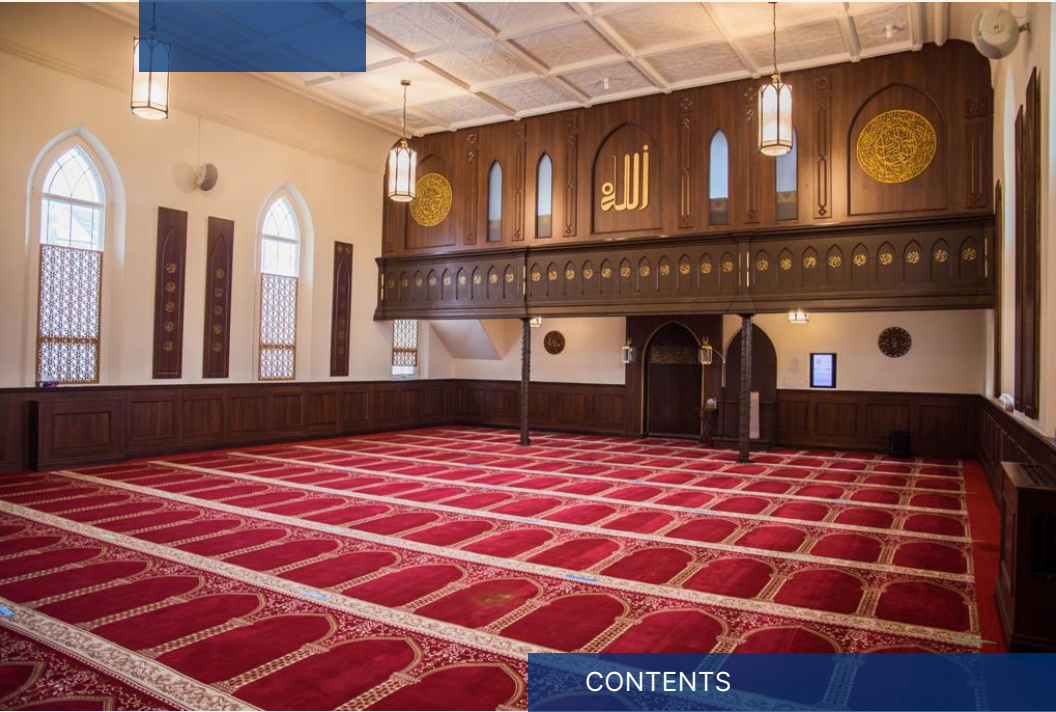




# MASJID VAUGHAN

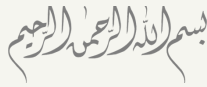
# ANNUAL REPORT

2020



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**Masjid Vaughan** was established April 15, 2018 as a house of worship for the Muslim community. The property is situated a few hundred metres away from Vaughan City Hall, Maple, Ontario. The Masjid's heritage building carries with it a sacred history extending over 140 years, and its internal mid-century gothic architecture has been carefully restored to reflect a North American Islamic aesthetic that gracefully evokes a sense of serenity and majesty. All praise is due to God Most High for this unique blessing, and a collective declaration of gratitude is due to each and every supporter from our local community who continues to maintain this welcoming sacred space through their generous donations.

## Mission

To deliver religious services to the congregants of the masjid in the most excellent, authentic and relevant manner.

## Vision

To be the leader of excellence for Muslim communities in North America in religious service, Islamic education, and community living.

## Values

In fulfillment of the sacred trust before Allah, we continue to uphold our commitment to uprightness, beauty and excellence—guiding principles that set us apart and enable us to continue serving the Muslim community.

# Introduction

*The houses of Allah are maintained by those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, perform the prayers, give charity, and fear none but Allah alone... (Quran 9:18)*

By the grace of God Almighty, in 2018 the local Muslim community rallied together to establish Masjid Vaughan; the first masjid for the sunni Muslim diaspora in Vaughan.

Today, this masjid continues to grow towards becoming a leader of excellence in religious service, Islamic education, and community living. Achieving this historic milestone would not be possible without your help, and Masjid Vaughan's executive team is happy to share with you all of our achievements, goals and challenges in these annual reports.

The main purpose of this report is to provide our supporters with accurate and transparent financial information regarding Masjid Vaughan in a manner that is clear and easily comprehended.

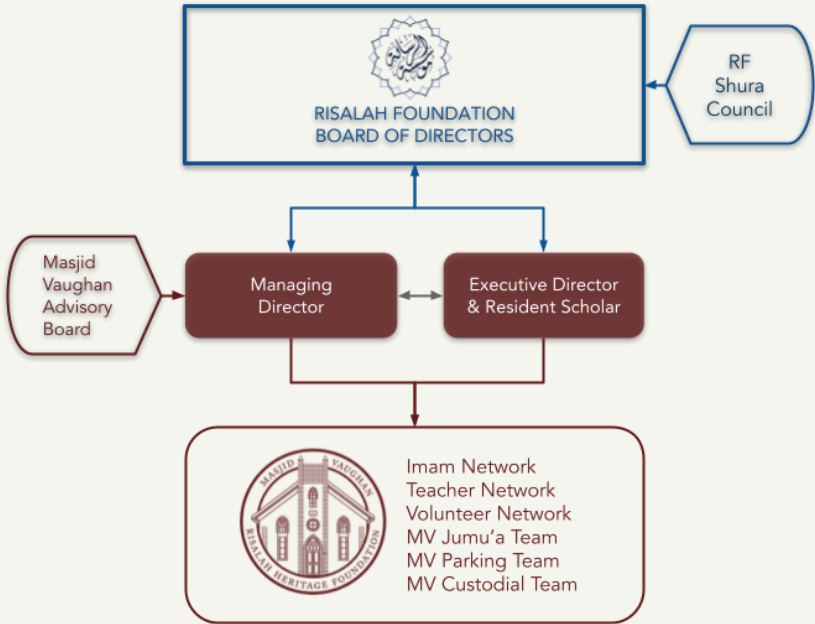
This report does not include other community projects of Risalah Foundation, nor does it encompass the charity as a whole. Those desiring a comprehensive financial report for Risalah Foundation can view the online audited reports on its website at [www.risalah.ca](http://www.risalah.ca).

We pray that this effort brings you benefit and increased confidence that our journey together towards serving the house of Allah is realized responsibly and with transparency.

— Executive Team, Masjid Vaughan

# Governance Structure

Masjid Vaughan is a community project of Risalah Foundation, a Canadian registered charity. The charity is guided by internal policies and by-laws that promote good governance and ensure accountability. The elected board of directors govern in the charity's best interest, and offer oversight, support and direction to Masjid Vaughan's executive team by providing regular and critical feedback. Additionally, Risalah Foundation has mandated that the masjid have an advisory board to provide strategic advice to its management team. To learn more please visit the *About* page at [www.masjidvaughan.ca](http://www.masjidvaughan.ca)



# Financial Questions

## YEAR 2020

### 1. How much was the masjid property purchased for in 2018?

The initial property purchase (including phase-one renovations and closing costs) totalled: **\$ 3,198,218**. The purchase was made through an interest-free declining balance agreement (*musharaka-mutanaqisa*) with the financier's facility of **\$ 1.8 million**. The remaining amount was raised through community donations and interest-free loans from local individuals.

### 2. What was the total amount of donations collected in 2020?

The total amount of designated donations collected for Masjid Vaughan in 2020 was **\$ 389,787.76**. This amount does not include revenue generated by Risalah Foundation services and projects.

### 3. What was the total amount of zakat collected in 2020?

The total amount of zakat collected and designated for local deserving recipients in 2020 was **\$ 46,606.68**.

### 4. What was the total amount of expenses incurred in 2020?

The total amount of expenses incurred to maintain and operate Masjid Vaughan in 2020 was **\$ 421,075.42**.

Qard Payback (interest-free loan)	\$ 95,000.00
Islamic Financing (Principal & User-fee)	\$ 133,327.08
Professional Fees	\$ 10,346.80
Maintenance & Operations	\$ 34,354.55
Renovations & Upgrades	\$ 74,503.32
Property Expenses	\$ 9,456.08
Utilities	\$ 15,848.39
Honorariums	\$ 5,593.30
Platform & Processing Costs	\$ 19,128.98
Subscriptions	\$ 12,312.99
Supplies	\$ 6,323.94
Food & Hosting	\$ 1,712.02
Telecommunications	\$ 3,167.97

# Financial Questions

## YEAR 2020

### **5. How much of the Islamic financing expense goes to principal ?**

The total amount paid into equity in 2020 was: **\$ 63,132.11**, and the total amount paid for user-fees in 2020 was: **\$ 70,194.97**.

### **6. Did Masjid Vaughan run a deficit or a surplus in 2020?**

In 2020 Masjid Vaughan ran a deficit of **\$31,287.66** which was covered by Risalah Foundation.

### **7. Where are the salaries for human resources in the above expenses?**

Since 2018, the salaries of the masjid's executive team have been paid from the revenue generated by Risalah's programs and initiatives—not by designated donations. To view the charity's total revenue from all of its initiatives, please visit [www.risalah.ca](http://www.risalah.ca) for the published annual report.

# Community Impact

## **A Rapidly Growing Community**

The Muslim community in Vaughan is an ethnically diverse demographic of mostly middle- and upper-class younger families. Since its inception, Masjid Vaughan has seen an increase of new neighbours inquiring about the masjid and its services. Because of the family-friendly programming at the masjid, the new housing developments in Maple, and the opening of the Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, the local population of Muslims is expected to rise substantially in the next few years. *In-sha-Allah*, Masjid Vaughan will be well positioned to serve the needs of this new growing community.

## **Services & Programming**

While in our third year operating as a new community masjid, our administration was significantly challenged by the pandemic and the consequential closures of all in-person gatherings most of the year. The administration quickly adapted to the situation by taking measures to ensure continued programming and services for our community. New services and programming in 2020 included:

1. Covid-19 Awareness Videos
2. Weekend Islamic School Online (MFA Launched in September 2020)
3. Homeschooling Programming Online (HEAR)
4. Friday Counsels Online (in the absence of Jumu'a)
5. Ramadan Iftar Video Programming Online
6. Ramadan Course on the Biographies of the Scholars of the Quran
7. Courses in Theology & Fiqh Online
8. Eid Messaging

## **Strategic Relationships**

The executive director of Masjid Vaughan has managed to establish and maintain positive relationships with neighbouring businesses, residents, places of worship, local MPs, the York Regional Police and by-law parking officials. These relationships have helped to advocate for the masjid and its congregants.

## **The Masjid Vaughan Advisory Board (MVAB)**

The first Masjid Vaughan Advisory Board (MVAB) was initiated in May 2018 to provide good counsel and strategic advice to the management team of the masjid for a two year term. This rotating body of nominated men and women have proven to be of great benefit and support to the administration, and a community voice that advocates for various stakeholders of the masjid. The MVAB's term expired in May of 2020, and due to the onset of the pandemic new members have not yet been nominated.

# Challenges

## **Covid-19: Closures of In-Person Gatherings**

Due to the pandemic and provincial restrictions, the following in-person services at Masjid Vaughan were halted:

1. Daily Prayers (from March to August 2020)
2. Jumua Prayers (from March to June 2020)
3. Tarawih Prayers
4. Community Ramadan Iftar
5. Eid al-Fitr Prayer
6. Educational Programming (from March to December)
7. Counselling
8. Friday Night Youth Programming (Cancelled in 2020)
9. All other in-person gatherings (ceremonies and services)

The above closures resulted in shifting some of our services and programming online (see Services & Programming on page 6).

## **Financial Strain & Cash Flow**

Since 2018, donations made to Masjid Vaughan have been restricted to the use of paying expenditures related to the masjid, its property and loans—and not to human resources related to programming.

This model has proven successful thus far because of the executive team's willingness to administer and manage the masjid without compensation except from the revenue streams generated from educational programming and services offered at Masjid Vaughan.

This year, due to the closures caused by the pandemic, the masjid suffered a loss in donations. Risalah Foundation found it necessary to cover the deficit. (See Question 6 on page 5).



# Developments & Future Plans

## **New Full-Time School: Dar al-Burhan**

The initial vision of Masjid Vaughan included a banquet hall. After much consultation with congregants and invested families, the executive team advocated for changes to the expansion plan. Approval and funding was granted by the charity's board to launch a full-time private school at Masjid Vaughan in January 2021. For more information on Risalah Foundation's latest project please visit [www.daralburhan.ca](http://www.daralburhan.ca).

## **Janaza Services**

The vision of the Janaza Service at Masjid Vaughan aims to provide the best resources, guidance and assistance for families preparing their deceased for Islamic burial, in a way that is uncomplicated and compassionate.

On October 3, 2020, Masjid Vaughan's Janaza-fund campaign was launched online which quickly raised over 50% of the phase one target (\$100,000). With this fund, Masjid Vaughan's executive team started plans towards opening a full-solution Janaza service by January 2022 that will serve the community in the following areas, God willing:

- Multi-institutional coordination and logistics;
- Registration of the Death and Death Certificates;
- Coffin Preparation & Purchase;
- Transportation to Masjid for Refrigeration;
- Coordination with Cemetery Grounds & Purchase of Plot;
- Ritual Washing (Ghusl);
- Ritual Shrouding (Kafan)
- Ritual Prayer (Janaza);
- Receiving Family Guests and/or Non-Muslims at the Masjid;
- Transportation to Cemetery Grounds and;
- Ritual Procedures at the Burial Site.

## **Renovations & Upgrades**

Plans to repurpose the "choir balcony" was designed soon after the church property was purchased in 2018. In 2020, the construction was initiated and and the space has now been transformed into the "Mihrab Room", an elegant private space for hosting scholars and special guests to the masjid.

The donor recognition wall was also constructed and our Founders, Partners and Visionaries were contacted to finalize the details of their brass plates that now decorate the beautiful display in the lobby of the masjid.

# Conclusion

Buildings do not change our condition, but the meaningful activities that occur within sacred spaces can transform communities. Since the opening of Masjid Vaughan in 2018, we have been witnessing before our very eyes the gradual transformation of a sacred space through a community that is alive and well. Muslims across the GTA have joined hands together to ensure that this great initiative continues to mature.

Today, Masjid Vaughan has become, for many, the heart of our community because it is a place that helps us return back to our primordial purpose. It is a place where we come together to worship and learn about God, His Messenger ﷺ, and how to live the teachings that bring life and beauty to our families, friends and neighbours. It is because of your support that this all has become possible. May God bless you and grant you the greatest reward for your involvement and contributions!

Supporters and donors who wish to know more about Masjid Vaughan, or desire to forward any feedback or suggestions regarding its activities, are encouraged to contact the management.



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