



Ithna-asheri Muslim Association of the Northwest

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IMAN Annual Report of Activities 2019-2020

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1 Executive Committee Report for 2019/2020

The Executive Committee members are honored and express deepest gratitude to have had the privilege to serve the term ending September 30th, 2020.

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 23rd year.

This report outlines progress and activities since October 1st, 2019 made possible by the continued sincere dedication, support, and participation of the community at large.

The following were the IMAN Executive Committee members for 2019/2020:

Mohamed Jawad Khaki	President and Treasurer
Hossain 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

COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on the entire world and our IMAN community has had to adjust and respond to the needs of the time. As the world reacted to the rapid spread of COVID-19 early in the year, the IMAN Center Executive Committee also had the difficult task of taking responsible action for the well-being of the IMAN Center attendees of all ages, and weigh their spiritual and religious needs against their physical health. Proper response to this pandemic became the core priority of the EC, and the different actions taken are explained below:

Center Operations

The Executive Committee held a meeting on March 2nd, 2020 where medical experts in the community were invited and guidance from CDC and King County reviewed. Consequently, the tough decision to close the center, for all in-person operations until the conditions are safe to reopen, was made to prevent spread of the disease. This unfortunately means that among other programs, the center remains closed for daily and Friday prayers. Plans, however, are in place to safely reopen the center for such services as soon as possible.

Efforts were made to reach out and keep in touch with the members of the community to ensure they are ok, and do not have any needs during the quarantine and lockdown.

Sunday School

Sunday School is one of the core activities at the center. School sessions have been impacted by the pandemic. With the outbreak of COVID-19 at the Life Care Center in Kirkland, the Sunday School Committee decided to suspend in person sessions starting March 1st. Thanks to dedicated efforts from the Sunday School Committee, teachers, and help from the parents, Distance Learning sessions were reinitiated using Zoom on March 29th. School sessions for the year 2019/2020 completed just before Ramadhan 1441 AH. 2020/2021 started in Septembers and all classes are being conducted via Zoom.

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. – are being conducted online and broadcast on YouTube from Program Committee member home. Participation and attendance can be better than what it is. A lot depends on the quality of programming and its relevance to our daily lives. As a community we can all benefit from more active participation by a larger percentage of our congregation.

Investment has been made into improving internet broadcasting capability from the IMAN Center which will come into use when we revert to having 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

IMAN Executive Committee has recognized that the small social service subcommittee volunteer base cannot sustain the growing number of people who seek financial help from IMAN.

Furthermore, people who find themselves in difficult life situations are often in need of more assistance to get back on their feet than the small financial assistance that is provided.

It is for these reasons, those applying for assistance to IMAN are first redirected to contact Islamic centers which are in closer proximity to the aid applicant. By doing so, with time we hope to grow the social service volunteer base that can come to assist people in difficult financial or health situations and tap into a broader donor pool.

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.

Establishing these relationships and developing a regular collaborative cadence with these organizations has been a slow process and hampered by not enough people on the committee to help.

Additional support was also provided to organizations assisting folks financially impacted by the pandemic.

1.2 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.

Br. Nuri Mansuri continued the work done by Br. Ghadeer Baghai and Br. Samad Faghieh last year to pursue opportunities to find local cemeteries which can provide a Muslim section. More details can be found in section 3.6.

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@yahoogroups.com email list, where notification is sent when volunteers are needed.

1.3 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.

1.4 Newsletter/Communication/Web Site

Communication with IMAN community has been through announcements made 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.

Br. Ali Haider and team finished their work on re-building the IMAN Web site and launched it in early 2020. This website has a vibrant design to reflect IMAN's welcoming culture with Improved navigability, mobile friendly, and better focus on highlighted features. It is also much easier to update and maintain for administrators without any technical knowledge.

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 2019-2020 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:

- Rajulla Haider, Wasfee Vazir

Accomplishments

- Registered about 85 students (58 Families) in 2019-2020
- 25 Teachers/TA's volunteered to teach the classes
- Added a Youth Class (13 to 18 years old) (11 Students participated).
- COVID-19 Impact:
 - School was closed March 1, 2020 due to COVID-19 for 4 weeks, 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 March 29, 2020. And continued using ZOOM Link for all classes. (Participation was almost 80%).
 - Some activities such as Final student evaluation, parent-teacher conference, Bulough Class for Girls and Boys, and End of year Picnic with IMAN Community, had to be cancelled this year.
- Continued Islamic Curriculum "Tarbiyah"
 - Teacher's training for Tarbiyah curriculum (Online Training with Instructors from out of state) was held in August and September 2020.
 - 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
- 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
 - Purchased and provided 2 flat screen TV'S for teachers use in their classroom. This was also requested by teachers and Parents.
 - Held 2 teacher meeting (Not many participants). Held one in August for school year 2020-2021 to engage the teachers for online learning.
- Parent Enrichment
 - Held and conducted 5 weeks classes for the School Parents "Bonds of Kinship". Subjects: Family; Ages and Stages (Child Development & Discipline); Self-Compassion & Self-Worth, Inter-generational Communication; The Role of the Community. (September 6 to October 27, 2019).

- Held 2 parent meetings (November 2019 and February 2020).
- Conducted Survey for the Parent’s Classes evaluation the “Bonds of Kinship”.
- Parent engagement were more slightly. Parent engagement and review / practice of homework at home, student progress at school is shown improvement.
- Student Enrichment
 - Held Quran Conference for young adults for Month of Ramadan. (May 2020).
 - Held Quran classes every night (Monday to Saturday, for one hour) for our Junior and senior students during the month of Ramadan.
 - Had a speaker and talked with Students on Assembly and to engaged with our Youth class one time.
- 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 3 weeks (Sept/Oct ’19)
 - Held Food Drive for Local food bank. (Nov ’19)
 - Field trip to Food line for life (Hunger Solution Center) in Seattle. (Nov ’19).
 - Held bake sale fundraising and raised \$1200. (December 8, 2019).
 - Held donation Fun Drive (Clothing and Shoes); Donating to Value Village, (Collected 1021 lb.); (February 2020)
- 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, 2019.
 - 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.
- Many of the 7th and/or 8th grade students 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.
- 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 2019-2020 a successful year.

2.2 Program Committee

Members/Volunteers

Chair: Nafisa Jassani;

Members: Jawad Khaki, Kareem Al-Haddad, Rehmatulla Faizi (Hamed)

Accomplishments

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

- Dhuhr/Asr and Maghrib/Isha prayers every day at IMAN before Covid-19 lockdown.
- All in person programming stopped starting March 2, 2020.
- We continued all our Weekly Qur'an Tajweed class, Secondary sources reading, Dua Kumail and reflections on Thursday evenings online on Zoom and YouTube live.
- Qur'an Maqamat class was held every Monday to improve the Qur'an recitation. We thank Br. Rizwan Rizvi for his continued efforts to teach the Tajweed and Maqamat classes.
- Drive through events were held for Ashura and Eid-ul-Adha.
- Wiladat/Wafat of the Ahl al Bayt per https://www.worldfederation.org/secretariat/year_planner. A variety of speakers were invited to present at IMAN or arrangements made to have their video presentations during the year:

Jan 30, 2020	Active Shooter Preparedness by Officer Deana Lansing
Feb 7, 2020	Presentation on Qur'anic Family Model by Sr. Neelam Khaki
Feb 14–Feb 15 2020	Shaykh Muslim Mehdi Chawla was our guest speaker for the occasion of Wiladat of Bibi Fatimah al-Zahra (p).
Feb 24–Feb 26 2020	Zakira Najah Bazzy visited for the weekend to commemorate the Wafat of Sayyida Fatimah al-Zahra (p).
May 2020 Ramadhan	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. Daily Quran family activity sheets were uploaded on the website and Kahoot quiz was held every week. On eve of 10th, 19th and 21st, a presentation on Bibi Khadija(A) / Imam Ali (A) was replace the presentation by community members. A'amaals recommended for the Laylat-ul-Qadr were held on On the eve of 19th, 21st, and 23rd of Ramadhan. Annual IMAN Qur'an Conference was held on May 23.
May 24, 2020	Eid-ul-Fitr Prayers followed by Social connect circles online
Jul 30, 2020	Special a'amaal for Day of Arafat was held online after Dhuhr
Jul 31, 2020	Eid ul Adha prayer followed by Drive through
Aug – Oct 2020 Muharram, Safar	Saiyid Hasan Ali Rizvi was our guest speaker for the first 12 nights of Muharram as well as on the Wafat of Imam Hasan(A), Arbaeen and Wafat of Prophet(p). His topic was : "From Muslim to Mu'min". All lectures are available on YouTube . Marthiya and latmiya were recited in Urdu, Arabic, Farsi, and English languages. Transcripts provided in English when possible.

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.
- With the programs becoming online 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.

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. Need to design A/V and broadcast system that will make this effortless.
- Increase participation in celebratory and commemorative events, including more participation from Sunday School.

2.3 Social Services Committee

Members

- Jawad Khaki: Chair (Acting)
- Abbas Kazmi
- Hossain Rezaee
- Kareem Al Haddad
- Sheharbano Jafry
- Ghadeer Baghai
- Abbas Al-Kinani
- Gulam Juma

The following are IMAN Social Services Committee nominations for 2020/2021:

- Abbas Kazmi: Lead
- Jawad Khaki
- Hossain Rezaee
- Kareem Al Haddad
- Sheharbano Jafry
- Ghadeer Baghai
- Rehmatulla (Hamed) Faizi

Accomplishments

- Distributed over \$60,000 for various local 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.
- 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. Over the course of this year this plan has worked out well. Via this plan, IMAN is now working with local centers that better understand the broad needs of those seeking assistance, and also qualify them for the help IMAN can extend. IMAN has limited resources available, financial as well as social services volunteers. By having local centers work with the applicants, the financial assistance provided by IMAN is generally pooled with other avenues of assistance to address more comprehensive needs to those looking for assistance to get back on their feet.
- We have strengthened relationships to collaborate on social service applications/cases with MCRC_MAPS in Redmond (Br. Mustafa, Sr. Nikhat) , Al-Mahdi Centre in West Seattle (Br. Qatrani), Al-Salaam Centre in SeaTac (Br. Abbas Al-Kinani), Islamic education Center of Seattle in Mount Lake Terrace (Br. Ghadeer Baghai).

Several of the above representatives from various centers now regularly attend the weekly IMAN Social Services Committee meetings.

- IMAN has been invited to provide volunteers and help fill a board member position for Attain Housing located near the IMAN Center. Attain Housing focuses on bringing our community together to partner with homeless families by providing affordable housing and empowering them with

practical case management and hope.

We look forward to learning from them and explore potential collaboration.

- Like many previous years, we continue to help families and individuals approaching IMAN 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.
- This year COVID-19 created extraordinary circumstances and needs within the community. IMAN Center stepped up to help the following:
 - IMAN provided \$10,000 to Kirkland Interfaith Network (KIN, a registered 501c3 charity, to provide grocery cards to the families being supported by Kirkland Nourishing Network (KNN)

Kirkland Nourishing Network (KNN) is a group of community volunteers who came together to fill a key gap in our community response to hunger. Many kids receive free breakfast and lunch at school. Pantry Packs provides them with extra food to get through the weekends, but there was no extra help for families to feed their kids during the long school breaks – Thanksgiving, Winter, Mid-Winter, and Spring break. KNN wanted to find a way to meet those needs and close that gap.

KNN works closely with counselors in all the public schools in Kirkland. The counselors are aware of which families receive free lunch and those with the greatest need. In normal times, about three weeks before the break, KNN puts out the call (via email and social media) for donors to sign up to bring boxes of food on the designate drop-off and pick-up date, which is always two days before each break starts. A box of food normally costs around \$50 depending on where the donor shops.

Unfortunately, we are not in normal times. To meet the requirements of emergency orders for social distancing during the pandemic outbreak of coronavirus, KNN decided to accept monetary donations. Instead of providing families with boxes of food, it was decided to provide \$50 Safeway grocery gift cards to buy food themselves.

- At the recommendation of Br. Abbas Al Kinani, IMAN donated \$5,000.00 to the White Center Food Bank to help our neighbors in White Center, West Seattle, and Burien areas have food access during the COVID-19 outbreak.

White Center Food Bank focuses to minimize hunger while nourishing community, nurturing self-reliance, and embracing our rich cultural diversity

- IMAN provided \$1,000.00 to Northshore Senior Center Funds to help purchase food for hot meals and their food pantry.

Northshore Senior Center has been providing emergency assistance to seniors in the community since early March when the facilities closed due to risk of Covid-

19. To minimize the risk to the most vulnerable in our community, they quickly adapted and expanded services to bring services directly to seniors, helping ensure their ability to stay safe. Their hot lunch program previously provided about 60 hot lunches each day in a dining room. They had two chefs preparing approximately 120 meals a day, most of which are delivered directly to seniors in their homes by our staff. A small food pantry was used to provide about 30 bags of groceries a week to seniors. They serve over 600 individuals each week and the need continues to grow.

- Partnering with St. John's Episcopal Church, IMAN donated \$1,400 towards grocery cards for residents of Providence John Gabriel House.
- Identified local needy families (sayyid and non-sayyid) and distributed Fitra funds.
- IMAN Center's partnerships with St. John's Episcopal Church, started in June 2017, it has continued, and continues to strengthen. IMAN volunteers along with support and volunteers for St. John's hosted monthly, last Saturday of the month, community dinners till February of 2020. Starting from March 2020, unfortunately, these dinners had to be put on hold due to COVID-19 closures. However, through the partnership, up to May 2020, grocery cards continued to be provided to those who showed at St. John's in anticipation of the dinners. In addition, financial support was extended to Acres of Diamond in Duvall, which provides transitional housing for moms and kids, and grocery cards were provided to all residents of Providence John Gabriel House, a senior housing center in Redmond.
- IMAN donated \$10,000 to MAPS Muslim Community Resource Center to help us increase their ability to provide more transitional housing options for single women.

The MAPS Muslim Community Resource Center is a social and humanitarian service organization of Muslim Association of Puget Sound that is dedicated to helping the less fortunate in the Pacific Northwest community.

- More information about the program that provides transitional housing for single women can be found at <https://www.mapsredmond.org/mcrc/>. Their overall goal was to raise at least \$250,000 to expand services in partnership with The Sophia Way and be part of the permanent shelter that is coming up in Kirkland.
- Since Muharram 1442 AH (August 2020), sister Sidra Naqvi has been coordinating members of the IMAN 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 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. Since the start, the team of wonderful volunteers has provided twice-a-month meals to the Tent City and has served almost 300 meals. By the end of 2020, the team would have reached their goal of serving 500 meals, including the extra meals they will provide for Christmas Day lunch and dinner. Sr. Sidra and her team have plans to continue this excellent effort next year.

- In spite of the closures due to the COVID-19 situation, the IMAN Social Services has continued to meet every Friday to discuss on going work and to look for opportunities to provide support in the broader community where the IMAN Center can help.

Challenges

- Transitioning to a new model of handling financial assistance applicants after many years of following the previous model requires building awareness in the broader community.
- 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.

Opportunities

- Help build and strengthen social services capacity in the greater Seattle area Muslim 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

- Continue the engagement with other organizations to transition to the new model of directing applicants to communities local to their place of residence.
- Continue and strengthen the partnership with St. John's Episcopal Church to host monthly community dinners. Enlist involvement from the broader IMAN community, not just social services committee members.
- 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.

2.4 Facilities Committee

Members

Chair: Hossein Rezaee

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

Accomplishments

- Audio and videos systems were professionally inspected, fixed and upgraded by a license contractor.
- New computers were purchased to facilitate IMAN online program broadcasts.
- IMAN received donated furniture. The chairs and loveseat are placed in IMAN office and hallway.
- A preliminary meeting was held with an architect to discuss potential IMAN building expansion plan for future banquet hall and an area for children activities. It became clear such an expansion will cost somewhere in the neighborhood of 2 to 3 million dollars. IMAN expansion plan is on hold at this time.
- Annual fire Sprinkler Back Flow Prevention Assembly test required by the City of Kirkland were completed by a license contractor.
- Annual Fire Alarm tests accomplished by licensed contractor.
- The prospect of opening IMAN Health Clinic is set aside at this time due to ongoing pandemic.
- The safety issues and facilities challenges were investigated in light of IMAN reopening plan proposal.
- IMAN roof was inspected by a professional roofer. There are number of general maintenance issues identified to be addressed in near future.
- Three new vacuum cleaners were purchased.

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.

Opportunities

- Continue strengthening the Facilities Subcommittee

Recommendations for next year

- Re-carpeting the main prayer hall.
- Identify facility requirements for health clinic needs.
- 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: Kiyam Mansuri, Nuri Mansoori, Firdos Al-Haddad, Zahra Ghatrani

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

Accomplishments

- The IMAN Center has been closed starting March 1st, 2020 due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. There has not been no activity at the IMAN Center for the past nine months.
- Hospitality Committee supported various events at IMAN until March 2020. Hospitality Committee supported two successful drive through Tabarruk distributions during the Pandemic. One was during Eid ul Adha and the other was on Ashura day. During these drive throughs, we gave out masks, which were provided to us by King County.

Challenges

- Enough volunteers for safe restart
- Deterioration of social connection due to lockdown
- 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.

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 connection with seniors
 - Have youth call older members of community to check on their well being
 - Reading to seniors
 - Help with chores

Recommendation for the next year

- Hold more drive through activities.

3 Additional Activities

3.1 Greater Seattle Social Support Network

Greater Seattle area has had 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 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.

3.2 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 the Social Services section of 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:
 - [Interfaith Dinner Dialogue on November 3, 2019 – “Celebrations, Commemorations, and Holidays” at Sikh Centre of Seattle](#)
 - [F.I.R.E. COVID-19 Panel Discussion with King County Health on April 27th, 2020](#)
 - [Interfaith Dialogue on November 1, 2020 – “Bridging the Divide”](#)
- Since July 2017, we have been supporting Steve Wilhelm’s efforts to establish a multi-faith prayer/meditation room a Seattle Tacoma International airport. On February 11, 2020, the Port of Seattle Commission unanimously approved up to \$1 million in funding for the new interfaith prayer and meditation room, and an associated “sensory room.” The latter is for people with special needs for a low-stimulus environment. The planned prayer and meditation room is one level down from the main floor of the airport, near the entrance to the trains to the South Satellite, and relatively near to the A Concourse. The roughly rectangular prayer and meditation room will offer 370 to 400 square feet of space and will be next to the sensory room.
- In the spring of 2019, the City of Kirkland contracted with Leadership Eastside (LE) to design, coordinate, and implement a comprehensive community engagement project, [Welcoming Kirkland](#), to engage Kirkland residents, businesses, nonprofits, and the city - including police – on how we function together for the health of the overall community. The initiative was launched to respond to expressed concerns that People of Color in general, and Black people, in particular, have lived experiences of an unwelcoming and inequitable community, in contrast to the City’s stated goal to be safe, inclusive, and welcoming for all. The most immediate impetus for this effort was news media coverage of a Black man who had the police called on him as he sat in a yogurt shop – known colloquially as the “Menchie’s Incident” in Kirkland lore - had triggered a significant community reaction. Br. Jawad Khaki was invited to be on the Planning Group for the Welcoming Kirkland initiative that was provide guidance to LE, help reach out to stakeholders and develop initial agreements regarding a productive, inclusive operating environment for all the work. A detailed on

the core activities, lessons learned and commitments that followed the Welcoming Kirkland Initiative can be found [here](#).

- Interviewed by The Al-Mai'dah Initiative to discuss Eid al-Adha. The interview can be found at this [link](#).

Challenges

- Need more people to help with Community Outreach.

Opportunities

- “Inclusive Kirkland” initiative organized by City of Kirkland is a great way to network with other faith and civic organizations.
- 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.

3.3 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 will be retiring this year for personal reasons and referrals for a new committee member are welcomed and in screening process.
- To date, 4 of the 5 awardees 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 cover the cost of the annual scholarship award made. The committee is considering increasing the scholarship amount to \$10K and finding new ways to attract applications for these funds.

3.4 Muslim Cemetery on the Eastside

Last year we undertook negotiations with Cedar Lawn Memorial Park to purchase and reserve burial plots at Cedar Lawn Memorial Park in Redmond. Regrettably, these discussions did not result in an agreement of terms. Specifically, Cedar Lawn Memorial Park is unwilling to designate a section in the cemetery for Muslims, a key Islamic jurisprudential requirement. IMAN continues exploring other burial options on the Eastside.

Currently, we have been contacted by and working with Sunset Hills Memorial Park, located in Bellevue, they are willing to designate a section specifically for Muslim burial if there is enough interest. This has been our major requirement. We are in further negotiations and will keep the membership updated.

To help in this process, interested members please contact Brother Nuri or the Executive committee so that we can gauge the level of interest.

3.5 Youth Activities

Is there a leadership team? Who are they?

No formal leadership has been established. The youth group weekly classes and many activities involving youth have been conducted by Nafisa Jassani and Ali Khaki.

Furthermore, many youths have been actively involved in the IMAN Center and its many programs. These individuals include Hamza Masood, Meraj Naqi, Faraz Naqi, Yameena Shameem, Mariam Kazmi

What were the main activities over the last year?

In the last year, the official IMAN Youth Group was established as a part of the IMAN Sunday School. Every Sunday, youth wishing to participate in the program met (and still meet) with Nafisa Jassani, Ali Khaki, Zehra Naz, and Shaheed Chagani. Here, youth had the opportunity to discuss many important aspects of Islam. They were able to collaborate and openly converse with each other in a welcoming environment. They engaged in pressing debates and insightful discussions. Fun games were also included to foster a friendly atmosphere! The school year ended with an engaging Kahoot that allowed the youth to review all that they had learned in the past school year. The IMAN Youth Group is continuing to meet every Sunday for the 2020-2021 school year.

Many IMAN youth leaders began planning a carnival fundraiser for the entire IMAN community. The youth were planning to use the funds to pave the way for future activities such as field trips that would help build community amongst the youth. The planning occurred around the month of February. Hard work and lots of prep went into the carnival. However, due to the COVID-19 surge in March and the sequential social distancing, the carnival was not able to take place.

In the last year, many youth also volunteered for community dinners held at St. John's Episcopal Church. IMAN has been collaborating with St. John's to host monthly dinners that are available for the entire local community. IMAN youth were table hosts at these dinners and assisted with clean up. This was an amazing volunteer opportunity for the youth, and many enjoyed participating every month.

What are the main challenges/issues that you see for the group?

The main issue we see is lack of participation and disinterest from many youth. Although we can plan many activities and create new programs for the youth, we often get a very small number of individuals who actually participate. It is difficult to gauge interest if the youth do not show up to the programs, and we often find it difficult to gain feedback from the youth as well. We do want to improve our activities so they will better cater to the youth, but we are not getting as many suggestions as we would like.

In addition, it is difficult to bring the youth together and establish a true sense of community amongst them. It is easy for the youth to become separated from one another. This separation will likely increase as we are forced to move all our activities and programs online this year. The activities that we did bring this last year were created for the purpose of building community. However, as mentioned above, lack of participation made these activities unsuccessful in meeting their goal.

What are the opportunities ahead?

The IMAN youth group hopes to take advantage of the fact that most everything this year will be online. Commute will no longer be a problem, and scheduling will be less of an issue now that we can utilize online platforms such as Zoom to meet. This gives us a wealth of opportunities that we can use to plan activities that will hopefully develop stronger connections between the IMAN youth and allow them to become more active in the general IMAN community. With everything online, we can easily plan fun game nights and have discussions during Sunday School about many concepts that will hopefully expose the youth to many important discussions about Islam.

Further, IMAN is optimistic that the times we are in will force us to become creative with our programs and activities. We are hoping this creativity will appeal to a large majority of the youth and motivate them to participate in more IMAN events. In addition, we are hoping to have the youth plan more events by themselves that will bring the whole IMAN community together. This will give the youth an opportunity to collaborate and use their unique ideas to create events that they would want to attend themselves.

What activities are planned between now and September 2021?

Currently, none are planned, however, similar to last year, the IMAN youth will continue to meet every Sunday with Nafisa Jassani and Ali Khaki to begin their studies of the Quran.

How can IMAN Leadership and IMAN Membership help more?

The IMAN youth hopes that the IMAN Leadership and IMAN Membership will guide the youth in planning activities and helping with the details and logistics. The IMAN Leadership and Membership would appreciate advertising help so all members of IMAN are aware of youth-planned events. Regarding logistical information, the youth group would appreciate prompt and detailed responses from Leadership and Membership should information about policies and regulations be requested. However, the youth would like to plan the majority of events, and we ask that most of the planning be left to the youth. We hope to use innovation and creativity to create the best possible events that the IMAN Membership will enjoy. We would also appreciate guidance from the parents, but only when it seems necessary. We would rather have the youth plan events for themselves. However, in terms of parental permission to host events and many new ideas that parents can offer, their participation is very much welcomed.

4 Executive Committee Recommendations for 2020/2021

Our recommendations for the coming year are presented below.

4.1 COVID-19 and Post COVID-19

Like most of our personal lives, the operations of IMAN Center and sub-committees, and the decisions of the Executive Committee were largely driven by the fallout from the Covid-19 virus. Furthermore, as experts agree that despite some hope of vaccines, it might not be until end of 2021 that activities such as religious centers can return to normal operations.

Our activities for the next year and going forward must:

1. Continue to plan for remote activities until the local government declares it safe conduct in person activities
2. Plan to slowly reopen in-person activities in phases as larger gatherings are permitted.
3. Incorporate live broadcasting as part of all future activities.
 - 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 > 23 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 لَتُسْأَلُنَّ يَوْمَئِذٍ عَنِ النَّعِيمِ (102:8)

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

4.4 Health Clinic

Br. Mirza Bahbood has been exploring providing the possibility to provide free medical services to the uninsured and underinsured population. Progress was made to investigate costs, different opportunities for procuring equipment and creating a clinic, and engaging with medical professionals in the community.

Unfortunately, this effort has been put on hold due to COVID-19, and will Insha'Allah be continued next year as soon as circumstances allow.

A draft proposal for the Health Clinic is provided in Appendix 2 of [2018/2019 Annual report](#).