



Masjid Vaughan

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Masjid Vaughan, founded on April 15, 2018, serves as a revered place of worship for the Muslim community. Nestled just a few hundred metres from Vaughan City Hall in Maple, Ontario, this heritage site holds a storied past spanning over 140 years. Its interior, adorned with mid-century Gothic architecture, has been meticulously restored, harmonizing a North American Islamic ambiance that exudes both tranquility and grandeur. The credit for this distinctive blessing goes to the Almighty, while heartfelt appreciation is extended to our local community whose ongoing generous contributions uphold this sacred haven, fostering a welcoming environment for all.

Mission

To deliver religious services to the congregants of the masjid in a manner that is exceptional, authentic and relevant.

Vision

To become North America's foremost leader of excellence in Islamic religious services, education, and community living.

Values

In honouring our sacred duty to Allah, we continue to uphold our commitment to integrity, beauty, and exceptionalism—values that set us apart and enable us to aim for a higher standard of service rightfully owed to 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)

All praise is due to God, Masjid Vaughan emerged in 2018 through the unity of the local Sunni Muslim community, marking Vaughan's inaugural masjid. Thanks to your support, this masjid continues to stride forward providing the community with much needed religious services, Islamic education for all ages and a peaceful haven for communal life. Masjid Vaughan's executive team presents for you the annual reports, detailing the community's accomplishments, objectives, and hurdles.

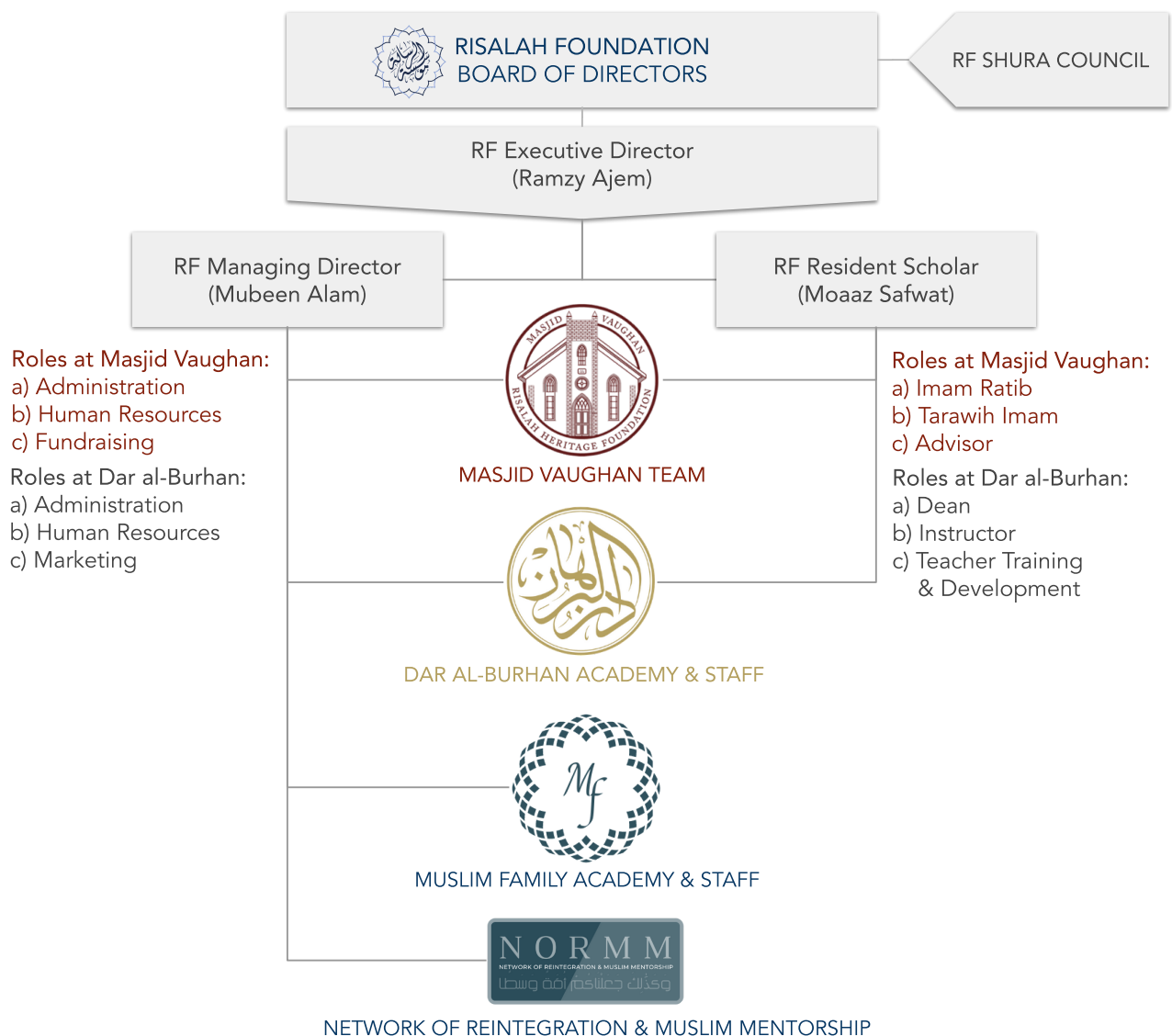
This report primarily aims to furnish you with precise, transparent financial insights concerning Masjid Vaughan in a concise and comprehensible manner. It does not encompass other projects under Risalah Foundation. For a comprehensive financial overview of Risalah Foundation, the audited reports are available on its website, <https://www.risalah.ca/reports.html>.

May this endeavour provide you with valuable information, instilling greater confidence in our responsible and transparent journey together toward serving the house of Allah.

— *Executive Team, Masjid Vaughan*

Governance Structure

Masjid Vaughan, a community initiative by the Canadian registered charity Risalah Foundation, operates under internal policies and by-laws emphasizing good governance and accountability. The elected board of directors governs in the charity's best interest, providing oversight, support, and guidance to Masjid Vaughan's executive team through consistent, constructive feedback. To learn more about the charity please visit the *About* page at www.risalah.ca.



Financial Questions

YEAR 2022

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 2022?

The total amount of designated donations collected for Masjid Vaughan in 2022 was \$ 467,321. This amount does not include the donations collected for the 2022 MV Expansion Campaign nor does it include revenue generated by Risalah Foundation services and projects.

3. What was the total amount of zakat collected in 2022?

The total amount of zakat collected and designated for local deserving recipients in 2022 was \$ 103,996.

4. What was the total amount of expenses incurred in 2022?

The total amount of expenses incurred to maintain and operate Masjid Vaughan in 2022 was \$ 461,503

Qard Payback (interest-free loan)	\$ 0
Islamic Financing (Principal & User-fee)	\$ 133,327
Professional Fees	\$ 12,494
Maintenance & Operations	\$ 95,053
Renovations & Upgrades	\$ 72,293
Property Expenses	\$ 18,293
Utilities	\$ 25,000
Honorariums	\$ 12,778
Platform & Processing Costs	\$ 30,232
Subscriptions	\$ 12,451
Supplies	\$ 8,823
Food & Hosting	\$ 32,438
Telecommunications	\$ 8,321

Financial Questions

YEAR 2022

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

The total amount paid into equity in 2022 was: \$ 66,044, and the total amount paid for user-fees in 2022 was: \$ 67,283.

6. Did Masjid Vaughan run a deficit or a surplus in 2022?

In 2022 Masjid Vaughan ran a surplus of \$5,817 which was designated to the expansion project (see section on Developments & Future Plans).

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

Since 2018, the Masjid's executive team salaries have been covered by the revenue generated through Risalah's programs and initiatives, rather than masjid donations. However, in 2022, the administration deemed it necessary to allocate a portion of the general donations towards the Imam's position, totalling \$46,666.

For a comprehensive overview of the charity's total revenue from all its initiatives, expenses and salaries, please refer to the published annual report available at www.risalah.ca.

Community Impact

Serving A Rapidly Growing Community

Vaughan's Muslim community reflects a rich diversity, predominantly comprising young, middle- and upper-class families. Masjid Vaughan has experienced a surge in inquiries from new neighbours since its establishment. The mosque's Jumu'a service caters to a weekly attendance of 500 to 700 individuals, while its weekend school, the Muslim Family Academy, boasts a registration of over 150 students aged 5 to 17 years old.

Services & Programming

As we entered our fourth year as a flourishing community masjid, our administration faced the task of transitioning from the pandemic era back to regular in person services and programming which included:

1. Friday Jumu'a
2. Ramadan Tarawih
3. Eid Prayers
4. Muslim Family Academy (Weekend School)
5. Dar al-Burhan Academy (Full-Time Quran School)
6. Janaza Facility Inaugural Opening & Related Seminars
7. Grand Mawlid 2022
8. Quran & Hadith Circles of Learning
9. Specialized Seminars for Adults
10. Nikah Ceremonies
11. Weekly Family & Youth Counselling

Strategic Relationships

The administration of Masjid Vaughan has nurtured strong relationships with vital community stakeholders, leveraging these connections to advocate effectively for the mosque and its members. These strategic relationships encompass key figures such as the Mayor of Vaughan, the City's Counsellor, the head of York Region Police Hate Crimes Unit, the CEO of Islamic Relief Canada, the Executive Director of ISNA Canada, key management personnel at John Howard Society and various local Muslim entrepreneurs and contractors.

Reputation

In its fifth year of operation, Masjid Vaughan has earned an outstanding reputation among its visitors and congregants. Renowned for its cleanliness, inviting ambiance, and impactful, pertinent messaging, the mosque has left a lasting impression. As evidenced by Google's statistics, the masjid's business profile has attracted 48,677 views, boasting an impressive rating of 4.9 out of 5 based on 227 reviews.

Developments & Future Plans

Inaugural Janaza Facility & Services

The Janaza facility at Masjid Vaughan has been operational since November 2022. It is the first fully completed and functional Janaza Service for the Sunni Muslim Community in Vaughan. The masjid's administration has successfully recruited an experienced Janaza coordinator to oversee and provide the following services:

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

Expansion Project (Phase 1)

Since the inception of Masjid Vaughan in 2018, the surrounding residential developments have experienced an exponential growth rate. Without intervention, these encroaching developments threaten to overwhelm the MV community and diminishes the chance to create additional parking, easing local congestion and rise in traffic.

Alhamdulillah, on the 27th of Ramadan 1443, a unique opportunity unfolded for our community. Two neighbouring properties with Mixed-use zoning on Church St. were put up for sale and swiftly purchased for the masjid by a generous supporter and dedicated congregant (may Allah reward him abundantly).

By August 2022, owing to the masjid's expansion campaign and unwavering community support, the charity successfully acquired the closest adjacent vacant lot (9 Church St.) through a purchase agreement with the community supporter, who relinquished any profits from the sale, seeking only the pleasure of Allah. The empty lot was purchased on the 15th of August 2022 by Risalah Foundation for **\$985,460.77**.

Expansion Project (Phase 2)

The second property (11 Church St.), comprising a 2-bedroom home, remains a pending purchase. Once acquired by the charity through a lease-to-own agreement, it will undergo renovations by volunteers, and transformed into an income-generating asset until another campaign is launched in the upcoming year.

Challenges

Islamic Financing Costing the Community More Time & Money

Masjid Vaughan's initial property purchase was facilitated via an interest-free declining balance agreement (musharaka-mutanaqisa) with a financing facility of \$1.8 million. Currently, this sum incurs a monthly cost of \$11,110 for the community. However, only \$5,503 of this monthly payment contributes to the principal amount, while the remaining \$5,607 serves as a "user-fee" cost. Similar to rent for utilizing the unpaid portion of a property, this cost elongates the time and increases the expenses required to settle the property.

Solution to Save Money & Pay-off Property Faster

While Islamic Financing was the most viable choice to launch this project four years ago, the current substantial community backing has rendered it unnecessary. With an interest-free loan of around \$1.5 million, the community could save thousands spent on Islamic Financing as a "user-fee," enabling us to pay off the entire property within two years.

Congestion & the Need to Develop Future Parking

One of the primary hurdles confronting Masjid Vaughan is the lack of adequate parking for the Friday Jumu'a congregation. The executive team has effectively addressed this challenge through a range of strategies. However, the community and neighbourhood is increasingly in need of additional parking to ease local congestion and traffic.

God willing, in 2023, the administration plans to initiate a feasibility study of neighboring properties. This study aims to cater to the community's parking needs and explore potential income-generating projects to sustain the Masjid's programming and services.

Conclusion

Buildings themselves may not alter our circumstances, but the meaningful endeavors within sacred spaces hold the power to transform communities. Since Masjid Vaughan's inception in 2018, we've observed a gradual metamorphosis of this sacred space nurtured by a vibrant and thriving community. Muslims across the GTA have united to sustain and develop this noble endeavor.

Today, Masjid Vaughan has evolved into the heart of our community for many, serving as a sanctuary that guides us back to our inherent purpose. It's a place where we congregate to worship, deepen our understanding of God, His Messenger ﷺ, and embody teachings that enrich the lives of our families, friends, and neighbors.

Your unwavering support has made all this possible. May God bless you and grant you the highest rewards for your involvement and contributions!

Supporters and donors seeking further information about Masjid Vaughan or wishing to provide feedback or suggestions about its activities are encouraged to reach out to the management.



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