

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
وَقُلْ أَعْمَلُوا بِمَا أَمَرْتُمْ  
اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ  
وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ



08  
ANNUAL REPORT



## Vision Statement

Our vision is to be the leading Mosque in the United States in providing Islamic guidance and services to the community.

## Mission Statement

The Mosque Foundation serves the spiritual, religious, and communal needs of area Muslims by means of nurturing their faith, upholding their values, and fostering the wellbeing of the community around us through worship, charity, education, outreach, and civic engagement.

## Executive Summary

In the name of Allah,  
Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Mosque Foundation members and benefactors, Assalamu Alaikum.

The Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of the Mosque Foundation proudly inform you of the developments and growth achieved by our community in 2008. We have reached many consequential milestones and surpassed expectations to deliver exceptional results, by the will of Allah (SWT).

Our most noticeable improvement, the expansion project, is nearing completion. By the grace of Allah (SWT), our community truly joined hearts and extended hands, selflessly and generously, in hopes of concluding this historic endeavor. Our newly expanded Masjid enthusiastically opened its doors to thousands of worshippers last Ramadan, and for the first time in many years, we prayed Eid salah in unison, without the need to hold two separate prayers. The new, three-floor structure, the product of your spiritual and financial devotion, has added 25,000 sq. ft. to the existing 17,700 sq. ft. facility. The building, now able to accommodate an additional 1,200 worshippers, also includes much needed, and already utilized, halls and rooms for concurrent programs, childcare, a bookstore, kitchen, boardroom and administrative offices. The recently purchased lot adjacent to Aqsa School also holds an additional 110 cars, alleviating much of the traffic caused by Friday prayer.

Our information technology infrastructure has also kept pace with the growth of our building. The state-of-the-art system, unique among congregations in America, will keep our community informed and engaged. We also became the first mosque in America to install a solar panel for heating, thereby emphasizing the use of clean energy and encouraging environmentally responsible behavior. The Mosque Foundation also became the first Islamic organization to receive the Environmental Hero Award granted by Lt. Governor Patrick Quinn in 2008.

In terms of programming, our community has increased the depth and range of our activities. Our religious and educational programs have continued as before, even during the expansion work. Our daily, weekly and monthly programs, the summer camp and umrah trip for our youth, the consistent lectures by distinguished speakers on contemporary issues have left our mosque bustling with events. We dependably cater to varying age groups, both male and female, in Arabic, English and Spanish. More than 200 boys and girls combine their love of sports, and need for spiritual development and emotional support, in our Community Center. Al-Siddiq Weekend School enrolls more than 650 students, and with continued training of our teachers, as well as the meticulous development of our curriculum, the school has become an indispensable tool in teaching Arabic and Islamic studies to our children attending public schools.

Our growth has not been confined to our physical structure and programs, but also extends to our virtual presence. During 2008, approximately 21,370 unique visitors from 113 countries have viewed the Mosque Foundation Web site. In an average month, the site receives 22,353 visits. Not only has the Web site enabled the Mosque Foundation to reach thousands of people around the world, it has also bridged the gap between the community and those who are not able to come to the mosque on a regular basis. Muslims and non-Muslims find the content-rich Web site a very credible and thorough source on Islam—one person even embraced Islam as a result of exposure to the faith through our Web site. Additionally, we are proud to be the first mosque in the nation to provide real-time value of nisab<sup>1</sup> that changes automatically as the price of gold fluctuates, with our newly created and easy-to-use Zakat Calculator.

Direct and effective communication with our community is pivotal to our success. In an effort to reach more of our base, we have expanded our newsletter, the Community Pulse, to an annual circulation of 85,000 copies, 38,000 directly mailed. We are also publicizing information in methods ranging from e-mails, to automated call broadcasts, to direct mail that is reaching several thousand Muslim households.

Furthermore, in 2008 we also began implementing our 5-year Strategic Plan. We took the time in the previous year to professionally analyze our needs. We identified our strengths and weaknesses, prioritized our issues and set goals for every level of our organization. Currently, 26 entities and committees are working on accomplishing 237 goals within this period. Until today, 59 percent of our goals have been completed, or are in progress.

Our activism distinguishes and has established the Mosque Foundation as a model community-based organization. Not only did we aid in registering 1,134 new voters this past election, but we also have been instrumental in our partnerships and active involvement with other organizations promoting social justice, equality and peace.

Considering the recent economic downturn and financial pressure imposed by our expansion, the financial health of the mosque is acceptable at this time. However, we are proactively taking steps to review and assess our costs. We established the Finance Efficiency

<sup>(1)</sup> Nisab: The value of 3 oz. of pure gold.

Committee to examine our spending and make necessary adjustments. Our community donated a total of \$3.3M last year, with close to \$1.1M allocated for the expansion project, and \$570K for the Zakat fund. We realize that last year was an exception due to the expansion and land purchase; however, as detailed in the attached financial statement, our fiscal management will continue to be a top priority insha'Allah.

Finally, we deeply recognize and feel the blessings Allah (SWT) has bestowed upon our community. We can only hope to retain His favor through steadfastly striving to work for the benefit of our people, for the sake of Islam. Our community never ceases to amaze us! Its responsiveness to our calls, its generosity and its activism are unwavering and unparalleled elsewhere in America. We are proud that our institution continues to be the cornerstone of the community at large; it is one of the busiest Islamic centers in North America. We thank Allah (SWT) and then our dedicated staff, tens of volunteers, hundreds of donors, and our entire community for our success. Wassalamu Alaikum.

Dr. M. Zaher Sahloul,  
Chairman of the Board & President

Sh. Jamal Said,  
Imam & Director



## Highlights of 2008

The Mosque Foundation provides a welcoming, spiritual environment where both men and women pray with peace of mind and a sense of belonging. In its sacred space, hundreds of people learn the morals and ethics of Islam, the needy come to a tangible refuge, and the troubled find personal help. Below are highlights of services, programs & events during the year of 2008.

### Religious Services

- o About 770 worshippers attend daily prayers.
- o Two jumu'a congregations attended by more than 3,500 worshippers.
- o Approximately 9,000 attend Eid prayers.

### Educational Programs

- o Study circles on various subjects for men and women of different age groups in Arabic and English.
- o About 950 men attend the weekly men's programs.
- o About 525 women attend the weekly women's programs.
- o About 250 men and women attend the Monthly Meeting Programs.
- o More than 650 students attend Al-Siddiq weekend school, in addition to the Summer Quran School, with more than 65 staff members.
- o Summer Camp, held from June 16th to August 2nd, with 107 boys and girls (6-12 years old) combined fun with education in a safe environment.
- o Umrah Trip for a group of 30 students during the summer.
- o MFCC program One Nation, One Message, a signature weekly event offered for youth and college-age Muslims, aimed at educating them about their faith.
- o High School Forum to address issues confronting the youth, and provide a place for entertainment and discussion.
- o Held lectures for many distinguished speakers on various topics throughout the year such as:

“Diversity of Islamic Culture in the West” by Dr. Ihsan Bagby,  
“Islamic Finances in the West” by Prof. Abdul-Sattar Abu-Ghuddah, and  
“Live the Example of Islam in the West” by Sh. Yusuf Estes

- o Spring 2008 Qur'an Competition at MFCC.
- o Completed Part I of “Memoirs of the Noble Prophet” series.
- o More than 100 teachers attended “Al-Norania Method” course to learn effective techniques for teaching Qur'an.

### Charitable and Zakat Programs

- o Assist Muslims in calculating their Zakat, and collecting it as well.
- o Distribution of Zakat to about 300 local families.
- o Free groceries to more than 150 families weekly at the community Food Pantry.
- o An estimated 6,500 needy benefited from udhiya donated for Eid-ul-Adha.
- o Free Daily Iftar Program offered to hundreds in underprivileged neighborhoods in 12 localities during Ramadan.
- o Providing assistance to victims of natural disasters worldwide.

## Community Services

- o More than 200 boys and girls play sports, and gain spiritual development and emotional support in our Community Center.
- o Community Center available for social needs such as azza'a, aqeeqas and meetings.
- o New Muslims Orientation (10 took shahada in 2008).
- o Marriage/divorce services and counseling (118 marriages & 49 divorces in 2008).
- o Visitation & counseling during illness and death.
- o Islamic arbitration and mediation services.
- o Parental & teen counseling
- o Free health screening at MFCC with Compassionate Care Network.
- o Imam's services available at hospitals and for funeral services, in the mosque and at graveside (87 funerals performed in 2008).
- o Job-hunting workshop to provide training for searching for employment, resume-writing, and job interviews.
- o Eid Party at Safari Land for hundreds of children and parents.
- o Hundreds of homeowners appealed their property tax increases at the Mosque Foundation in coordination with Cook County Board of Review Commission.
- o Summer trip for sisters to Deep River Water Park in July 2008, with more than when 1,846 attendees.
- o Men's pin-pong tournament.
- o Boys' basketball tournament.
- o Martial Arts Class for boys and girls.

## Outreach

- o Publish the Community Pulse—a comprehensive, bilingual publication with an annual circulation of 85,000 copies, 38,000 direct-mailed in 2008.
- o State-of-the-art Web site [www.mosquefoundation.org](http://www.mosquefoundation.org) , visited by an average of 22,000 visitors monthly.
- o Visitors' Orientation for hundreds of students, church-goers, reporters, dignitaries and politicians.
- o Media outreach program through press releases & meetings with reporters and editorial boards.
- o Co-sponsored Islamic Chaplain Program at Christ Advocate Medical Center to serve Muslim patients & their families.
- o Updating our community through mail, email and robot-call after nearly tripling our contact list in 2008.
- o Enriched Web site with new materials, such as Islam 101, the Zakat Center with an automated Zakat Calculator, FAQ section, and interactive tools.
- o Hosted a dinner and presented an award to the Arab American Police Association for their volunteer efforts.



- o “Congratulations Graduates” event to recognize 16 college, 38 high school and 20 middle school graduates in 2008.
- o Community BBQ Day held on August 16th, 2008.
- o Established Convert Support Group to offer social, religious and educational support to those who have embraced Islam, with the initial event: “An Afternoon Tea.”

## Activism

- o 1,134 newly registered voters through Voter Registration Drive in 2008.
- o Participated in Anti-Gun Violence campaign.
- o Member of United Power for Action and Justice.
- o Participant in the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.
- o Continued efforts to establish an Arabic language program in local public schools.
- o Annual Neighborhood Clean-up Day held on August 16th, 2008.
- o “Faith in Place Award” for environmental conservation efforts, becoming the nation’s first mosque to install solar heating panels.
- o “Environmental Hero Award” from Governor Pat Quinn; featured in “Live Green” segment on ABC7.

## Interfaith

- o Partner in interfaith initiatives with organizations that promote social justice, equality and peace.
- o Active participant in Catholic Theological Union programs.
- o Represented on the board of Cardinal Bernadine International Center.
- o Member of the Council of Arab Religious Leaders of Chicago.
- o Held the 7th annual Women’s Interfaith Potluck Dinner to build bridges among different ethnicities and faiths.

## Seeking Excellence & Professionalism

- o Implementing Five-Year Strategic Plan (2008-2012) to address top priorities at various levels of the organization; 26 entities are working on accomplishing 237 goals within this period.
- o Human resources development through Itqân Initiative.
- o Completed Mental Health Project, a series of workshops over a span of two years, aimed at educating faith leaders about mental health issues and counseling strategies, in coordination with Advocate Good Samaritan.
- o Proudly co-sponsored the Muslim Youth Leadership Symposium, conducted by CAIR-Chicago. Approximately 100 high school students participated in two days of workshops, culminating with an inspiring “You’ve been given a gift” speech by US Congressman Keith Ellison.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008



# MEET THE PEOPLE BEHIND OUR ORGANIZATION

## Board of Director

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Dr. M. Zaher Sahloul, Chairman  
Dr. Ghassan Abdallah  
Sr. Aisheh Said  
Br. Samer Shalabi  
Br. Mubarak Amine  
Br. Habes Abdallah  
Br. Dahoud Shalabi  
Dr. Maher Abdelhaq  
Br. Kamel Sandouka  
Sr. Aisha Rahima  
Br. Ayman Salem  
Br. Hisham Shalabi  
Sr. Itedal Shalabi  
Sh. Jamal Said, Imam  
Dr. Kamal Eldeirawi  
Sr. Khalida Baste  
Dr. Mohamed Aduib  
Dr. Mohammed Shalabi  
Br. Oussama Jammal  
Br. Rajai Ismail  
Br. Salem Akhras  
Dr. Talal Sunbulli  
Br. Wisam Zegar  
Br. Muhammed Mowla

## Executive Committee

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Dr. M. Zaher Sahloul, President  
Dr. Ghassan Abdallah, VP  
Sr. Aisheh Said, VP  
Br. Samer Shalabi, Treasurer  
Br. Mubarak Amine,  
Co-Treasurer/Secretary  
Dr. Maher Abdelhaq  
Br. Kamel Sandouka  
Br. Dahoud Shalabi  
Br. Habes Abdallah

## Main Staff

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**Sh. Jamal Said**  
Imam & Director, since 1985  
**Sh. Kifah Mustapha**  
Imam & Associate  
Director, since 2002  
**Br. Tareq Abu-Ammer**  
Building Manager, since 1991  
**Br. Husam Elayyan**  
Assistant Building  
Manager, since 2005  
**Sr. Najmeh Said**  
Custodian, since 1990  
**Sr. Amneh Nakhleh**  
Custodian since 2000  
**Br. Abdel Baset Hamayel**  
MFCC Director, since 2007  
**Sr. Connie Martin**  
Administrative Assistant  
since 2005

## Mosque Foundation Community Center's Board

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Sr. Dalila Benameur, Chairperson  
Dr. Mohamed Aduib, V. Chairperson  
Sh. Kifah Mustapha, Treasurer  
Sr. Banan Said, Secretary  
Sr. Khalida Baste  
Br. Rajai Ismail  
Br. Abdel Baset Hamayel

## Assiddique School

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Sr. Aisha Rahima, Principle  
Sr. Buthiana Zahdan, Vice Principle

## Food Pantry

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Sr. Jeanean Othman, Manager

## COMMITTEES

Committee	Chaired by
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### Board Committees

Finance	Br. Samer Shalabi
Planning	Br. Rajai Ismail
Constitutions & Policies	Br. Wisam Zegar
Membership	Dr. Ghassan Abdallah
Nomination & Election	Dr. Mohamed Aduib

### Functional Committees

Endowment Fund	Br. Samer Shalabi
Programs & Sermons	Sh. Jamal Said
Zakat	Sh. Jamal Said
Outreach & PR	Br. Oussama Jammal
Education & Schools	Br. Habes Abdallah
Social Services	Sr. Ahlam Jbara
Volunteer	Br. Dahoud Shalabi
Interfaith	Sr. Dalila Benameur
Women	Sr. Aisheh Said
HR	Br. Mohamad Chehade
IT	Br. Nidal Naser
Convert Support	Sr. Nadine Boufath
Maintenance	Br. Salem Akhras
Newsletter	Dr. Zaher Sahloul
Traffic & Order	Br. Fawzy Hassan
Expansion & Facilities	Dr. Zaher Sahloul
Itqan Initiative	Br. Mubarak Amine
Counseling & Arbitration	Sh. Jamal Said
Arabic Language Task Force	Dr. Talal Sunbulli
Events	Br. Dahoud Shalabi
Public Health	Dr. Kamal Eldeirawi

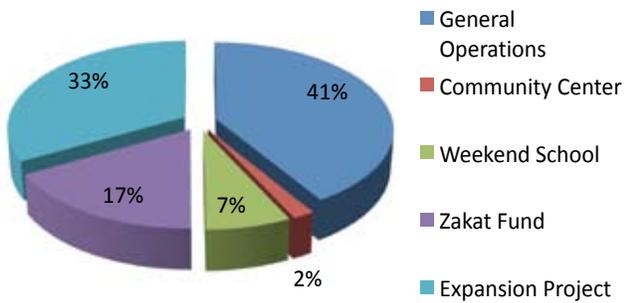
COMMITTEES



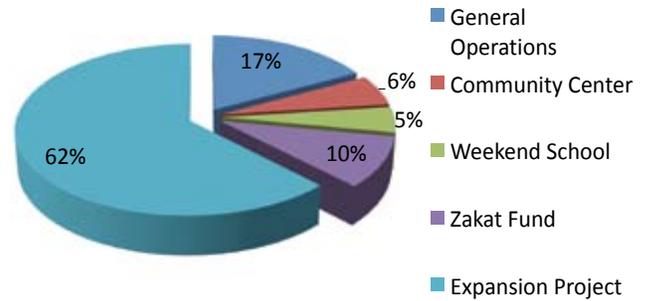
# STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS (UNAUDITED) FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS PERIOD ENDING DEC. 31ST, 2008

	Receipts	Disbursements	Surplus(Deficit)
General Operations (a)	\$1,375,907	(\$941,322)	
Community Center (b)	\$59,013	(\$315,645)	
Weekend School (c)	\$231,564	(\$264,996)	
	\$1,666,484	(\$1,521,962)	\$144,522
Zakat Fund	\$570,597	(\$527,029)	
Expansion Project (d)	\$1,106,571	(\$3,411,588)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,343,652</b>	<b>(\$5,460,579)</b>	

**Total Receipts**



**Total Disbursements**



(a) General Operations Detail Statement

2008

Receipts

General Donations	\$359,756
Friday Prayer Donations	\$337,668
Fund Raising Dinner - 2008	\$285,091
Auto Monthly Pledge	\$87,430
Taraweeh Donations	\$82,589
Funeral Donations	\$79,200
Advertisement Income	\$44,155
Eid Donations	\$40,107
Food Sales	\$32,387
North American Islamic Trust Acct Yield	\$10,919
Bookstore	\$7,919
Fund Raising Dinner - 2006	\$5,220
Membership	\$1,750
Fund Raising Dinner - 2004	\$1,717
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$1,375,907</b>

Disbursements

Total Payroll Expenses	(\$393,843)
Newsletter Publication	(\$76,184)
Utilities, All	(\$72,342)
Internet/Web site (Prof. services & Development)	(\$55,487)
Total Supplies	(\$49,441)
Professional Services	(\$41,470)
Ramadan Expenses	(\$32,300)
Equipment	(\$30,921)
Total Miscellaneous	(\$25,646)
Annual Fund Raising Dinner	(\$23,679)
Special Events/Activities	(\$19,648)
Printing	(\$18,833)
Eid Expenses	(\$18,635)
Dues and Subscriptions	(\$12,800)
Repairs & Maintenance	(\$12,604)
Insurance	(\$8,926)
Telephone	(\$8,087)
Automobile Expense	(\$7,699)
Cleaning Services	(\$7,280)
Bank Service Charges	(\$7,105)
Bookstore	(\$4,438)
English / Arabic Programs	(\$4,423)
Retreat Expenses	(\$3,130)
Advertisement	(\$2,948)
Donations	(\$1,750)
Postage & Delivery	(\$1,705)
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>(\$941,323)</b>

(b) Community Center Detail Statement

	2008
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$59,013</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	
Total Payroll Expenses	(\$208,215)
Repairs	(\$22,714)
Utilities	(\$18,413)
Program Expense	(\$17,391)
Supplies	(\$15,998)
Insurance	(\$7,853)
Printing	(\$6,252)
Maintenance	(\$5,202)
miscellaneous	(\$3,257)
Construction	(\$2,736)
Competition expenses/prizes	(\$2,580)
Telephone	(\$2,270)
Disposal	(\$1,835)
Janitor	(\$660)
Ramadan Expense	(\$270)
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>(\$315,645)</b>

(c) Weekend School Detail Statement

<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$231,564</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	
Total Wages	(\$132,647)
Rental	(\$90,000)
EID Expenses	(\$16,138)
Activities/Events	(\$13,958)
Supply	(\$8,657)
Miscellaneous	(\$2,200)
Telephone	(\$1,163)
Repairs	(\$132)
Weekend School - Misc.	(\$100)
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>(\$264,996)</b>

(d) Expansion Project Detail Statement

<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$1,106,571</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	
Construction	(\$2,392,262)
Land	(\$500,000)
Eng/ Rehab/ IT/ Prof. Fees	(\$519,326)
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>(\$3,411,588)</b>



# ANNUAL REPORT 08

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**Imam & Director**

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**Al-Siddiq Weekend School**

**T: (708) 715-5678**

**Mosque Foundation Food Pantry**

**T: (708) 430-6888**