Islamic Center of Nashville
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History
The Islamic Center of Nashville (or known as ICN) is one of the oldest mosque in Tennessee. ICN was founded in 1978 in an effort to help in the preservation of the spiritual well-being of its members, as well as, to foster a greater and better understanding between Muslims and people of other religious faiths. In 1979, the ICN embarked on a project to open its own place of worship. By October of 1979, the ICN raised enough money from within Nashville and was also blessed when the famous musician Cat Stevens, who was passing through the South, visited Nashville and generously donated towards this project.

Diversity
The ICN has a diverse community representative of over 40 nationalities. Diversity is something highly valued in Islam, which means peaceful willing submission to God and is derived from the word salaam (peace), as God mentions: ‘O mankind! We created you from a single male and female and made you into nations and tribes that you may get to know one another.’ (Qur’an, chapter 49, verse 13) Also, the Prophet Muhammad said, ‘All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over white…’

Community Involvement & Neighbors
Part of our mission at ICN is to participate in the general welfare of the society through community service. We regularly participate in community service projects: Habitat for Humanity Builds, Second Harvest Food Bank, Red Cross, mobilize walks, fundraising, coat drives, soup kitchens, disaster relief, etc. Every year ICN holds its International Yard & Bake Sale and donates the proceeds to either local mosque projects or community service and charitable events. Also, free monthly Health Fairs are offered by the Nashville Muslim Medical Services. ICN values its relationship with its neighbors: ‘Serve God and Associate None With Him. Show Kindness To Your Parents And Kinsfolk, and To The Orphans, To The Needy, To Your Near And Distant Neighbors, …’ (Qur’an, Chapter 4, verse 36) Recently, ICN partnered with the Organized Neighbors of Edgehill (ONE) to explore areas of involvement.

Several community involvement activities from 2013-14

- Organized Neighbors of Edgehill (ONE) partnership programs –
  - Night Out Against Crime
  - Several health clinics
  - Halloween

- Partnership with Belmont & Sherith Israel on a Rooms in the Inn Project (3 month weekly project last winter) (We will resume this again during the winter)

- Hosted a family supper as part of the Nashville Children’s Sabbath, in order to discuss children's education and social justice. “The goal of the Nashville Children's Sabbath: A Weekend of Hope is to unite communities and faith congregations in improving children's lives. ‘Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, and a Moral Start.’”
Invited guests and neighbors to break fast and enjoy Ramadan dinner throughout Ramadan. WSMV’s Julia Bruck also visited the Islamic Center of Nashville did the following story on Ramadan: http://www.wsmv.com/video?autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=10354652

- Stand Against Racism Event – ICN was an official partner organization of this YWCA/ MHRC event this summer. http://ywcanashville.com/events/stand-against-racism
- Engaging Men Against Violence – ICN is part of the coalition spearheaded by the YWCA http://ywcanashville.com/programs/engaging-men (we have been delivering this message to the mosques in middle TN in the form of a sermon. Since last Spring, I have spoken at 3 mosques and have one next week)
- Shoney’s 5k run to benefit metro Nashville Police support fund (e.g. education & training) – joined with AMAC (American Muslim Advisory Council)
- Had a team participate in the Mayor’s Field Day, Mayor’s 5k run/walk & Titans 5K run
- Volunteer, assist and cheer on the over 20,000 runners during the Country Music Marathon.
- Youth ‘Hungry Hearts’ program – prepared and served food for elderly at the Wedgewood Towers

**Education, Interfaith & Visits**

Part of our mission is also to convey comprehensive and accurate information on Islam to the general public. Every week we have school, universities, churches and other organizations and individuals visiting our mosque for a tour and presentation, as well as inviting us to come to their organizations (MLK, USN, Ensworth, Leadership Donelson-Hermitage, Leadership Nashville, Vanderbilt University, Belmont University, David Lipscomb, TSU, etc.) Every year we hold several Open Houses to the community where we invite the general public to come and visit and enjoy our food. We regularly hold exchange visits for both adults and youth with churches and synagogues, and are involved with interfaith work. We feel it to be a very important part of fostering a community that respects and understands each other. **Our doors are always welcome to visitors!**

**Several education & interfaith activities from 2013-14**

- Hosted Teach for America (TFA) for ½ a day during their new batch of teachers orientation.
- Hosted Leadership Donelson-Hermitage for lunch during their Diversity Day
- Hosted Leadership Nashville’s class for an Open House for their class
- Family of Abraham
- Annual Jewish Youth Exchange Visit for high school students
- Sons & Daughter of Abraham Annual Youth Peace Summit in Swanee, TN
- Youth Fast a thon
- Participated in the Muslim visit to the Jewish Temple with the Imam from Murfreesboro
- Masters of Arts in Teaching workshops for the following universities: Vanderbilt, Belmont & David Lipscomb
- Middle & high school visits & classes on Islam
- University visits & classes on Islam
- Church visits
- Places of Worship Tour for school intercession
  - Arranged students to take a bus and visit a mosque, synagogue, Hindu temple, Buddhist temple, and several churches, along with interaction with the interfaith alliance of Vanderbilt.