



Muslim Center of Middlesex County

Annual Report 2010

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Overview

Asalaam Aleikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatu

Ramadan is fast approaching us, and the time for self-reflection and spiritually rejuvenating ourselves has come again. Since the last Ramadan a lot has happened in our community, and we hope that Allah *subhanna wa taala* allows us to learn from each year's experience to grow and build ourselves.

We have seen this year a lot of very inspiring events, and it is from the blessings of Allah first and the work and dedication of each and every member of our community who make everything possible at MCMC. The masjid is made of people, not bricks and mortar. People who enjoin the daily salah, give zakah, give dawah, and contribute in each individual way which are sometimes so secret and sincere only Allah *subhanna wa taala* knows them. YOU are MCMC, and you are what makes this community special.

Letter From The Imam

Dear community members,

السلام عليكم زرحمة الله وبركاته

الحمد لله رب العالمين والعاقبة للمتقين ولا عدوان إلا على الظالمين والصلاة والسلام على سيد المرسلين

I am blessed to be in this community as it is a dynamic one, in which Muslim families come and go. Alhamdulillah I frequently see new faces, which means we have more and more coming than those going.

Among the attractive qualities of this community -- in my estimation -- is its stability, lack of major conflicts among its members, and its diversity (with Muslims of various nationalities, languages, cultures and madhahib). Alhamdulillah, I see many of you attending Islamic programs of various organizations, whether held here at the MCMC or elsewhere. Many of our youth are involved in Islamic activities and attending classes, as well as teaching at the Saturday and Sunday Schools and in the summer camp.

Many of you, over the years, have expressed your appreciation for me, for which I am grateful. I would also like to apologize for any shortcomings I may have, and ask that you voice any criticisms or complaints directly to me anytime in my office or by phone and email, as I can only correct myself through constructive criticism.

I spend much time on the computer and for a good reason. I receive emails from all over New Jersey and United States, from people who need to contact an imam. Emails, it seems, have become the preferred way of contact over personal visits and trips to the masjid. Often times, I find much of my time consumed in responding and following up with these email correspondences, as this requires me to do research into the Islamic sources before providing a proper response.

Yet whether my interaction with members is from direct interaction or from emails, I find the most frequent problems are family related. Sadly topping the list are the husband and wife disputes, which very often lead to divorce. The divorce rate among Muslims in all states is alarming and needs critical attention. The main reasons, in my opinion, are the lack of Islamic education, the disregard for Islamic values, especially at the time of marriage, and the lack of tolerance between the spouses.

These are all matters that can be rectified for the future generations, provided there is an intensive effort by our communities to educate and mold the characters of our children.

This education and character building will also help to solve the second most important problem, and that is the conflict between parents and their teenage children which, in large part, is due to our loss of Islamic values.

On a brighter note, the interest in Islam from non-Muslims has increased manifold. Our masjid has opened itself up to welcome visitors who are either students doing research, or institutions that wish to expose their members to a different faith, or staff who interact with Muslims and need a better understanding of them, or people wishing to convert

to Islam. We have seen our masjid being contacted by newspapers and government officials looking for our perspective on Islamic issues. We must encourage this phenomenon as it is our primary mission as Muslims.

May Allah enable our discussions in our meetings to be meaningful and peaceful, so that we can take the proper decisions for the betterment of the community.

وجزاكم الله خير الجزاء والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.

Your brother in faith,

Imam Raouf Zaman

Letter From The President

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
السَّلَامُ عَلَیْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

We ask Allah (subhanna wa taala) strengthen our eman, bless this community, bless each of our families and bless every member of our community, Ameen.

Alhamdulillah, this past year's community development effort has reached a new peak; with numerous educational activities being offered for our children, youth, sisters, and brothers. These programs include Arabic & Tajweed classes, Qu'ran halaqahs, and our Iqra studies for children, amongst others. This year we were blessed with great Ulema supplementing these educational activities through the monthly programs which brought these scholars from all over America. Insha Allah, we are looking forward to extending and enhancing these educational activities, and we always have our eyes on achieving MCMC's mission of Iqamat-i-Deen.

The blessed month of Ramadan is upon us, and Imam Raouf and the Ramadan Preparation Committee have been working hard to finalize all the month long activities of Ramadan (including taraweeh, daly halaqahs, iftaar, tahajud, etc). Our goal is to give our community the best experience possible from this blessed month. Alhamdulillah, this year we are blessed with three beacons of eman to lead us in Ramadan; Mufti & Maulana Muhammad Abasoomer, who will be coming from South Africa and leading the taraweeh as well as other Ramadan activities; Hafiz & Qari Marwan Torki who will also lead the taraweeh salah as he has done so in prior years; Shaikh & Maulana Yusuf Islahi who will conduct his tafseer program and community counseling as he has done for so many years during Ramadan.

I hope that the community's spiritual and physical needs will be taken care of in the best manner possible during this month; always feel free to contact the myself, the Imam, MCMC administration office if you have any questions regarding Ramadan. You can also find detailed information in the "Ramadan Committee" section of this report. Also, with the amount of programs for Ramadan this year, we encourage and ask you to volunteer and gain

tremendous rewards of this month. Please feel free to offer your feedback and suggestions, so that we can continue improving our services to the community.

We received approval for the first phase of the expansion project which includes a temporary permit for Ramadan parking, Alhamdulillah. Now we will have an ample 250 parking spaces for Ramadan, which should alleviate the parking issues we faced in the past insha Allah. Immediately after Ramadan is over, we plan to fully begin construction on the new parking lot, with a target of finishing by the end of December 2010. We are obligated to fulfill our construction time-commitments to the township, so I urgently appeal for your help in realizing this project. Since we must raise in just a short time the \$700,000 for constructing the new the parking lot, we are counting on your generous donations during Ramadan.

Best of all this year, we had five little hearts preserve the Quran as new huffaz (four boys and one girl). Without a doubt, this achievement is the pride of the entire community! Our schools -- An-Noor Academy and Darul-Huda Tahfeez Institute -- have made unbelievable progress this year, and we are aggressively working to enhance them to new heights. We ask Allah (subhanna wa taala) to bless these schools as well as the brothers and sisters working hard behind the scenes to make them great. I must single out brother Anwer Hussain for his decade-long dedication, hard work, and leadership to An-Noor Academy. He really has worked night and day to make An-Noor to the great institute it is today. May Allah (subhanna wa taala) bless him and his family for all they provided to this community.

Lastly, I remind myself and humbly request all of the brothers and sister to work for the harmony and unity of the community. I especially request the elders and leaders of this community to help us, work with us, correct us, and encourage us to fulfill our common goal of serving our community, as we all have this duty. Please feel free to contact myself or any member of the shura with suggestions, questions, complaints, or other concerns.

May Allah (subhanna wa taala) bless and help us all.

Jazakum-Allah Khairan,

Best Regards,

Your Brother Safiullah

Ramadan 2010

I. Introduction

The Ramadan committee is a newly formed committee designed to make Ramadan as enjoyable an experience as possible. They have been working nonstop for the past two months trying to streamline every process, implement every best practice, and document all of their work for future years. This Ramadan and Eid should be a memorable moment.

II. Moonsighting Method to be used

Insha' Allah MCMC will rely on local moon sighting to determine the start and end of Ramadan. We will rely on reliable moon sighting in continental US and/or Caribbean, and/or reliable sighting of the moon anywhere east of US. Reliable sighting of the moon anywhere east of US will be the criteria and not the start of Ramadan in those areas.

III. Taraweeh: Our Qaris & Bayans

- InshaAllah both Hafiz Marwan Turki & Mufti Muhammad Abasoomer from Durban, South Africa will lead Taraweeh this year. Mufti Muhammad will also be teaching and giving lectures insha Allah throughout the day.
- Maulana Yusuf Islahi will be joining us as usual for his tafseer programs.
- After Salat Al-Isha, or between Taraweeh we will not have any bayans or talks insha Allah.

IV. The Fundraising Schedule

- We will have only five fundraisers insha Allah:
 1. MCMC Expansion (on the 27th night)
 2. An-Noor Academy (on a weekend)
 3. Shaikh Yusuf Islahi's school (on a weekday)
 4. MCMC Operations (on one Jumu'ah)
 5. Darul Huda Tahfeez School (on another Jumu'ah)
- All other organizations will be given table space on first floor and we will announce about them, or read a statement on their behalf. However, prior permission has to be taken, and no ad hoc requests will be entertained or accommodated.
- All the interested organizations are requested to book their slots as soon as possible. They should send requests with the preferred time & date to the following address: ramadan@mcmcnj.org (multiple date options are recommended)

V. Iftar & Suhoor

Insha Allah for iftaar & suhoor we will be serving food in containers, which should speed up the serving and cleanup process.

VI. Parking

Insha Allah we will be parking in the extended lot on our new properties. The township has granted us a temporary permit to use the new expanded property for Ramadan.

VII. Eid Arrangements

Details to be announced insha Allah.

Education Committee

I. Introduction

A good education is one of the greatest pillars of a strong community. Knowledge lifts us from darkness into the sweetness of iman, it makes our character and faith strong, and it guides us to make right decisions. For the past two years the education committee has worked extremely hard building new programs, and has revitalized important programs once thought to be lost at MCMC. Here are some of those programs:

II. The Iqra Program

The Iqra program gives an after-school opportunity for our boys & girls to learn Qu'ran. We focus on Qu'ran recitation & tajweed, and provide qualified Qu'ran teachers. Here are some details:

- The program began just two years ago.
- An average enrollment of 30 students (during summer vacation enrollment drops).
- Four well-qualified teachers:
 1. Sheikh Fouad Al-Kassas
 2. Qari Abdul Basit
 3. Brother Hendra
 4. Assistant Teacher: Hafiz Hasib Kadeer
- The program runs three days a week (Monday - Wednesday) from 4:30pm to 7:30pm in three time slots (one hour each)
- We have future plans insha Allah of creating an:
 - Islamic Studies Program (i.e. teaching aqeedah, fiqh, Arabic, etc)
 - After-school program for public-school kids (i.e. tutoring, mentoring, etc).

III. The New Summer Camp

The summer camp program has been part of MCMC but had unfortunately fell to near extinction due to a lack of resources. Two years ago, we decided to give everything we had to this program and have Alhamdulillah made it into a vibrant community program. Here are some of the program details:

- An average enrollment of 30 children.
- Four grade levels (organized by age group)
- We have created our own customized curriculum, with:
 - Half of the day in academics (Aqeedah, Fiqh, Seerah, Arabic, Adab, Qu'ran memorization)
 - Half of day in activities (Karate, artwork, interactive plays & skits)

IV. Qur'an Halaqah with Shaikh Fouad

Alhamdulillah we recently set up a weekend Qu'ran halaqa for adults with Sheikh Fouad. The halaqa gives an opportunity for adults to learn Qu'ran better and with proper tajweed.

V. Arabic Classes

This year our Imam has initiated formal Arabic classes designed to carry you from Alif Baa to an advanced level of reading, writing, and comprehension. Here are some of the details

- Conducted every weekend morning after fajr.
- The Madinah University Curriculum is used.
- Different levels classes are given (Basic, Intermediate, Advanced)
- The class is being broadcasted live and is being recorded (the webcast link is available on the MCMC website)
- Powerpoint slides are used for the class lessons.
- Average class size is 10 to 15 students.

Zakah Committee

I. Introduction

MCMC has one of the best organized Zakah programs in New Jersey (we're not exaggerating). We collect and distribute zakah state-wide, serving the poor and in urgent need on a wider scale than most masjid. We also support disaster relief programs such as the Tsunami and Earthquake which hit Muslim communities abroad. Our Zakah team ensures that everyone who comes and applies for zakah funds is given a respectful and timely treatment, and has a well documented set of processes and procedures (see Appendix A). Here are some more detailed facts about our zakah program:

II. Zakah Process

- Our turnaround time ranges from a minimum of two days to a maximum of five days. For emergency situations, money is distributed within 24 - 48 hours from the request.
- We have a strict verification process with each applicant, which consists of:
 - ID verification to ensure that each applicant is a legal US resident (Social Security, Driver's License, etc),
 - A personal interview conducted with each candidate.

III. Zakatul Fitr (i.e. Fitrana / Fitra)

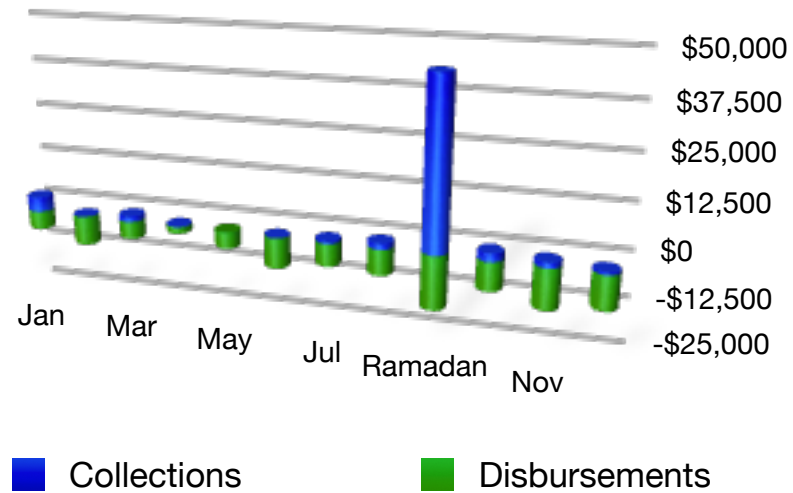
- The Zakah Committee estimates the amount of zakatul fitr to be collected based on prior years, and distributes this amount well before the end of Ramadan. The actual amount of fitra is then calculated after Ramadan, and accounts reconciled.

- The fitra is distributed within our community and to the poor in other communities statewide. We contact masajid and Imams from urban communities such as Plainfield, Newark, etc to identify those who are in need of zakatul-fitr. Needy individuals will then come and apply directly with our Zakah team, who go through the same verification process as regular zakah.
- Zakatul Fitr is distributed as money, and not as food.

IV. Collection & Distribution

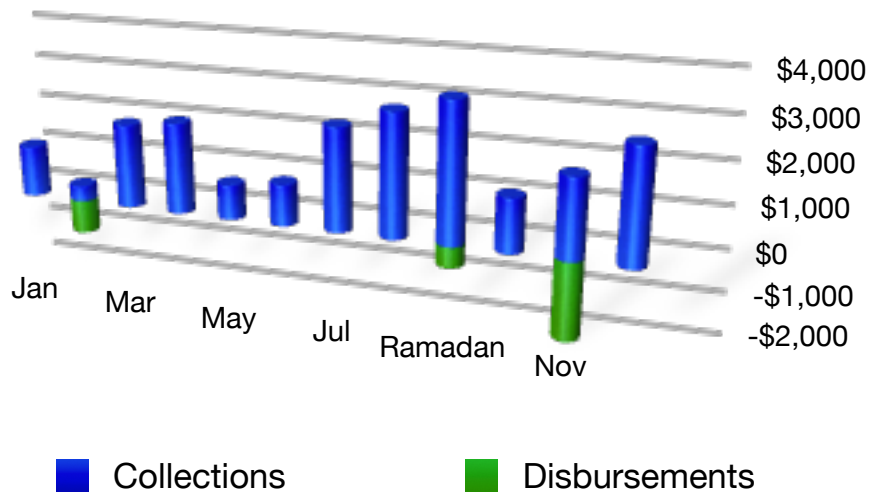
- Most Zakah is collected during Ramadan, though zakah also comes in during the year. We try to distribute all the zakah funds within one year, though since money comes in throughout the entire year, a balance still exists in the account. (See Figure 1).
-
- Sadaqa is collected about evenly throughout the year, and is distributed as needed throughout the year (see Figure 2).
- Darul Huda Tahfeez school receives 20% of our non-restricted zakah and sadaqah funds per year.

Figure 1: Zakah Collection & Distributions 2009



As you can see above, most of our zakah was collected during Ramadan, and distributed evenly throughout the year

Figure 2: Sadaqah Collection & Distributions 2009



As you can see above, sadaqah is collected throughout the year, and, and distributed when requested or needed.

Expansion Committee

I. Introduction

Our expansion project has three main goals in mind. First, to meet the immediate parking need which we suffer from every Jumua'a and Ramadan. Second, to bring An-Noor academy onto our campus to alleviate the huge rental burden on the school. Third, to give our community the facilities it needs to thrive, such as a basketball court and playground, expanded offices, banquet hall, handicapped access, etc.

By creating this new parking lot insha Allah, our community members will no longer have to suffer the unsafe conditions of parking on Morris Avenue and Rt. 18 for Jumu'a and Ramadan. We have already received a temporary parking permit for our new lot during Ramadan, and we hope to fully complete this project by the end of next summer insha Allah.

Insha Allah the new expanded building will be able to house a new state-of-the-art facility for An-Noor Academy to move into. Bright lights, big classrooms, and all the tools a school could ask for will be available for our kids. Not only will our school's competitiveness increase, but the \$8,700 per month the school pays in rent will be able to be directed to hiring more teachers and buying better tools for our students.

Our youth drastically need a place to release their energy, and the new basketball court and playground will give them just that insha Allah. Our community can now also hold its seminars, weddings, and other events at the planned community/banquet hall within the new facility; which will save them money and bring money back to the community. Our new offices will also give our Imam and administrators the space needed to conduct all of our daily workload insha Allah.

All of these improvements in parking, school, and community facilities are planned within the next four years insha Allah, with your help and support, and for the benefit of our entire community.

II. Current Progress

- Alhamdulillah, we have already received approval for our phase one expansion plan from the township (the parking lot expansion).
- For parking during Ramadan, we have been granted a temporary permit with access to Hoes Lane West.

III. Short-Term Plan - Within One Year

- We plan to begin full construction of the parking lot immediately after Ramadan insha Allah. This includes paving, landscaping, fencing, striping, etc.
- To meet code obligations for our existing building, we hope to complete an in-house renovation before December insha Allah. This includes installing an elevator, renovating & expanding the bathrooms, and reinstalling new doors.
- We hope to add an outside entrance to the basement and reapply for a permit for complete access to the basement.
- Insha Allah after Ramadan we hope to have approval for phase two (the building expansion).
- The estimated cost for all of these projects is about \$750,000.

IV. Long-Term Plan - After One Year

- Insha Allah we hope to construct a new Rt 18 entrance, beginning once the state begins it's construction expansion of Rt. 18. The new entrance will allow great acceleration & deceleration going onto and coming off of Rt 18. The new entrance should also create a few extra parking spaces, and will give enough room to create a small playground (See appendix B).
- Insha Allah we hope to start construction of our new building in three stages (basement, 1st floor, and then 2nd floor) (See appendix B).
- The entire project should take 3 1/2 years insha Allah, and will require about \$4.5 million.

Religious Affairs Committee

I. Introduction: Formation & Purpose

The religious affairs committee is a new committee which takes an innovative approach to reaching diversity of thoughts and inclusiveness of people. As our community has become larger and continues to grow, differences may arise from the multitude of different ideas, practices, cultures, and schools of thought which always embody a diverse group.

Our scholars have always recognized that the vast majority of all the differences of opinion which actually conflict are extremely rare; and so we see throughout our history differing scholars living, eating, befriending and praying with each other. In this same spirit, this committee looks at all the valid opinions, takes into account the composition and harmony of the community, and brings forth the most inclusive of these scholars' opinion as the one to be implemented at MCMC.

II. Policy & Procedure:

- The results issues are not a fatwa. They are simply taking an opinion from the valid fiqhi opinions that are well-known.
- The committee is composed of five community members -- both scholars and laypersons -- from diverse backgrounds and fiqhi schools:
 1. Imam Raouf Zaman (Aleemiyyah Institute of Islamic Studies - Karachi, 1975; Al-Azhar University - Cairo, 1978)
 2. Shaykh Fouad Al-Kassas (Al-Azhar University - Cairo, 1990)
 3. Doctor Abu Zayd (B.A. in Islamic Studies, American Open University, 2010)
 4. MCMC Secretary
 5. Brother Syed Samiuddin.

- Any issue may be brought to the committee through four sources:
 - 1) The MCMC Shura (results will be binding).
 - 2) The An-Noor Board (results are only recommended, not binding).
 - 3) Any member of religious committee.
 - 4) Any Individual or group in the community (by contacting the Imam, or emailing religiousaffairs@mcmcnj.org)

III. Issues Taken So Far (See Appendix C).

IV. Long-Term Goals

- In the future, the committee would like to take a more educational role in the community. They would outline the reasons taken for decisions the committee, and give general education and information sessions. on fiqhi issues.
- To have all members of MCMC have a sense of inclusion.

Dawah Committee

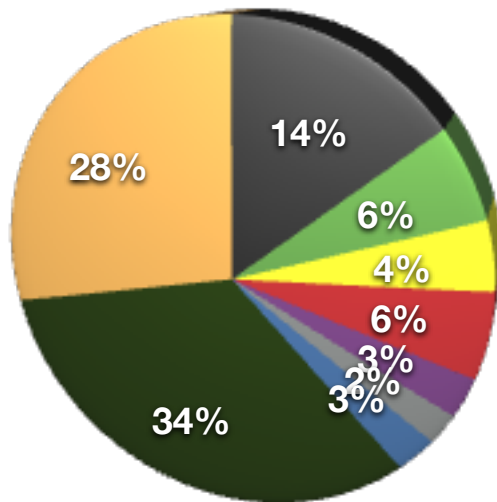
I. Introduction

The brothers and sisters of the dawah team work hard to try to make spread the message of Islam to our non-Muslim communities. They consistently reach out to individuals, neighbors, clergy, local officials, and the media. Through their efforts, MCMC has become a known masjid to non-Muslim communities in the state, and has seen many new converts taking their shahadas here each year.

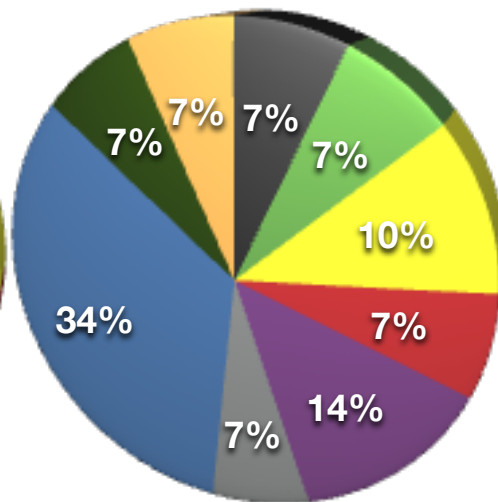
II. Programs This Year

As you can see in the left graph, our interfaith symposiums, hospice service, and iftars reached the most people; while on the right graph you can see that shahada packages, hosting events, and interfaith study circles were held most often.

Participants Reached by Event



Event Frequency



- Hosting Non-Muslims for Ramadan Iftar
- Eid-Gifts to neighbors and public officials
- Interfaith Study Circle
- Hosting Interfaith Meetings
- Hosting Non-Muslim groups
- Hosting Pastoral Care personnel from Hospitals
- Shahada Welcome Package
- Attending Interfaith Symposium
- Attending Hospice Service at JFK Hospital

III. Events Planned For Next Year

Insha Allah the dawah team plans to:

- Hold a comprehensive set of meetings with the Boards of Education of Piscataway & Middlesex County. The goal insha Allah is to educate the board members on the needs of Muslim students in their schools, and to secure:
 - Eid as an officially recognized religious holiday.
 - The serving of halal food as an option at school lunches and events
 - The ability for students to pray their daily salah in school.
- Hold educational & sensitivity sessions with local police, firefighters, teachers.
- Host the Central NJ Interfaith symposium. These symposiums bring together the congregations of different faiths to either a church, synagogue, or masjid and seminars are held to explain the fundamentals of each faith. So far we have only been able to visit other churches and synagogues in the past, and were unable to host them at the masjid due a lack of space and parking. Though insha Allah will the intended masjid renovations and expansion we hope to host this event right here in MCMC.
- Host educational sessions with the pastoral care offices of local hospitals such as JFK, RWJ & St. Peters (to teach how to deal with patients, etc).
- Begin prison visitations & send local khateeb to lead Jumu'a prayer at the prisons.
- Visit senior centers
- Host a talk at public library
- Host a BIG open house. We want to really feature our masjid and showcase Islam as well. The open house would have guided tours of the masjid, educational booths, etc.
- Possibly hold an Islamic festival, similar to the Greek & Lebanese festivals held in the township. This would target a much wider audience and be much more festive.

Fundraising Committee

I. A New Approach to Fundraising

“Oh no, not another fundraiser!”

Yes, we have heard your dismay and we’re changing. In this bad economy where we have seen a sharp decline in regular donations, and with so many projects ahead of us; we can no longer have business as usual when it comes to fundraising. The fundraising committee is making every effort to be creative, entertaining, and give each person who takes the time to attend these events something to enjoy. Yes, we’re taking a new approach to fundraising.

II. Our New Methods

- We have begun having all of our fundraisers in the masjid instead of renting out expensive banquet halls. The goal is two-fold: First, we save thousands of dollars which could be better used for our causes, and second the masjid has blessings and gives us a feel of home and community. Why go anywhere else than the house of Allah for our gatherings?
- “Who will give 10. Come on, just a little more and you get to eat...”. Yes, we all get annoyed by the speaker who goes on forever, making you wait for your food and boring you to death. So the fundraising committee has set strict limitations on the amount of time any speaker may talk. If he goes over, we cut off the microphone. No more unnecessary speaking; we’re keeping it simple.
- Our techie members help us set up a paypal account. Now you can just go online and donate, and not have to worry about bringing checks every time you want to give.
- We set up a direct-deposit system which allows you to give and forget. Every month your bank will securely deposit a recurring amount of funds to the masjid project you desire.

- We're bringing our youth and intelligent minds to come up with creative ideas for fundraisers. For instance, we had a brick-by-brick donation for our new parking lot, and had the first ever Qari program bringing amazing and heart warming recitation from three well-renowned qarīs. (Note: we are sorry for not announcing very clearly that the qari event would be a fundraiser, and we will be very clear next time insha Allah).

III. Future ideas

- For our expansion project we will need to raise over four million dollars. For this enormous task, we will need to start a door-to-door and community-to-community campaign. Teams will need be created to target specific businesses, communities, and individuals to secure the millions we will need for our new building insha Allah.
- Following up with pledges is a quite a task, and beyond the capacity of our part-time volunteers. Insha Allah we plan to hire a part-time paid follow-up person, who will follow up with all pledges. Since his job will ensure more of the pledges get realized than they would with volunteers, his salary will even pay for itself.
- We would like to bring more scholars and qarīs to our community. These types of event will not only bring the funds we need, but also really bring a benefit to the community. The past "Beautiful Speech" qari event can testify to the powerful effect the recitation of Qur'an had on the hearts, and anyone who has sat at the footsteps of the scholars knows how much righteousness they bring to your life.
- We will announce all fundraising events as "fundraisers" very clearly insha Allah.

Finance Committee

I. Introduction

The finance committee takes care of our budgets, financial management, accounting and preparation of financial statements. Basically, they deal with numbers. Insha Allah we'll try to simplify the financial jargon and let you know how we are doing. Here are some of the details:

II. New Changes

- We changed our accounting method from cash-based accounting to accrual-based accounting (the same method used in all major public corporations). This accrual basis accounting gives a more accurate reading of when each dollar was actually spent.
- You might have noticed that our financial statements are much more detailed than they were in the past. Here are some of the changes we made to give you a much more detailed report:
 - Created a Balance-Sheet report (which shows cash, assets, and debt).
 - Separated report by categories (e.g.. Operations, properties, expansion program).
 - Gave detailed accounts rather than summary (e.g.. Instead of just seeing "Utilities \$500", you see "Electric \$100, Gas \$300, Water \$100").
- A paypal account & direct deposit system was set up for donations.
- Created a detailed accounting policies & procedures document.

III. Long-term Plans

- Automate our entire depositing system.
- Ensure better tracking of accounts receivable for rental & ads
- Look to streamlining accounting process (checks, deposit, a/r etc) by removing as much human error as possible.

Internal Audit Committee

The internal audit committee was just recently approved to be created on July 2010. The goal of this committee is to ensure proper internal control policy, oversee overall accounting policy, and give recommendations on how to streamline and secure our accounting process. Insha Allah soon we will be approaching members of the community who are CPAs, risk-management, and internal control professionals to join this committee insha Allah.

Maintenance Committee

I. Introduction

The members of this committee are not afraid to get their hands dirty. They handle the upkeep the entire masjid, from the roof to the electronic equipment. Their job never ends, as there is always something to be worked on in the masjid.

II. Improvements Made This Year

- Installed a new sound system consisting of: 8 speakers, greater power, better quality, and recording capability (Alhamdulillah, this sound system was funded from special contributions by our regular members).
- Installed a camera in the musallah area which will allow members throughout the masjid to see the khutbahs (once new LCD screens are installed throughout the masjid). A DVR Recorder was also installed.
- A bicycle rack was installed to accommodate the members biking from close by and from Rutgers.
- All the potholes in the parking lot were patched up. This was done by a few dedicated volunteers.
- The front doors were repainted.
- We participated in the annual Township cleanup.
- We upgraded the MCMC facility to meet township standards, such as adding a basement A/C unit and re-stripping the fire lanes.

III. The Clothing Donation Box Was Replaced

- The clothing donation box was removed, and at-home pickup by the Lupus Foundation was arranged for our members. The advantages of this are:
 - All items are picked up directly from your home.
 - They take all sort of household items, and not just clothing as per the box.
 - People were leaving trash, couches, beds, TV's and old dirty clothing in the donation box. These unusable items were dirtying the MCMC facility and would have to be thrown in the dumpster.
 - ICNA-NY the box sponsor stopped accepting the donations, as too many trash items were being given.

IV. Green Initiatives

- The Musalla light bulbs were changed to energy-saver bulbs.
- We conducted a feasibility study regarding adding solar panels to the masjid. We contacted a few major solar companies and had their engineers and experts come to inspect the facility. We found that installing solar panels would not be feasible, because of physical reasons and because we are a nonprofit organization. The details are:
 - Since our masjid roof is bi-level, we would not be able to physically install enough solar panels (the top level shades the lower level, and also does not give room for the panels).
 - The roofs of the surrounding houses owned by MCMC are old and may require reworking. The houses are also shaded by many trees and are not all facing south (the optimal direction for solar).
 - With the expansion project, the new building would be optimal for solar panels due to it's size and it's south facing direction. Though, since we are a nonprofit organization, we cannot take advantage of the tax-rebates which cover up to 50% of the installation costs.

V. Short-Term Plans

- Clean up the parking lot
- Finishing the additional renovations to the masjid, including
 - Installing an elevator & extra men & women's bathroom
 - Repainting the masjid interior
 - Install LCD screens so that people can see the khutbahs and events.
 - Upgrading the security camera system.
 - Adding access card to the doors including the basement, etc., (the access card has the advantage of restricting access per user and per room, and keeping an electronic record of who accessed which door).
- Move the dumpster (once we start parking lot construction).
- Install a new lit masjid sign (one we begin expansion).
- Make enhancements in the first-floor sound system, which is not as powerful as the musalla area.

IT Committee

I. Introduction

This committee brings our best techie minds together to help improve MCMC. They handle everything having to do with IT at the masjid. With the vast amount of our members who are in the IT industry, we encourage our members in the IT industry to volunteer and help bring in new kinds of technology and resources. Here are some of the new changes which the IT committee has implemented this year:

II. The Website

- A new mobile page was created for web-enabled phone. The website is: <http://www.mcmcnj.org/mobile>
- We added an online paypal donation tool, to let you give your donations online.
- We began advertising with local Muslim businesses on the website, which has already generated over \$1,200.
- Created a MCMC youtube channel to display masjid videos (and linked to the website).

III. Email

- Alhamdulillah we bought an email & marketing software tool which will allow us to:
 - Send pleasant looking emails which are easier to read
 - Manage our email contact list
 - Make the subscribe & unsubscribe process easy
 - Conduct professional surveys

IV. Masjid IT Improvements

- Enabled Google Apps for MCMC for internal administrative purposes
- Installed camera in the Musallah area to broadcast and record video signals.

V. The First-Ever Professional Survey

For the first time in MCMC history, a comprehensive professional online survey was conducted. The survey covered all aspect of the masjid services (including maintenance, governance, religious services, and community satisfaction). The survey was sent out to all members, jumu'a attendees, and people on our email list. Alhamdulillah, over 200 people responded to the survey and gave their comments. The results are now being compiled and analyzed, and insha Allah once all the data analysis is complete the results will be shared with the community, with the goal of improving transparency and bettering our masjid.

VI. Short Term Plans

- Combine different data repositories of members into one comprehensive database which are currently being housed in different places (e.g. phone list, email list, quickbooks, membership committee data)
- Increase revenues and promote Muslim businesses through different online mediums

VII. Long-term Plans

- Purchase a donor-management application.
- Redesign the MCMC website.
- Record & post khutbahs & lecture videos online.

Youth Committee

I. Introduction

Come to the masjid on any Friday night and you will see lots of youth in the masjid. Alhamdulillah, for years MCMC has always had one of the strongest relationships with YM (Young Muslims, a division of ICNA). The youth of Edison, Piscataway, and Woodbridge have always found a home right here in our masjid, where they have held weekly halaqas for the last eight years (making it one of the first ever YM halaqas). MCMC has also tried to support our youth in the following ways over the past year:

II. Friday Halaqas

Alhamdulillah every Friday from Asr to Isha the youth gather to attend a halaqa (completely run by them) where each week a new youth prepares and leads the halaqa. Afterwards, they get together and build brotherhood by playing sports together (in spring & summer) or eating out at a local restaurant (in the fall & winter).

In the winter time when the sky becomes dark earlier, both the youth and the parents preferred to stay in the masjid and eat-in rather than staying out late at a local restaurant. Alhamdulillah, MCMC now provides the youth with a monthly budget to buy food for the weekly halaqas and keep the youth in the masjid, also giving those youth who could not afford to eat out a chance to participate.

III. Youth Events

- Ramadan Itikaaf Program
- “Love Struck” event held at Rutgers New Brunswick (a lecture about marriage).

IV. We Need A New Youth Coordinator

Our youth coordinator served us last year, before moving out of the community recently due to a new job. Masha Allah, during his short time with us he left us with a very successful Youth Itikaaf during last Ramadan. Over 30 youth spent each weekend in Ramadan at the masjid; participating in group activities, having quizzes, having Q&A sessions with older youth and the Imam, and praying qiyam ul-layl. We gave out prizes at the end to the youth and the volunteers, and everyone had a great time.

We hope insha Allah that another member of our community can step up and become the new MCMC Youth Coordinator.

Membership Committee

I. Introduction

- The membership committee was established in early 2009 for two key functions:
 1. Encourage membership enrollment
 2. Streamline and modernize the membership enrollment process (maintaining accurate and updated lists, retaining signed membership forms, etc)

II. Membership Enrollment

In past years, members were confused about the membership requirements and whether a maintenance fee is required. This year we sought to clear up any ambiguities, and state clearly that membership is totally free. Membership only requires the following criteria according to our constitution

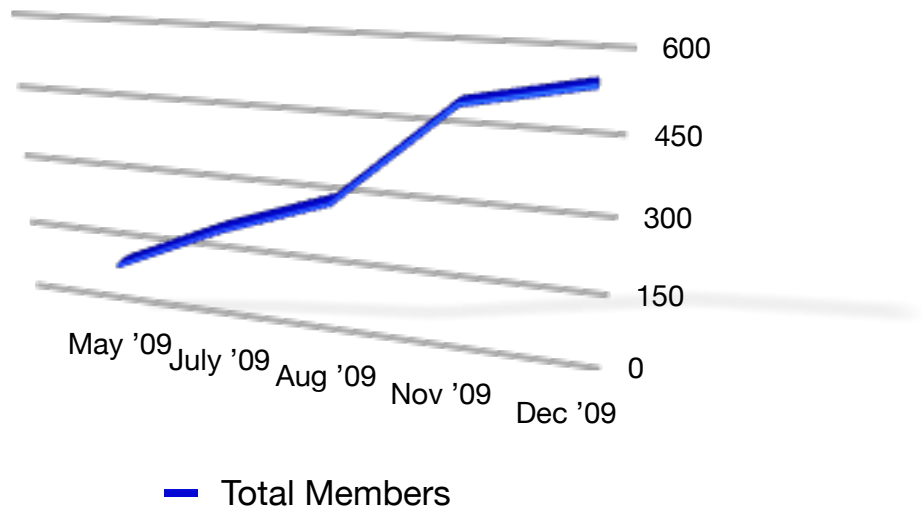
All Muslims shall be eligible to become members provided they file an application for membership and meet the following particular qualifications and requirements:

1. *Be of legal age (18 years).*
2. *Believe in the five pillars of Islam namely Shahadah, Salat, Zakat, Sawm & Hajj.*
3. *Shall concur with the objectives and activities of the MCMC.*
4. *Shall follow the code of conduct as outlined in Appendix "E".*
5. *Shall have principal residence in the State of New Jersey.*
6. *Shall submit an oath of membership duly signed by him/her (Appendix "A").*

III. Membership Drives & Growth

- Throughout 2009 we have about seven membership drives, for a total enrollment of 556 members (See fig 1).

Figure 1: Total MCMC Membership Growth



- Insha Allah, we plan to continue our membership drives within our community after Ramadan. We hope to have every community member become a registered member of MCMC.

Appendix A - Zakah Policy

Zakah Committee Policies & Procedures

As of July 2010

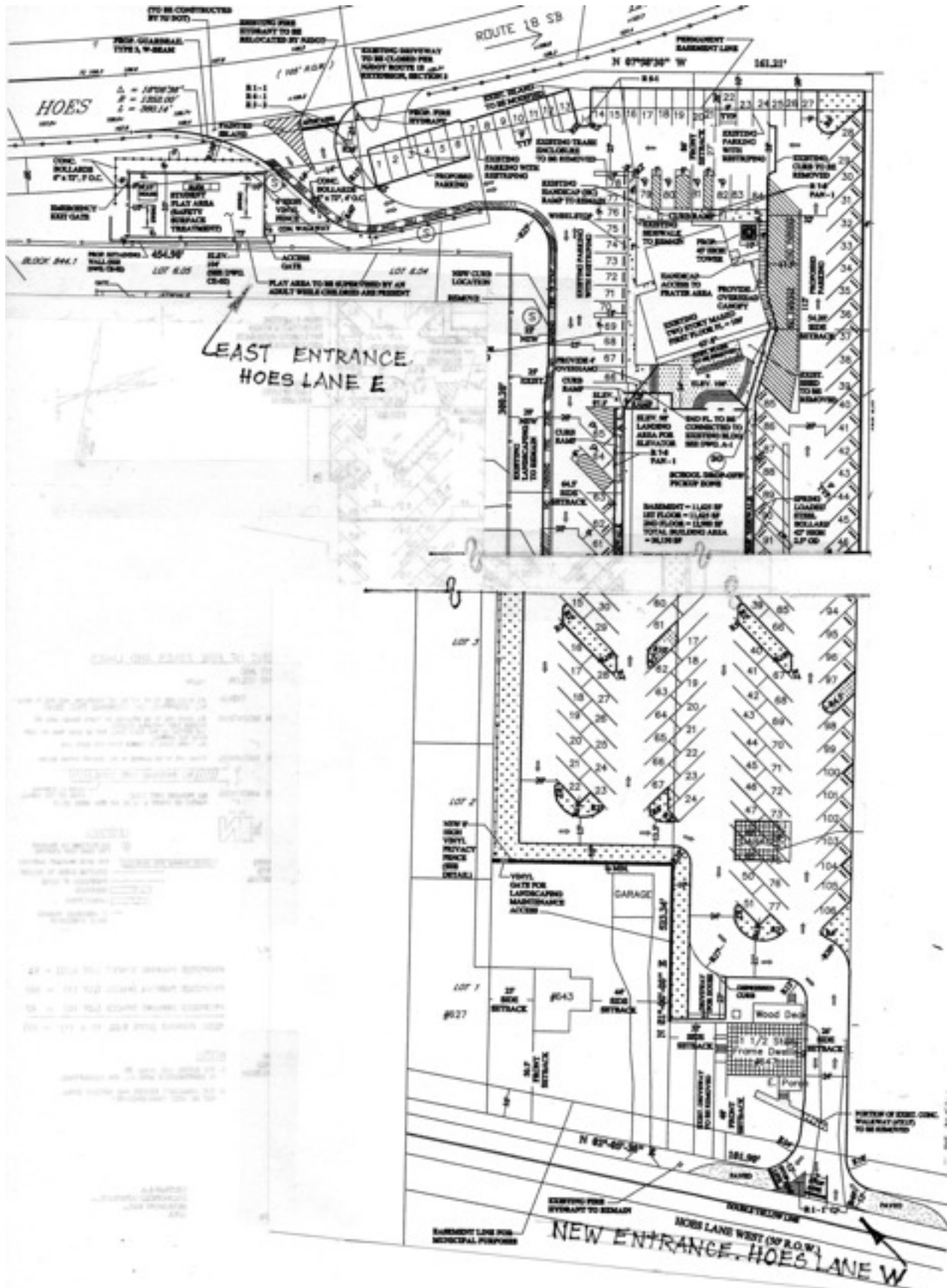
1. The zakah committee is binding to religious opinions from Imam Raouf Zaman
2. The zakah committee is composed of three (3) males and three (3) females.
3. Zakah Form, social security card or driver's license are mandatory when one applies for zakah
4. Any two zakah committee members are enough to work on a request
5. Only members of the zakah committee can make follow up calls to applicants
6. Individuals are limited to \$500.00 and organizations to \$1,000.00 one-time donations.
7. The zakah committee will not give to an individual more than three (3) times per year or a maximum of \$1,500 per year, whichever is reached first.
8. The zakah committee will give fitra to individuals and organizations which work with people
9. The zakah committee will give 20% of non-restricted zakat and non-restricted sadaqa to Darul Huda Tahfeez School.
10. Cheques get issued to only US-based individuals and organizations. Money will be dispensed to reputable and qualifying Non-US based organizations (who do not have a subsidiary in US) through Helping Hands.
11. Cheques with the amount of more than \$500.00 are signed by two officials, and the form needs to be also signed by the Secretary or President
12. We make sure the copy of the document is filed, and if it is a repeat case, we check the files for the ID.
13. Treasurer will separate zakat, sadaqa, fitra, any restricted sadaqa, and any restricted zakah in Quick-books account.

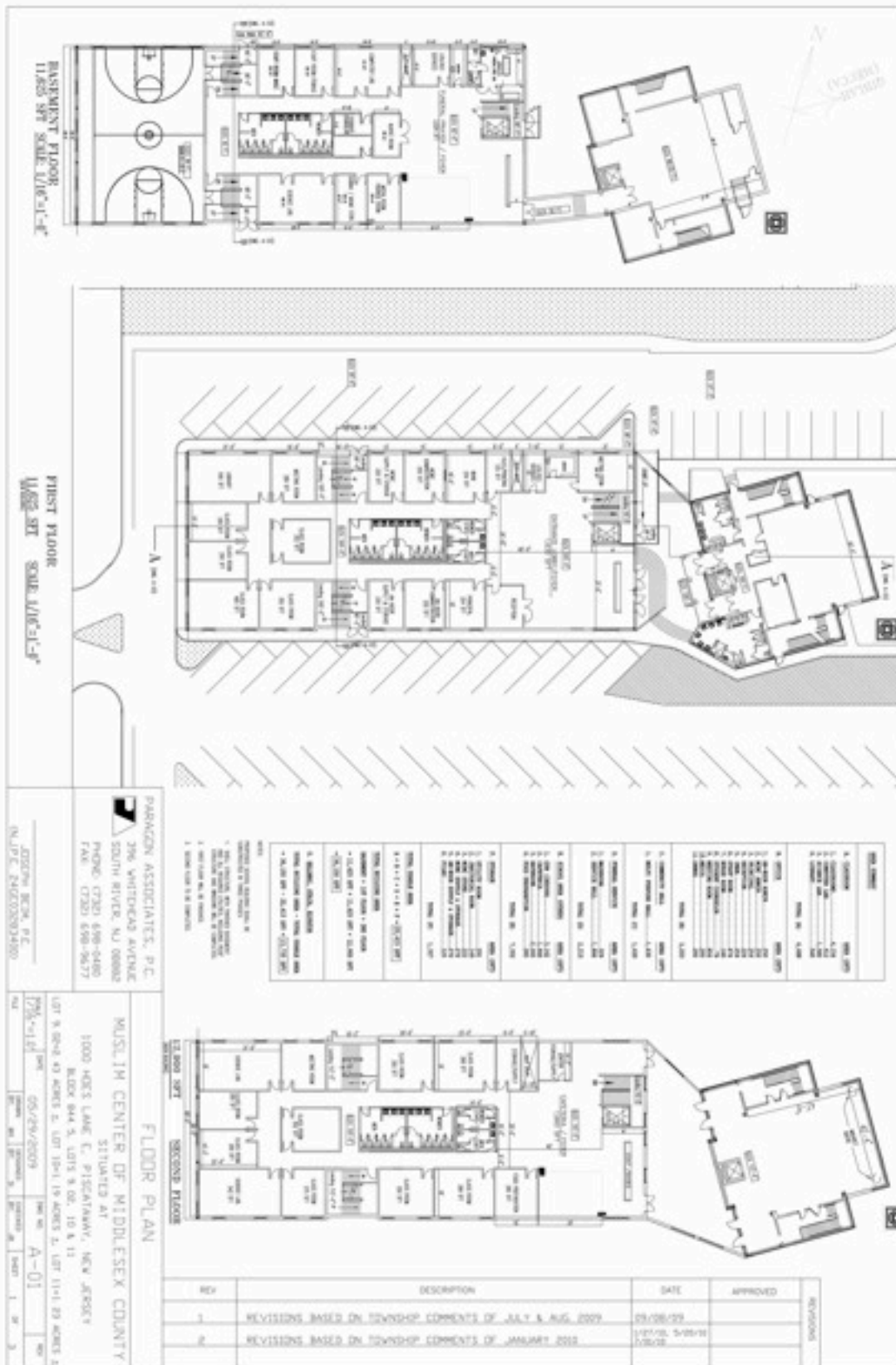
Appendix B - Expansion Plans

Architectural elevation drawings of the Muslim Center of Middlesex County expansion plans. The drawings show three different views of the building facade, including a long side elevation, a shorter side elevation, and a front elevation. Each drawing is labeled with 'SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"'. The drawings are rendered in a simple, schematic style with grey and white tones.

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	APPROVED	REVISIONS
1	REVISIONS BASED ON ARCHITECT COMMENTS OF JULY & AUG. 2009	05/29/2009		

PARAGON ASSOCIATES, P.C. 396 WHITEHEAD AVENUE SOUTH RIVER, NJ 08882 PHONE: (732) 690-0480 FAX: (732) 690-9677		ELEVATIONS MUSLIM CENTER OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY SITUATED AT 1000 HOES LANE E., PISCATAWAY, NEW JERSEY BLOCK 844 S, LOTS 9, 10, 11 LOT 9: 00'-0" x 42 ACRES ±, LOT 10+11: 19 ACRES ±, LOT 11+12: 23 ACRES ±	
JOSEPH BECK, P.E. IN L.P.E. 24622/00430	DATE: 05/29/2009 DRAWING NO: A-03	SHEET NO: 3 OF 3	





Appendix C - Religious Affairs Results

Religious Affairs Results Issued

As of July 4, 2010

1. Start and End of Ramadan:

Insha' Allah MCMC will rely on local moon sighting to determine the start and end of Ramadan. We will rely on reliable moon sighting in continental US and/or Caribbean, and/or reliable sighting of the moon anywhere east of US. Reliable sighting of the moon anywhere east of US will be the criteria and not the start of Ramadan in those areas.

The horizon for us will be 4 time zones starting with EST and ending with PST.

2. Fajr time & Start of fast:

The Ramadan calendar will have the timings calculated as per standard calculation method, Fajr Twilight = 15 Degrees, Isha Twilight = 15 Degrees, but a note will mention that as per other calculation method the Fajr time (start time of fast) will be about 20 minutes earlier.

3. Jumu'a Salah if Eid falls on Friday:

Jumu'ah will be established at MCMC irrespective of Eid falling on Friday or not. Imam will educate the congregation (during last 10 days of Ramadan) about the permissibility of not praying Jumu'ah, and just praying Zohar Salah on Eid day if Eid falls on Friday. No announcement will be made at the Eid congregation in this regards (to avoid confusion).