

Montgomery County Muslim Foundation



Faith in Action 2020-2022



**MCMF
Founder**

**Late Mr. Tufail
Ahmad**

Founder of Montgomery County Muslim Foundation (MCMF)

Montgomery County Muslim Foundation and Montgomery County Muslim Council, and the broader Muslim-American community recently lost a passionate and tireless worker for humanity in general and uplifting the needy in particular. 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 and contributed to Manna and 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.

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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
- Food Drive for MANNA
- Annual Meat Distribution
- Holiday Gift Basket
- Ramadan Basket

REFUGEE PROGRAMS

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Youth Tech Club Coding Classes
- SAT Boot Camps & College Admissions Workshops
- African American Equity Scholarship Fund
- Tufail Ahmad Montgomery County Scholarship Fund

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 MOCO 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 250 to 300 families in MOCO every month.

Between 2020-2022, MCMF Food Pantry has distributed over 500,000 LBS OF FOOD, Over 6,000 PREPARED MEALS

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 President MCMF- Ms. Saba Rashid and co-lead- Sadiq Qureshi, board member of MCMF.

For donations and volunteering please log on to mcmfmd.org or email mcmfmd@gmail.com.



Drive Thru Volunteers



Drive thru disribution with County Executive and Councilmembers



Volunteers with Delegate Jim Gilchrist



With former Maryland State Representative Aruna Miller



With Vice President County Council Evan Glass



With County Council At-Large Candidate Laurie Anne Sayles

School Food Assistance

During the pandemic, MCMF partnered with MCPS area schools to provide food baskets to low-income families with children.

- Green Castle Elementary Castle, Takoma Park
 - **300 Boxes, 12,000 lbs**
- Great Seneca Creek Church, Gaithersburg, MD
 - **50 Boxes, 2050 lbs**
- Gaithersburg Elementary School
 - **900 lbs** of groceries
- Shrine of Judes Church, Rockville, and Shepherd's Pantry
 - **100 Boxes, 4000 lbs**
- Hughes Methodist Church Wheaton
 - **50 Boxes, 2000 lbs**



Meal Distribution Program

1855 fresh and frozen meals distributed in 2020

- 1,500 frozen meals from *Nourish Now* distributed to low-income families in Montgomery County
- 200 meals served to area police, fire & rescue, and hospital staff at area hospitals



Annual Meat Distribution

MCMF organizes a very 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. Thereby, 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 2020 Muslim families availed themselves of the MCMF services of arranging the purchase and slaughter of lambs and cows and distribution of meat to the deserving individuals and families. The average cost of a single share of “Qurbani” was \$265 including cutting, packing, and distribution of meat. **The total amount collected for the purpose was \$27,505 in 2020 and \$36,825 in 2021.** The funds were used to buy cows and goats from A USDA-approved vendor. **MCMF distributed 5.000 pounds of meat to 1100 families and in 2021 distributed over 6000 pounds of cow meat to 1200 low-income families In our neighborhood.** The meat was distributed in coordination with area Churches, Mosques, and other nonprofits. The program is led by Dr. Shanavas, Chairman of MCMF.



Feed the Homeless

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 then helps them to lift themselves from poverty and hopelessness through prevention, stabilization, and empowerment programs.

Before 2020, MCMF provided residents of the center three meals a day for four weeks a year. Since 2020 MCMF arranged dinner for 28 days for 36 residents. The dinner is comprised of different ethnic foods, and the average cost is around \$8 per head per day to feed the residents. **In 2020 and 2021 collectively MCMF served 1000 meals to the Interfaith Shelter.**

Before the pandemic, 4 -5 volunteers devoted a total of about 200 volunteer hours to this program. However, due to COVID 19, the food is delivered to the Shelter and served by Shelter staff as volunteers are not permitted to serve at the shelter. This program is led by MCMf Chair Dr. T.O. Shanavas.



Food Drive for Manna



Before COVID 19, MCMF in coordination with Manna Food and the local Giant stores undertook an annual food collection campaign on designated dates. On those dates, MCMF volunteers stood on the doorsteps of selected Giant stores to collect nonperishable food items that were handed over to Manna Food for distribution among needy families.

In 2019, the last food drive held before the pandemic, MCMF held the annual food drive on two days in April 2019, 60 volunteers devoted about 1000 volunteer hours to the food drive at 13 Giant stores and collected about 10,900 pounds of nonperishable food items. This event attracts middle and high school students and their parents as MCMF is recognized by the County school system as a legitimate non-profit organization for earning SSL Hours. Those children who wanted to participate in this noble effort and also earn SSL Hours to meet the graduation requirement were urged to register themselves with MCMF. This program was led by the Late Mr. Tufail Ahmad, former Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Holiday Gift Basket Program

Christmas and Thanksgiving are the 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 to the deserving persons during Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays every year.

In 2020 and 2021, MCMF prepared collectively served 260-holiday gift baskets and distributed them among the deserving families on the eve of Christmas 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 Thanks-giving baskets in 2020 and 2021. The program required not only funds for the purchase of gift items and toys but also a lot of volunteers to properly prepare the gift baskets and wrap them up for delivery. **About 30- 40 volunteers devoted 100 hours to this program in 2020 and 2021 and served collectively 520 gift baskets under the Holiday Gift Basket Program.**



Ramadan 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 PG, Baltimore, and Montgomery County.

- In 2020 MCMF raised **\$27,505** and served **256 families serving 17,920 pounds of food.**
- In 2021 the Muslim community raised **\$12,730** and served Ramadan baskets to **267 families serving 16020 pounds of food.**
- In 2022 MCMF raised **\$30,000** and served **350 families serving 19,800 pounds of food.**

MCMF served collectively 64,410 pounds of food from 2020 to 2022.



Women Employment & Training Program (WETP)

MCMF started the Women's Empowerment and Refugee Assistance Program in the very early years of its inception. With the influx of refugees, we have bolstered our programs to support women who need to find a way to make a sustainable income. Currently, MCMF Women Empowerment Lead Ms. Bano Makhdoom is working with **40 women and 26 of these are already on their way to self-sufficiency.**

- We now have 60 percent of women referred from the original group working.
- Five trained seamstress in the community is ready to take in work as they aspire to build up an independent home-based business.
- Several of the young girls and women are pursuing junior colleges, even as they work cashier or part-time jobs on weekends.
- Job placement of women in daycare for children, especially where the centers offer to train has been an ongoing source of employment.
- Senior care is equally in demand, but we do not have enough trained women. Those available are snatched up fast.
- In-person job search counseling is available at the MCMF office, by appointment. referrals to organizations in the area, as in Business classes at Gilchrist Refugee job center or MOCO Libraries as well as ECDC. Currently working with Germantown clients, seeking employment in MOCO public school cafeteria.
- Current goals setting up business classes, hiring the sewing and technical help needed for our programs, expanding our network of possible employers, as well as partner agencies, to take on the influx of refugees in need of work.



MCMF donated sewing machines to refugee women and employed them to make 1000 masks during COVID-19. The masks were donated to Black Rock Regional Center, area hospitals and low income families.



WETP recognizing empowered women of our community



Refugee women entrepreneurs



Volunteer made jewelry as gifts for refugee women entrepreneurs



MCMF and City of Gaithersburg Building Bridges with Afghans Cultural Training Seminar

MCMF in conjunction with the City of Gaithersburg on Feb 9, 2022, held a seminar on "Building Bridges of Understanding," an Afghan cultural sensitivity training session for the MOCO government and non-profits working with new Afghan immigrant families.

Sam Mak, a Diversity and Inclusion Consultant, gave a scenic presentation to providers assisting in refugee services. She compassionately explained the Afghan's plight and the humanity of these resourceful people that are now refugees in the United States.

The attendees enjoyed the inside view of Afghanistan through the eyes of an American citizen, who deeply understands and honors Afghani culture. MCMF is grateful for the support of the City of Gaithersburg, the community, businesses, and organizations that aid in the mission to provide services to our community.

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 cash and kind donations from the community and served over 5000 individuals in need.**



Sewing & More

MCMF holds sewing classes for refugee women and provides mentorship, and career counseling services.



Fresh Halal Meals

Since November 2021, MCMF has served **over 6000 fresh halal meals** to the new refugees in temporary housing in Montgomery County.



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.



Youth Tech Club (YTC) Coding Classes



MCMF collaborates with YTC to organize free computer coding classes for the youth. The coding class commenced on October 19, 2019, and is currently being held on zoom every Saturday. MCMF has purchased 15 Chrome books with accessories for training purposes and loaned them out to needy and deserving students so that lack of resources does not hinder any student's ability to reach his/her full potential.

Since 2020, 50 students have benefitted from this program. The program is led by Mr. Javed Choudhry and YTC.

MCMF YTC Book club registered 60 students.

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 were arranged every Wednesday followed by a social get-together that includes an informal lunch. The field trips arranged in 2019 included Cherry Blossom Festival, a visit to the African American Heritage Museum and Richmond Virginia War Museum, Islamic Heritage Museum Turkish Mosque, and various animal shelters and agricultural farms.

Due to COVID 19, the seniors are exercising four times a week and over 24 seniors are enrolled in the health and wellness classes. Seniors plan to start in-person programs from May 2022.

The program is led by Mr. Ramzan Shah and assisted by Ms. Shagufta Ahsan, both of them members of the Executive Council of MCMF.



Interfaith Events

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 coordination 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 its last in-person Iftar event in May 2019, which was attended by 450 guests. The cost of the event was equally shared by MCMF and Montgomery County Muslim Council (MCMC). The infrastructure for organizing the program was provided by County Government and Human Rights Commission.

Mr. Mark Elrich, the County Executive, was the chief guest and addressed the audience. The County Executive and County Council President declared May 5, 2019, to June 4, 2019, like Muslim American Ramadan month. A citation from the Governor of Maryland was also read out at the function by his representative.

MCMF had virtual Iftar events in 2020 and 2021.



March 29th, 2022: MCMF Receives the Ramadan Proclamation on behalf of the Muslim Community in MOCO

Eid Milan, Cookouts, & Volunteer Recognition

Every year, MCMF arranges two Eid Milan/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 2021, A Eid Milan/cookout party was held at Black Hill Regional Park that was attended by over 200 families. The County Executive Marc Elrich and Council members attended the event. Awards were given to volunteers who had served the community during the pandemic.



Martin Luther King Junior Day of Service

THE MCMF youth wing lead by Naba Yazdani and Amina Rashid lead the Martin Luther Jr. Day of Service in 2020 and 2021. MCMF youth volunteers decorated 40 cotton bags for Children's Inn at NIH and in 2021 the youth leads a cookie drive and distributed 3000 cookies to area homeless shelters.



Zakat Program

MCMF has set up a Zakat Fund and appointed a committee to distribute funds from it to those who are eligible to receive them under the religious injunction. Zakat Fund is kept separate from other accounts for the reason that it can be distributed only to such needy Muslims that are defined by the religion. In 2019, Zakat Fund received donations of \$7000. out of which \$3550 were disbursed in line with the religious mandate.

The community is requested to donate their Zakat money to MCMF Zakat Fund so that the deserving Muslim families residing in our neighborhood could be helped. In 2020 and 2021 the community donated a total of over \$13,000 This program is lead by our Treasure Mr Ramzan Shah,

Clothing Program

MCMF carries in its office shelves of gently used clothes donated by the community throughout the year. Any needy person can visit the office and take away useable clothes at no cost. In addition, MCMF conducts an annual clothes collection drive, mostly in the month of Ramadhan, and distributes them on a designated date through the Muslim Community Center located in Silver Spring. While MCMF has not kept a proper records f the clothes received and clothes distributed, it is sure that this effort has resulted in helping a large number of people, particularly refugees. In 2019, a cloth collection drive was launched in April and May and a clothes distribution stall was organized on May 24, 2019 at the Muslim Community 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.



Goals for 2022 - 2023

- Child Hunger Prevention 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!

