MCF

Muslim Charitable Foundation

Issue No. 10
1446 / 2025

Building Hope!



A Legacy of Inspiration

Embracing Generosity

Mobility and Freedom

www.mcfaustralia.org.au

Meet the MCF Team.



Yusuf Khatree
President



Osman Rane
Vice President, OAM



Janeth Deen
Director, OAM



Farouk Adam
Director



Iffat Suleman
Treasurer



Fatima Gutta
Secretary



Hamza (Robbie) Maestracci
Project Officer



Imtiaz Mahomedy
Assistant Treasurer



Jehaan Gourley
Assistant Secretary



Fawzia Batty



Faisel Essof



Riyaad Ally



Ameen Sonpra



Yacine Benhenni



Sally Kuyateh



Ansary Muhammad



Ismail Bosthan



Mohammed Sharif



Kinza Ali

MCF Celebrates Local Hero Award.

We are thrilled to announce that one of our dedicated members, Yusuf Khatree, has been named a Westfield Mt Gravatt Local Hero for 2024! This prestigious award recognises individuals making a significant difference in their community.



Thanks to the overwhelming support and votes from our amazing community, Yusuf's nomination secured him this incredible honour. As part of the award, MCF will receive a grant to further assist those in need.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who voted for Yusuf and for their ongoing support of MCF's mission. This recognition is a testament to the collective effort and compassion within our community. We are incredibly proud of Yusuf and inspired to continue our work, making a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.

At Muslim Charitable Foundation, we're proud to be powered by 100% volunteers.

Our dedicated team of volunteers ensures that your support has a maximum impact, allowing us to provide vital assistance to individuals and communities in need.

Muslim Charitable Foundation (MCF) is a registered charity. To view our details on the ACNC portal, visit www.mcfaustralia.org.au and click on the ACNC logo on our website, alternatively visit the ACNC website on www.acnc.gov.au/charityregister

Donate Online at

www.mcfaustralia.org.au

Donate by Bank Transfer

Bank: Bank of Queensland
BSB: 124-155
Account Numbers:
Zakaat: 2089 7312 | Sadaqah: 2089 7392 | Emergency: 2089 7395
Fitrah: 2096 3614 | Interest: 2089 7385 | Admin: 2176 5225
Housing: 2325 2116

All donations of $2 or more are Tax deductible

MCF
Muslim Charitable Foundation

REGISTERED CHARITY
acnc.gov.au/charityregister

P.O. Box 108
Underwood, QLD, 4119

info@mcfaustralia.org.au

0435 839 928

Presidents Report.



by Yusuf Khatree

As-Salaamu-Alaikum

I begin in the name of Allah (SWT), The Beneficent, The Merciful.

Peace and Salutations to our beloved Nabi, Prophet Muhammad (SAW), his family and companions.

I begin with the reminder to myself and all of us of verse 60 from The Holy Quran in Surah Tauba (Chapter 9):

"Alms are for the poor and the needy, and those who collect them, and those whose hearts are to be reconciled, and to free the captives and the debtors, and for the cause of Allah, and (for) the wayfarer, a duty imposed by Allah. Allah is Knower, Wise."

This verse gives us clear guidance and direction to perform our duties in the work that we have chosen to do.

Where are we fifteen years later?

At our formation in 2009, we were clear with our duties and responsibilities and have stood by our principles of transparency, honesty and accountability. We are the only Zakaat-based organisation that is administered by volunteers. This gives us a distinct advantage of having minimal administration costs. And those are unavoidable costs such as banking fees, insurances, rates, etc. And this, undoubtedly is a strength that we cherish.

We are supported by our very loyal donors, our volunteers, the various masajid and organisations that we work with and our families. MCF is a community organisation – for the community, by the community.

This year also saw the arrival of more Charities opening offices in Brisbane. These organisations have full-time staff and have huge marketing funding. MCF has succeeded without these marketing campaigns and rather utilising our funds for direct assistance to those in need. Our success also lies in quick and efficient delivery of aid to those in need. Our team of investigators/interviewees work tirelessly in attending to the needs of our community efficiently and timeously. Their work and commitment are highly appreciated both by donors and recipients.

Our relationship with organisations, masajids, Imams and community leaders is strong, respectful and efficient. Undoubtedly, we have removed, the responsibility of taking care of those in need from the Imams and the masajid. And we continuously urge the community to make MCF the first “port of call” for any individual or family requiring assistance.

The complex situation surrounding the visas offered to migrants and refugees make it very difficult for families to sustain themselves. The various visa categories exclude work rights and places further burdens on families to survive. MCF has fulfilled that role since inception and will continue to attempt to help wherever we can.

Our emergency housing plays a vital role in our community. Through your generous support, our completed Granny flat has been well utilised for families in need of accommodation. However, going forward, we will need to demolish and re-build our front building. This building has served us well for the last 10 years (it’s a 40-year-old building) and is in need of major repairs. It has served us well for many years, but the costs of maintaining it in its present state is not financially viable. With this in mind, we are in the process of preparing plans for the new building.

Our Food bank has grown substantially this year. The economic climate places further burden on families and once again, MCF has filled the role of being able to provide some basic food items. Your kind donations in cash and kind are appreciated so that we can continue to assist the most vulnerable in our community. Clothing and kitchenware are also collected and distributed from our premises.

As a volunteer-based organisation, MCF is always looking out for volunteers to assist and to be part of our succession planning process. The groundwork is done, and we must ensure the continuation and sustainability of the organisation.

Once again, our deepest appreciation to all our donors, supporters, well-wishers and our families. Your support for the work of helping to uplift the vulnerable members of our community is invaluable and much appreciated.

The success of MCF has been based on our founding principles and must continue with the same belief, commitment and drive. As a team, we can and will succeed. Insha Allah.

I remain your humble servant.

Yusuf Khatree



Case Report.

July 2023 to June 2024

by Osman Rane



Housing Crisis

The rapid rise in rents and the shortage of suitable housing continues to be the driving factor affecting many of our clients who are experiencing financial hardship. This is due to a number of events, mainly the sharp rise in real estate with investors selling their properties on the booming market and the tenant given notice to leave.

We are getting calls almost daily. This has caused extreme stress and anxiety to those concerned. Those who do find a place are now paying much higher rent and subsequently seeking rent assistance from us.

Emergency Accommodation

The living area upstairs has proven invaluable, providing emergency accommodation to the homeless or to those at risk. This year alone has seen the accommodation used twenty two times and one hundred and nine times since the house was purchased eight years ago. Some have stayed a week and some up to a month. The difficulty is finding another place. We have now built a granny flat on the premises to allow several people at one time to stay. This has been a blessing and has been occupied most of the time.

Cost of Living Expenses

Economic hardship due to increased cost of living expenses is having a huge effect on the wellbeing of many of our clients. It leads to depression, stress, anxiety, a feeling of hopelessness, family breakdown, domestic violence, substance abuse, homelessness, and sometimes suicide. Our community is not immune to this and our team is constantly reminded of the hardships faced by our brothers and sisters in our Community almost on a daily basis. This is not confined to migrants or refugees, but affects those who are born and raised here as well.

Client Assessment and Verification Process

Most clients are assessed at the MCF office and provided with their needs, financial aid, food, clothes and furniture. We still have to make home visits occasionally. This financial year, our team investigated, interviewed and recorded four hundred and eighty eight cases (488), a decrease of 67 cases from the previous financial year (555). All of the above were provided with assistance dependent on their needs. All clients are required to produce bank statements to verify income and expenses. Most are recipients of Zakaat. If there is any uncertainty, then another account is used if warranted.

Visa Cancellations or Extensions

This is a major contributor to several families and individuals seeking help. Some have had their visas cancelled even after having jobs and supporting themselves for many years. When they lodge an appeal they lose all income and work rights. Others have six monthly extensions added to their visas on a regular basis allowing them to work but find it impossible to find a job due to the uncertainty of their stay. They cannot pay rent, utilities or even put food on the table. If not for us and other Charities they would become homeless. MCF is paying all the living costs for many of these families on a continual basis. This can mean that MCF is paying around $25,000.00 rent per year for just one family.

Medical Assistance

MCF has assisted with procedures, payment of bills, including scans and operations, scripts etc. We continue providing financial assistance to World Wellness Group who provide medical treatment for the most vulnerable people who do not have access to Medicare benefits.

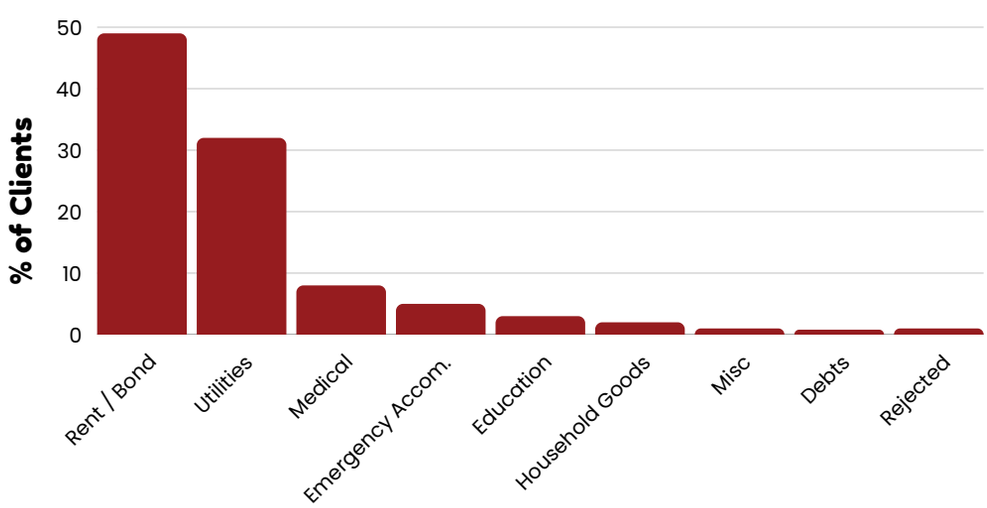
Food Hampers – Food Distribution

This area has shown the biggest increase in the past 12 months. We provide food, which includes meat, chicken, and a wide variety of groceries. Dozens of families line up every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon to collect food. We allow each family one visit per month. Most of it is donated by our generous donors. During the year we distribute hundreds of food hampers throughout the community. Even organisations such as Red Cross pick up hampers every month to distribute to their mainly Muslim clients. May Allah (s.w.t.) reward all the donors InshaAllah. We have maintained a strong bond with Muslim Aid Australia who provide us with food vouchers and Merciful Servants who provide food to the homeless and needy.

Referred Clients

Many of our clients are referred to us from Government support agencies, (Red Cross, SSI, Romero Centre, WWG, Multicultural Australia, Hart 4000) Schools, Church groups, Hospitals, Aid workers, Imams, Mosque Societies, and various Community organisations. Requests for help are received on a daily basis and actioned almost immediately. Much praise must go to all our members for helping with many of the cases.

Osman Rane



488

Cases interviewed, investigated and record during 2023 - 2024 FY

22

No. of times MCF emergency accommodation was used during 2023 - 2024 FY

Project Report.



by Hamza (Robbie) Maestracci

It's been a year of growth and challenges as we've worked to support our community's most vulnerable members. We've expanded our services and partnerships to help those facing addiction, homelessness, youth justice issues, and other life challenges.

Addiction and Rehabilitation Support

We've been working hard to support those struggling with addiction, helping them access rehab programs and secure stable housing. While there have been setbacks and even a tragic loss, our dedicated team continues to provide unwavering support, advocate for extended rehabilitation stays, and offer guidance to both individuals and their families affected by addiction. We remain committed to this vital work and preventing future tragedies.

Employment & Skills Development Initiative

This year, we tackled youth unemployment by helping young people overcome barriers like getting their driver's licenses, which opened doors to job opportunities. We're now focused on helping these newly licensed individuals find jobs and are exploring exciting new skill development programs inspired by a local initiative. Plus, we're building a network of volunteer youth mentors to provide guidance and support to at-risk youth in our community.

Youth Justice Engagement

We've continued our important work with youth justice this year, supporting young people leaving detention and reintegrating into society. This includes providing mentorship and guidance to help them find housing and employment. We've also started visiting juvenile detention centres in the West Moreton region to offer support and mentoring, building relationships with these young people that will continue after their release.

Mental Health & Crisis Intervention

Our team has been busy responding to urgent needs in our community, helping those facing homelessness, domestic violence, and mental health crises. We've worked hard to provide immediate support, including emergency accommodation, legal advocacy, and emotional guidance. While we continue to see a need for more Muslim-focused support services, we're excited about the new Muslim rehabilitation center being established in Sydney, which will be a valuable resource for our community.

New Partnerships & Community Initiatives

We've been busy building bridges with other organisations, both Muslim and non-Muslim, to expand the resources and support available to our community. For example, we've connected with a group of Christian youth pastors who run a fantastic support center for at-risk youth, offering valuable programs like hair-cutting training and self-defense classes. We're referring young people to their program and are inspired to develop similar initiatives within our own community.

Advocacy & Legal Support

We've been stepping up our advocacy efforts this year, helping individuals and families navigate the complexities of the legal system. This includes supporting new arrivals to Australia, those facing immigration detention, and people needing help with bail applications and reintegrating into society after legal challenges. We're also pushing for better access to culturally sensitive support services for everyone.

Future Goals

Looking ahead, we're excited to expand our services even further! Here's what we're focusing on:

- **Youth Mentorship Network:** We're building a strong network of mentors to provide guidance and support to at-risk youth.
- **Muslim Rehab Program:** Our dream is to establish a local rehab facility offering a culturally sensitive and supportive environment.
- **Increased Support for Prisoner Rehabilitation:** We're committed to helping those reintegrating into society after incarceration with tailored support plans.

Conclusion

We're proud of the positive impact we've made this year, but we know there's still much to do! With your support, we'll continue to work together to help our community overcome challenges and thrive.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission, and we look forward to another year of service and growth, InshaAllah.

Hamza Robbie Maestracci

3.3 Million
Australians are living in poverty.[1]

1 in 6
Australian children are living in poverty.[1]

23%
Of people experiencing homelessness are between the age of 12 - 24.[2]

[1] **Poverty in Australia** - ACOSS and UNSW - https://povertyandinequality.acoss.org.au/

[2] **Estimating Homelessness: Census** - Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) - https://www.abs.gov.au

Treasurer's Report



by Sally Kuyateh

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

Australia's Cost of Living at a Glance

Australia is facing a cost of living crisis, with prices for essentials like housing, food, and fuel continuing to rise. This is putting immense pressure on families, many of whom are struggling to make ends meet and are increasingly relying on support organisations like ours. Factors like high inflation, low wage growth, and a housing shortage are contributing to this crisis, which is even pushing some into homelessness.

Charitable Programs

Our amazing volunteers and management committee members have been busy providing hands-on support to the community. We've offered emergency accommodation to families and single mothers, and provided assistance with essential needs like rent, food, clothing, medical care, and schooling. We're proud to make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most.

The Way We Work

We've continued to strengthen our partnerships with amazing organisations like Muslim Aid Australia, Merciful Servants, World Wellness Group, Islamic Council of Queensland, Red Cross, Multicultural Australia, and the Muslim community. These collaborations help us make an even bigger impact in the community and solidify MCF's position as a trusted and reliable partner. Our focus remains on helping a diverse range of people in need, including families, those facing financial hardship and homelessness, people from different cultural backgrounds, the unemployed, and youth.

Financial Highlights

Our financial position remains strong thanks to your generous support. We're committed to transparency and responsible resource management.

Here's a quick snapshot of our finances:

- **Income:** Increased slightly by 2.6% in 2024. A big thank you to our dedicated volunteers and committee members for their innovative fundraising efforts!
- **Bank Balances:** Remain strong, even though cash and cash equivalents decreased slightly by 0.38%.
- **Liabilities:** We have none.
- **Expenditure:** Increased by 5% overall, with Zakaat distribution increasing by 18%. This reflects the growing need for our services in the community.

We're confident in our ability to continue meeting our obligations and providing vital support to those in need.

Our Auditors

Norcrest Business Services undertook the 2024 financial year audit and confirmed that the financial reports have been prepared, in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for- Profits Commission Act 2012 and they are satisfied that the audit evidence that they obtained is sufficient and appropriate for them to provide an excerpt for qualified opinion.

Acknowledgments

A huge thank you to our incredible team, volunteers, and donors. We couldn't do this without your support. We remain dedicated to making a positive impact in our community. We're excited for the future and the opportunities it holds to help those in need.

Thank you for entrusting me with the responsibilities of Treasurer.

Sally Kuyateh

18%
Increase in Zakat distribution (compared to last year).

$649
Median weekly rental cost in Brisbane.[3]

100%
Of donations received by MCF goes to supporting the community.

[3] **Rent growth picked up in the start of 2024, taking rents to new record highs** - CoreLogic - https://corelogic.com.au



The Cottage Store.

by Fatima Gutta

Our beloved Cottage Store continues to be a beacon of hope for those in need within our community. This incredible resource provides a wide array of essential items completely free of charge, thanks to the generosity of our donors and volunteers.

Step inside, and you'll find shelves stocked with donated clothing, toys, blankets, furniture, and household goods – everything from dining ware to books. But that's not all! We also offer a lifeline to those facing food insecurity with our carefully prepared food hampers. These hampers contain essential groceries and staples, providing nourishment and comfort to families and individuals struggling to make ends meet.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our community. Individuals donate generously, and our dedicated volunteers give their time to sort, organise, and pack items, ensuring the Cottage Store remains a welcoming and well-stocked haven for those who need it most.

We are immensely grateful for every contribution that makes the Cottage Store a vital source of support and a testament to the compassion within our community.





Youth Event.

MCF are proud to contribute to a recent youth event held at the Islamic College of Brisbane (ICB). The event offered a fun and enriching experience for attendees, with a program that included a delicious dinner, inspiring Islamic reminders, and engaging activities like futsal, basketball, and trivia.

It was a fantastic opportunity for young people to connect, learn, and grow in a positive and supportive environment. We're always happy to support initiatives that empower and inspire the youth in our community.



Mobility and Freedom.

This year, MCF rallied our community to support two families in need of wheelchair-accessible vehicles. We held two dedicated fundraisers, each with the goal of providing a vehicle that could be modified to accommodate a wheelchair, empowering these families with greater mobility and independence.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, both fundraisers successfully reached their targets. The vehicles have now been purchased, and we're working closely with the families to ensure the necessary modifications are implemented smoothly by the NDIS.

This is a wonderful example of how our community comes together to support one another. We're incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed to these fundraisers and helped make a life-changing difference for these families.







Images above used for information purposes and are not the actual vehicles and modifications

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A Legacy of Inspiration.

Remembering Kemal Omar

From humble beginnings to an unassailable legacy, Br Mustafa Kemal Omar transcended the ordinary to become a beacon of inspiration.

Born in 1964, and growing up during the dark days of apartheid, Br Kemal was shaped by the political and historical currents of South Africa that would instill in him a fierce desire for justice and fair-play.

He brought this passion to Australia where he engaged and drove a range of activities that covered the local political, religious and social landscapes of his adopted country.

Despite facing the debilitating effects of motor neuron disease, Br Kemal displayed unwavering resilience, emerging stronger with each challenge.

Through all of this he would broker no self-pity or bitterness nor lament his hardships. Instead, Br. Kemal gave us a unique opportunity to reflect on our lives, recalibrate our moral compasses, become less self-serving, and find greater meaning in our existence. He showed us that no matter what challenges life serves up to you, you get to choose your attitude and response and to look on the bright side of life.

Long after his passing on 14 July 2024, Br Kemal's influence will continue to ripple through his beloved Queensland, touching countless lives.

Today, he is remembered not just for his achievements, but for the enduring legacy of his values, general knowledge and Islamic scholarship, and for the goodwill that he has left behind. The story of Mustafa Kemal Omar is a testament to the power of determination, vision, and an unyielding commitment to striving for moral fortitude.



MCF members with the donors who made this life-changing vehicle donation a reality.

MCF recently had the privilege of facilitating a truly heartwarming donation. The family of Br Kemal Omar generously donated a specially modified vehicle, previously owned by Br Kemal, to another family requiring wheelchair-accessible transportation.

We're honoured to have played a role in connecting these families and facilitating this meaningful gift. It's a testament to the compassion and generosity within our community.

maa

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Community Unity for Jumuah.

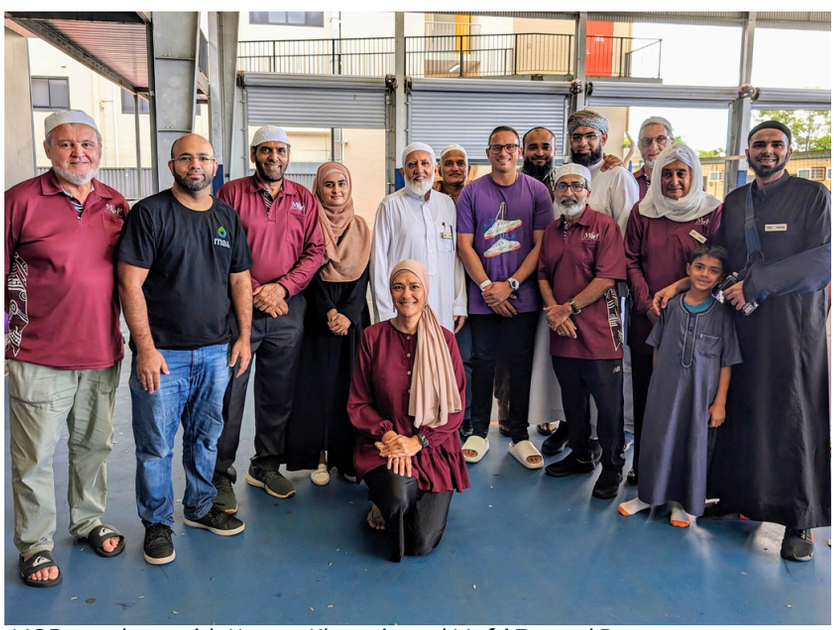
On Friday, March 29th, 2024, Muslim Charitable Foundation (MCF) hosted a special Jumu'ah prayer, at the Islamic College of Brisbane, open to the entire community. The event brought together people from all walks of life to pray and connect with one another.

The highlight of the service was a special guest appearance by Australian cricketer Usman Khawaja. Khawaja, a devout Muslim, spoke about the importance of faith and community, inspiring attendees with his words. Khawaja also spent time after Jumuah to provide fans with autographs.

The khutbah (sermon) was delivered by Mufti Zeeyad Ravat, a respected Islamic scholar and founder and director of Daarul Arqam - Australia. Mufti Ravat's insightful words focused on the importance of unity and compassion, emphasising the need to support those in need. Following the khutbah, Mufti Ravat also led the prayer.

The event served as a platform to raise awareness about MCF and its charitable work. Donations were collected to support MCF's various initiatives, which aim to alleviate poverty and suffering.

The Jumu'ah prayer at the Islamic College of Brisbane was a resounding success, fostering a sense of community and inspiring attendees to contribute to a worthy cause.



MCF members with Usman Khawaja and Mufti Zeeyad Ravat.



Usman Khawaja making some lucky fans' day with autographs and smiles.

Join us for our next community Jumu'ah at the Islamic College of Brisbane on Friday 18 April 2025 (public holiday).

More details will be provided on social media and our website.

ISLAMIC COLLEGE OF BRISBANE

Morality · Excellence · Innovation

At ICB, we believe in nurturing well-rounded individuals who not only excel academically but also develop a strong moral and spiritual foundation.

At the Islamic College of Brisbane, we believe a supportive learning environment is key to shaping our students' futures. Our state-of-the-art facilities, from advanced classrooms to expansive sports grounds, are designed to inspire and foster growth.

Supported by a diverse team of skilled professionals, we guide our students in planning for their future careers and personal success.

Through our Islamic Education program, we nurture the intellectual, physical, moral, spiritual, and aesthetic growth of our students. We offer a variety of activities designed to help them become confident, successful, and creative learners. At ICB, our students embrace the values of the Islamic faith while fostering a deep understanding of and connection to the broader Australian community.



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Building Hope.

Just after our last magazine went to print, MCF celebrated the handover of a newly constructed granny flat. This project, made possible entirely through generous donations from our community, provides much-needed emergency accommodation for families and individuals facing hardship.

Alhamdulillah, the granny flat has already been utilised numerous times, offering a safe haven and temporary respite for those in challenging circumstances. This initiative exemplifies the power of collective action and compassion, demonstrating how, together, we can make a tangible difference in the lives of the most vulnerable.





Letter of Appreciation to MCF

"After we were forced to flee our house without prior arrangement, MCF provided my children and I with everything we needed to live comfortably in addition to a safe place to stay.

They were understanding of my situation and the importance of providing my children with stability, and gave me the time I needed to find my family and I a suitable place to live during this current rental crisis. They wrote letters of recommendation to assist me in securing a private rental, and they even gave me some necessities for our new house.

If it weren't for MCF's assistance, I don't even know how I would have managed to stay composed during one of the most trying periods of my life or where we would have ended up without their amazing charity and support.

Thank you MCF you are truly our heroes"

Food Distribution to the Homeless.

MCF members have been actively volunteering alongside our partner organisation, Merciful Servants, to provide vital support to people experiencing homelessness in Brisbane. Together, we've been hitting the streets to distribute food and essential items to those in need at Roma Street Parklands.

This collaborative effort allows us to reach a wider population and ensure that vulnerable individuals receive nourishment and care. Our dedicated volunteers are making a tangible difference in the lives of those facing hardship, offering not just a meal but also compassion and human connection.

We are proud to partner with Merciful Servants in this important initiative and are grateful to our volunteers for their selfless dedication to serving the community. Their efforts embody the spirit of compassion and demonstrate the positive impact we can achieve through collaboration.





Embracing Generosity

by Imam Mohammed Azhari

How Charity and Zakah and MCF Enrich Brisbane's Diverse Communities

In the vibrant heart of Brisbane, the Islamic tradition of charity and Zakah isn't just a religious duty –it's a powerful force for good, strengthening bonds within the community and beyond. This principle of charitable giving is one of Islam's Five Pillars, and it deeply enriches our local Muslim community by extending a helping hand to all who need it.

The Heart of Zakah

The Quran emphasizes this principle of Zakah in Surah Al-Tawba (9:103), where Allah commands: "Take, [O, Muhammad], from their wealth a charity by which you purify them and cause them increase, and invoke [Allah's blessings] upon them."

Prophetic Teachings on Charity

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "Charity does not decrease wealth." This Hadith, reported in Sahih Muslim, highlights the paradoxical increase in blessings and spiritual growth that accompanies the giving of charity, resonating deeply with the activities of the MCF.

The Muslim Charitable Foundation: A Beacon of Hope

The Muslim Charitable Foundation (MCF) in Brisbane is at the forefront of transforming Zakah into action. The MCF goes beyond merely collecting and distributing funds; it's a pillar of support for everyone in the community. Whether it's offering meals to the homeless, providing shelter for victims of domestic violence, or pioneering affordable housing solutions like a granny flat for people in need of emergency accommodation, the MCF ensures that every act of giving reaches as far as possible.

Historical Reflection: The Generosity of the Sahabah Abdur Rahman ibn Awf

Echoing the deeds of early Muslims, the story of Abdur Rahman ibn Awf, a companion of the Prophet Muhammad, stands out. Despite starting with little upon his migration to Medina, he became one of the wealthiest through his entrepreneurial spirit. Yet, his wealth never anchored him down; he was known for his immense generosity, often distributing his wealth among the needy, embodying the true spirit of Charity and Zakah.

A Community Effort

What sets MCF apart is its commitment to inclusivity. Their services embrace everyone, irrespective of their background. By offering support and solidarity to anyone in need, MCF not only exemplifies the Islamic spirit of unity but also fosters a culture of kindness and mutual respect throughout Brisbane.

Feeding the homeless becomes not just an act of charity, but a shared meal; providing shelter transforms into a safe haven for new beginnings; and constructing a granny flat creates emergency accommodation filled with hope for the future. Each initiative invites the wider community to come together, support each other, and build a stronger, more cohesive society.

Through Charity and Zakah and the diligent efforts of the Muslim Charitable Foundation, Brisbane is witnessing the true power of generosity. This spirit of giving does more than just meet immediate needs–it builds lasting bridges across different cultures and communities. As we continue to support and participate in these charitable endeavors, we not only uphold the values of our faith but also contribute to a more compassionate and understanding Brisbane.

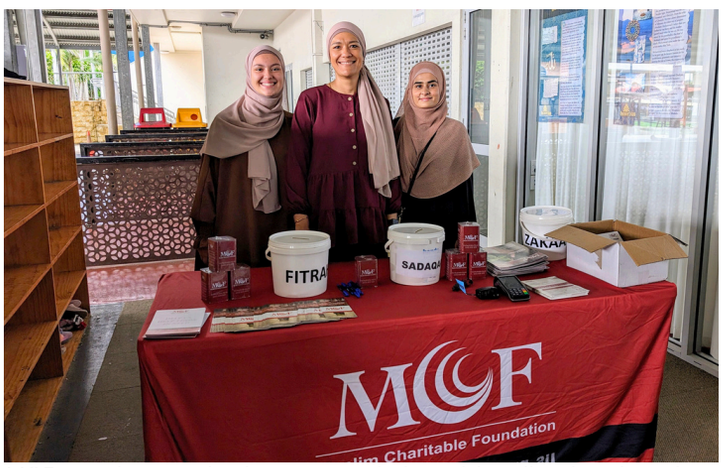
Open Day at MCF.

On March 3rd, 2024, MCF hosted a community event to celebrate the completion of the new granny flat. With a lively BBQ, families enjoyed a fun-filled day while learning more about MCF's vital work.

The event fostered a strong sense of community spirit, with attendees expressing overwhelming support for MCF's initiatives. An information booth and donation drive further galvanised efforts to support those in need. The day served as a powerful reminder of the positive impact we can have when we come together.



MCF members hosting a BBQ at the MCF open day.



MCF members and volunteers assisting with collecting donations and providing information to visitors at some of the MCF events around Queensland

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How To Choose The Right Zakah Fund

Based on insights by Ebrahim Iqbal Lambat (Author of the book: "How to calculate your zakah in Australia.")

Zakat is a fundamental pillar of Islam, and entrusting your contributions to a responsible and efficient fund ensures your donations reach those most in need. But with a growing number of Zakat funds in Australia, how do you choose the right one?

Here are four crucial factors to guide your decision:

- **Strong Governance:** A well-governed fund ensures transparency and accountability. Look for experienced leaders, clear financial practices, and regular audits. Don't hesitate to ask about their board of directors, their qualifications, and how they ensure donations reach the intended recipients.

- **Payout Ratio:** This indicates how much of your donation goes directly to beneficiaries after administrative costs. Aim for funds with a high payout ratio.

- **Funds Retention:** While funds often receive a surge of donations during Ramadan, they should distribute Zakat throughout the year to provide consistent support to those in need. Ideally, funds should aim to distribute all Zakat received by the following Ramadan.

- **Deductible Gift Recipient Status:** In Australia, donating to a fund with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status can make you eligible for a tax refund. This allows you to give more or reinvest your refund for an even greater impact.

By considering these factors and doing your research, you can make informed choices about your Zakat donations and contribute to a more equitable and compassionate society.

Cupcakes For a Cause

Five compassionate students from Grade 6 at Islamic College of Brisbane recently put their baking skills to good use, hosting a "Cupcakes for a Cause" fundraiser. These students baked and sold delicious cupcakes to their school community, raising funds to support the people of Palestine.

Their initiative and dedication to helping others is truly inspiring! This act of kindness shows that even small actions can make a big difference in the world. We applaud these students for their compassion and their commitment to making a positive impact.



Osman Rane, member of MCF handing out certificates of appreciation to Grade 6 students from ICB.

Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness,
Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.
-Scott Adams

International Projects.

While much of our work focuses on supporting those in need within Queensland, we also recognise the importance of extending compassion and assistance beyond our borders. MCF partnered with Muslim Aid Australia (MAA) to provide vital aid to those affected by devastating floods in Bangladesh.

Your generous donations helped deliver emergency relief to people affected by floods. We also collaborated with MAA on Qurban projects in several countries, providing nutritious meals to vulnerable communities during the Eid al-Adha celebrations.

We are grateful for your support in enabling us to make a positive impact both locally and internationally. These efforts demonstrate our commitment to helping those in need, regardless of where they are in the world.







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Making a Difference Together!

This year has been one of significant growth and achievement for MCF. From providing emergency relief to families in crisis to empowering youth through mentorship and education, we've worked tirelessly to make a positive impact in our community.

We are immensely grateful for the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers, and community partners. Your contributions have enabled us to make a real difference in the lives of countless individuals. As we look ahead to the future, we are excited to continue expanding our services and making an even greater impact in the years to come.

Your generosity changes lives.

Donate online by visiting

www.mcfaustralia.org.au

or scan the QR code below

MCF
Muslim Charitable Foundation