

*All praise is for Allah, Lord of the Worlds
& Blessings and peace be upon the Seal of the Prophets and Messengers
and upon his Family and Companions*

Dear Builder of Dreams & Seeker of Blessings,

Al-Salamu 'Alaykum& Ramadan Mubarak!

Twenty-five years ago, a handful of Muslims dared to dream of building the first mosque in Chicago's southwest side. With much prayer and much work, this dream became a reality. We know it as "The Mosque Foundation."

The first Ramadan *Taraweeh* brought in a humble number of men and women who barely filled one and half lines. Now, thousands pray here every night of Ramadan. Literally, it's wall-to-wall worshippers.

In the early days, there was hardly an opportunity for religious education for our children. But thereafter, two of the largest full-time Islamic schools in the nation sprung from the Mosque Foundation. We must also mention a thriving weekend school program serving 650 students, plus a seven-day-a-week Community Center for boys and girls and their parents.

We should also say that in the beginning Muslim women were invisible. Now women lead several programs, and they are an integral part of our community.

Clearly, around this lovely mosque our community has grown and continues to do so. To keep up, our programs have also expanded. This reality leads to an obvious point: *We needed more space.*

We then drew plans and then asked for your help. Your response was overwhelming and humbling. It continues to be a source of inspiration. We have just completed the 22,500 sq. ft. addition to our Mosque. Gratitude to Allah is the first valid response, followed by thanking you for your generosity. May Allah be generous with you and reward you for all the good the expansion brings to our community for generations to come.

Our newly expanded Mosque opened its doors to thousands of worshippers in Ramadan. Once again, a dream has become a reality! And our journey in building Islam in America continues. Praise and thanks are due to God.

Close to 3,500 pray Jumu'a in it. Each day, countless faces will bow down. The purified hearts of those who seek meaning, purpose, and truth will declare their faith therein. Good words, wisdom, admonition, instruction, inspiration, and helping hands will be found there. Thousands of needy folks will find their right to relief from the charity of those who have been blessed with means.

The name of God will be mentioned often. Study circles will convene. Guest lectures will add to our knowledge. The weekend school will extend its work to many more young minds. Free groceries will be handed out to the hungry. Counseling, crisis support, hospital visits, funeral and cemetery services, interfaith and social activism — and so much more — will issue from our Mosque.

Please share in the enormous reward of providing these services.

As the mosque opens its doors, we are still short of funds for necessary internal preparations. They have yet to be fully funded. We remind you with our Prophet, God's blessings and peace be upon him, said:

Whosoever [so much as] lights a lamp in a mosque, the angels and Throne Bearers do not cease praying for him and asking forgiveness for him for as long as that lamp remains lit.

Please help with your generous gift of \$3,000, \$1,000, \$250 or as much as you can give for this mosque. God willing, your gift will be a source of benefit for you in this life and the next.

Also, in this blessed month of Ramadan, please give your Zakat, or part of your zakat, for needy families through the Mosque Foundation. The investment is minimal, the reward everlasting! Please give generously today.

Was-Salamu 'Alaykum& Ramadan Karim.

Sh. Jamal Said,
Imam & Director

Dr. M. Zaher Sahloul,
President

PS: Please rush your Zakat and Sadaqah of any amount by check or on a credit card in the enclosed return envelope. Attached is also Zakat FAQ for you. You can also visit us at www.mosquefoundation.org to calculate your zakat and donate online.