NW-SBIC Construction Committee and the Fund Raising Committee. The fund-raising team is

planning additional activities in the near future, especially during Ramadan. Both the Sunday school and the Saturday school administrations are working jointly and cooperatively in making this dream of a new school building a reality.

## **2. Weekend School Programs :**

Under the able leadership and guidance of our principal (Sr. Kehkashan Zafar) and with the dedicated efforts of her team of teachers, the Sunday Weekend School started its Fall 2005 semester in mid August. Over 120 students attend the Sunday School which has fully implemented the new integrated ISGH curriculum. The balanced curriculum emphasizes both knowledge of Quran and Sunnah as well as focus on getting the children to learn how to read the Holy Quran. Because of its established reputation of having a top quality weekend Islamic education program, this school has students from all parts of Houston. Additionally, we have an adult education class focusing on parents and young adults, and its increasing popularity is evidenced by the fact that it already has over 30 registrants.

There is also a Saturday weekend school program where the emphasis is on the learning of the Arabic Language. For additional information, please contact Br. Mohamed Ahmed (Samir).

## **3. Weekday Dar ul Uloom**

During Monday through Friday there is a Quranic memorization (Hifz) program and afternoon Nazara teaching. Additional information is provided elsewhere in the Annual report on Dar ul Uloom.

## **4. Use of SBIC Facility for Other Islamic Activities/Community Hall :**

SBIC has a fully-functional Community Hall that can seat upwards of 300 people. It is a popular venue for a myriad of activities including conferences, seminars, weddings and other community activities. It is also used daily for Iftar during Ramadan and draws quite a crowd, especially on the weekends. Being centrally located, it is easily accessible from all parts of metropolitan Houston. The hall is available for rent with full facilities at a nominal fee. Please contact Br. Mahmood Zafar to rent the hall.

## **Southwest Zone – Synott Road**

Marghub A. Syed – Director

Masjid Attaqwa @ Synott Road

Br. Abdul Wahid Munshi – Associate Director

## **Clinic:**

Alhamdulillah, the clinic is in operation every Saturday since its move to the ISGH – SW Masjid Attaqwa compound on Synott Road. Allah swt accept the dedication of over 60 dedicated volunteers who operate the clinic, Ameen. Alhamdulillah the volunteer response is great, and support staff is rotated every other week due to large number willing to donate their time. The team has improved the patient filing system, volunteer job assignments, and policies and procedures. The Doctor schedule needs improvement to better serve the community, and Br. Raifque Jangda is working on this issue. It is important to become a satellite facility of one of the

May Allah swt accept the dedication of some these volunteers who are always there to operate the clinic: Abdul Latif Lawal, Ajmal Ansari, Anam Ghias, Anila Savani, Anum Abbasi, AsharGhori, Azma Fazlani, Danial Qureshy, Dr. Arif Shoaib, Dr. Duaa M. AlShakr, Dr. Hasan Naqvi, Dr. Fawad A. Khan, Dr. Fiaz Zaman, Dr. Kauser Bari, Dr. Laeeq Khan, Dr. Naveed Omar Farooq, Dr. Nayeemuddin Khazi, Dr. Raza Pasha, Dr. Sabeeha F. Ahmed, Dr. Shahid Muhammad, Dr. Shujauddin Mohammed, Dr. Yousuf Pervez Khan, Faiza Khan, Fatima Zeb, Ifrah Atiqi, Imraan Husain, Ismail Jafri, Jad El Daye, Jaffar Syed, Jaffer Syed, Khurram Rehmatullah, Madeeha Saeed, Madiha Abbasi, Maheen Siddiqui, Mariam Sattar, Mohammad Talha Sattar, Mohammed Qavi, Muna Sultan, Nabeel Mecci, Nasim Taslimullah, Noorulain Thalho, Omar Aziz, Qavi, Rafique Jangda, Raheel Savani, Ridda Ghias, Saba Syed, Sajid Murtaza, Salwa Khan, Samiha Zakaria, Sarah Zaman, Shabana Qureshi, Shezad Rafiq, Sidra Mohiuddin, Syed B. Alam, Umara Bangoora, Usman Azeem, Uzma Murtaza, Zaid Noor

The clinic also did health fair in January, April and then again in June 2005. Many thanks to Mohammed Osman, Afsan Reza, Melissa Hamid and others for making the health related posters. Thanks to Leghari brothers for donating the EKG equipment during the health fair. Many people donated towards the healthy snacks like carrots, and apples, and water as well as fried chicken: not so healthy food, Alhamdulillah. We need to drive the mindset of our community towards eating healthy food, having basic blood work, and keeping up with the physicals. With one day of operations, the Shifa clinic is not able to get to the level as it is desired and aspired. With the community financial support Inshallah, we can offer the physicals to the healthy people and thus reduce the number of sick patient visiting the facility.

We also had two blood drives, at the masjid. One was successful in March, and we had to turn away people to the blood bank satellite facility. The 2<sup>nd</sup> one had a dismal turn around due to various reasons. We need to avoid this type of embracement and not allow 3<sup>rd</sup> parties to organize events at ISGH facility without proper planning.

### **Construction Maintenance:**

Masjid Attaqwa being one of the oldest masjid is in constant need of repairs and maintenance. Alhamdulillah the building serves ~200 students of Darul Arqam School along with Friday, Saturday and Sunday school children. We have a full time employee who works as a contractor for paint jobs, repair and maintenance. May Allah swt accept the dedication of Zayhna Mustafa who single handedly works with the contractor to get the job done. May Allah swt accept the dedication of Nazir Khan, Fahad Nazir and Harris.

Recently we expanded the parking lot to add 60 plus cars leading to the Shifa clinic and Darul Arqam school building towards the East end of the property. This is a temporary parking lot made of crush concrete at the cost of \$18,000. We also installed added a 3<sup>rd</sup> lane at the main entrance to the property to ease the traffic, and installed a metal fence.

Construction of Phase II is on hold until the funding is cleared. The approval process is well along the way, and recently a color rendering was submitted along with business plan for the clinic. A business plan was submitted with the efforts of Dr. Moien Butt, Rafique Jangda, Nawal Ahmed, and Syed Alam. May Allah swt accept their efforts, Ameen. The Phase II will be in to

the East of the Masjid and West of Phase I of School building Inshallah. It will serve the following three: clinic, seniors and training rooms.

### **Dawah Programs:**

This year was busy year with the Dawah program. Alhamdulillah, During the summer, Sheikh Yasir Kazi gave an all summer lectures every Wednesday on the “Stories from the Seerah - Lessons and Morals”. While thanking him, Sheikh Syed told the community that it felt like it was the Jummah time. Brothers and Sisters at times 400 plus attended on a regular basis and benefited not only from his good command on delivering in English, but his knowledge and his style of presentation. I pray to Allah swt to grant this ummah many Yasir kazi, Ameen.

During the month of June, we held an open forum for people of all faiths: The Truth About Islam. It was a great community support and many people contributed towards the program. Sheikh Zoubir Bouchikhi led the program. The attendance was not all that we hoped, but it was a good learning experience. The community enjoyed the process. Various ethnic snacks were served after the program and Dawah literature was given along with a translation of the Quran.

We also invited many other speakers and held other programs:

- Sh. El-Sayed & Sh. Dilawar Shah: Children Education in Islamic Community in the West
- Sheikh Kamal El Mekki: Road to Tabouk
- Seminar by NAIT: Investment Islamically for your Family’s Future
- Sheikh Yasir Kazi: Seratoon Nabee
- Farooq Malik: Al-Wassiyah Workshop
- Sheikh Isam Rajab: Prophetic Traditions Regarding Food & Nutrition
- Attorney Alamdar: Safeguarding You Civil Rights
- Sisters’ Fall Fun Activity
- Sheikh Yassir Fazaqa: Special halaqa
- Sheikh Mohammed Salah: Rizq Halal
- Sheikh Isam Rajab: Stories of Quran
- Dr. Mmdouh Mohammad: nThe Path Of Success
- Luncheon of business group of West Houston
- Sheikh Zoubir Bouchikhi: Misconception Regarding Hadith
- Sheikh Isam Rajab: Prophetic Traditions Regarding Food & Nutrition
- Br. Mahdi Brae: Followers of Faith, Leaders in Life

May allah swt accept the hard work of Mudassar Khan and Marfani Bhai for managing most of the Dawah programs at the masjid.

Shekh El Syed conducted the after Fajr Programs on Saturdays and Sundays. He also offered the basic Arabic Tajweed classes.

### **Welfare:**

Alhamdulillah, there is great push from Masjid Attaqwa to transform ISGH a masjid based organization to welfare organization. The following is being sent out to the community:

ISGH: A Volunteer Organization  
From Masajid to Welfare Based Organization  
Yes We have a Dream.....

Middle School Today, An Institution of Higher Learning Tomorrow  
Clinic Today, A Teaching Hospital Tomorrow  
Basket Ball Court Today, A Gangster Prevention Center Tomorrow  
Dada Dadee (Grandparents) Lunch Today, A Senior's Center Tomorrow  
Welfare Services Referral Manual Today, A Sahalee (Friend) Tomorrow

Would you like to be part of the dream?

The community donated nonperishable food items during the last Ramadan during the food drive by Darul Arqam school children. Alhamdulillah, it was great community response. We have two clothing bins, and community donates items other than clothes. At times it becomes a problem to manage because of the limited resources. ISGH could use these donated items for the community in needs if additional resources were to be available from the zakat funds. These items could be best used by some of the refugees coming in and getting settled, as well as general population.

Information about CHIP program was downloaded and information on electrical discount to the needy was given to families attending the health fair. Volunteers were trained on the Gold Card Application process also.

Couple of meetings was held with the IWISH (Islamic Women In Service of Humanity), a 501C organization. The purpose was to work together and help ISGH and it's members move towards achieving the goal of serving the humanity. Dialogues are taking place to secure a warehouse to store non-perishable for a food pantry.

Quran and Sunnah require the ISGH to be a welfare based organization. Currently ISGH is a Masajid based organization. Number of ISGH Masajid in Houston is proof of that.

Where are?

- Shelter for battered women
- Food pantries for hungry
- Guest houses for the homeless
- Habitat for Humanity
- Clinics and Hospital
- Senior's Center
- Gangster Prevention Center
- Rehab Center for Alcoholics
- Center for Drug Withdrawals
- Orphanage House

ISGH Shura should encourage, promote Welfare Activities, and be proud of steering the organization and its community towards that cause. The ISGH Shura should continue to support the aspirations and growth of current activities, and seek volunteers, funding and resources for the activities that it doesn't provide. Each member of ISGH Shura should spear head a new welfare activity.

ISGH executive body needs to raise a level higher, and do more to support the organization. They need to challenge the community, find volunteers, and financial resources for welfare purposes. The executive body should be part and parcel of the welfare system. It should be part of their responsibility to help find the volunteers and resources.

### **Hurricanes Katrina & then Rita:**

With Katrina, the Houston opened its arms and welcomed people by the hundreds and thousands in Houston from the effected areas in Louisiana. These people were settled in from masjid to apartments and many people donated generously from cash to mattresses, water, food, baby items, and house hold items. Alhamdulillah it was great community response, and ISGH hired Sr. Cara Harpole as the Refugee Coordinator herself effected by the Hurricane Katrina. AT the present time, most of our neighbors are settled, but we need to work on the long term issues related to housing: furniture, etc. and most importantly the jobs.

At the request of Bob White, Mayor of Houston, there was a movement to feed the effected people by the thousands. Initially this was to take place at Astrodome, then the program was changed to George R. Brown Convention Center. The Muslims of Houston by a random process got Sep 11 as an exclusive day of serving at GBC. Muslims by the thousands came to serve in two shifts, and made an impact in the community. It left a very positive image, and for three consecutive days, Houston Chronicle ad articles and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day it was an editorial appreciating Muslims for working for the humanity.

We as the community need to continue this process, and another attempt was made On Oct 1 to serve the humanity at the Disaster relief Center. The response was not so great, due to several factors including postponing the program due to hurricane Rita, and not enough time to mobilize the community. The coalition will review the reasons to ensure that the community is mobilized in great numbers in future.

Hurricane Rita left a remarkable impression on millions of People in and around Greater Houston area. Under the circumstances, and on the bold move, ISGH opened the most of the masjid as Shelters. At ISGH-SW masjid Attaqwa on Synott Road, we bought the non perishable food and drinks for ~ 300 people to last 3 days. Water was stored in new trash cans and bins. Alhamdulillah, ~ 100 plus people including an elderly family of other faith spent the night as Qiyamul-lail, and togetherness made the event less stressful. May Allah swt accept the hard work of Marfani Bhai, Zakia Iqbal, Zayhna Mustafa, Mohammed, Irfan Ibrahim, Wahid Lala and many others for coming through. Lots of the food and drinks left over from the Hurricane Rita, was later shipped to Beaumont, Texas for the community staying in the city with no power and water. May Allah swt accept the efforts of Syed Shahabuddin to take the van full of supplies to the restricted area, Ameen. Similar arrangements were made at Masjid Al-Mustafa in Beer Creek Area and Masjid Bilal on Adel Road on the North side of the town.

### **Ramadan:**

Alhamdulillah, the community was very supportive of the iftar program, and the food was served every day of the week. During the weekends, we had as many as 500 plus people who opened the fast. ~ 30 people spent the last few nights at the masjid during the aytekaff. During the weekend nights, young huffaz led the qiyamul-lail programs, and offered the nawafil prayers in

congregation. On the 27<sup>th</sup> Ramadan night, ~ 1,200 sweets were distributed after Qhatmul-Quran. May Allah swt accept the efforts of 20 plus people who organized the program and helped during the fund raising.

**Weekend Schools:**

Alhamdulillah, the weekend school has ~ 200 students. It operates on Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday Morning. May Allah swt accept the hard work and dedication of Sr. Khan for the Friday evening program, ICNA sisters for the Saturday, and dedicated of 20 plus teachers from the Sunday Schools under the leadership of Ismael Bakr, Syed Moinuddin and Sr. Fatiha.

**Finance:**

May Allah swt accept the help and support of many volunteers including Marghub Syed, Naeem Khan, Ismael Bakr, and Yousuf Anis.

**Membership:**

May Allah swt accept the help and support of many volunteers including Sam Hussain, and Marfani Bhai. Alhamdulillah, we registered 40 plus new members.

**Youth:**

May Allah swt accept the efforts of Syed Jaffer for leading the weekly Sunday basketball program with Quranic hulqah. Also may Allah swt accept the efforts of Shariq Abdul Ghani and Crescent Youth Volunteers for leading many of the programs for the youth at the masjid, Ameen.

**Sister's Programs:**

May Allah swt accept the efforts of ICNA sisters for arranging the hulqah every Tuesday. Also may Allah Swt accept the efforts of Zayhna Mustafa, Melinda Ahmed, Rifaqat Reza, Naseem, Zakia Iqbal, Razina Syed, and Qulsoom Abdul

**Southwest Zone – New Territory**

Br. Arshad Hydari – Associate Director

**Masjid Mariam @ New Territory**

Background :

The Masjid was established in early 2004 on a leased parcel of land in Sugarland, Texas. A portable trailer was installed for Muslims of the neighbourhood to be able to pray the obligatory prayers as well as the Juma prayers.

Present Position :

. A 3 acre parcel of undeveloped land was purchased in early 2005 at a cost of nearly \$ 203,000 on 600 Sartartia Road close to the New Territory sub-division in Sugarland.

. Additional \$40,000 were spent to develop a portion of this land in order to move the trailer from the old location to the new.

. The move to the new location is in progress at the time of this writing and is expected to be completed InshaAllah by September 23, 2005.

Review of Major Activities :

- . Successfully accomplished the task of raising \$ 250,000 within a short period of three months.
- . Purchase of the 3 acre piece of raw land in the name of ISGH.
- . Month of Ramadhan was observed with regular Taraveeh prayers.
- . School for the Quranic teaching of children was established
- . Juma prayers are held on a regular basis.
- . Completed the task of moving the existing trailer to the newly acquired piece of land.
- . Most dues paying members are on check-o-matic.
- . Other social activities amongst the community .

### **South Zone**

Abdul Hafiz Khatri - Director

Masjid As-Sabireen @ Brand Lane  
Report Not Submitted.

### **Southeast Zone**

Br. Altaf Awan Ali – Director

Masjid Abu Bakr Siddique @ HWY 3  
Report Not Submitted.

## **SUBSDARIES OF ISGH**

### **Islamic Education Institute of Texas (IEIT)**

#### **- Darul Arqam School – North Zone**

Sr. Saboohi Adhami - Principal

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

Dar-ul-Arqam is a full time Islamic school offering classes from PreK1 through High School. The school really took a very promising start this year. The enrollment is 205. We have 29 high school students which is really very encouraging for us.

Dar-ul-Arqam north school believes it is in the best interest of all its **Seniors** to take three AP. courses( AP Physics, AP Calculus, AP English). We have a certified Math and Physics teacher with 25 years teaching experience. Our English teacher received her Degree in English and is currently also teaching English courses at the local community college.

The school exhibits a wonderful pride each year by IOWA and TAKS results. Dar-UL-Arqam students are two grades above level than public school students. Total Average for the TAKS results was 89%.The average score of our high school juniors in SAT test is higher than Klien and Spring ISD.

Texas education Agency Board approves the curriculum that is followed by Dar-ul-Arqam school. All our books are meeting the requirements of TEKS. The curriculum also includes

Quran, Arabic and Islamic Studies. Our aim is to inculcate a love for Islam, its meaning and purpose through Quranic study. Certified and Qualified staff is among our highest priorities. Most of our teachers have bachelor's degree and they have more than five years of teaching experience. Dar-ul-Arqam is participating in my enrichment programs like spelling bee , National Geographic bee, MIST, Quran Recitation Competition and PSIA. We appreciate our student's efforts in PSIA District Tournament. They brought home 113 medals which is a clear proof that Dar-ul-Arqam students can compete with any public and private school. The shining stars of Dar-ul-Arqam also brought 7 medals in PSIA State Tournament held in Fortworth Dallas.

Our Students prove in MIST(Muslim Interscholastic Tournament) that they are committed to excellence. They won overall second position in this tournament. Dar-ul-Arqam won 10 trophies in second interschool annual Quran Competition on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

The Young Poets and Writers of Dar-ul-Arqam school received Achievement Award by Creative Communications. This award is given to school whose student's entries to the Young Poets and Writers contest were of exceptionally high merit.

We have set our goals and plan for the new school years. Our main goal is the accreditation of Dar-ul-Arqam school by the Texas Alliance of Accredited Private Schools. We have submitted our application and trying our best to meet the standards for accreditation. The local Governing Body has also planned for the new school building to be constructed within two years (Inshallah)By the grace of Allah Almighty and with community support that has been extended to the school, we will continue to move on and achieve higher goals.

#### **- Darul Arqam – Southwest Zone**

Sr. Rifaqat Raza - Principal

Here are a few highlights dates of September 2004 to August 2005:

- Alhamduillah, last year we started the school with a positive note and accomplished everything, which we planned. And we achieved many goals such as:
- At the end of the school year of 2004-2005, we had a total enrollment was 178 and presently (school year of 2005-2006) we have an enrollment of 224 students and still more on our waiting list.
- PTA held many fundraisers during the school year:
- Domino's pizza coupons
- Book fair
- Every Thursday Pizza Day
- This is was the first time we took part in the DCA (District Common Assessment) amongst all three Dar-ul Arqam Schools. Mashallah, overall the children did well.
- Our students also participated in the PSIA (Private School Interscholastic Association) competition. They received 19 medals and 1 student qualified to go for State competition.

- The children participated in the Quran recitation competition.
- The TAKS test was administered last year and Alhamduillah our kids did a great job.
- For the first time, our school had a Science Fair for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade up to 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Teacher of the Year was voted: Sr. Rukhsana Saleem (6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher).
- The school arranged eye screenings for all the students and teachers.
- The net income for the school is always positive, Alhamduillah.
- Athletic program after school for boys and girls.

Our summer school program is always successful. Our fall enrollment increases due to the summer program.

- The success of our school depends on a team effort. The dedication and hard work of the teachers, participation of the parents, tireless efforts of the PTA team, Sr. Mervat, our accountant and the commendable job of the Board of Trustees has uplifted the school in a great extent but we still need continuous support for the progress of the school.

#### Challenges

- Lack of space
- There is no bathroom facility or water fountain for the kids. It is so inconvenient since it's far from the rest of the school building. Especially during the rough weather such as 'heat or rain'.
- Small classrooms
- Need a proper cafeteria
- Need a library, computer lab, and Science lab.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Net Income</b>
September 2004	\$35,815.23	\$37,060.78	-\$1,245.53
October	\$35,204.15	\$32,546.56	\$2,657.59
November	\$28,416.00	\$28,664.06	\$248.06
December	\$32,780.00	\$28,030.28	\$4,749.72
January 2005	\$34,314.00	\$32,909.23	\$1,404.77
February	\$36,119.77	\$34,737.73	\$1,382.04
March	\$35,032.26	\$29,808.58	\$5,223.68
April	\$34,274.00	\$30,545.80	\$3,728.20
May	\$33,265.00	\$31,782.50	\$1,482.50
June (Summer School)	\$11,220.25	\$11,403.00	-\$182.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$316,440.66</b>	<b>\$297,488.52</b>	<b>\$19,448.28</b>

#### - Darul Arqam Southeast.

Darul Arqam School in the Southeast Zone started the 2004-5 academic years on August 13, 2004 while the Daycare started on August 23, 2004. Darul Arqam School Southeast has enrolled 81 students and it has twelve teachers in addition to the Principal and the Secretary. Dr. Mazahir Khan joined the school as the Principal in August.

The classrooms and hall were painted and other repairs completed before the start of the classes. The remodeling of the bathrooms and the wudu area has enhanced the school's appeal. A Parent Teacher Association was formed during the first meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Before the school started, a faculty training session was held at the North School emphasizing the Texas State assessment test.

The required Texas State inspection was delayed by about a week. The State inspection mandated that the equipment in the Playground area be replaced to comply with the new and relatively stringent Texas State standards for the playground. The examples of non-compliance were a combination of the swings and the slides on the same set as well as the insufficient distance of the swings from the fence. The swing equipment and slide should be separated by a foot and the swings should be 16 feet away from the fence. Almost all of the equipment has now been removed from the playground. About \$10,000. is needed to upgrade the playground and the fund raising to buy the equipment by the Ediul Fitr will continue.

### **Darul Uloom Academy**

Br. Syed Abdul Jaleel – Administrator.

Darul Uloom is engaged in Hifzul Qur'an program, and has so far produced 13 Huffaz (by the Grace of Allah) including 2 recent graduate Huffaz. Our Huffaz recite Qur'an during Taraweeh prayers in the month of Ramadan as practice. It has full-time students numbering 13 male students, and 7 female for Nazira with Tajweed and Quareet.

So we have graduated 35-40 students from Nazira course since its inception for six years. Many of these graduates continue to enroll in Hifz program to become Hafiz. In addition, Hafiz course, we also teach Hadeeth, Fiqh and courses understanding Qur'an.

We are on our way to achieve our goals, which include becoming premier Islamic School in Greater Houston area. We request you to involve and cooperate with Darul Uloom in this regard as we plan ahead for our growth.

