



**THE MUSLIM
CHAPLAINCY**
at the UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

IMPACT REPORT

2012-2013



The Muslim Chaplaincy at the University of Toronto engages Muslim youth by providing an inclusive space for them to foster a meaningful Muslim identity, enriched and supported by quality educational and counselling services.

Organizational Profile

The Muslim Chaplaincy of Toronto is a federally incorporated not-for-profit organization. We are committed to instituting a model of Islamic campus chaplaincy that is non-partisan, professional, and full time. Our vision is to spread this model nationally, facilitating high quality services to support and empower young Muslims.

OUR TEAM



Ruqayyah Ahdab
Executive Director



Amjad Tarsin
Chaplain



Zerzar Bukhari
Director of Strategy



Muhammad Sadick
Communications



Qurrat Ansari
Photographer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our board is a small group of young, highly talented, working professionals, each with their own background in community service, student life, and professional expertise.

- Fahad Tariq | *Chartered Accountant, Ernst & Young*
- Shoaib Ahmed | *Office of University Advancement, Ryerson University*
- Aisha Raja | *Student Life, Equity & Accessibility, University of Toronto*

A Year in Review

We are delighted to report that the Muslim Chaplaincy (MC) at the University of Toronto has successfully completed its first year of operation. The following achievements are the powerful impact of your support and donations, and the hard work of all the people involved.

SUMMER 2012



The #70in70 campaign was launched in June 2012 to raise \$70,000 in 70 days to establish Canada's first full-time, independent Muslim campus chaplaincy. A team of volunteers successfully raised the entire operational budget for our pilot year. Over the summer of our launch, the MC gained notable support and uptake in the community. We received widespread media coverage from the Toronto Star, the Globe and Mail, the CBC, and other outlets, as well as follow-up on our progress. Immediately thereafter, we made the appointment of our full time chaplain and support staff.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2012-2013



A personal letter from the President of the University of Toronto welcomed the MC as we opened our office for the first time. The administration from the Office of the Vice Provost, Health Services and the Multi-Faith Centre, among other chaplaincies at the St. George campus proactively reached out with advice, and collaborated with our office to align services and resources for students.

OUR OFFICE



The MC operates full time out of two offices on campus. Our primary office is hosted at Emmanuel College, with a secondary location at the Multi-Faith Centre. Our office is home to meetings, social visits, administrative work, and most importantly counseling appointments. Warm décor, open arms and hot tea receive all those who walk through our doors.

OUR CHAPLAIN

Amjad Tarsin graduated with his Masters from the Islamic Chaplaincy program at the Hartford Seminary in Connecticut. He was born and raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he obtained his Bachelors of Arts at the University of Michigan in English Literature and Islamic Studies. It was during his university years that Amjad developed a deeper connection to his faith, studying the Islamic sciences with teachers locally and internationally, and became actively involved in community service and interfaith work. While completing his graduate degree, Amjad worked as a part-time Muslim chaplain at Fairfield University, Connecticut. He now lives in Mississauga with his wife.

 /amjadmtarsin  @amjadmtarsin

PHILOSOPHY

Our guiding philosophy shapes the mode of interaction and service that the MC is characterized with. It is a three step process: embrace, engage, and empower. Through these three levels of involvement, we seek to provide a welcoming and hospitable environment (embrace); coupled with intellectual and spiritual development (engage); which leads to a student gaining confidence and ownership of their faith, becoming positive contributors to society (empower).

COUNSELLING



One of the primary objectives of the MC is to provide faith-based counseling and positive mentorship. In the MC's first year, our chaplain has retained over over 100 counselling sessions, with both men and women. It is a great accomplishment that the MC has established itself on campus as a trusted support system and welcome space for students and the surrounding community.

PROGRAMMING

On campus, the MC has introduced a unique mix of programming, consisting of special events and over four interactive educational series and discussion-based programs designed to embrace, engage and empower students. Each program has its own unique atmosphere and format, and was attended to capacity throughout the year. Attendees included students, alumni, working professionals, and new Muslims as well as people of other faiths.

BEING MUSLIM



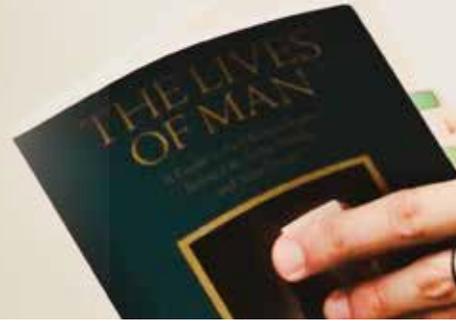
Being Muslim is an eight-week class and discussion series with a fresh perspective. It covers the essential principles and beliefs of Islam, while exploring the context in which we live and the practice of our faith. This series was completed successfully in collaboration with the Muslim Students' Association, both at the St. George and Mississauga campuses.

SoulFood



SoulFood is a focused discussion circle on spiritual health and the lived experience of Islam. The setting is a facilitated safe space, where attendees exercise compassion and non-judgement when listening and connecting communally. A sense of real community is fostered where attendees are able to speak honestly about their experiences and reflect together, then kick back and relax together with some hot tea, coffee and refreshments.

THE LIVES OF MAN



This weekly class and discussion series was based on Imam Al-Haddad's book called "The Lives of Man" which deals with the realities of life in this world, the grave, the Day of Resurrection, and the Hereafter. It offered a deep sense of perspective on the purpose of life, and answers to life's big questions.

A GIFT OF MERCY



A Gift of Mercy was a highly attended weekly series during the summer term, which covered significant events from the life of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and mercy be upon him). The goal of this series was to help give a holistic understanding of the Prophet, an appreciation for his character, and a deeper love for the one chosen by God as a mercy for the worlds.

COMMUNITEA

One of the values central to the MC is hospitality, and the importance of making people feel welcome and at ease. Communittea is an initiative to bring people together and nurture a sense of belonging over a soothing hot cup of tea, the sweet taste of a cookie, and the warmth of good company. It is a feature of every program at the MC, and now after Friday prayers at the Multi-Faith Centre every week.

MINDFULNESS SESSIONS



Held during exam periods, the Reflection and Mindfulness sessions were a great way for students to relax and de-stress. The MC lovingly made and distributed exam survival kits containing goodies, some soothing tea and study Dua cards, which were happily received!

FRIDAY PRAYER & OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

Our chaplain regularly leads Friday prayers on campus with sizeable congregations up to 500 attendees, and is invited at least once a month to lead Friday prayers at other campuses. He is much sought after as a guest speaker for events held by Muslim Students Associations at UofT and other campuses, and acts as a mentor when called upon for various situations.

PRESENCE AT OTHER UOFT CAMPUS

Always looking for ways to better engage our beneficiaries, our chaplain also holds visiting hours and conducts programming once a week at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM). We have experienced intense demand for our services not only at UTM, but also from University of Toronto at Scarborough.



MULTIMEDIA

Audio | Committed to making our chaplaincy accessible, an audio podcast of Friday sermons and classes are downloadable for free, for people to listen to at any time. This allows students to catch any sessions they missed, and for long-distance fans of the MC to still benefit.

Video | On The Verge is a professionally produced video series that communicates and discusses the values that are important to developing an indigenous and authentic North American Muslim culture. These videos reflect the MC's profile as a cultural producer and as a forward thinking and practical organization.

Your Donations Your Impact

In just one year, the demand and the success of the MC far outstripped what we anticipated, and the results have been transformative. Many students and community members have repeatedly expressed to us that the MC has helped enrich them spiritually, emotionally and intellectually, and has provided them with a sense of community they haven't felt elsewhere.

BY THE NUMBERS

Counselling Sessions	5 Programs	Friday prayers	Podcast	Speaking Engagements
>100 sessions	<50 weekly	<500 weekly	>2,500 listens	10 events

TESTIMONIALS



Zahra Maamir

4th Year Student, Neuroscience

"Two years ago, I considered dropping out of university. I was content with life in general, I loved my family and friends, I always had a ton of fun and all, but there was a sense of meaning that I had not yet found. I looked for what was true, trying my best to develop my relationship with God. I wanted to progress in my understanding and

practice of Islam, but found it difficult to find the right resources and people. Frustrated, I gave up.

A few months later I heard about the Muslim Chaplaincy so I went to check them out, and it was everything I was looking for. The counseling was effective, the programs were engaging, and the environment was so wonderfully welcoming. I was fully accepted for who I was and not judged for the way I dressed or spoke or for my lack of knowledge in Islam.

The MC quickly became a space for me to learn and progress. They helped me merge my religious life with my student life, which added incredible meaning to everything I did. They helped me create realistic goals for myself and to accomplish them. Most importantly, they helped me understand myself better and put meaning behind my smiles.

I feel truly blessed to have the Muslim Chaplaincy at my university. They forever hold a very special place in my heart."

Abdullah Shihpar

2nd year Student, University of Toronto

After attending SoulFood for the first time, Abdullah describes the experience. "I hadn't interacted with the chaplain before and was really interested in checking out the program, so I relished the opportunity to attend. It was a thoughtful, honest and at times emotional conversation that I'm glad I was a part of. Amjad, the Chaplain, is pretty awesome and so was everybody else there ...a great way to end the week and I'm definitely going back when I have the chance."

Selma Chaudhry

Project Manager, Mt. Sinai Hospital

"When I first heard about the MC, I was at a point in my life where I needed a soul check-up, but did not know what to do or where to go. I contacted Amjad to set up a meeting, and I can honestly say that was the beginning of the change I needed to completely transform my life. The folks leading the Muslim Chaplaincy are people you cannot help but like. They go out of their way to help you and when they talk to you, you feel like the most important person in the world. It is hard not to keep coming back and spreading the word."

Financial Report

PHASE I

September 2012 – August 2013

The following is a report of our operational expenses for the first year.

<i>Payroll</i>	
Full time Chaplain	
Part time Executive Director	\$70,000
Programming	\$1,420
Marketing & Outreach	\$1,670
Legal	\$850
Administrative	\$420
TOTAL	\$74,360

FUTURE VISION

With over 5000 Muslim students at the St. George campus alone, and equal representation at both Mississauga and Scarborough campuses, the demand for our services has risen quite steeply. With an increased workload that includes directing operations, marketing, fundraising, program development, and implementing expansion timelines, administrative staff roles are better served full time rather than part time. Adequate resources to provide quality services must also supplement the increase in payroll, giving way to a bigger operational budget for our second year. Phase II details our funding requirements as well as the expansion requirements for our sister campuses.

PHASE II

Funding Requirements of operational budget for September 2013 – August 2014

<i>Payroll</i>	
Full time Chaplain	
Full time Executive Director	\$95,000
Programming	\$2,500
Marketing & Multimedia	\$5,000
Audit Fees	\$2,000
Administrative	\$500
TOTAL	\$105,000

Expansion Requirements of UofT campuses for January 2014

Part time chaplain and office at UTM	\$35,000
Part time chaplain and office at UTSC	\$35,000
TOTAL	\$70,000

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE POSITIVE SENSE OF OWNERSHIP
YOUNG MUSLIMS CAN FEEL TOWARDS THEIR FAITH AND CIVIC IDENTITY.

BE PART OF THE CHANGE! DONATE TODAY.



*“People are looking for
something to believe in.”*

- Amjad Tarsin



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