



Muslim Women's Coalition

RAMADAN BASKET PROJECT 2011
NEWSLETTER Volume: 2.00

*Serving Community with Love and Hope
During The Holy Month of Ramadan*



In 2011 MWC members & friends helped serve 95 families in their community!

“Ramadan is a month of giving and sharing the bounty of God with not just family and friends but also those who are facing great difficulties in our community and have ended in either abused women’s shelters or the homeless shelters. Most shelters supply the families with need items on request, but what MWC Ramadan Basket Project does for each family is it gives them a gift of hope, love and care and a sense of ownership. Each family has a gift of personal hygiene and food items that may not be readily available in the shelter. They can share these gifts with their family members and know that the community cares for them.” Uzma Farooq



We could not have done it without the determination and compassion of our members, supporters and friends.



For many years Muslim Women's Coalition’s annual project of “MWC Ramadan Basket Project” has served hundreds of women and children in various abused women shelters in Virginia and Maryland; such as Doorways for Women and Families, Loudon Citizens for Social Justice (CSJ)/Loudon Abused Women’s Shelter (LAWS), The Betty Ann Krahnke Center in Montgomery County MD and families in the homeless shelters such as The Arlington – Alexandria Coalition for Homeless (AACH). This year with the help of the International Cultural Center (ICC) a homeless shelter called Action in Community Through Service (ACTS) in Prince William County was also served.



*MWC acknowledges the collaborative efforts of the following groups:
The International Cultural Center (ICC) in MD, **Nova Community Church** in VA, **Arlington Interfaith Council** in VA.*

THANK YOU & MAY GOD BLESS YOU!



Muslim Women's Coalition is a 501 (c) (3) non profit faith based organization. Our work is based on compassion and respect for all humanity. Our volunteers are committed to educating everyone about the beauty of Islam through various programs such as assisting in communal welfare, interfaith dialogue and bridging the gap in understanding the norms of Islamic cultures in civil society.



Muslim Women's Coalition Ramadan Basket Project 2011 is another success story of a community that is willing to come together in the holy month of Ramadan with love and hope.

Interfaith collaboration:

This year Dianne Carroll and her friends at the Nova Community Church in VA donated 7 huge red "tubs" for MWC Ramadan Baskets project. These were filled with items for 7 families which also included Ramadan items for the Muslim families at the Sullivan House at "The Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless" (AACH) in Arlington.



Dianne told MWC that each basket was lovingly made by members with prayers and blessings for those "who were fasting remembering all our brothers/sisters during Ramadan and their service to the community." A total of 9 baskets were donated to AACH on behalf of MWC friends.

Our thanks to our dear friends at Nova Community Church in VA!

Arlington Interfaith Council (AIC) contributes toward the MWC Ramadan Basket Project 2011

During the month of Ramadan AIC President Jim Burke responded to MWC's appeal for "Ramadan Basket Project" through an email stating that AIC would like to be part of MWC's effort.

A check of \$200.00 was sent to MWC. Muslim Women's Coalition deeply appreciates this generous contribution in assisting the needy in our community and making our project a success!

AIC a 501(c) (3) Corporation, is comprised of 48 religious congregations working together in a joint, practical effort to meet urgent and ongoing human needs in our community. This effort has initiated and/or is strengthening the activities of the non-profit Helping Hands organizations



Members of MWC Youth for Peaceful Directions help out!



It was a very hot summer day during Ramadan when Maryyum Usmani & Nadia Burns (MWC youth) came over to help Yasmin Burns and Uzma Farooq buy items for the Ramadan baskets. The basic need list was long and so was the receipt!



*“Its always fun creating Ramadan baskets and donating them just from our family but this is the first time I have done it on a larger scale. I really loved comparing all the products at the store and seeing which one is the best to put in the baskets. I knew I enjoyed myself because after 5 full carts of products, 40 some bags of stuff, and so many filled baskets, I still wasn’t tired. I feel that since we all did it together we had fun.”
Maryyum Usmani*

Filling the cars and heading home to make baskets!



Yasmin Asghar (MWC youth) and Tasneem Anjum helped not only make baskets but also deliver them to Doorways for Women & Families in Arlington.



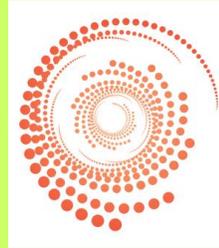
"I had a great time working with MWC on the Ramadan Basket project this year. I have always believed in this project and hope it can continue on with even more success. This year the best experience I had while helping with the project was the delivery of the baskets. When we arrived, there was a huge group of people ready to carry the baskets inside. It was wonderful to see all the helping hands and support!" Yasmin Asghar



We would like to thank Wyatt Schroeder (Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator for Doorways for Women and Families) for facilitating MWC in the delivery of 33 baskets by providing scores of volunteers!

Doorways Safe house, Family Home, and Home Start programs sheltered over 256 individuals last year. More than half of whom were children.

Learn More <http://www.doorwaysva.org/>



Muslim Women's Coalition & the International Cultural Center (ICC)
Help the needy in a joint effort.

We are very happy to announce that ICC joined hands with MWC in expanding resources to the needy in other areas.

On 8/26-International Cultural Center (ICC) delivered 25 MWC Ramadan Baskets to ACTS (Action in Community through Service) Women Shelter in Prince Williams County (Dumfries) on behalf of MWC & ICC. They were very thankful for the baskets and gave ICC member Taqdees a tour of the facility.

(Please note: ICC is not affiliated with the Iranian organization, the IEC!)

“The ICC is a nonprofit, educational organization whose mission is to bridge gaps in understanding amongst communities through actions of sharing and experiencing cultural, intellectual and spiritual diversity. We are a dynamic platform for communities to explore and appreciate varied beliefs and philosophies. Through compassion, critical thinking, knowledge and reason, we strengthen bonds of social cohesion.”

Rabia Zaman.

President, International Cultural Center

"Sharing Cultures; Building Communities"

19650 Club House Rd, Suite 205, Gaithersburg, MD 20886

www.theicc.net Tel: (240) 396-5350



“True Charity remembers not only those in need who ask, but also those who are prevented by some reason from asking” Holy Quran Surah 51: Verse 19

MWC donates four Ramadan baskets to LAWS in Loudon County.



Sadia Ahmed made beautifully wrapped baskets for LAWS.

LAWS (the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter) opened in March 1985 to provide temporary emergency shelter, food and emotional support to women and their children who were escaping domestic violence and abuse. Currently LAWS offers a wide range of direct services to more than 1,500 Loudoun County, Virginia citizens annually.

Our work depends on the countless dedicated members in Virginia, Maryland & Washington DC who contribute their time and effort while fasting from dawn to dusk and holding full time jobs. Thanks to our core helpers: Tasneem Anjum, Sadia Ahmad, Talat Chughtai, Sabiha Iqbal and Dianne Carroll MWC Ramadan Basket Project 2011 reached fruition!



“The Ramadan basket project is a great initiative that truly embodies the meaning of Ramadan. Next year inshaAllah, I hope to contribute and help those in need celebrate the joy of Ramadan.”

Mahnoor Mailk (MWC Youth)

AACH

August 20th 2011

Dear Ladies

Thank you very much for your recent very generous contribution of nine Ramadan baskets to the Arlington –Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless, Inc. You did not receive any goods or services in exchange for this contribution.

The Muslim women among our clients are especially pleased to be remembered in this way.

Our thanks to you from all of them. Your gifts help to make a difference.

Sincerely

Mary Adams

Secretary to the Board



Family Services, Inc.

September 2, 2011

Dear Muslim Women's Coalition

I would like to take this time to thank the Muslim Women's Coalition, for your extremely generous in-kind donation of Ramadan Baskets. These baskets were given to the families residing at the Betty Ann Krahnke Center for Domestic Abuse, our newest and most challenging program in need of support. Your contribution will help take the load off the limited resources that these women have.

Family Services, Inc. (FS) has along history of helping our community's residence combat hardships through innovative education, behavioral health, child development and social services. Over the years FSI has evolved with agility, vision and community support to meet the changing needs of Montgomery County families. The involvement of kind people such as yourself plays a crucial part in our commitment to improving the lives of those in most need.

Your support represents a strong investment in the Montgomery County community, and we are very grateful. Again, on behalf of the clients, staff and Board of Directors, of Family Services, please accept the heartfelt thank you for your donation.

Sincerely,

Wendy Enderson

Director of Marketing & Communication

www.fs-inc.org