

"In the Name of Allah/the One God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful"

WELCOME to ISOS NEWS



www.i-sos.org

6th Edition

(December 2014 - October 2015)

Mission

Islamic Social Services (ISOS) is a 501c3 social service charitable organization. We strive to be a trusted organization practicing Islamic values when rendering services to people in need of assistance through trying times. In doing so we hope to reflect and spread understanding of Islam, promote self reliance and add to the well being of the community we live in.

Vision

ISOS collaborates with a network of non-profit organizations and community service groups to assist those facing periods of challenge in gaining self reliance through financial assistance and access to public assistance targeted to their needs and goals.

Appreciation

We would like to provide an acknowledgement to those agencies that have collaborated with ISOS during this time period in helping those in need. They are: DHS Child Welfare; AsSaber Mosque; Bilal Mosque; Iraqi Society of Oregon; Oregon Islamic Chaplain Organization (OICO); Oregon Muslim Medical Association (OMMA); Bashar & Johnson Tax Accountant; Tualatin Community Warehouse; Jewish Family and Child Services (JFCS); Latter Day Saints (LDS); Blanchet House; Lutheran Community Services (LCS) and Catholic Charities. We would also like to thank our youth volunteers for their services to the Day of Dignity Event, and especially to Farah Abu-Khater and Faa'iq Waqar for being the project leads in managing this year's successful event.

And most of all to our Muslim donors for providing the much needed financial support to make this happen!

Finance Status

December 2014 – October 2015:

- Donations Received: \$208,384.30
- Spent: \$166,087.15

Financial Trend (2003-2014):



Expenses	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
clothes		\$650	\$350	\$182		
education	\$2,245	\$990	\$330	\$500	\$789	
food	\$12,415	\$5,475	\$30,824	\$22,931	\$25,864	\$15,255
housing	\$46,501	\$47,083	\$43,864	\$62,413	\$54,792	\$65,438
*ISOS admin	\$5,326	\$3,320	\$4,047	\$2,065	\$7,535	\$9,579
medical		\$1,309	\$3,015	\$623		\$290
transportation	\$5,326	\$4,483	\$8,217	\$6,067	\$2,939	\$6,310
utilities	\$6,317	\$5,723	\$5,411	\$2,667	\$3,759	\$2,639
youth activities			\$114	\$9,988	\$5,350	
death/support	\$7,073			\$830		\$820
Day of Dignity			\$6,268	\$8,267	\$10,000	\$10,076
employment			\$5,842	\$1,000		\$26,620
disaster relief		\$2,025				
legal	\$4,803	\$4,260			\$40	\$5,400
TOTALS	\$90,006	\$75,318	\$108,282	\$117,533	\$111,068	\$142,427

*ISOS admin - infrastructure expenses

2009-2011: over \$2,000 into storage rent; outreach promotions; utilities. Switched to Community Warehouse.

2012: started leasing ISOS office in Oct (\$299/month); outreach promotions; utilities

2013: DHS requires insurance coverage (about \$2,500); ISOS office lease; outreach promotions.

2014: Office lease and furniture; insurance; Paypal fees; state registration; utilities

Accomplishments

- **Cases (Helping those in Need):** ISOS requires those receiving assistance to be an Oregonian/SW Washingtonian resident; sponsored by another agency to validate the need and to provide a self sufficiency plan.

Between 15-30 cases served monthly. Majority of the cases are due to loss of jobs; domestic violence; insufficient disability funds; and refugee resettlement. Services were provided to both Muslims and non-Muslims in need that are sponsored by an agency to confirm legitimacy of the need. Assistance went primarily into the following areas: housing; utilities; furniture/food/clothing; transportation (bus tickets) and legal fees (divorce/custody). Housing is our #1 expense.

- **DHS Foster Children Prevention Program (Saving Families):** DHS Family Service and Child Protection are collaborating with ISOS on specific Muslim families at risk, finding ways to keep children from being removed from their families into foster care. After 2 years of support, a family is being reunited after extensive resources being provided on parental training and bridging cultural and religious understandings across agencies/court.

ISOS is a member at the state level with Refugee Child Welfare Advisory Committee. We meet and review state wide cases and discuss possible resolutions. No new cases were submitted.

- **Day of Dignity (Serving Portland's Homeless):** Day of Dignity 2015; sponsored by Islamic Relief USA partnering with ISOS and Oregon Islamic Chaplain Organization (OICO) in Portland, OR, was held on September 20, 2015 in downtown Portland (Pearl District) in the park where we had exposure to the general public in the heart of the city. We had 539 homeless served with a bar-b-que picnic; dried food supplies; winter supplies; haircuts/grooming and resource information. Our volunteers came from Blanchet House (www.blanchethouse.org) (provided 600 hamburgers and 600 beef hotdogs for the bar-b-que); Latter Day Saints (LDS) (providing 600 hygiene and 600 school kits); Jewish Family and Child Services (providing over 600 knitted caps); Japanese American Citizen League (JACL, who brought youth volunteers from UNITE People: www.pdxjacl.org/youth); our Muslim youths; local barbers (giving free haircuts); Oregon Muslim Medical Association (OMMA); Federal Dept. of Health and Human Services (providing medical information and resources); Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church providing tables and chairs; and Sesame Donuts (providing several boxes of donuts). ISOS supplied fleece blankets; underwear; thermal socks; fresh fruit; dried food and bottled water with the \$10,000 grant provided by IRUSA. OICO provided the security patrol; setup and cleanup labor; bar-b-que services and storage of the supplies. The success was not only serving Portland's homeless, but also in building partnerships across charitable organizations. The Co-Op monthly meeting served to bring in our new participating co-partner Blanchet House to the Day of Dignity Event. Jewish Family and Child Services (JFCS) posted the Day of Dignity Event in their October monthly newsletter - <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs124/1102470514941/archive/1122403474295.html>.



- **Oregon Food Bank (Providing food for those in need):** Faiza Kareem and Marion Dawan leading this effort have collaborated with Oregon Food Bank with delivering food to the mosque on the last Friday of the month to conveniently serve those in need, including providing fresh produce.



- **Ramadhan Food Drive (Food for Muslim Families):** About \$9,470 was raised for the annual Ramadhan Food Drive, which 623 WINCO and Fred Meyers cards were purchased and distributed to those families in need within our community.
- **Qurbani/Udhiya Meat Distribution (Food for Muslim Families):** This year we decided to work directly with those Halal Markets that provide Qurbani/Udhiya meat by distributing gift vouchers for those in need to receive their meat from the Halal Market, depending on availability. We are gathering information on how successful this process was in order to determine if we should repeat this process for next year. This allows us to keep the meat fresh and available for pick up at the convenience of both receiver and distributor.
- **Refugee Resettlement (Knowing how to Better Serve our Refugees):** Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Director Toc Soneoulay, held an open door forum to the Somali and Iraqi refugees to hear what they have to say about the refugee resettlement process. DHS Refugee Resettlement; the Portland Police Dept.; local humanitarian agencies' representatives attended this successful meeting. The objective was to capture issues on how to help with the resettlement process. On August 12th, the Iraqi refugees presented the following issues:
 - English: need better classes to increase ramp up of their English proficiency
 - Jobs: education background is not matching with their professional skills.
 - Inadequate financial support: Federal and state funds are inadequate to cover basic monthly expenses.
 - Low-income housing: Not addressing low-income housing earlier in the process.



Upcoming News

Here are a few of the upcoming news articles for our next edition:

- **Refugee Resettlement Forum**: ISOS is participating in a co-op of agencies involved with refugee services and how we can work together to render better aid to our new neighbors.
- **Prevention Measures and Tools**: As ISOS gathers data to show issues addressed by the needy can be prevented, ISOS will call a forum with the mosques and Islamic centers that serve people in need on what are the findings and what prevention measures can be taken to minimize their occurrence. A few of those findings are related to divorces that do not have legal binding prenuptial agreement that lead to very expensive and painful divorce suits. Also children taken from their home by DHS because they did not understand the laws of what is constituted as abuse.

**MAKE A DONATION
AND
IMPACT A LIFE!**

To receive the blessings of giving, please provide your Zakat-ul-Mal/Sadaqa/Donations to ISOS via www.i-sos.org/donation.htm or mail to:

ISOS
P.O. Box 5996
Aloha, OR 97006-5996

or

ISOS
Colonial Office Campus
10175 SW Barbur Blvd; Suite 100BA
Portland, OR 97219

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ISOS Board Members:

Laila Hajoo; Haroun Khalid; Viq Shamim; Issam Abu-Khater; Faiza Kareem; Marion Dawan