



# Ithna-Asheri Muslim Association of the Northwest

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## IMAN Annual Report of Activities 2020-2021

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# 1 Executive Committee Report for 2020/2021

The Executive Committee members are honored and express deepest gratitude to have had the privilege to serve the term ending September 30th, 2021.

We thank the IMAN community for their help, support and generous financial contributions towards operational expenses and social services programs

Alhamdulillah, IMAN community continues its journey to establish a spiritually vibrant caring sharing community in the beautiful Pacific Northwest in its 24<sup>th</sup> year.

This report outlines progress and activities since October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, made possible by the continued sincere dedication, support, and participation of the community at large.

The following were the IMAN Executive Committee members for 2020/2021:

Mohammad Jawad Khaki	President and Treasurer
Hossein Rezaee	Vice President
Ali Mansoor Naqvi	Secretary
Nuri Mansoori	Committee Member
Nafisa Jassani	Committee Member

The following observations augment what is covered in sub-committee reports.

## 1.1 Executive Committee Priorities

The following areas had a priority focus from the Executive Committee.

### Continued Operations During COVID-19 pandemic

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to rage through the world, we saw 2020 bring in vaccinations that resulted in a reduction of cases and almost global reopening, along with new variants like Delta, that brought a fresh spike of cases and a fresh set of lockdown measures. Given the ever-changing landscape, the Executive Committee continued constant monitoring and evaluating of the conditions and deciding what activities to permit, and when to reopen the center, based on the well-being of the attendees and their spiritual, religious, and social needs. Different actions are explained below:

### Center Operations

With the continued prevalence of Covid-19 cases, in the beginning of the year, the EC decided to keep the center closed to in person activities. However, it continued to regularly monitor the conditions of cases and vaccines, the guidance from King County, and the feedback from the community. All the while Programs, Sunday School, Social Services, and other community services were continued virtually online.

Near summer after the vaccination levels in the local community reached a certain level, cases numbers came down sufficiently, and lockdown measures were relaxed, so Jumuah prayers resumed in person from June 25<sup>th</sup>. The program was opened for limited attendees, with social distancing measures and vaccine proof required. A more cautious approach was taken the next few months as the Delta variant

reversed some gains made, however, given the high rate of local vaccine and booster level, Daily prayers and weekly programs resumed in November.

### **Sunday School**

In March of 2020, a good system for conducting Sunday School online via Zoom was established. Pandemic situation was evaluated by the Sunday School Committee for the current school year that commenced in September 2021. Since COVID-19 virus variants continue to rage on, and vaccines were not available for all age groups, it was decided to start the new school year via Zoom. Most likely all classes will continue online via Zoom for the remainder of the current school year.

### **Programs**

Due to the center being closed it was important to ensure that religious programs in accordance with the Islamic calendar continued uninterrupted. Therefore, all programs – weekly Thursday, Ramadan, and Muharram etc. – were being conducted online and lives streamed to YouTube. Several considerations were given to resume in person, but every time spikes in cases due to newer variants discouraged plans to fully reopen the center. Since most individuals that volunteer to run the center for programs and the hospitality are in a vulnerable age for Covid-19, the decision was made to continue the programs remotely.

However, effort was made to provide some opportunity to meet and greet the community (with social distancing) by conducting drive through meals in the IMAN parking lot for Eid, and 10<sup>th</sup> of Muharram.

Continued investment has also been made into improving the online services from the IMAN Center which will benefit us all even after we revert to full in person programs at the IMAN Center.

This setup and experience for conducting online programming enables us to reach local and global audience unable to attend in person which will help even after we assume a new norm with in-person programs at IMAN.

### **Social Services**

The need for Social Services continued during the year, more so, as the pandemic continued to cause burden locally and internationally. The Social Services committee identified need, and distributed around to various local and international Social Services causes as detailed below and in the financial report.

The Social Services committee worked locally with the St. John's Episcopal Church to reestablish the monthly meals, conducting drive through meals and gift cards.

Additional support was also provided to organizations assisting folks financially impacted by the pandemic. Regular meals were also provided to Sophia Way and Tent city, with food donations from the community. For Thanksgiving 2020 and 2021, IMAN Center made cash donation to the White Center Food Bank for halal turkeys for Muslim and other families.

Donations were also made internationally to the needy in Pakistan ([Hussani Foundation](#)), India ([Alimaan Charitable Trust](#)) and Iraq ([Development Relief Foundation](#)) working with reputable organizations there.

During the last year, IMAN partnered with Al Mahdi Center (West Seattle), Al Salaam Center (SeaTac), Al Mustafa Center (Everett), Islamic Education Center (Mount Lake Terrace) and MCRC\_MAPS (Redmond) to assist families in need primarily providing rental and food gift card assistance when so requested. This effort continued well as IMAN worked with these centers to provide support to people who find themselves in difficult life situations, with both financial and community support.

Continued local support was also provided by identifying deserving families (sayyid and non-sayyid) and distributing the remotely collected Fitra funds.

### **Health Services**

Plans to provide health services at IMAN Center are still on hold due to the pandemic. Any effort to resume this initiative will not happen until the Covid-19 pandemic is under control, and such services can be provided without health risks and overhead.

## 2 Sub-Committee Reports

Over the past year we have focused on the sub-committees described below. In order to expand our range of activities, we have also begun several additional projects which are described in Section 3. Below is a brief report on sub-committee activity.

### 2.1 Sunday School Committee

#### Members

The school year for 2020-2021 began in the middle of September with the following individuals serving in the sub-committee:

- Ghadeer Baghai (Principal), Kaniz Khaki (Vice Principal)
- Ali Mansoor Naqvi - Administrator, Naushina Esmail & Mariam Kamin (Co-Administrators)
- Farzana Noray (Treasurer)

#### Parents / Teacher Liaisons

- Wasfee Vazir

#### Accomplishments

- Registered about 51 students (25 Families) in 2020-2021
- 19 Teachers/TA's volunteered to teach the classes
- Youth Class (13 to 18 years old) (11 Students participated).
- COVID-19 Impact:
  - School was online completely September 2020 to June 2021 due to COVID-19, and we complied with all the Guidelines from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Section of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
  - Sunday School started online classes on September 2020. And continued using ZOOM Link for all classes. (Participation was almost 100%).
  - Some activities were modified due to COVID-19, such as Final student evaluation, parent-teacher conference, Bulough Class for Girls and Boys, and End of year Picnic with IMAN Community, and they needed to be done differently. And some to be cancelled this year.
  - School provided 5 laptop for 5 students who did not have a computer at home to participate the school online classes.
- Continued Islamic Curriculum "Tarbiyah"
  - Teacher's training for Tarbiyah curriculum is continually being encouraged.
  - Participating on the Madrasah Centre of Excellence (MCE) on a feedback survey of all the stakeholders of the Tarbiyah curriculum to shape the way forward for the next 10 years
  - We are training to get the Digital Platform for the Tarbiyah Curriculum for the year 2021-2022.
- Continue Quran Curriculum established by Br. Rizwan Rizvi
  - Teacher's training is provided for Quran curriculum (with Instructors from our School) continuously through the year on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings.
- Teacher Enrichment

- Held 3 teacher meeting (online and we had up to 10 participants). Held one in August for school year 2020-2021 to engage the teachers for online learning.
- Parent Enrichment
  - Held 3 parent meetings (November 2020, February 2021 and March 2021), Participation has been good (November meeting were 28 participants, January 23 Participant, March 27 participants).
  - Held one Parent / Teacher conference. (Online).
  - Parent engagement were more slightly. Parent engagement and review / practice of homework at home, student progress at school is shown improvement.
- Student Enrichment
  - School helped with Quran Conference for young adults for Month of Ramadan. (May 2021).
  - Held Quran classes every night (Monday to Saturday, for one hour) for our Junior and senior students during the month of Ramadan.
  - We conducted Quran classes in summer (Once a week) although not many participated.
  - Quran Students participated in NASIMCO Quran competition. Activity was supervised by Br. Rizwan Rizvi.
  - Engaging the Students on Assembly and allowing them to present a topic to engaged them more.
  - Running the Youth club election for IMAN School. (Online)
  - Making a yearbook for 2020-2021. Come together with social distancing and using mask in the parking lot for taking pictures.
  - More students are engaged even it online.
  - School holding an Art Competition, February 2021; theme: Imam Ali Student made and submit a 30 second video with their name, age, and brief description,
  - IMAN Sunday school had a drive through event for student for Ramadan Goodie bags on April 10, 2021 at IMAN parking lot.
- Community Enrichment Activities Accomplishments:
  - Driven primarily by our Parent liaisons, these have resulted in improved Student and Parent engagement in school activities. These include:
    - Book Drive (Donating new books to less fortunate family) for 6 weeks (November / December, 2020 online)
    - School joining IMAN and St. John's Episcopal Church for food drive for Bellevue Food Bank. Held Food Drive. (December 2020 and January 2021)
    - Students participated on IMAN Art Walk Class on Zoom class and each drew a picture with following teacher's instruction. (November 2020).
    - Online Cupcake making and send the pictures.
- Finances and Tuition:
  - About 20% of the families were on approved reduced tuition or waiver program (9 Families)
- Parent Volunteers:
  - Due to the COVID-19, the volunteer program stopped on February 29, 2020.

- Up until on-premises classes suspended due to COVID-19, all signed up parents had shown up for their volunteer assignments.

## Challenges

- Extending Learning beyond school: One of the main challenges of IMAN School is to keep the students engaged. Lack of engagement or desire to come to school translates to poor performance and lack of homework completion.
- We have started to engage more of the 7th and/or 8th grade students with our school activities and IMAN activities and that has helped, but we will see that most of them they do not return to school to either volunteer or TA. We need to find ways to engage the high school kids more in both school and IMAN community in general.
- Prayers classes need to be smoother for younger students, (Need to emphasize from parents to teach the students. (Zoom classes has been more challenging for prayer classes).
- Encouraging Students to connect more with Sunday School and to engaging them with Volunteering activities.
- Parent engagement needs to be emphasized more. Without parent engagement and review/practice of homework at home, student progress at school is limited.
- Engaging and conducting the meeting for Teachers and administration together to work out the solutions for student improvement.
- Quran classes were challenged with our new teaching techniques.

## Opportunities

- Nurture a culture of community service with the older of youth.
  - Leverage the older youths (13 to 18 years old) to have more engagement with the younger students.
  - We have students who are at a critical age where greater involvement in the community would fulfill their needs. We need to find ways to encourage them to participate and create opportunities for them to serve the community. This will also increase IMAN school student and IMAN community engagements.
- Leverage software and IT technologies to improve running of the school
  - Establish a more comprehensive registration/admin software for school incl. a student blackboard.
  - School website needs to be enhanced and utilized more.
- Sunday school is built on parent involvement and teaching. Our community has highly educated and qualified individuals, and their participation and involvement as teachers and in other roles should be encouraged.
  - We have had trainer for our new teaching method. We will use Sr. Mariam Kamin to learn and teach this method to our parents who can then contribute as teachers.
  - We need to encourage and increase involvement of fathers.

## Recommendations

- Increase interaction of IMAN school with IMAN center and other IMAN sub-committees so that the learning goes beyond the time spent at Sunday School and combines it with other programs at IMAN.
  - This could include monthly school-IMAN community potlucks in future.
  - Establish movie night for the Students at IMAN Center. (And possibly some discussion about it).
  - Design extra curriculum classes i.e., computer programming, robotics, math, etc. for high school students at IMAN to maintain their engagement with the community.
  - Bringing speakers to discuss today's issues with our students and getting them engaged.
  - Engage and interest more older students (13 year to 18 year) to attend Sunday school. The youth class has been a good start. And engaging them in classes as Teacher assistants has been successful.
- Encouragement of parents to work with students at home during the week to ensure that the education conveyed on Sundays is reinforced at home.

The school would like to thank all the teachers and volunteers who dedicated their time in making 2020-2021 a successful year specially being online due to COVID-19.



## 2.2 Programs Committee

### Members/Volunteers

Chair: Nafisa Jassani

Members: Jawad Khaki, Kareem Al-Haddad, Hossein Rezaee, Rahmatullah Faizi (Hamid)

### Accomplishments

Here is the summary of activities and programs during the last fiscal year:

- Online programs were organized every Thursday (Dua-e-Kumail followed by reflections and virtual social connect), Wiladat celebration and Shahadat commemoration which helped keeping our community connected even during the pandemic.
- In addition sessions were held weekly for Qur'an Tajweed, Maqamat and secondary sources reading,
- Drive through events were held for Ashura and Eid-ul-Adha.
- In-person [Jumu'ah prayers](#) were held at the center and were also transmitted live on YouTube starting in June 2021 when Covid-19 cases decreased.
- Wiladat/Wafat of the Ahl al Bayt per [The World Federation of KSIMC Year Planner](#). A variety of speakers were invited to present at IMAN or arrangements made to have their video presentations during the year:

Sep 2020	Presentation by Br. Yasir Hassan on <a href="#">reflection</a> on Imam Ali ibn Hussian (al-Sajjad) A.S.
Oct 2020	Presentation on "From Muslim to Mu'min" by Br. Saiyid Hasan Ali Rizvi <a href="#">Sep 24<sup>th</sup></a> , <a href="#">Oct 8<sup>th</sup></a> , <a href="#">Oct 15<sup>th</sup></a> Presentation on <a href="#">Civic Engagement</a> by Br. Jawad Khaki
Nov 12, 2020	Presentation on ' <a href="#">Managing money in a COVID-19 environment</a> ' by Naushad Virji. His topics included investing in the stock market, value investing, Sharia compliance and how to get started with Halal investing.
Nov 19, 2020	Laura Hoexter presented on <a href="#">Basic estate planning regardless of their personal wealth</a> . Her presentation topics included Wills, Revocable Trusts, Sharia law, Estate taxes, Financial Powers of Attorney, Health Care Powers of Attorney, Health Care Directives, Directives Regarding the Disposition of Remains.
Dec 24, 2020	<a href="#">COVID-19 Vaccination - Making an informed Decision</a> by Ali Akbar Datoo
Feb 4, 2021	Presentation by Br. Shabbir Kirmani on Bibi Fatima (sa): <a href="#">The Ideal Exemplar for the 21st Century at Home, Work &amp; Life</a> to celebrate the Wiladat of Bibi Fatima (A.S.)
Feb 11, 2021	<a href="#">Presentation on Islamic Finance &amp; Islamic Insurance</a> by Br. Iqbal Asaria
Feb 18, 2021	Professor Mehtab Syed Karim presented on <a href="#">Growing Muslim population in Europe &amp; North America: Issues and concerns</a>
Feb 25, 2021	Presentation by Shabeer Kirmani on the occasion of wiladat of Imam Ali A.S. titled: <a href="#">"The Immense Legacy of Imam Ali: Justice, Harmony &amp; Peace; The Universal Beacon of Hope for Humanity in the 21st Century"</a>
Mar 04, 2021	An overview of the book <a href="#">"The Prophet's Heir: The Life of Ali ibn Abi Talib"</a> by the author Professor Hassan Abbas
Mar 11, 2021	Br. Ali Piyarali led a discussion with Dr. Seema Abbasi on <a href="#">myths and realities about COVID-19 vaccines</a> .
Mar 18, 2021	Presentation by Shabeer Kirmani on the occasion of wiladat of Imam Hussain A.S., Hazrat Abbas S.A.W.S, Imam Sajjad A.S. titled: <a href="#">"The Eternal Renaissance of the Hussaini Movement: Justice, Courage, Freedom."</a>

Mar 28, 2021	Presentation by Shabeer Kirmani on the occasion of wiladat of Imam Mahdi A.J.T.F. titled: " <a href="#">The Mahdi- The Universal Hope of Humanity</a> "
April 10, 2021	Panel discussion on <a href="#">Socially Responsible Impact Investing considerations during volatile pandemic times</a> with our esteemed speakers and experts: Professor Iqbal Asaria, Br. Naushad Virji, Br. Monem Salam
April - May 2021 Ramadhan	<p>Quran circles (English, Arabic Men and Arabic Women) followed by Dua or Community Member presentations. Videos about reflection from Quran by Salim Bhimji were played every night.</p> <p>Daily Quran family activity sheets were uploaded on the website and Kahoot quiz was held every week.</p> <p>On eve of <a href="#">10th</a>, <a href="#">19th</a>, <a href="#">20th</a> and <a href="#">21st</a> presentation on Bibi Khadija(A) by Sr. Shabnam Devji, and Imam Ali (A) by Br. Shabbir Kirmani.</p> <p>A'amaals recommended for the Laylat-ul-Qadr were held on On the eve of 19th, 21st, and 23rd of Ramadhan.</p> <p>Annual IMAN Qur'an Conference was held on May 08 and May 09.</p>
May 13, 2021	<a href="#">Eid-ul-Fitr</a> Prayers followed by Eid Al-Fitr Meet & Greet
July 15, 2021	Conversation with Becky Reitzes, MA, Lead Trainer and Educator with Public Health–Seattle & King County to learn about <a href="#">COVID Community Mitigation Response</a> and, how together, we can continue to move forward and safely reopen our homes, communities & economy.
Jul 19, 2021	Special a'amaal for Day of Arafat was held online after Dhuhr
Jul 20, 2021	In-person Eid ul Adha prayer followed by meet & greet
Aug 2021 Muharram	<p>Shaykh Arif was our guest speaker for the first 12 nights of Muharram.</p> <p>His topic was: "<a href="#">Islam &amp; God-Centricity: The Final Chapter</a>". All lectures are available on YouTube.</p> <p>Marthiya and latmiya were recited in Urdu, Arabic, Farsi, and English languages.</p> <p>Transcripts provided in English when possible.</p>
Sep 2021 Arbaeen	Shaykh Muhammad Umar Ramadhan was our guest speaker for Arbaeen. He spoke on <a href="#">The Relevance of Imam Hussain in a Modern Society</a>

## Challenges

- Our majlis reciters compete with new forms of engagement/entertainment which continue to have billions poured into them. The present day majlis attendee (young or old) finds it more enticing to interactively stick to their connected smart device than listen to a 60-minute monologue that is, often, not relevant to the issues of the present. Weekly new releases of Hollywood and Bollywood also continue to captivate the imagination of people. Needless to mention professional sports and the glitz/glamour surrounding these professions that conquer many minds. To counter such and other similar phenomena, and for our religious gatherings to continue to be of significance in people's lives, our faith communities need to be current on topics of social need and/or interest. We need to also evolve the mode of engagement by offering exciting new ways to engage on spiritually/socially relevant topics of our time.
- A spiritually vibrant community grows into a strong organization. We need more participation and engagement from all members of the congregation. We need to avail ourselves of the opportunities throughout the year to self-develop and help our youth develop in spirituality, religious knowledge, Qur'an proficiency as well as develop public speaking/presentation skills.

- As we live through the pandemic with the programs becoming online, and due to Covid-19 social distancing norms, community participation has become even more challenging.
- Engagement of parent/youth to prioritize creation of special programs for children and youth has been an ongoing challenge.

### **Opportunities**

- We are a blessed resource rich community of great potential that can grow to realize our potential through active participation.
- In the inclusive climate promoted by City of Kirkland we have an opportunity to serve and or impact our broader community by suitably tailoring our programs.
- With programs being held online, it provides opportunity to invite speakers from all over the world.
- Further expand the program committee with new community members for more participation and collaboration.

### **Recommendations**

- Recruit creative, self-initiated, resourceful individuals to serve on the committee.
- Grow speaker/reciter pool to develop spiritual vibrancy and energize communal development. Explore diverse topics to engage wider audience.
- Continue live broadcast, even when in-person programs restart.
- Increase participation in celebratory and commemorative events, including more participation from Sunday School.
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the members and volunteers. Responsibilities need to be better divided amongst the team-members, so the tasks can be better planned and executed.

## 2.3 Social Services Committee

### Members

- Hossain Rezaee
- Kareem Al Haddad
- Sheharbano Jafry
- Ghadeer Baghai
- Abbas Al-Kinani
- Nafisa Jassani
- Rahmatullah Faizi (Hamid)
- Jawad Khaki
- Abbas Kazmi: Chair

### Accomplishments

- Distributed around \$130,000 for various local and international Social Services causes. Please see the text that follows in this section as well as the financial section of the AGM report for the details.
- During Ramadan 1442 AH, IMAN Center donated \$100,000 to support organizations, both international and local. Generous donations were made to international organizations given the extraordinary hardships and circumstances in the world due to COVID-19.

#### International

- Donation in the amount of **\$30,000** was made to the [Hussaini Foundation in Pakistan](#). This enabled the Hussaini foundation to distribute rations to around 600 families all over Pakistan. Each ration package was one month of staples for a family of six.
- Donation in the amount of **\$30,000** was made to the [Alimaan Charitable Trust in India](#). At a cost of \$18 per one-month package of staples, this donation from IMAN provided help to 1700 families at various locations in India outside of Mumbai.
- Donation in the amount of **\$30,000** was made to [Development Relief Foundation \(“DRF”\) in Iraq](#). DRF has been providing extraordinary humanitarian and social services in Iraq for many years. IMAN’s contribution helped around 300 families, family size of five, with one month of staples and Eid gifts.

#### Local

- Donation in the amount of **\$10,000** was made to [Attain Housing based in Kirkland, WA](#). Attain Housing provides transitional housing and rental support to families and individual on the east side of Seattle. During these difficult COVID-19 times, the need for housing and rental support in the local community has seen an up-tick and IMAN Center stepped up to bolster the efforts of Attain Housing.
- The Social Services Committee met with representatives of each of the organizations in virtual meetings spread over about two months. Each of these organization and its needs were thoroughly vetted. Proper documentation for financial transactions of the donations was also obtained from each organization. Only after this vetting process, individual and independent review of each organization and consensus of the Social Services Committee the decision was made to make the IMAN Center donation to each.

- IMAN Center donated \$4,000.00 to the White Center Food Bank to provide halal turkeys, to Muslim and other families for Thanksgiving 2020. Halal turkeys were provided to around 60 families, and other families that don't prefer turkeys were provided halal chickens. White Center Food Bank focuses to minimize hunger while nourishing community, nurturing self-reliance, and embracing our rich cultural diversity. IMAN Center has a long-standing relationship of mutual support with White Center Food Bank for a number of years.
- IMAN Center's partnerships with St. John's Episcopal Church for monthly community dinners, started in June 2017, continues to flourish.
  - Due to COVID-19 the in-person dinners were put on hold in March 2020 with grocery cards provided in lieu of dinners till May 2020.
  - During the holiday season of 2020, with a contribution of \$1350 from the IMAN Center, along with \$500 contribution from St. John's, 74 grocery cards were provided to all residents of John Gabriel House senior center in Redmond. IMAN Center youth wrote handwritten notes to accompany the grocery cards; this was coordinated by the youth as a group activity on a short notice from 12/4 to 12/9. The grocery cards along with the notes were delivered to John Gabriel House by IMAN Center youth (Kamil, Alizeh and Saif Zaidi) on Dec 10, 2020.
  - The community dinners have restarted since June 2021. The joint St. John's-IMAN community dinner's planning committee has asked IMAN to take the lead in planning of the dinners. The planning committee meets at least twice a month to review execution of the previous month's dinner and plan for the next dinner.
  - Keeping in mind safety precautions due to COVID-19, the dinners are take-out with a food bag provided to guests. 3-4 IMAN Center volunteers have been consistently serving at these dinners.
  - The Aug'21 and Oct'21 dinners were hosted in the IMAN Center parking lot with excellent participation and active support of IMAN volunteers.
  - The financial contribution directly from the IMAN Center for 2020-2021 for the community dinner was \$4616.49 with an additional \$587 indirect contributions.
  -
- Identified local deserving families (sayyid and non-sayyid) and distributed the collected Fitra funds. \$7,750 were collected and distributed in the form of gift cards.
- Since Muharram of 1442 AH (August 2020), Sr. Sidra Naqvi has been coordinating members of the IMAN Center community to provide cooked meals to homeless shelters. Through the compassionate and generous efforts of volunteers from IMAN, particularly sisters, home cooked meals have been delivered every other week to the Tent City in Seattle, a temporary housing facility for the homeless. Direct individual donations have also been provided to the Sophia Way, an organization providing support and housing for women facing homelessness. During Ramadan in 2021, blankets and care packages were also delivered to the Tent City. Sr. Sidra and her team have plans to continue this excellent effort.
- Like previous years, we continue to help families and individuals approaching IMAN Center for assistance with their immediate needs, for example, rent and utilities. In addition, miscellaneous emergency financial needs, generally not addressed by other avenues of help, are also supported.
- Social Services Committee implemented changes to qualifying and screening applicants seeking assistance. All applicants now require at least one reference from a social services organization that they are, or have, previously worked with that could verify their need for assistance. The references could also be from a community or religious center like a Masjid or Church that the applicants belong to. This change is implemented as the IMAN Center does not have the capacity and skills to properly conduct the initial and follow-on case work or conduct or verify any back-ground checks.

- Along this line, last year the Social Services Committee had implemented the plan of having those seeking financial help from IMAN to first contact centers which are in closer proximity to the aid applicant. Per this plan, IMAN continues to work as much as possible with local Islamic centers that better understand the broad needs of those seeking assistance, and also qualify them for the help IMAN can extend.
- Social Services Committee has continued to meet every Friday evening to discuss on going work and to look for opportunities to provide support in the broader community where the IMAN Center can help. The dedicated members of committee are always looking to better serve the community in a fair, equitable and inclusive manner within the capabilities, abilities and resources that the IMAN Center can provide.

### Challenges

- Most of the challenges remain the same as in previous years.
- Demand for housing and other needs will continue. We need to strengthen our existing partnerships and find more ways to combine resources provided by IMAN with services offered by other organizations to help those seeking assistance to get on the path of self-sufficiency.
- Helping applicants with complicated cases that require ongoing follow-up at various times of day, including during regular business hours.
- The committee will likely remain short staffed in the upcoming year.
- The committee needs more dedicated volunteers that are willing to take on initiatives and carry them through for the long term.
- We need more volunteers particularly Arabic and Farsi speaking sisters who can talk to and assist applicants reaching out to the IMAN Center.

### Opportunities

- We have tremendous talent and experienced people in our community. Avail the talent and experience of the IMAN and broader Muslim community to better and more comprehensively serve our broader communities.

### Recommendations for next year

- Better engage with other social services and community organizations to understand needs within the broader community and figure out ways that IMAN Center provide help.
- Continue and strengthen the partnership with St. John's Episcopal Church to host monthly community dinners. Explore ways to expand beyond once-a-month dinner on how via the partnership other social services can be provided
- Nurture existing connections and build new connections with other local Social Services organizations, such as shelters, food banks, tent city, churches.
- Provide more support to the IMAN volunteers serving meals to the Tent City in Seattle.
- Work with the IMAN Executive Committee to explore avenues to utilize the IMAN physical facility to provide hands-on social services in the community once the COVID-19 situation is under control.

## 2.4 Facilities Committee

### Members

**Chair:** Hossein Rezaee

**Members:** Jawad Khaki, Shaheed Chagani, Ali Haider, Sr. Zehra Naz, Nuri Mansoori

### Accomplishments

- Daily and Friday congregational prayers remain suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic and weekly Thursday programs were online.
- After review of COVID-19 Pandemic status, consultation with several community members on Thursday October 15th, 2020, and in light of the infection rate uptick around the world as well here locally, IMAN Executive Committee has decided to continue all its religious services virtually and not resume in person services in Kirkland.
- Fire sprinkler system was tested by Ryan Cleveland Services, LLC. The inspection and testing of the fire sprinkler system is required every 10 years.
- Annual fire Sprinkler Back Flow Prevention Assembly test required by the City of Kirkland were completed by a license contractor.
- Security alarm system malfunction was inspected, and problem resolved by professional contractor.
- IMAN Indoor air quality and filtration was inspected by the King County representative.

### Challenges

- A building the size of IMAN requires a significant amount of attention for its general upkeep and maintenance. We have been blessed and fortunate to have people with flexible working schedules who have been able to help. Longer term, it might be necessary to have a dedicated facilities manager.
- IMAN roof, now >13 years old, needs a thorough maintenance. Leaks have appeared at the main hallways which have been patched by Facilities team volunteers. There may be one or more areas of the roof that require a significant repair.

### Opportunities

- Continue strengthening the Facilities Subcommittee

### Recommendations for next year

- Pressure wash IMAN building and all walkways around building
- Re-carpeting the main prayer hall.
- Develop a facilities maintenance manual.
- Increasing community involvement & awareness in keeping the facilities clean and safe.
- Install security cameras at the entrances and the parking area.
- Improve signage throughout the building (interior).

## 2.5 Hospitality Committee

### Members

**Chair:** Kaniz Khaki, Hayatullah Haidar

**Committee members:** Kiyan Mansuri, Nuri Mansuri, Firdos Al-Haddad, Zahra Ghatrani

**Additional helpers:** Hossein Razaee, Karim Al-Haddad, Sabra Rizvi, Shakera Habib, Robina Qureshi, Nafisa Jasani, Hamid Rahmatullah

### Accomplishments

Due to the Pandemic activities in 2020/2021 were limited to:

- Eid ul Adha celebration. Takeout lunches were distributed after prayers
- Drive through Tabarruk distribution was organized on Ashura day. Masks and sanitizer bottles (provided to us by King County) were also distributed

### Challenges

- Enough volunteer for safe restart. All our regular volunteers are older generation, who are more vulnerable. Safe restart proposal has been developed in accordance with King County guidelines. This will require people to implement this plan, for which people have not signed up yet.
- Deterioration of social connection due to lockdown.

### Opportunities

- Encourage and engage younger members of the community to participate in Hospitality Committee activities, especially during the pandemic as the older generation volunteers are more vulnerable.
- Devise new ways to help youth build connections with seniors
  - Check-up on and provide (safe online) companionship to seniors who have not been able to attend in person
  - Assist seniors with household chores (lawn moving, cleaning, shopping etc)

### Recommendation for the next year

- Nurture communities of service and build a congregation of character



## 3 Other Services and Activities

### 3.1 Funeral Services

Members of IMAN have continued to provide funeral services when contacted. IMAN recommends the services of the House of Mercy in Kent.

As we see continued cases where bereaved families insist on burying at cemeteries in Bellevue, Redmond, Issaquah and Lynnwood, there is a need for a dedicated Muslim section at local cemeteries.

Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS) continues to be very cooperative with our community whenever there is a need to use their Ghusl facilities and even arranged for additional volunteers when needed. We would like to express our gratitude for their generosity and continued cooperation.

Given the increased demand in recent years, more people are needed to help with funeral services. Those interested to help can sign-up by joining the [imanfuneral@yahogroups.com](mailto:imanfuneral@yahogroups.com) email list, where notification is sent when volunteers are needed.

### 3.2 Aqd Nikah Services

As a sign of a growing community servicing increasing needs, IMAN conducted several Aqd Nikah ceremonies during the past year as a service to Muslims in the area. We have an established process in place that streamlines the Aqd using a draft marriage contract that was designed by the World Federation. The services provided include issuance of a Certificate for Islamic Nikah as well as the official Certificate of Marriage for the State of WA.

IMAN is also approached occasionally to witness and document the pronouncement of Islamic Talaq (Divorce). One area of expansion to be considered is Islamic matrimonial services to facilitate match making and marriage counseling.

### 3.3 Newsletter/Communication/Web Site

Communication with IMAN community has been through announcements during our programs online or at the IMAN Center, our web site, our Twitter account, our Facebook page, WhatsApp groups and through email lists. IMAN's website and use of digital and social media needs enhancement. This is an area with huge potential to better communicate and stay in touch with the IMAN as well as impact the broader Seattle community and can benefit from passionate and dedicated volunteers.

### 3.4 Greater Seattle Social Support Network

Greater Seattle area continues to receive its share of refugees and immigrants who have had to flee oppression and/or violence. Many of these new arrivals in this land of immigrants are facing numerous life challenges to re-establish themselves. IMAN Social Services committee over the years has done a commendable work in providing financial help (for rent, medical bills, groceries, auto-repairs, etc.) to those in need. The geography served by IMAN Social Service volunteers spans from Des Moines to Everett. The limited assistance provided by IMAN through its small volunteer bases is much appreciated and has helped many avert crisis.

IMAN Executive Committee recognizes that this small volunteer base cannot sustain the growing base of people who need help or will need help. Further, people who find themselves in difficult life situations

are often in need of more assistance to get back on their feet than the small (e.g., < \$500 rental assistance) that is provided. It is for this reason we need to shift focus to redirect those applying to IMAN for assistance to first contact Islamic and other Faith based and/or community centers which are in closer proximity to the aid applicant. By doing so, we hope with time, to grow the social service volunteer base that can come to assist people in difficult financial or health situations and also tap into a broader donor pool.

The shift of focus in how the social services committee will operate will require us to engage more Islamic communities and when necessary, train and/or assist these communities to build competencies in their social service arms. Talent within the IMAN community is needed to network and when necessary share best practices developed at IMAN with other organizations in the Greater Seattle area.

لَيْسَ الْبِرَّ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ  
وَأَتَى الْمَالَ عَلَى حُبِّهِ ذَوِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينَ وَابْنَ السَّبِيلِ وَالسَّائِلِينَ وَفِي الرِّقَابِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ  
وَالْمُوفُونَ بِعَهْدِهِمْ إِذَا عَاهَدُوا وَالصَّابِرِينَ فِي الْبَأْسَاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَحِينَ الْبَأْسِ أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ

4:1 Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but [true] righteousness is [in] one who believes in Allah , the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the prophets and gives wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveler, those who ask [for help], and for freeing slaves; [and who] establishes prayer and gives zakah; [those who] fulfill their promise when they promise; and [those who] are patient in poverty and hardship and during battle. Those are the ones who have been true, and it is those who are the righteous.

### 3.5 Outreach Efforts

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic our focus this year has been around responding to community needs details of which can be found in other sections this report.

Reliable sources of information about Islam and opportunities for others to interact with practicing Muslims continue to be of great interest to the broader community to develop a better understanding of Islam and Muslims.

The IMAN Community continues to reach out. In the process, we are enhancing awareness as well as relationships with more organizations in the Greater Seattle.

### Accomplishments

#### Islam 101 Presentations and Discussions with various groups hosted at IMAN:

IMAN maintains an open-door policy to all its programs and activities. Numerous students from local schools, colleges and faith communities visit and participate in IMAN programs.

#### Talks on Islam and/or Muslim Perspective given off-site

Br. Jawad Khaki visits local area churches and educational institutions on as need basis.

#### Community networking by Br. Jawad Khaki

- When possible, participate in the monthly [F.I.R.E.](#) planning meetings to explore ways to promote interfaith understanding and cooperation on the Eastside. The following events were organized this year:

### Challenges

- Need more people to help with Community Outreach.

### Opportunities

- Educating our neighbors and colleagues on Islam and Muslim
- Improve resources available on the <http://iman-wa.org>

### Recommendations

- When qualified people with a strong commitment and time available can be identified, classes related to specific Islamic beliefs and practices ought to be offered on a regular basis.
- There need to be well thought out, well supplied and easily accessible resources available for visitors, those interested in learning about Islam or Muslims, and for new converts.
- Stimulating discussion among IMAN members interested in these areas is recommended as a means for clarifying outreach interests, level of commitment, and resources needed. Recruitment of IMAN members to be involved in outreach efforts must be done in the context of their existing commitments. Individuals interested in reaching out tend to be the same members who are already heavily involved in multiple IMAN activities.
- There is a continuing need for improved coordination between Muslim Communities as part of Greater Seattle Council of Muslim Communities.

### 3.6 **Dr. and Mrs. Amir-Hossein Naini School Scholarship Fund**

- This year, the committee continued to market the existence of the scholarship both through email campaigns as well as postings at local and private institutions in the US. Despite this, no scholarship applications were received this year and, as such, none was awarded.
- One member of the committee retired this past year, with 2 IMAN members currently supporting the scholarship fund. Although a number of potential candidates were screened for this third position, none has yet been identified to serve. Referrals for a new committee member who has attended graduate school in the US and excelled in their field of choice are welcomed.
- To date, 4 of the 5 awardees of this scholarship have been women, covering fields as diverse as medical, Anglo-Middle eastern linguistics and immigrant policy making studies, representing diverse cultural heritages. The Scholarship fund continues to annually grow with more donations received and with the goal that the income from the fund will cover the cost of the annual scholarship award made. The committee has increased the scholarship amount to \$10K for the coming year.

### 3.7 **Youth Activities**

#### **Establishment of official IMAN Youth Committee**

The IMAN Youth Committee (YC) was established this past year. In April 2021, the Terms of Reference for the Committee were drafted and sent to the IMAN Executive Committee for approval. After discussion with the EC, feedback to the TOR was incorporated, and the Youth Committee was officially formed.

It was decided that the committee would be comprised of a Leadership team, with a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, of High school aged students elected from the IMAN community; supported by representatives elected from the IMAN Sunday School classes.

Applications for the elected positions for the Youth Committee Leadership team were invited in May 2021, and then Elections for the Leadership Team were held. A six-person Leadership Team of high school-aged students was created. The Student Representative elections were conducted in May. From it, three additional members were elected. Below is the elected Committee:

Leadership Team:

- President - Mariam Kazmi
- Vice President - Alizeh Zaidi
- Treasurer - Saif Zaidi
- Secretary - Ali Naqvi
- Activities Promoters - Daania Abbas, Alaa Al-Musawi

Class Representatives:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Rep – Laila Kamin
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Rep – Pakan Dadfarnia
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Rep – Mohammad Kazmi

### **Activities for the year**

The formal Youth Committee was established towards the end of the last year.

- No activities were organized from January to April 2021 by the earlier Youth Group, due to unavailability of volunteers and lack of interest.
- At the request of the IMAN Sunday School, the Leadership Team began creating a yearbook. It was completed in September 2021 and printed in October. At the end of November, the Youth Committee hosted a distribution event where Sunday School students were able to pick up their yearbooks
- Along-side it they also held a Clothing Drive for new clothing in coordination with local youth nonprofits. The clothing was donated to Refugees Northwest and the Refugee Resettlement Office of Western Washington.

## 4 Executive Committee Recommendations for 2021/2022

Our recommendations for the coming year are presented below.

### 4.1 Moving past COVID-19

The end of the COVID-19 pandemic appears to be in sight. As most experts suggest, it won't be the end of the disease, but we are likely to soon move from the pandemic phase to the endemic phase. Hence, we will have to move to a life where we learn to live with the disease, start mentally healing, and returning to our regular activities. Things might never be the same, but the new normal requires us to restart socializing safely and reestablish our religious congregations within regulations and per Public Health Authority guidelines.

Our activities for the next year and going forward must:

1. Increase in-person activities with larger capacity, including social activities that include food and post event socialization.
2. Incorporate live broadcasting as part of all future activities, for folks that can't attend for medical or personal reasons
  - a. Due to Covid-19 we have seen better participation from a lot of folks from far areas who cannot travel to the center for every event, as well as from out of state.
  - b. More than ever people have learned to become familiar with technology and join using Zoom or watch YouTube live broadcasts.
  - c. We need to adapt to new norms, and broadcast or have live meetings of our events so more people can participate.

### 4.2 Succession Planning

For continued stability, sustainability and growth of IMAN, Directors of IMAN, with the help of membership, need to focus their attention on succession of individuals in key roles at IMAN some of whom (e.g., Br. Jawad Khaki, Sr. Kaniz Fatima Khaki) have been serving for the > 24 years. Of these roles the most critical is that of Br. Jawad Khaki who wears several hats: President, Imam of the congregation, Treasurer, Program Committee Lead, Community Outreach Lead – the external face of IMAN, Member of the Facilities Sub-Committee, Sunday School teacher. For each of those roles, we need to identify potential successors and have these successors be mentored/groomed to assume these roles over time. The succession exercise is something that will require time to complete and the sooner and needs to start soon especially as these individuals approach their retirement age.

One of the steps that IMAN community can take is to commit roughly \$200,000 in the annual budget to retain services of a resident aalim and an administrator who can take a significant load off Br. Jawad Khaki.

Once such a budget has been approved and allocated, guest speakers invited invitation for Muharram and other celebrations/commemorations can be individuals who can be potential candidates to assume the role of resident aalim. This search process will take time and ought to be started as soon as possible.

### 4.3 Engagement and Active Participation

As members of IMAN, we have been given an opportunity to establish a spiritually vibrant caring sharing community in the beautiful Pacific Northwest – a community that draws its inspiration from our beloved Prophet Muhammad and his blessed Progeny (peace be upon them all).

Our ability to succeed in establishing such a vibrant community depends on the active involvement of more people than the current level of participation. As was the case at the dawn of Islam in Medina, or when Ibrahim A.S. and his family migrated to Mecca, it all starts with building of spiritual strength through the establishment of regular prayer and a communal strength through pursuance of common goals in the development of our families and neighborhoods.

وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَارْكَعُوا مَعَ الرَّاكِعِينَ

2:43 And establish prayer and give zakah and bow with those who bow.

We also need to recognize that we are living in a dynamic USA that itself is undergoing transformation due to a variety of factors. We are fortunate in that we live in the community that values diversity and inclusion and is looking for community like ours to play a more prominent role in the shaping of our shared future in this beautiful Pacific Northwest.

ادْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَجَادِهِمْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ ضَلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ وَهُوَ

(أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ 16:125)

16:125 Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction and argue with them in a way that is best. Indeed, your Lord is most knowing of who has strayed from His way, and He is most knowing of who is [rightly] guided.

As an organization we are blessed with an educated and informed base that is resourceful and well positioned to make significant contribution not only in the development of our families but also the broader Muslim and non-Muslim communities and neighborhoods.

Let us come together and realize our potential – knowing full well that we will be held to account!

ثُمَّ لَتَسْأَلَنَّ يَوْمَئِذٍ عَنِ النَّعِيمِ (102:8)

102:8 Then you will surely be asked that Day about pleasure.