

MASJID VAUGHAN

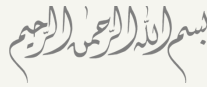
ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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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.

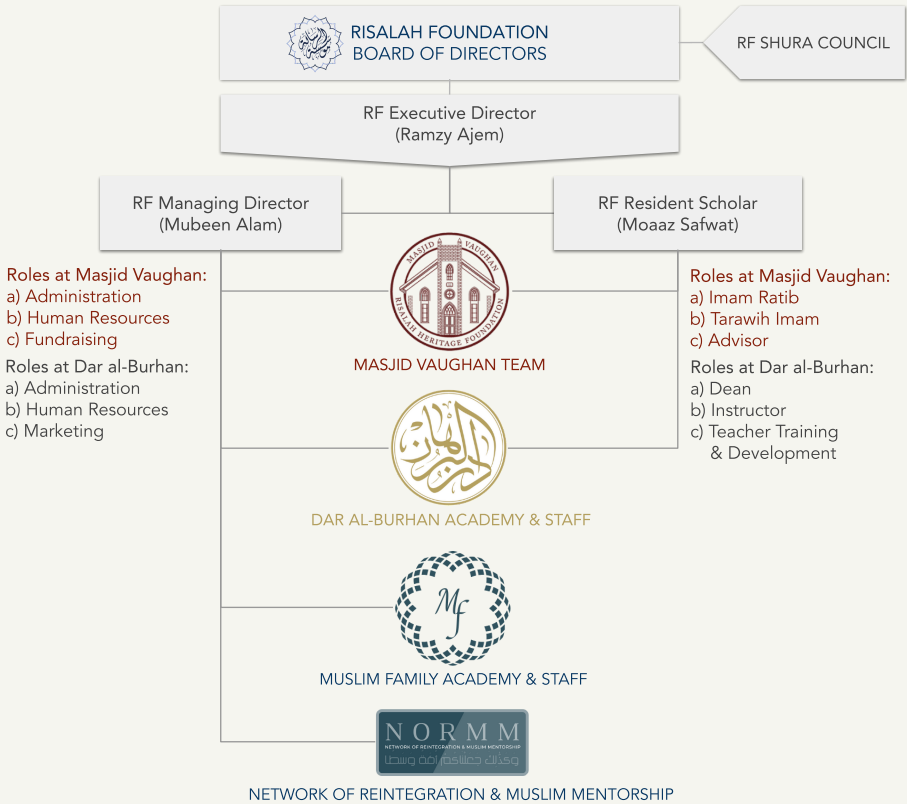
This report does not include other community projects of Risalah Foundation, nor does it encompass the charity as a whole. Those desiring a comprehensive financial report for Risalah Foundation can view the online audited reports on its website at www.risalah.ca.

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



Financial Questions

YEAR 2021

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 2021?

The total amount of designated donations collected for Masjid Vaughan in 2021 was **\$ 366,590.00**. This amount does not include revenue generated by Risalah Foundation services and projects.

3. What was the total amount of zakat collected in 2021?

The total amount of zakat collected and designated for local deserving recipients in 2021 was **\$ 113,366.28**.

4. What was the total amount of expenses incurred in 2021?

The total amount of expenses incurred to maintain and operate Masjid Vaughan in 2021 was **\$ 392,784.72**.

Qard Payback (interest-free loan)	\$ 16,980.00
Islamic Financing (Principal & User-fee)	\$ 133,327.08
Professional Fees	\$ 21,153.23
Maintenance & Operations	\$ 62,059.55
Renovations & Upgrades	\$ 81,321.34
Property Expenses	\$ 21,256.08
Utilities	\$ 15,848.39
Honorariums	\$ 8,272.41
Platform & Processing Costs	\$ 17,258.28
Subscriptions	\$ 14,671.49
Supplies	\$ 4,125.74
Food & Hosting	\$ 2,605.10
Telecommunications	\$ 3,906.03

Financial Questions

YEAR 2021

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

The total amount paid into equity in 2021 was: **\$ 66,043.91**, and the total amount paid for user-fees in 2021 was: **\$ 67,283.12**.

6. Did Masjid Vaughan run a deficit or a surplus in 2021?

In 2021 Masjid Vaughan ran a deficit of **\$26,194.72** 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 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.

Services & Programming

While in our fourth year operating as a new community masjid, our administration continued to be challenged by the second year of the pandemic, associated closures and capacity limits on in-person gatherings. Despite these difficult times, the charity managed to move forward with plans and launched a full-time Quran school (Dar al-Burhan) for Masjid Vaughan in January 2021. Other continued services and programming in 2021 included:

1. Muslim Family Academy (Weekend Islamic Online School)
2. Friday Jum'u'a at ~50% reduced capacity
3. Ramadan Tarawih (1st week only due to provincial closures)
4. Online Eid Messaging
5. Islamic Heritage Month Open House (October 2021)
6. Dar al-Burhan Academy (January 2021)
7. Shama'il Reading (over a 100 online participants from around the world)
8. Prophetic Governance Seminar with Shaykh Ahmed Saad Al-Azhari
9. Grand Mawlid 2021 (in-person with distinguished scholars)

Strategic Relationships

Masjid Vaughan's administration has maintained positive relationships with key stakeholders of the community. These relationships have helped to advocate for the masjid and its congregants. To further develop mutual understanding between Muslims and the wider community, the masjid's charity applied for a grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage (Government of Canada) to hold an open house for Islamic Heritage Month. The application was successful and the event was held on the 23 of October 2021. The open house included a tour of the masjid, an Introduction to Islam seminar with Shaykh Ahmad Saad al-Azhari of the UK, a bazaar, free books, and an Arabic calligraphy booth. The open house was well attended and various community partners and neighbours of the wider community were present.

The Masjid Vaughan Advisory Board (MVAB)

The term for the first MVAB members expired in May of 2020. Due to continued pandemic restrictions new members were not nominated in 2021, and the charity's board had decided to discontinue nominations for the MVAB until further notice.

Developments & Future Plans

Newly Appointed Imam & Resident Scholar

In October 2021, the charity appointed Shaykh Dr. Moaaz Safwat Salem as the Imam of the daily prayers and the Tarawih at Masjid Vaughan. Dr. Moaaz is a world-renowned teacher and scholar of Quran recitation and its related sciences with several Ijazat (licenses) from the most credible scholars of our age. The Shaykh also serves as the Dean and instructor at Dar al-Burhan Academy for Quran Studies. His extensive experience in institutional management also enables him to be an advisor for the charity, Risalah Foundation. His position includes working closely with the administration at Masjid Vaughan to ensure congregants are experiencing the highest standards in religious services and education. Shaykh Moaaz is committed to helping build a vibrant and welcoming community around the masjid.

New School & Lead Instructor

In January 2021, Dar al-Burhan Academy was opened at Masjid Vaughan with Shaykh Ahmed Al-Suwaid as its lead instructor. Dar al-Burhan is a premier educational institution dedicated to the study and preservation of the Quran and its related sciences. Currently, the academy offers:

1. Hifz Diploma Program with Prophetic Authorization (Ijaza) for boys (full-time and part-time) and;
2. Courses for students and teachers of the Quran (online and in-person).

Janaza Services

The Janaza facility at Masjid Vaughan is still undergoing construction and has been delayed by six months due to supply shortages caused by the pandemic. Family-led Janaza services are scheduled to start operations by September 2022, God willing.

Renovations & Upgrades

Masjid Vaughan's basement underwent a major renovation after enduring a flood caused by torrential rains. Additional sump-pumps were installed to prevent future flooding. The renovated space now consists of a 3-piece bathroom, recreation room, a kitchen, two offices, a recording studio, security cameras, a gym, a separate entrance and storage room.

The auditorium was also renovated and now includes two offices for the faculty of the Quran school, a library for its students and a space for a future kitchenette. The entire auditorium, including the musallah, is now cooled by the installation of three new central air-conditioning units.

The house next door, which is part of the masjid property, was renovated and converted into a two-family home in 2021 and is currently generating income for the charity through a rental agreement with two compatible tenants.

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 (January to Mid-February and Mid-April to June)
2. Jumu`a Prayers (January to Mid-February and Mid-April to June)
3. Tarawih Prayers
4. Community Ramadan Iftar
5. Eid al-Fitr Prayer
6. In-Person Educational Programming
7. Counselling
8. All other in-person gatherings (January to Mid-February and Mid-April to June)

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).

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 thriving. 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 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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