In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

“Surely those who read the Book of God, are firm in devotion, and spend of what we have given them in secret or openly, can hope for a commerce that will not decline” (Quran 35:29)

Assalamu Alaykum,

Greetings of peace to you and your family. The Board of Directors of Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California (ICCNC) cordially invites you and your family to join us at ICCNC’s Annual Fundraising Banquet and the celebration of our achievements together, on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 5:00 pm. We very much hope that you can join us to celebrate this occasion, review this past year’s accomplishments, and preview our plan for the next year. Please RSVP through ICCNC’s website by Dec. 5, 2019.

The ICCNC has had an exciting year, and with your generous support, we look forward to building on our successes. Below are the highlights of our accomplishments in 2019 in the areas of Islamic education, art, & culture, social justice & civic engagement, Islamic services, and engagement.

Islamic Education, Art, & Culture

● Commemorated religious events including Ramadan, Muharram, Eids, and Milads by hosting esteemed scholars such as Dr. Seyyed Hossein Nasr, Dr. Mohammad Ali Ansari, Dr. Hamid Mavani, Mr. Abdolali Bazargan, Mr. Ahmad Rashid Salim, Dr. Sayed Hassan Akhlagh, Dr. Siavash Assadi, Ms. Mahjabeen Dhala and Mr. Mostafa Daneshgar
● For the first time in the Bay Area, ICCNC co-sponsored and hosted a Sunni-Shia Unity Iftar with over 300 attendees. On the same day, ICCNC organized an intrafaith homeless feeding event
● Organized lecture series on Masnavi, Ghazzali, and Saadi by Dr. Abdulkarim Soroush in the Bay Area to increase the Farsi speakers’ knowledge of Persian and Islamic mystical literature
● Hosted middle-school, high school, and college students from the Bay Area introducing them to the core teachings of Islam and Islamic values
● Organized and hosted a program on the life and work of Rumi with over 300 attendees. Lectures were given by Dr. Soroush and Mr. Darr, with a musical concert based on Rumi poetry
● Hosted and co-sponsored two concerts by ASWAT Ensemble “Sufi Music of Turkey,” and “Music of Namibia and Sudan” with over 1000 attendees
● Hosted a concert by the Al Firdaus Ensemble from Granada, Spain, with over 150 attendees
● Organized and conducted one of the largest Nowruz festivals in the Bay Area attended by more than 700 people, local TV stations covered the event on their news hours. Oakland’s Honorable Mayor Libby Schaaf attended the event and gave the opening remarks. Recognized Ms. Samineh Baghchehbaan for her devotion to education and Persian Language and gave her a lifetime achievement award
● Recognized Mr. Bazargan’s contribution to Quranic teaching in the Bay Area and gave him a certificate of appreciation
Social Justice & Civic Engagement

- Prepared and distributed dinner to 100 homeless individuals every weekend of Ramadan.
- Prepared and distributed over 300 homeless care bags in Oakland.
- Hosted City Of Oakland Mayor’s all Clergy Breakfast, attended by the majority of the Oakland religious leaders, and hosted the 2019 city’s budget roll out to the general public
- Attended and spoke at the Alameda County Supervisors meeting while receiving Muslim Appreciation Proclamations Award
- Advocated for homeless issues with the Mayor of Oakland to provide shelters, transition homes, and sheds for the homeless population
- Strengthened our mutual ties with our interfaith brothers and sisters by attending monthly meetings with neighboring places of worship, hosting the Annual Harvest Dinner; participating in the Living Room Conversations Series, and volunteering at Alameda County Community Food Bank

Islamic Services

- Continued to provide valued Islamic services, including marriage, burial, memorial ceremonies.
- Performed weekly Friday Prayers through the year and served the worshippers with warm lunch
- Provided more than $7000 of hardship assistance to the needy Muslims in the Bay Area

Engagement

- Website - Launched a new website in January 2019, more than 17,000 visits with 58% through mobile devices, 330 purchases and donations through the new website, a total of $25,000
- Emails - Switched to a new service provider, MailChimp, 80 email campaign in the last ten months, total email addresses grow to 1900 with 100% delivery rate
- Telegram - 300 posts, increased membership to 1875, 72% increase in the last ten months
- YouTube Channel – 44 new videos, increased membership to more than 3110, an increase of 46% in the last ten months with more than 200,000 visitors
- Instagram - 185 posts, increased membership to more than 310, 62% in the last ten months
- Facebook - 89 posts in the last ten months, 1666 followers

Please take time today to make your contribution in support of the ICCNC either by sending in the enclosed return envelope or by going online at www.iccnc.org. ICCNC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and your donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you for supporting the ICCNC. May God increase your wealth and give you and your family the blessings of health, peace, and prosperity. Inshallah, God will reward you multiple times, both in this world and in the next for your support and generous donations.

Sincerely Yours,
ICCNC Board of Directors
Oct. 25, 2019