

Bait ul Mal Pacific Northwest

Reviving the Tradition of Prophet Muhammad, Peace and Blessings of Allah Be Upon Him (PBUH)

HOPE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Bait ul Mal Pacific Northwest is a non-profit charitable organization registered with the State of Washington pursuant to the Charitable Solicitations Act, RCW 19.09: UBI # 602-646-900, Registration # 23157 Federal Tax ID: 41-2213255

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Al-Quran 9:71

'The believers, men and women are protectors, one of another: they enjoin what is just, and forbid what is evil. They observe regular prayers, practice regular charity and obey Allah and His Apostle. On them will Allah pour His Mercy, for Allah is Exalted in Power.

In the name of Allah, Most Beneficent, Most Merciful

www.baitulmal.org
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Good news to share!

We welcome Bait ul Mal's new Steering Committee members, who have joined us in the noble work of serving our community

Abdul Qahir Khwaja

"I joined Bait ul Mal because it makes me aware of the needs of the local Muslim community and gives us an opportunity to help them for Allah's sake."

Dr. Muhammad Ayub

"I joined Bait ul Mal because I earnestly believe that this is the right thing to do. Islam is an egalitarian religion and by participating in Bait ul Mal, we are immediately putting more than 750 verses of the Holy Quran in practice instantly. I love the peace of mind, satisfaction and tranquility that it brings me."

Khizer Sheriff

"Bait ul Mal has no agenda or motive beyond helping the poor and the needy members of the Muslim Ummah in our community for the sake of Allah. I have greatly felt that there was need in our community of an organized way to reach out to the more needy members of our community, determine their wants and connect them with people and organizations who can provide them with the assistance they need. Many times my family and I have wanted to help others but have not found a reliable channel to reach out to those in need. We thus dropped our contributions in the Sadaqa or Zakat boxes of the local Masajid. I think Bait-ul-Mal provides donors with direct link with those in need and makes the act of giving more tangible and meaningful. This organization fills a gap that I have always felt in this community by directly linking funds, services and resources to those in need of these."

The founding members are encouraged and excited about the potential the new members bring to the task at hand by their comments and intentions to help us run this organization as a unique model and uphold its vision, mission and goals, inshallah.

May Allah accept our service and guide us to follow the Quranic guidelines and the example of Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him.

Bait ul Mal Pacific Northwest

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JANUARY TO JUNE 2008 REPORTS

The committee members use the Project Charters and Administrative Guide to coordinate the work on a regular basis.

Finance Committee Report:

1. Organized fiscal procedures and prepared for an annual audit of the organization's accounts and financial records for the fiscal year 2007.
2. Secured two members of our community with extensive accounting experience and knowledge to review our financial process to ensure that we accurately maintain the financial books in accordance with GAAP regulations, statutes and laws governing Bait ul Mal as a non-profit charitable organization.
3. Completed the first Quarterly Financial Statement within the specified time frame and posted it on our Web site for accountability and transparency.

Community Services Committee Report:

1. Prepared needs assessment of the community to provide funding for housing and other essential services.
2. Provided a list of persons who are eligible to receive Zakat and Sadaqa including organizations like the *Sisters of the Sunnah Islamic Services* and *Al-Shifa Clinic* who provide essential services to our indigent community members.
3. Researched existing programs and other available resources to offer referral services using the 211 information agency.
4. Conferred with the Advisory Committee of local Imams on questions of Zakat distribution.

BAIT UL MAL—A central place to give your zakat & sadaqa!

So far we have helped 15 applicants who contacted us from **Aberdeen, Seattle, Kent, Renton, Tukwila, Seatac, Federal Way, Spokane and Tri-Cities.**

Funds were distributed promptly to provide assistance for the following urgent requests:

- **Rent and saving homes from foreclosure, Utilities (Electricity, telephone), Education (Books), Medical Supplements, and Community Outreach**

RECIPIENTS' TESTIMONIALS

Assalam Alaikum:

'I want to acknowledge the dedication of the Bait ul Mal, the organization and its individuals who assisted my family. With clear purpose they responded to our needs. Our request for assistance received an almost immediate response; we felt that our privacy and our sense of dignity were given respect. In a time of need our community responded and we are grateful.'

Thank you Bait ul Mal Pacific NW.

—Maryam and family.

'I want to thank Bait ul Mal for helping us pay our rent. My husband and I are business owners and our business had really slowed down. We made continuous dua to Allah and Alhamdulillah Bait ul Mal was brought to our attention from a friend. We called and they helped us so quickly, resulting in us paying our rent!! Bait ul Mal was there during a difficult time in our life. May Allah Subhana wa ta'ala reward you and all of your staff tremendously, Ameen.

I pray that others will help support Bait ul Mal by way of donations so they can continue assisting others, like they have assisted us!

—A.A. Washington

Shukran for the help and assistance you have provided for me and my family in our time of need. Barak Allah Feekum wa Jazak Allahu Khairan.

—Asadullah Baagie and family

*We are living in serious times. With so many national and international catastrophes occurring in succession, the Red Cross has depleted its resources. Everyone is feeling the pinch of soaring costs. In view of these times, it is a wonder that there was help in Bait ul mal for my family and myself during our time of recent great duress. Their individual members, in a timely manner, came in unity and were quick and frantic with concern for my family. **Bait ul mal is a wonderful Muslim service organization, the only one of its kind in our community. They give families a boost back on their feet so that they can be self-supporting and self-sustaining once again. The benefit they give saves lives and prevents irreparable loss.** Bait ul mal is calling for immediate financial support. It is an organization that deserves our monetary contributions.*

Bait ul mal's call for help is not just another distraction taxing meager resources. One may ask, "Isn't it enough that I consider the poor through giving to my local Masjid?" Some may feel that it is simply mind-boggling to be asked to give to yet another charity at a time when so many people are absorbed by their own personal concerns for loved ones who may live in other communities or countries of origin. It is a human inclination to be tight fisted, edgy and self-serving when times are hard. However, if everybody plays a part, the burden can be lightened in providing help to those who find themselves in desperate situations.

According to "Google" there are an estimated 40,000 Muslims in the Puget Sound. Additionally, a yearly average of 10,000 to 12,000 people move to this area from

*countries having large Muslim populations. **Let's work with the estimated 40,000 Muslims in Puget Sound! What if each of us gave just one dollar a month to Bait ul mal? There would be a \$40,000/month additional arm of help to reach the under-served population of Muslims in our locale! Think of the possibilities coming from just one dollar a month.***

Most of us could probably afford to give much more. For the sake of Allah, Most Generous, let our first inclination be to contribute.

Let every Muslim in Puget Sound be aware of the existence of Bait ul mal and contribute to its cause.

—Forever Grateful

AL-QURAN 51:19

'And in their wealth and possessions was remembered the right of the needy. Him who asked, and him who for some reason was prevented from asking.

A SPECIAL REPORT FROM JANICE TUFTE, MUSLIM ADVOCATE ON HOUSING!

Because of the Housing mortgage crisis many \$\$ are being diverted from actual low income rental housing to keeping those at risk of losing homes in their homes.

In today's Puget Sound environment we are seeing a surge in the cost of rents, taxes, energy bills, and food, which are all contributing to many families losing their housing.

Food banks are struggling, energy gifting plans are in financial crisis, and Red Cross is right now working in the red. To qualify for rental assistance if you are close to eviction, you must show the assistance agencies you have income to pay the next months rent or you will not qualify for the rental help.

When it comes between shoes for your children and a week's meals, life becomes a real challenge.

Many are struggling just being able to drive to work let alone help others in need.

- * Rent has increased on average 6-14% in last 1-2 years.
- * Low income housing lists are 2-5 years
- * Domestic violence victims are turned away from shelters because of no room 15-1 that will be housed with services

* Basic costs of living have increased 10-20% in last year

* Wages have only increased minimally if at all

* Health care costs are rising, it is harder to find a family doctor when on medicaid or medicare

* School loan requests are up 3 times in the last year (4 lenders have stopped lending college loans)

More graduates are in default on past loans because of a slow economy.

* Refugees are losing housing because of cost of living, rent increases and wages are not rising comparatively.

* Over 8,400 persons are homeless in King County; half are families with young children.

* Calling your representative at 1-800-562-6000 or writing <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx> will help many who are needing assistance now. Just share with your Representative or Senator your concerns about housing, poverty, food costs and availability, education health, and or care costs, etc.

Just need 11 people to make a difference in how our laws are formed.

Statewide, we (coalitions) are hoping to pass bills that will allow us to create programs to run the systems more efficiently. Like re-entry workable systems, mental health streamlined and coordinated single point entries into services are some of our hopes.

Solutions:

- 1) Start a local food cupboard in your neighborhood, where individuals are able to share and or trade foods.
- 2) Rent a home where a few families could share housing and responsibilities.
- 3) Inform needy individuals about what resources are available. Al-Shifa has a free clinic every Saturday at Refugee Women's Alliance 4008 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Seattle for all low income persons.
- 4) Encourage self employment, cooking for \$\$, sewing for \$\$, start micro businesses.
- 5) Teach budgeting and rational spending classes.
- 6) Be supportive when others are having a tough time.

Salams

Jazzak Allah Khairun

Janice Tufte, Muslim Advocate on Housing and Advocacy

Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him said, ***Love for humanity what you love for yourself'***

HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO BAIT UL MAL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

26 donors from Microsoft have contributed a total of **\$9,180.16** from January to June 2008, Mashallah!

A plea for help to save a **'Family in Crisis'** was responded to in a timely way by our supporters from Microsoft.

They contributed generously to save our community member's home from foreclosure and made it possible for the family with an elderly mother and five children to keep their home!

We appreciate your help by coming together in unity, which is the essence of **'community'**.

The model of **Bait ul Mal** as it was established by Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him is a boon to humanity. Our **mission** is to strengthen and unify our community by supporting all eligible persons and organizations.

With the help of Allah, Most High and your trust in Bait ul Mal PNW, one day our **vision** of a flourishing, self-sustaining environment with coordinated community services and resources, (zakat and sadaqa contributions) will be a reality.

Second Quarter Financial Statement

as of June 30, 2008

Sadaqa

Previous cash on hand: \$ 2,853.58

Donations: 18,870.27

Total: 21,723.85

Zakat

Previous cash on hand: \$ 3,279.61

Donations: 11,200.00

Total: 14,479.61

Total Sadaqa and Zakat: 36,203.46

59 Donors have contributed \$4,510 through PayPal from March to June 2008

We have 9 recurring donations each month varying from \$5 to \$60 for a monthly total of \$230!

Six other members contribute 200 each month by sending their checks to Bait ul Mal's mailing address.

Disbursements

Sadaqa: \$20,667.74

Zakat: 14,313.99

Total: 34,981.73

Bait ul Mal provided assistance to the applicants for the following categories:

- Rent/Mortgage: \$24,427.73
- Medical: 1,200.00
- Utilities: 2,425.62
- Community Outreach: 1,200.00
- Education: 475.39

Looking ahead to the next six months in 2008

July 13 Fundraiser Interfaith Task Force on Ending Homelessness. Bait ul Mal will be supporting this organization towards ending homelessness through education and advocacy. If anyone is interested in attending the fundraiser or contributing dollars for a worthwhile cause please attend or donate if you like.

Ramadan begins in September! Consider giving a portion of your Zakat/Sadaqa to Bait ul Mal in order for us to continue providing the services to our more vulnerable community members.

Here are some ways you can help:

1. Give
 - 5 hours per month as a volunteer
 - 5 duas per month that Allah the Most High will send us righteous helpers to aid us in our endeavors
 - \$5.00 per month or more **consistently**. Use the bill pay service at your bank, or online at <http://www.baitulmal.org>.
2. Talk to your circle of family and friends about how their contributions can make a difference—share our newsletter with them.
3. Pray that all the Masajids will collaborate to help our community by joining Bait ul Mal with the intention of reviving the tradition of Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him.
4. Talk with your Imam and encourage him to coordinate your Masjid's Zakat and Sadaqa through Bait ul Mal.
Masjid Ar-Rahmah (MAPS) and the Muslim Downtown Association have taken the lead and sent us their donations.

Thank you for your continued support. We rely on you to enable us to continue to serve for the pleasure of Allah. May He reward you greatly. *Ameen*.

“In relation to one another, believers are like a structure: each part strengthens the other parts. When Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him said this, he clasped his fingers together.

In commenting on this Hadith, Al-Qurtubi said: “A structure does not stand up or become habitable unless all its parts mutually support one another”

