

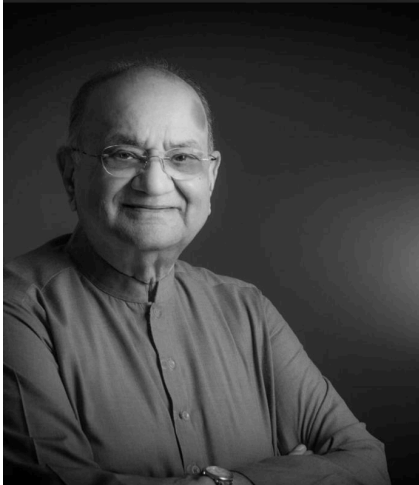
# Montgomery County Muslim Foundation Annual Report



Edited by Amina Rashid



*Faith in Action* 2023-2024



**MCMF  
Founder**

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**Late Mr. Tufail  
Ahmad**

## **Founder of Montgomery County Muslim Foundation (MCMF)**

Montgomery County Muslim Foundation, Montgomery County Muslim Council, and the broader Muslim-American community recently lost a passionate and tireless worker for humanity and uplifting the needy in particular. The late Mr. Tufail Ahmad was a pillar in our community and a trailblazer in promoting Muslim civic, humanitarian, and political engagement in Maryland. In his tribute, County Executive Marc Elrich commented "Tufail saw us all as part of the human family, and he seemed to never grow weary of striving to make life better for the people of Montgomery County."

Tufail Ahmad was born in Allahabad, India, and migrated to Pakistan in 1958 after receiving his Masters' degree in Commerce from Allahabad University. He joined the Audit and Accounts Service in Pakistan and ultimately served as the Deputy Auditor-General. In 1973, he was offered a professional opportunity in Washington D.C. and migrated with his family to Maryland. In 1979, he established his shipping brokerage and trading firm and, after successfully building it, retired in 2000, handing over the business to his younger son.

Since then, Mr. Ahmad fully dedicated his life to his two great passions – bringing people together and serving those in need, both at the grassroots level. He often commented that, given his very humble beginnings, he would never have been able to achieve what he did without the kindness and generosity of others, and he always tried to do what he could to help others.



This work took on greater urgency after the tragic events of 9/11. Mr. Ahmad spearheaded the establishment of the Montgomery County Muslim Council (MCMC) to involve the Muslim community in political and civic engagement and also to perform community service projects in the County. Mr. Ahmad also recognized that the ultimate success of such an effort would only be realized when the broader community saw Muslims practice what they professed to be the key tenets of Islam.

MCMC, with limited capacity and resources, started with 3 projects: food drive for Manna where they collected food as well as distributed Christmas and Thanksgiving dinner baskets to needy Montgomery County residents. From 2003 to 2008, these programs had developed and became better known to the County government and the public.

Towards achieving the broader goal of serving the community, in 2008, he led the establishment of Montgomery County Muslim Foundation (MCMF), a non-profit and tax-exempt 501(C)(3) organization. He served as the Chairman of MCMF since then and continued to provide strategic leadership and guidance to help MCMF realize its vision, even from his hospital bed in the last days of his life. MCMF is proud that, through its work, it has now become one of the most well-recognized social and welfare organizations in Maryland, dedicated to helping realize Montgomery County's vision of a "hunger-free and hate-free society".

In recognition of his work, Mr. Ahmad was the recipient of several awards, including the Maryland Governor's Service Award, Neal Potter Path of Achievement Award, the Maryland Muslim Council Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Roscoe R. Nix Distinguished Community Leadership Award. His wife, Sajida, was an unwavering partner in his community efforts and unfortunately transitioned in August 2021.

## **Board of Directors**

Sultan Chowdhury, Chairman  
Zubaid Ahmad  
Omar Asghar  
Salma Faridi  
Shahid Hashmi  
Barbra Khadar  
Fazal R. Khan  
Nasreen Khan  
Bano Makhdoon  
Sadiq Qureshi  
Zeeshan Rasheed

## **Executive Council**

Saba Rashid, President & Ex-Officio  
Board Member  
Shagufta Sheikh ,Vice President  
Omar Asghar, Treasurer

## **Office Staff**

Anwar Hashmi, Office Director  
Wazir Noorzai, Transport Coordinator

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Website: <http://www.mcmfmd.org>

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## **Vision**

Create a hunger-free  
and hate-free society.



## **Mission**

Undertake initiatives and programs to feed the hungry and homeless, help the needy among us to live a better life, take care of the needs of senior citizens and youth, and interact with other communities and faiths to promote a congenial living environment for all.

# Key MCMF Initiatives

## FOOD PROGRAMS

- Monthly Food Pantry
- School Food Assistance
- Feed The Homeless
- Annual Meat Distribution
- Holiday Gift Basket
- Ramadan Basket

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

- SAT Boot Camps & College Admissions Workshops
- After School Tutoring Program

## REFUGEE PROGRAMS

- Refugee Rehabilitation Program
- Mentorship & Career Counseling services
- Women Employment and Training

## SENIOR PROGRAMS

- Fitness classes
- Health & Wellness classes
- Field trips
- Zakat program

## SOCIAL EVENTS

- Eid Milan/Cookouts
- Interfaith Iftars





# Monthly Food Pantry

MCMF operates an emergency food pantry that serves Montgomery County residents throughout the year. MCMF holds a monthly drive-through food distribution to provide groceries to families with children, seniors, handicapped, disabled, and low-income residents of Montgomery County. The food pantry provides a two-week supply of nutritionally balanced food items including shelf-stable food, fresh produce, poultry, eggs, and bread. The volunteers package the food and load the cars serving 300 families in MOCO every month.

**In 2023 to 2024, MCMF Food Pantry distributed over 158,830 pounds of food to 2,269 families through the drive-thru food pantry. During the pandemic MCMF distributed OVER 400,000 pounds of food.**

Food is delivered to handicapped and seniors who cannot pick up food at the drive-thru. Community members can contribute to this food distribution through financial donations and volunteering. The program is led by Mrs. Saba Rashid, President of MCMF and Sadiq Qureshi, MCMF Board Member.

For donation and volunteering information, please log on to [mcmfmd.org](http://mcmfmd.org) or email [mcmf@mcmfmd.org](mailto:mcmf@mcmfmd.org)









# School Food Assistance

MCMF partners with Linkages to Learning to provide food boxes to low-income families. MCMF serves Gaithersburg Elementary School, Forest Oak Middle School, South Lake Elementary School, Harriet Tubman Elementary School, and Whetstone Elementary School. **MCMF has provided 90,000 pounds of food to over 1,600 families between 2023–2024.** This program is led by Saba Rashid.



## SCHOOL BACKPACK DRIVE: 50 "LIFEPACKS"





# Annual Meat Distribution

MCMF organizes an effective and efficient program of handling all logistics and work relating to “Qurbani” at the time of Eid-ul-Adha, commemorating Prophet Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God’s command. MCMF provides to all Muslims an avenue to fulfill this religious obligation through it with an assurance that meat will reach the deserving candidates.



In 2023, Muslim families availed themselves through MCMF services of arranging the purchase and slaughter of lambs and cows as well as the distribution of meat to the deserving individuals and families. The average cost of a single share of “Qurbani” was \$340 including the cutting, packing, and distribution of meat. The total amount collected for the purpose was \$24,000. The funds were used to buy cows and goats from a USDA-approved vendor. The 5,300 pounds meat was packed in 5-lb packages and distributed to 1100 families in coordination with area Churches, Mosques, and other nonprofits. The program is led by Dr. Shanavas and Sadiq Qureshi, MCMF Board Member.





## Feed the Homeless-Interfaith Works

For the last several years, MCMF has participated in a Feed the Homeless Program run by the Interfaith Works Women Center of Rockville that provides temporary shelter to women and helps them lift themselves up from poverty and hopelessness through prevention, stabilization, and empowerment programs.

**MCMF arranged dinner for 24 days for 36 residents in 2023 and served 864 meals.** The dinner is comprised of different ethnic foods, and the average cost is around \$8 per head per day to feed the residents.

Before the pandemic, 4 -5 volunteers devoted a total of about 200 volunteer hours to this program. Post-COVID 19, the food is delivered to the Center and served by our board members and center staff. This program is led by Dr. T.O. Shanavas and Salma Afridi.



## FEEDING AT AR RASHIDUN







# Holiday Gift Basket Program

Christmas and Thanksgiving are special occasions to remember and help those who are less fortunate among us and are worthy of our attention. MCMF has recognized the importance of such occasions since its inception and developed a program of collecting/purchasing toys and buying items to be included in gift baskets for distribution during Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays every year.

In 2023, MCMF served 260 holiday gift baskets and distributed them among deserving families on Christmas Eve in collaboration with the Montgomery County Gift Program Coordinator, who referred deserving families to MCMF for this purpose. MCMF also distributed age-appropriate toys to children in collaboration with Toys for Tots. MCMF distributed collectively 260 baskets during Thanksgiving baskets in 2023.

**About 30-40 volunteers devoted 100 hours to this program in 2023 and served 520 gift baskets under the Holiday Gift Basket Program collectively.**











# Refugee Rehabilitation

One of our significant cornerstone programs is the Refugee Rehabilitation Program which has assisted Somali, Iraqi, Syrian, and Afghani families for years. The services include providing food, clothing, car, rental assistance, job training & employment services. MCMF has conducted multiple toy drives, Eid Drive, and Car drives for the refugee community and provided school uniforms to 62 families in 2019. With the recent crisis and influx of Afghan refugees in the County, MCMF has been overwhelmed with requests for assistance from the resettlement agencies. Since November 2021 MCMF has been working with International Rescue Committee, Ethiopian Community Development Council, and Lutheran Social service to provide food boxes, clothing, furniture, housing, rental assistance, and job placement services to the affected families. MCMF raised donations from the community and served over 5,000 individuals in need. **MCMF in partnership with New Neighbor interfaith Alliance (NNIA) delivers food boxes to refugee families in MOCO every month. Since Covid NNIA has helped serve 27,000 pounds of food to refugee families in MOCO us reach out.**

## Refugee Gift Basket Program

Ramadan Basket Program is one of our signature programs. The Program distributes a 15-day supply of rice, oil, lentils, beans, milk, juices, yogurt, tea, sugar, dates, fresh vegetables, and rooh afza to refugees and other families in the Prince George's and Montgomery County.

**In 2023 AND 2024 MCMF raised \$45,000 and served OVER 500 families serving over 2000 individuals collectively**









# Refugee Monthly Food Pantry

MCMF in partnership with New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance (NNIA), provides food boxes to refugee families in Montgomery County every month. The program was launched in late November 2022 and has served 27,000 pounds of food to 540 refugee families in MOCO and continues to grow.

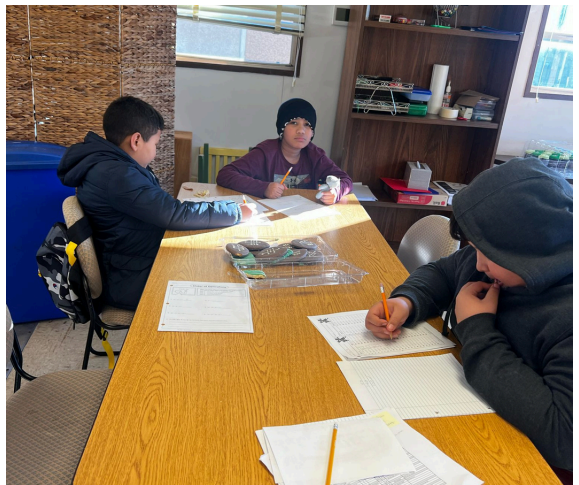
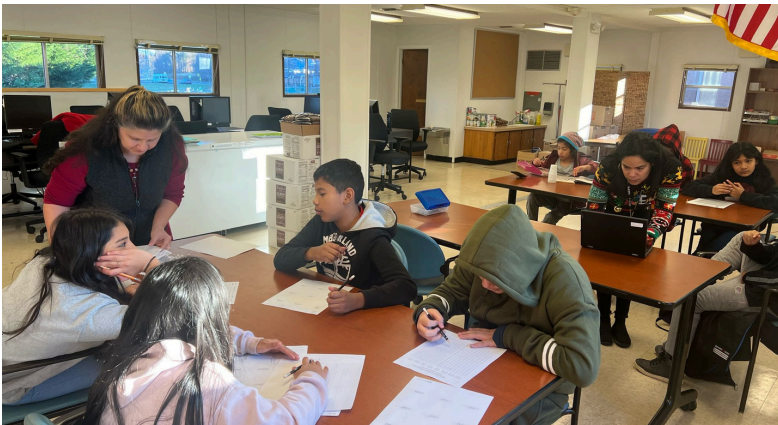
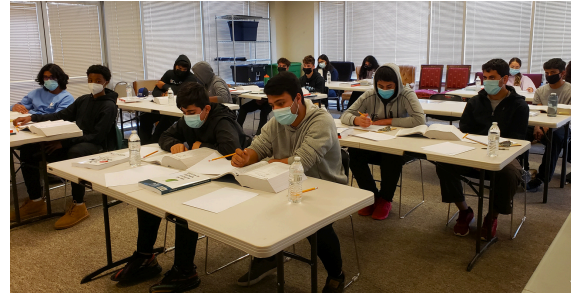




# Youth Empowerment

The Youth Empowerment Program of MCMF empowers the youth in MOCO by providing them with educational and leadership programs. MCMF holds **free SAT boot camps** for students from low-income backgrounds, tutorial classes, and college admission workshops. In 2019, MCMF organized an SAT Boot camp that was attended by ten students and in 2020, 2021, and 2022 each session had 14-19 students that attended the SAT class. In addition, one-to-one tutorial classes by professional teachers were held for some low-income family students. Similarly, **college admissions workshops** and **essay writing workshops** were organized which were attended by over 50 students and their parents. MCMF also held **public speaking** and confidence-building workshops in partnership with recognized life coach Mr. Umar Hameed. This program is run by Nasreen Khan, MCMF Board of Directors and Lead for MCMF SAT Program.

**MCMF is partnering with Linkages to Learning to provide After School Tutoring Services to low income children at Gaithersburg Elementary School. Every week 13-15 children attend these sessions.**



# Scholarship Funds

## **MCMF Tufail Ahmad Scholarship Fund**



MCMF Tufail Ahmad Scholarship Awards Program's mission is to provide financial assistance for college or vocational training programs to graduating high school seniors who are facing financial difficulties and live in the State of Maryland. Our goal is to help our recipients achieve a better future and rise above their challenging circumstances. MCMF awards each applicant \$1000 towards the course of their choice. The scholarship is intended as a Sadaqa Jari'aa and helps those requiring assistance today and will in turn help contribute to and support others in the future once able to do so.

## **MCMF African American Equity Scholarship Fund (AAEF)**

In light of the murder of George Floyd in May 2020, the MCMF Board of Directors established the African American Equity Program. Recognizing that economic empowerment builds confidence in the community, a fund has been created to empower African American young adults to prepare for skilled employment. The AAEP program offers scholarships for technical/vocational training in areas where the employment opportunities could be immediate and rewarding. MCMF partners with Montgomery College as it is the best resource for fulfilling our desired goal. MCMF has as yet provided 2 scholarships of \$5000 each to African American youth.



# Senior Program



With an increasing population of seniors in Montgomery County, MCMF felt the need to develop facilities to help the seniors live purposeful and productive life. To start this program, MCMF rented out an office with a spacious hall that could accommodate a large gathering of people. MCMF then equipped the hall with furniture, a speaker, a picture projector, exercise equipment, and reading material. It also bought a bus to add to the mobility of those who did not have transportation or could not drive. A bus driver and a bus coordinator were hired to arrange transportation and field trips for the seniors.

The services of a professional fitness instructor and a Yoga exercise expert were acquired to arrange for a regular one-hour exercise class every Monday and Wednesday. Seniors of every faith, sex, or ethnicity are welcome in the program.

Prior to Covid 19, these initiatives had 20-40 seniors regularly taking part in one hour Yoga class every Monday and a physical fitness class every Wednesday. Bus transportation was provided for exercise classes and for Friday prayers at ICM to those who needed it. In addition, a lecture series on subjects of interest to the seniors was arranged every Wednesday followed by a social get-together that includes an informal lunch. The field trips arranged included visiting the Cherry Blossom Festival, the African American Heritage Museum and Richmond Virginia War Museum, the Islamic Heritage Museum Turkish Mosque, and various animal shelters and agricultural farms.

In 2023, the seniors exercised four times a week as over 24 seniors are enrolled in the health and wellness classes.

The program is led by Ms. Shagufta Shah and Ms. Bano Makhdoom.



# Interfaith Iftar Event 2023

As an integral part of its humanitarian and social welfare programs, MCMF arranges social events and get-together functions for various purposes. First, in the month of Ramadan, it arranges in partnership with the Montgomery County Muslim Council and the Office of the County Executive, an Iftar dinner which is attended by representatives of all faiths, nonprofit organizations, and the County and State government officials.

MCMF held Ramadan Iftar event in April 4, 2023. The Iftar was attended by 450 guests including County and elected officials. The Lt. Governor Aruna Miller, Comptroller of Maryland Brooke Lierman also joined and addressed the guests. Special recognition was given to the first muslim delegate of Maryland- Sarah Woleck who also addressed the guests.

The cost of the event was equally shared by MCMF, Montgomery County Muslim Council (MCMC). The infrastructure for organizing the program was provided by County Government and Office of Human Rights.

County Executive Marc Elrich, co hosted the event and addressed the audience. County Executive, County Council President Evan Glass and Lt Governor read their respective citations. The proclamation was followed by an award ceremony in which young volunteers, seniors and community leaders were recognized for their services to the community. The ceremony was followed by a traditional Iftar dinner.









# Cookouts, & Volunteer Recognitions

Every year, MCMF arranges a community cookout events following Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha in which community members are invited to participate with their families. Participants bring dishes of their choice to be shared with others at the event.

In 2023, a cookout party was held at Black Hill Regional Park that was attended by over 200 families. County Executive Marc Elrich and Council members attended the event. Awards were given to seniors in the community.





# Zakat Program

MCMF has set up a Zakat Fund and appointed a committee to distribute funds. The community is requested to donate their Zakat money to the MCMF Zakat Fund, so that deserving families are able to receive the aid they need. In 2020 and 2021, the community donated a total of over \$13,000. This program is led by Mr. Fazal Khan and Dr. Shanavas.

## Clothing & Toy Program

**MCMF held its annual Clothing and Toy drive in collaboration with Islamic Community Center of Potomac in the month of Ramadan . On April 7th over 1000 items of clothing and toys were distributed cato refugee community in OPG county. Project was lead by MCMF Boar dmembetr Bano Makhdoom. A big Tahnks to Sister Zarmooda of ICCp fopr coordianting the drie with MCMF Center. The community members who want to donate gently used clothes or those who wish to visit the office to examine the existing stock for making selections for their use should get in touch with the MCMF office by phone or email. MCMF can arrange to pick up the clothes from any office or residence if sufficient quantity is available for donation.**

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# Awards and Recognition

## Middle Eastern Advisory Committee Awards MCMF Community Service Award- 2023



## Interfaith Works Awards MCMF with a Community Service Award 2024

Interfaith Works awards MCMF Community Service Award 2024. Revrend Rosyln, CEO of the Interfaith Works presented the award to Saba Rashid, President MCMF.





# Goals for 2024 - 2025

- Child Hunger Prevention Program
- After School Tutorial Program
- Senior Food and Meal Program
- Adult Day Care Center
- Clothing Store
- Mental Health Program

## Our Partners



MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
FOOD COUNCIL



Islamic Center of Maryland  
Paving the Way to Enlightened Hearts!

