



# UMMA CENTER

Urban Muslim Minority Alliance  
*A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization*



4<sup>th</sup>

Annual  
Report  
2008



# A Word From The Executive Director...

Greetings of Peace to all,

We present this annual report to illustrate how you have helped the UMMA Center fulfill its mandate for our fourth year of operation in 2008. This report highlights our accomplishments by the grace of God and our future aspirations for the UMMA Center's work in Lake County.

The Mission of the Urban Muslim Minority Alliance (UMMA Center) is to empower the lives of underprivileged individuals in Lake County by providing educational support and community resources. The UMMA Center believes that Lake County will be strengthened by the growth that education, hope and purpose bring to those seeking to enrich their lives with opportunities.

Since the conception of the UMMA Center in June 2004, we have launched three core programs: Education Empowerment (EE), Basic Needs (BN) & Community Outreach and Development (COD). The most successful component of our EE program has been our GED training/tutoring. By the end of 2008, the UMMA Center had 18 GED graduates; all of which are planning to pursue higher education. The UMMA Center Food Pantry is our most popular Basic Human Needs program and currently serves over 400 low-income families on a monthly basis. And the UMMA Center's "Adopt a Family" refugee support drive is the most successful component of our Community Outreach and Development program.

The UMMA Center had a very busy and prosperous 2008! In September we launched our new Health Care Initiative program. The UMMA Center conducted a thorough needs assessment and determined that the Health Care Initiative program will provide free Health care screenings four times a year; educational resources & workshops on general well being & nutrition; and a comprehensive health care referral program to services available in Lake County for our under-served community. The UMMA Center is very excited about this program and looks forward to its continued development and growth in the upcoming year.

In October, the UMMA Center hosted its 3rd annual fundraising dinner. We are delighted to report that we raised \$61,000 of revenue in one night. With the success of our dinner in December 2008, the UMMA Center hired an Operations Manager, Hira Siddiqui. We are delighted to have Hira – our first full time employee! The UMMA Center is proud and grateful for the continued support from the community.

The UMMA Center would like to thank you for your support, generous donations, and prayers. By reading our annual report you will see our accomplishments and how your contributions have impacted the residents of Lake County and the Chicago-land area. As we enter our new fiscal year, we hope you will continue to invest in our community.

With Regards,

Ashfaq Mohiuddin  
Executive Director  
UMMA Center  
847.336.6136  
Ashfaq@ummacenters.org



# Our Mission and Vision

## Mission

The Mission of the Urban Muslim Minority Alliance (UMMA Center) is to empower the lives of underprivileged individuals in Lake County by providing educational support and community resources. The UMMA Center believes that Lake County will be strengthened by the growth that education, hope and purpose bring to those seeking to enrich their lives with opportunities.

## Vision

- ❖ **Community Service:** Helping the underserved population help themselves!
- ❖ **Community Building:** Ethnic, Racial, Religious, and Cultural Understanding
- ❖ **Empowerment:** Education, Career Development, and Counseling Services
- ❖ **Positive Impact on Youth:** Enabling them to create a new script for their lives!
- ❖ **Investment Benefits to the Community:** Eradication of Poverty!



# Our Programs - Education Empowerment

The UMMA Center's Education Empowerment (EE) program is geared towards empowering the low income 'at-risk' individuals in Lake County with free GED, computer training and financial literacy programs. All of the students at the UMMA Center are considered low income as defined by poverty standard of Illinois.

## General Education Diploma (GED) Classes

UMMA Center is proud to report that we now have had 18 graduates from our GED program. The UMMA Center has been successful in conducting GED training classes for individuals in Lake County for over four years. The primary goal of these classes is to teach students the necessary skills needed to pass the GED exams. The UMMA Center has been able to distinguish itself in the community by going beyond our original mandate and offering a number of unique incentives.



## Computer Training Classes

The UMMA Center has established free computer training classes for the underserved residents of Lake County. The curriculum focuses on teaching basic objectives such as components of computers, commonly used software programs, and internet proficiency. The UMMA Center is now striving to provide various certification programs to help individuals interested in pursuing advanced careers. We are proud to report that we have trained over 250 students in 2008.



## Financial Literacy Workshops

The UMMA Center provides financial literacy seminars to residents in Lake County. Our program aids with financial empowerment through knowledge and tools that develop life-long skills allowing better financial decisions to be made. The UMMA Center provides monthly, personal financial management training classes and seminars taught by volunteer financial experts. Workshops are geared towards developing financial literacy among inner city residents.





# Our Programs - Basic Needs & Outreach

## Food and Clothing Pantry

The Basic Needs program includes a food pantry that distributes food twice a week to low income residents. The food is provided to over 300 families every month. The UMMA Center is sponsored by Northern Illinois Food Bank and receives food at discount prices. Additional food donations have been provided by DePaul University, various individuals, local mosques, and the government emergency food fund. The Basic Needs program also runs several clothing drives to provide free clothing to the community.



## Community Outreach & Development

The UMMA Outreach program is run by volunteers dedicated to bringing the community together. This program offers visits to nursing homes, refugee care packages, and park clean-ups as a way to build and develop communities. The UMMA Center is dedicated in offering unique outreach programs which assist refugees in the Chicago-land area by helping them assimilate into the community. The primary goals of the program are: youth outreach with local community youth (socials, basketball games, integrative activities); cultural counseling; and raising awareness of the current problems afflicting the refugees.



## Refugee Outreach Initiative

For the third year in a row the UMMA Center hosted a "Ramadan Adopt a Family Initiative" event to support and celebrate Ramadan with refugee families in the Chicago-land. This year, the event was held at Indo-American Center on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and was cosponsored by Council for the Advancement of Muslim Professionals (CAMP), Islamic Foundation North (IFN), Islamic Society of Northwest Suburbs (ISNS), Muslim Society Incorporated (MSI), Downtown Islamic Center (DIC), and Muslim Women's Alliance (MWA). The collaboration efforts produced over 150 care baskets for our refugee families. In addition, we had an activity/crafts area for children set up by Muslim Women's Alliance, a toy drive for almost 60 children by CAMP and the food for the event was sponsored by Islamic Foundation North (IFN). The goal of the event was to create a venue for able families in the community to outreach and assist disadvantaged refugee families by providing them with basic household items and gift certificates for shoes and clothing for their children.





# UMMA Launches A New Program!

## HealthCare Initiative Program

The newly launched HealthCare Initiative program was developed in 2008. The UMMA Center conducted a community healthcare needs assessment to determine the need and scope of our program. Surveys were given to all our students, clients and community partners to share with as many Lake County residents as possible. The survey results clearly indicated the pressing need our community has for a health care program that provides direct services and education. Of the 116 surveys we have collected thus far, 73 people (64%) stated that they do not have health insurance. Many of those that marked yes are only covered by Medicaid.



Over 200,000 or 30% of the residents of Lake County are uninsured or under-insured according to the Lake County Health Department. 64% of those surveyed stated that they do not have a family doctor and 44% stated that they go to the emergency room when they are ill. The goal of the HCI is to provide a comprehensive referral program that increases access to existing health care services to provide multi-lingual education (workshops, seminars and resources) on nutrition & well being, and provide direct health care services through quarterly health screenings.

Our program is designed to help those in need seek medical attention and to empower and educate the uninsured/underinsured population to make healthy choices for themselves and their families. Our program will help keep families out of emergency rooms for health issues that could have been prevented or resolved with local medical support.



# HealthCare Initiative Program

## The UMMA Center's HCI's Program offers three core components:

1. Direct Services: Provide quarterly Healthcare screenings in partnership with Community Builders.

The UMMA Center conquers with the Public Health Functions Steering Committee's 1994 review illustrating that HealthCare screenings have huge community benefits such as identifying community health problems. Mobilizing community partnerships to identify and solve health problems and link people to much needed personal health services, assures the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.

2. Health Education programs: Workshops & seminars related to health and nutrition will be presented every month featuring a new topic.

All workshops and/or seminars will be geared towards empowering our community to make healthy choices in regards to their health and well being.

The UMMA Center's Health Education Component will:

- ❖ Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
- ❖ Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
- ❖ Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety

3. Provide a comprehensive healthcare referral program to free or affordable services available in Lake County: Our healthcare referral program will also be a conduit in assuring competent public health and personal health care workforce availability for those seeking medical support. It will also be able to evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services. The UMMA center believes that a comprehensive healthcare referral program is a cost-effective, efficient approach to managing the gaps currently existing in Lake County's underserved areas. We recognize that there are a lot of free services already provided in Lake County and various non-profit organizations, therefore our goal is to help bridging the gaps and support our community with access and information.



# Adopt A Family Refugee event in action ...



We are delighted to report that this initiative was very successful. The UMMA center achieved the goal of raising awareness of the current state of refugee's in Chicago-land and provided a forum for community outreach. A special Thank You to the UMMA Center Refugee committee volunteers: Anisha Patel, Sabina Abdul-Qadir, Shazia Sultan, Batool Fatima, Sabrina Qureshi, Cathie Amin, Mary Ann Khan and Fatima Alvi. Also, to Saad Mohiuddin for designing marketing material and all those who volunteered and continued to make this event what it was!



# UMMA Fundraising Dinner 2008

## Civic Responsibility: Working for the Greater Good

*with Dr. Umar Faruq Abd-Allah*

After completing 4 years of operations, the UMMA center held its third annual fundraising dinner on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Old Orchard Country Club. The dinner was an intimate gathering of a 180 supporters of the UMMA center. The dinner consisted of a welcoming address, Quran recitation by Dr. Walid Khayr, speeches by Rob Flot & Faiz Ikramullah Education Programs Co-Directors from the UMMA Board, the executive director Ashfaq Mohiuddin, and the key note address of Dr. Umar Faruq Abd-Allah. The key note speech focused on Civic Responsibility: Working for the Greater Good.

Dr. Nazia Sheriff, Director of Outreach on the UMMA Board also introduced the **Health Care Initiative Program** at our dinner. There was also an inspirational video about the impact the UMMA center has made in Lake County and a personal testimonial by Ana Menjivar. Ana described how she made the hour long trip to and from Chicago twice a week to obtain her GED certification. Ana passed all 5 GED exams and was awarded her Certificate in less than 5 months and she has enrolled in a part-time nursing program at Harry S. Truman College in Chicago thereafter. Ana thanked the UMMA Center for giving her the tools and support she needed to obtain her goals.

Furthermore, the UMMA Center presented Saad Mohiuddin and Amir Sheikh with the Outstanding Volunteer Award. Saad Mohiuddin has supported the UMMA Center's web and graphic development since UMMA's inception. Amir Sheikh has been a dedicated Math and Science Teacher/Tutor for the past three and a half years. Thank you again to Saad and Amir for dedicating their time and efforts to the UMMA Center!

The UMMA center raised \$61,000.00 in revenue at the dinner. The funds raised by the UMMA center demonstrate the capability and the support the UMMA center has from the community to sustain itself for the long term. Most of the funds received were unrestricted. In addition, there were several new donors who have contributed on a monthly basis since the dinner. The proceeds of the dinner went to help sustain the increasing operating budget of the UMMA center and the salary of UMMA Center's full time Operations Manager scheduled to start in January 2009. They also provided us the opportunity to start the UMMA Endowment Fund.

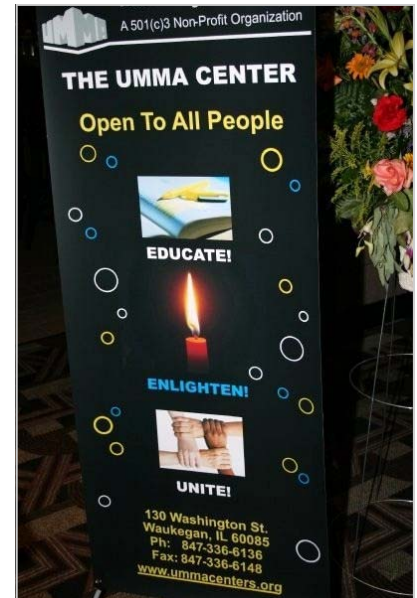




# UMMA Center Success 2008

## In 2008 the UMMA Center has ...

- ❖ Hired our very first full-time employee: Operations Manager, Hira Siddiqui
- ❖ Welcomed two new Board Members: Rob Flot & Waqas Sarwar
- ❖ Re-launched the UMMA Center website
- ❖ Launched the Health Care Initiative Program
- ❖ Applied for over 10 local and foundation grants
- ❖ Launched the Matching Grants Campaign
- ❖ Held the Annual fundraising dinner in October 2008 and raised \$61,500 in one night!
- ❖ Served over 150 refugee families in Chicago-land through the Refugee Outreach Program
- ❖ Food Pantry is currently serving over 400 low-income families on a monthly basis
- ❖ 18 graduates from our GED program
- ❖ Successfully administered GED classes to 25 students with a rate of 95% entering college.
- ❖ Trained over 250 computer students in various level of achievement: Basics, intermediate and advanced, 80% of whom went onto trade or college
- ❖ Provided financial literacy training for 100 students to develop a foundation for financial independence.





# New Faces at UMMA Center

## Robert Flot

### Educational Empowerment Program Co-Chair, Board of Directors

Rob Flot was born and raised in Illinois. He completed his B.A. and M.A. degrees in psychology from Eastern Illinois University, and completed all but his dissertation towards a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Indiana State University. Rob was recently appointed as the Dean of Students (effective June 1), which is the Chief Student Affairs officer at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, IL. Rob has been with the College since 2004 where in addition to his role as Dean of Students, he is a member of the College's Islamic World Studies committee, and he advises the College's Muslim Student Association. Rob spent nearly 9 years working at Illinois State University prior to moving to the Chicago area in 2003. Rob reverted to Islam several years ago, and has served as a G.E.D. instructor with the UMMA Center since 2006. Rob was selected as Co-Chair of the Center's Education Committee in the summer of 2008. He has two sons and lives with his wife, Shehaam, in Deerfield.



## Hira Siddiqui

### Operations Manager

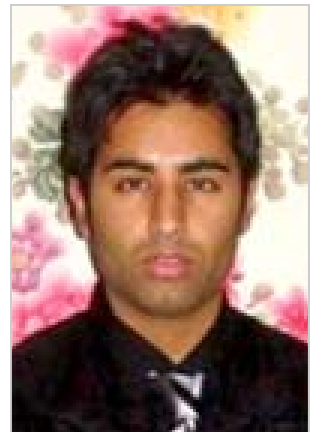
In December 2008, the UMMA center hired its very first paid, full time employee - Hira Siddiqui! Hira attended Jacob's High school in Algonquin and graduated with honors in 2004. After attending Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI. Hira obtained her Bachelors in English Writing-Intensive with minors in Psychology and Public Relations. At Marquette, Hira held several positions in student organizations serving in the MSA, Leaders in Education and Development, Amnesty International, and the Public Relations Student Society of America. Before graduating, she held an externship with the United Nations Development Program as the Millennium Campaign's Program Associate. She hopes to further her education and obtain a Masters in the near future. Working as the Operations Manager for the UMMA center, Hira hopes to expand the organization's community relations in Lake county and contribute to program growth and day to day management. We are excited to have Hira be part of our mission here at the UMMA Center. Hira's experience and talent will help us make a difference in the lives of the underprivileged in the Lake County area.



## Waqas Sarwar

### Treasurer, Board of Directors

Waqas was born in Pakistan and spent much of his life in the U.S. in various cities. He completed his B.S. in Finance in 2007 from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Since then he has moved back to the Chicago area where he is working as an accounts payable analyst at Walgreens corporate headquarters in Deerfield. Waqas currently resides with his family in Grayslake. Waqas is very active in the community. He volunteers for non-profit organizations, teaches at an Islamic Sunday school and is an assistant coach for a 7th and 8th grade boys basketball team.





# UMMA Starts an Endowment Fund

## What is an Endowment Fund?

A financial endowment is a transfer of money or property donated to an institution, usually with the stipulation that it be invested, and the principal remain intact in perpetuity or for a defined time period. This allows for the donation to have a much greater impact over a long period of time than if it were spent all at once. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Financial\\_endowment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Financial_endowment))



## Why an Endowment Fund?

*A permanent fund for the future! Why?*

- ❖ Because we believe in the future. We believe in what the UMMA center stands for and what it does for people to make lives better. We want to continue to meet needs, not just have needs.
- ❖ Because we believe that long-term stability of the UMMA center is an attainable goal. We want the UMMA center to be prepared for whatever the future may bring.
- ❖ We want to leave a lasting legacy.

## UMMA's Endowment Mission

The UMMA Center's Endowment Fund will ensure that UMMA's Mission and commitment to the community will be sustained perpetually.

## UMMA's Short & Long Term Funding Strategies

### Short Term

- ❖ Grants: Local, State and Federal
- ❖ Corporate/Foundation Funding
- ❖ Personal Donations
- ❖ Campaigns/Memberships

### Long Terms

- ❖ Endowment Fund

## Long Term Benefits of an Endowment Fund:

Ideally, an endowment will allow a nonprofit organization to:

- ❖ Rely on a consistent stream of funds from endowment earnings that may be used to subsidize annual operations or specific projects, conceivably forever.
- ❖ Operate independently of the success of current or future fund-raising efforts, the current economic climate, or a specific funding source. This will increase organizational stability.
- ❖ Build institutional capacity by broadening and deepening its support base within the private sector, as well as encouraging volunteer involvement.
- ❖ Augment the organization's attractiveness to donors, especially in the area of planned giving.



# UMMA Financial Statement

UMMA Center	
04/28/09 Profit & Loss	
Cash Basis January through December 2008	
Ordinary Income/Expense	Jan - Dec 08
Income	
Contributions Income	122,353.98
Reimbursed Expenses	-1,034.23
Total Income	<u>121,319.75</u>
Expense	
Alarm System	314.91
Bank Service Charges	69.00
Dues and Subscriptions	100.00
Equipment Rental	853.78
Fundraising Expense	13,296.48
GED	573.74
Independent Contractor	13,182.50
Licenses and Permits	98.00
Office Expenses	1,425.26
Payroll Expenses	27,290.09
Payroll Taxes	3,990.99
Postage and Delivery	206.00
Printing and Reproduction	3,890.37
Professional Fees	4,285.00
Program Expense	5,769.25
Refugee Rental Assistance	450.00
Rent	11,750.00
Repairs	64.79
Supplies	675.93
Taxes	3,958.77
Telephone	1,866.08
Travel & Entertainment	51.92
Utilities	<u>2,564.47</u>
Total Expense	<u>96,727.33</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>24,592.42</u>
Net Income	<u>24,592.42</u>



# People Behind The UMMA Center

## Board Of Directors

President:	Christopher Bennett
Vice-President:	(Currently Vacant Position)
Secretary:	Mohammed Basith
Treasurer:	Waqas Sarwar
Basic Needs & Community Outreach:	Abdul'mumin Amir Robinson
Education Programs:	Faiz Ikramullah & Dr. Robert Flot
Health Initiative Director:	Dr. Nazia Sheriff

## UMMA Staff

Executive Director:	Ashfaq Mohiuddin
Fund & Strategic Development Director:	Arshia Ali-Khan
Operations Manager:	Hira Siddiqui
Program Co-coordinator:	Andres Somoza
Computer Teacher	Ryan Gayer
Maintenance & Support:	Benito Gomez

## Dedicated Volunteers...

The UMMA Center has been successful because of the following volunteers. The UMMA Center staff and board of directors would like to sincerely thank each of the volunteers for their selfless dedication to the underserved.

Parvez Patel	Cathie Amin	Paul Brenner	Omar Sheriff	Ishaq Mohiuddin
Wen Thye Tang	Mariah Sheriff	Asra Mohiuddin	Vaseem Iftekhar	Muzaffer Sheriff
Mariann Khan	Tabinda Azam	Ambareen Sheriff	Yasir Kazmi	Wafa Nur
Phyllis Bennett	Shahida Qureshi	Dr. Habib Bawani	Asma Ahmed	Raza Khan
Islamic Foundation North		Mahmood Mohiuddin	Amer Mirza	Muslim Society Inc.
Arif Hussain	Amina Khan	Allendale Association	Masood Ahmed	Seema Raheemullah
Averroes Academy	Amina Russell	Nicole Havelka	Fatima Alvi	Sabrina Abdul-Qadir
Jose Soto	Saad Mohiuddin	Moshin Alvi	Abuzafar Mohiuddin	Amir Sheikh
Abdulrahman Russell	Sajid Dalvi	Murtaza Salahuddin	Hamaas Ibrahim	Robert Flot
Mariah Sheriff	Amira Hakeem	Pat Burns	Sheeham Flot	Elizabeth Fulmer
Kim Newkirk	Riad Chummu	Mansoor Khadir		



# Testimonials from one family

## **Thelma Mayer:**

"The UMMA Center's computer class really helped me in the long run. We had purchased a computer at home, and for three years only the children used it. I didn't even know how to turn one on! The basics class taught me everything, starting from how to turn the computer on and off to how to use my email address. Now I can send emails to my family members and friends and also save documents on the computer. I also browse the internet, and do online shopping. I no longer have to pick up my groceries because I can have them delivered to the house. The teacher at the center was really great. He was so patient and wonderful, and worked a lot with me one on one so I wouldn't fall behind in class."

## **Jasper Baker:**

"My experience at the UMMA Center was really fast and easy. I was in the basics class for about two months and I learned all the standard stuff to use a computer at home. I'm a Blue Cross worker, so I don't really need the computer at work, but I used the computer at the library to apply for different jobs. Before Ryan's class I couldn't even send email. I also do my bills online now, so I can keep better track of my finances. I also do other online shopping, and can get a lot of maps and directions to different places much more easily. I can take the car to farther places, because I can find them on my own. The Computer class was really nicely planned, and taught us all the basics we needed to know."

## **Neiketha Baker:**

"I took the Basics computer class at the UMMA Center in 2008. My husband, Jasper, had purchased a computer, but we didn't even know how to turn it on! At the class, I got all the basic skills I needed for at home and my business. I work in the meat Department at Sam's Club now, and before the computer class I had a lower paying job there. Because I gained the common knowledge and skills necessary for this new job, I was able to get promoted. Now I use the computer on a daily basis to email different departments and co-workers, and to place major orders. I also input a lot of information into excel. Without this computer class, I wouldn't have been able to gain this step up. The teacher was really great, and he worked one-on-one with my mother, Thelma, as well as my husband and I. We always felt welcomed and supported. Thanks!"

# Please Contribute...

## Donate

If you are interested in donating

The UMMA Center (Urban Muslim Minority Alliance) has received an advanced ruling from the Internal Revenue Service to operate as a 501(c)(3) approved non-profit organization. Generally donations made to UMMA Center are tax deductible. If you are interested in donating to the UMMA Center please use the information below.

**Make Checks Payable to:**

Urban Muslim Minority Alliance  
130 Washington Street  
Waukegan, IL 60085

You can also donate online at:

[www.ummacenters.org/donate-now.htm](http://www.ummacenters.org/donate-now.htm)

For Questions about Donations

**Please Contact:**

Ashfaq Mohiuddin  
Executive Director  
Email: [ashfaq@ummacenters.org](mailto:ashfaq@ummacenters.org)  
Phone: 847-336-6136

Donate Online



## Volunteer / Internship

If you are interested in volunteering or becoming an UMMA Intern

**Please Contact:**

Hira Siddiqui  
Operations Manager  
Email: [hira@ummacenters.org](mailto:hira@ummacenters.org)  
Phone: 847-336-6136