

December 2023 Birmingham Islamic Society

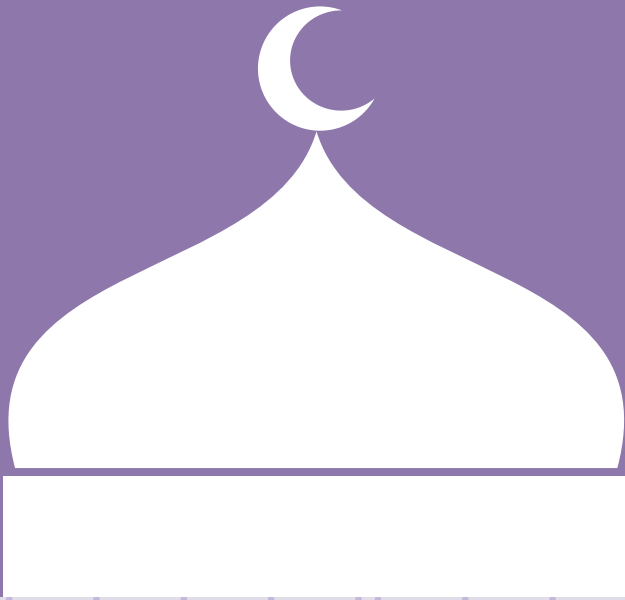


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**Peace and
Service** TO
Humanity

A Gentle Reminder:

“The parable of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is that of a body. When any limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever.”

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[Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhari 5665, Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 2586]



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**Birmingham
Islamic
Society**

Peace and Service to Humanity

2524 Hackberry Ln, Hoover AL 35226

Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 10 am - 2 pm

bisoffice@bisweb.org | (205) 879-4247

Have feedback for the Newsletter? Contact (205) 243-6785

BIS BOARD MEMBERS
November 2023 Elections



Nasim Uddin
BIS President

Subsequent to the November 2023 elections, the Birmingham Islamic Society board has nominated the following individuals unanimously to serve the betterment of the Muslim community.

We extend our congratulations to the nominated and elected members. May Allah SWT guide us in our pursuit of selecting dedicated community members who strive to serve the Muslim population with utmost sincerity.



Ahmad Hussein Hammoud
BIS Treasurer



Mohamad Eloubeidi
BIS Secretary



Ali Mubarak
BIS Board Member



Shahnawaz Mohammed Ameer
BIS Board Member



Yasmin Nimer
BIS Board Member



Tony Mobley
BIS Board Member

**“All of you are shepherds and each of you
is responsible for your flock”**

Prophet Muhammad PBUH



Community *Updates*

COMMUNITY UPDATES

NEW HIRES

- The Board has successfully expanded the membership base, now boasting **over 500 members**, a fivefold increase.
- **Br. Aryn Pabani** has taken charge as BIS Operations Manager
- Two prayer leaders have been appointed - **Sk. Ali Abo Siedah** at Homewood and **Br. Rashid Al Muntharee** at Westside Masjid.



PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION

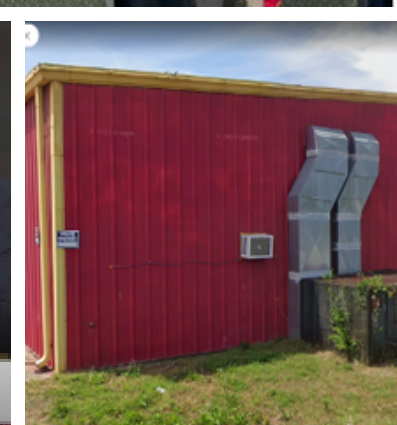
- **Three (3) seasoned Youth Leaders** (Br. Rashid Al Muntharee, Sr. Janet Lau, and Br. Bashar Khalaaf) have been hired to enhance youth activities and services on a weekly basis, catering to all age groups.
- We are fortunate to have the Islamic Academy of Alabama as a powerful tool for the preparation of future generations.
- To encourage to take on future khateeb and community leadership role, **four (4) students have been awarded BIS Scholarships to attend IAA, nurturing the potential of future leaders.**
- We are exploring opportunities in partnership with IAA to support also our homeschooling and online students.
- A **17-seater Mercedes Benz Van** has been acquired to facilitate various youth activities, demonstrating a commitment to their engagement and
- development.



IMPROVING OUR SPIRITUALITY

- We introduced the Quran Lab Program led by Sk. Tareq Mango, which has been remarkably successful, with an enrollment **exceeding 150 students every Saturday** along with Sunday Weekend School with similar numbers of students.
- The Board is actively recruiting new talents from the community pool and training new and young khateeb to enhance the quality of khutbas across all locations, resulting in a noticeable increase in attendance and active participation in all masajeds and their associated activities. Numerous renowned scholars were invited to enhance the spiritual enlightenment of our community members.





FIRST AT 9
NASIM UDDIN

INFORMATION:
BIS-CULTURAL-FOOD-FESTIVAL/
GHANISLAMICSOCIETY

COMMUNITY UPDATES CONT.

OUR NOTABLE

ACHEIVEMENTS

- UAB Faculty members have generously provided free **ESL programs for sisters**, thereby contributing to their educational and personal growth.
- The celebrations of Eid ul Fitr and Eid ul Adha, along with International Food Festivals and Community Bazaars, have **garnered a historically impressive attendance of over a thousand participants**.
- The Board has introduced a new online platform for the nomination and election process, streamlining and enriching the democratic participation of the community.
- The Board has provided consistent support of about **\$10,000 every month** for needy families through the charity account.
- For the first time, the Udhya program was implemented for the entire community, involving the ritual **slaughter of over 100 cattle**.
- The Board achieved a historic milestone by raising over **\$1.2 million for the HCIC Expansion project**, addressing overflow issues during Friday Jumuaahs, Tarawih prayers, Iftar dinners in Ramadan, and providing indoor sports facilities for both boys and girls.
- Various masjids have **undergone substantial infrastructure improvements**, including cleaning, repairing, painting, installation of new TV monitors, and enhanced security measures.
- A notable project has been undertaken to improve the landscaping and fencing at the BIS Cemetery.
- Ansar Room and Post-Jumuah Lunch Programs have been introduced at HCIC to further enhance the community experience.
- Very effective New Convert Education and Social Networking program
- BIS has played a pivotal role in uniting the Westside Muslim community, culminating in the creation of a brand-new masjid with a **capacity for over 300 worshippers**.
- Furthermore, BIS is now collaborating with Pelham masjid to serve the greater Birmingham area as one unified ummah.
- We are also launching a BIS Newsletter to keep the community informed and engaged.
- The Board has been proactive in addressing pressing contemporary issues, including LGBTQ+ concerns, Gaza Attacks, earthquakes in Syria, Turkey, Morocco, floods in Libya, and conflicts in Sudan and Yemen.
- BIS has been visible on all social media platforms, including TV news, expanding our media presence to reach a wider audience and effectively communicate with the community about events, initiatives, and important updates.

OUR COMMITTEES



Social Committee
HCIC Expansion Committee
Election Committee
Charity Committee
Health Awareness NORM Committee
Outreach and Dawah Committee
Youth Committee
iCARE: Diversity and Equity Committee
Finance and Fundraising Committee
Education Committee
New Convert Committee.

UPCOMING PLANS



- The Board is actively engaged in efforts to **expand the membership over 1000** and procure much-needed new land for the expansion of the cemetery, ensuring continued dignified burial services for the community.
- A dedicated in-house funeral Ghusl facility has been completed at HCIC, with licensing procedures in progress. This important addition enhances the capability to perform Islamic funeral rites in a dignified manner.
- We have partnered with the FBI to offer active shooter training during our Sunday school and other spiritual activities. Additionally, we are in the process of consulting a security firm to receive guidance on enhancing the security of all our facilities.
- To cover the associated expenses, we are in the process of applying for grants in collaboration with CAIR





HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR



INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

Our international food festival dazzled with diverse flavors and performances, a testament to the dedication of our incredible volunteers. Their passion and hard work transformed the event into a vibrant celebration of community and cuisine. From sizzling food stalls to captivating cultural displays, each volunteer played a crucial role, in ensuring its success. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to these unsung heroes who made the festival a resounding triumph, showcasing our rich cultural heritage and fostering unity within our community. Thank you for making it truly special!

Check out more photos and media using the QR code!



HCIC EXPANSION PROJECT



PURPOSES ?

The Hoover Crescent Islamic Center (HCIC) is currently grappling with a significant overflow issue during the Jum'ah prayer, and this has also been a persistent challenge observed during Taraweeh Prayer in Ramadan. Additionally, there have been multiple issues with Sunday clinic activities, prompting consideration of relocating the clinic from HCIC to nearby churches due to the shared use of the same room space for Sunday Islamic school, Quran lab activities, and weekly Islamic classes for children. Moreover, there is a looming concern about iftar dinner arrangements, particularly with the onset of cold weather during upcoming Ramadans, rendering the current open pavilion unusable. Furthermore, there is a growing demand from parents, sisters, new converts, and children for facilities such as a gymnasium, study nook area, Islamic library, weight room, and spaces for children and the elderly to socialize.

THE PROJECT 💡

In response to these pressing demands, BIS (Birmingham Islamic Society) established a committee driven by the community to gather input and devise solutions. After months of brainstorming and consultations with various stakeholders and user groups, the committee, led by Mr. Maher Qashou, enlisted the services of an architect and embarked on an extensive HCIC expansion project with multiple phases. Initially, a master plan was developed, which was then segmented into three distinct phases. Currently, the committee has finalized the master plans and completed the first phase of construction, as depicted in the accompanying drawing.



THE DESIGN 📋

The first phase encompasses the construction of a two-way roadway and additional paved areas situated behind the existing basketball court. Additionally, a new two-story building will be erected, featuring a gymnasium equipped with indoor sports facilities and a dining space. This space will also serve as an additional prayer area, complementing over 14 classrooms, a clinic, a library, and other amenities. Phase 2 of the construction will involve the creation of a mezzanine to serve as a dedicated praying space for sisters within the existing Musallah, thereby allowing the downstairs area to be utilized for male congregational prayers, among many others e.g., remodeling of the entrance areas, relocation and additions into Wudu areas etc.)



Dear Muslims,

It is with a heavy heart that we receive sad news from Palestine. Our loved ones in Gaza are cut off from food, water, and power as they are being **slaughtered** in the dark.

In this **challenging** time, we pray to Allah The Most Merciful to bestow His immense **mercy** and **protection** upon them.

We ask Allah the **Provider** to provide them with shelter and safety. We supplicate to Allah SWT to give them **patience** in this time of great **hardship**.

— Sh. Tariq Mango

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Alley Uddin



[Upload your submission!](#)

What are some activities you volunteered for?

I've volunteered in almost everything from cleaning and setting up, behind-the-scenes event organization, decorating, and giving speeches.

Why volunteer at the Birmingham Islamic Society?

Islamically, volunteering my time to help organize events teaching islamic knowledge and allowing Muslims to have more halal alternatives to fun than the usual allows me to partake in some of the hassanah (good deeds). Secularly, no other organization could introduce me to the amount of diversity available at working at the masjid nor the skills and experiences picked up in event organization and graphic design.

What is a skill you picked up from working with the Birmingham Islamic Society?

Being an introvert since childhood, volunteering at the masjid allowed me to be comfortable in what would be uncomfortable a couple of years ago. I've gained skills in everything from designing items to public speaking and activism. These are things that I would've deemed impossible to do before but are achievable now.



Sheikh *Speaks!*

Quran Lab

The Quran Lab, led by Sheikh Tariq Mango, has been remarkably successful with over 150 students enrolled in the weekly Saturday Quran Lab and Sunday Weekend School.



Recreation

Brothers' retreat at the Alabama 4H Center

Brothers' rafting trip

Spirituality

Weekly Tuesday Post-Isha Meetup

Post-Isha Lectures on Fridays

Tajweed Classes for College Brothers

Tajweed Classes for Sisters

Various series on Family Nights:

Surah Al-Kahf

10 Days of Dhul Hijjah

Fiqh of Divorce

Why Palestine Matters

Tips to Have Khushu

Fiqh of Udhiyah/Qurbani

Emotional Intelligence

LGBTQ For Parents

Fiqh of Fasting

Dealing With Technology as a Believer

How to Have a Strong, Happy Family

Who is Allah?

The Islamic New Year



Prayers

Sheikh Tariq Mango led the Taraweeh prayer and was joined by Sheikh Ali Mubarak.

During Ramadan, a reward system was established for young children who completed the full Taraweeh prayer, including Witr.

The Eid Prayer was attended by the entire Muslim community of Birmingham and was also led by Sheikh Tariq Mango.







Youth *Corner*

As-Salamu Alaykum, Br. Bashar!

Let's highlight the youth activities for the year:

1. What has been the most successful event this year?
2. What is a message you want to share with the youth?



THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENT THIS YEAR..

"Our recent Qiyaam Night was a big hit. The brothers stayed at Homewood Masjid all night and the sisters at Hoover Masjid. The age groups were middle school and up and we had about 80 youth attend between both masjids. It is great when the younger kids get to interact with the older kids. Even if the older youth don't realize it, the attention they give to the younger youth is a good deed that greatly impacts their perception of brother and sisterhood. At the brother's Qiyaam Night, we all went inside the masjid to wrestle. Some of the older guys stayed outside, I asked them to go inside and 'hype up' the kids. The brothers, without needing a second push, all went inside, cheered on the kids, and wrestled with them for well over an hour. That is a lifelong memory that brings all of us closer to a love for each other that is for the sake of Allah (SWT)"



A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUTH..

"Sometimes we are taught Islam like we are lawyers. Pray this much and like this, fast this many days, give this much of your money to charity, but Islam is not about quantity. Islam is about quality. We can pray and fast every second of our lives, but it means nothing if it is not sincere and it's not bringing us closer to Allah (SWT). We can pray Isha at the masjid and that prayer can send us to hellfire OR heaven! If we pray to be seen by others then that prayer gives you bad deeds, but if you pray sincerely for Allah (SWT) then with that one prayer He can give you the highest level of heaven"



BASHAR KHALAF

Elementary-Middle Youth Director

(205) 381-8381 | BISYouthDirector@bisweb.org



As-Salamu Alaykum, Sr. Janet!

Let's highlight the youth activities for the year:

1. What has been the most successful event this year?
2. What is a message you want to share with the youth?



THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENT THIS YEAR..

“For the youth girls events, the recent event I found successful was the bonfire. Girls had a fun activity coupled with a halaqa in an exciting setting where the girls got to learn a few things and enjoy each other's company. The event was planned to accomodate the youth who had requested it and alhamdulillah they enjoyed it”

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUTH..

“Message to the youth is to follow through and have a stronger sense of commitment when you choose to do something. I've seen some of the youth get very enthusiastic in the beginning and then slowly give up when they lose their momentum. Keep going, don't let negative thoughts, feelings and people keep you from following through with things. We got you and you got this”



JANET LAU

College-High School Youth Director for Sisters

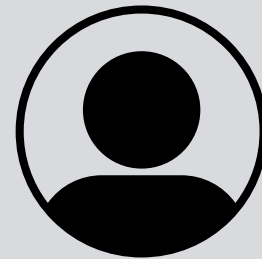
(205) 569-4083



As-Salamu Alaykum, Br. Rashid!

Let's highlight the youth activities for the year:

1. What has been the most successful event this year?
2. What is a message you want to share with the youth?



THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENT THIS YEAR..

"The most successful events we've had over the last few months has literally been all of them. I've never been one to judge or determine success solely based on numbers or analytics. Alhamdulillah the class on Istikhaarah, the class on Du'aa, as well as the marriage series at UAB had great numbers (40+ participants), but most importantly the interest and commitment was present. Also the feedback was very positive in terms of what some people learned and how it has helped them going forward"



A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUTH..

"My message for the youth is simple: Dedicate time to learn about Allah, His Messenger (s) and His Deen (as understood and practiced by the Sahaba). Never underestimate the power of imagination. All things Allah allowed mankind to invent started from an imagination. The imagination, vision, hard work, and dua. And you must get out of your comfort zone. There is no growth there"



RASHID AL-MUNTHAREE

College-High School Youth Director for Brothers

(205) 915-9965