



# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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# ISLAM & HELPING OTHERS

We believe that all humans are born good, and that they strive to help one another and improve their communities. Our Islamic faith gives us the motivation, purpose, and direction in shaping who we are, what we do, and why do we.

- Hadith: Bhukari { • The most beloved to God, are the most beneficial to others.
- Quran 31:18 { • Do not turn your face away from people in contempt, nor go about in the land exultingly.
- Quran 16:90 { • God commands you to uphold justice and to do good to others.
- Quran 107:3 { • Have you seen him who goes against faith? That is the one who is rough to the orphan and does not encourage the feeding of the needy.
- Hadith { • He is not a believer who fills his stomach while his neighbour is hungry.
- Quran 4:36 { • Be good to . . . the neighbor belonging to your people and the alien neighbor.
- Quran 2:195 { • Do good to others. Surely God loves those who do good to others.
- Hadith { • Be merciful to those on earth, and the one in heaven surely will be merciful to you.

# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Abdou Kattih



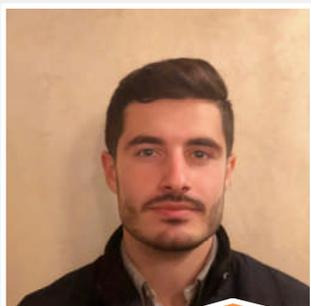
Anas Hajhussein



Ayman Yaseen



Basant Salem



Loay Abuzahra



Sarah Alzabet



Sarin Chamdin

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

*Assalam Alaiykum (Peace be upon you),*

Dear brothers and sisters, take a good look around you. It truly is a breathtakingly beautiful sight to behold. A melting pot of faith, culture, ethnicity, and camaraderie lies within the small city of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. A hidden gem in the south. We have flourished and grown into a community that transcends the “realistic” boundaries of love and generosity. That to us is absolutely priceless.

We naturally gravitate towards one another. The need for companionship is at the very core of our humanity. Sometimes that inward struggle for amity is betrayed and evil takes the upper hand. Hope can always be found amongst the aftermath. In early 2015, three young Muslim students lost their lives amidst an individual’s betrayal of that amity. The horrific shooting incident in Chapel Hill, N.C. still haunts us to this day, but has lit a fire like no other within all of our hearts. Hope was found amongst the ashes. Something powerful and beautiful surfaced from the tragedy, a new-found purpose.

With nothing more than the will to make a difference in the world, the Murfreesboro Muslim Youth was born. Since the organization's conception, we have grown as an entity and as individuals. With the extraordinary support of our community, milestones were surpassed each and every year.

It is almost impossible to overemphasize the staggering level of support we have received from our neighbors, both locally and from a far. The friendships we have made and our experiences together are ones that will last a lifetime. Together we can leave a world behind that our children can be proud to call home.

Thank you for your support. A million times thank you for giving hope new meaning. In the word of Alan Turing, "Sometimes it is the people no one imagines anything of who do the things that no one can imagine." Together we are making the unimaginable a mere fantasy.

Thank you!

*Murfreesboro Muslim Youth Board*

# OUR MISSION, OBJECTIVES, AND SERVICES



MMY is an autonomous, incorporated, non-profit organization formed following the murder of three Muslim youth in Chapel Hill, NC (The Three Winners) in 2015. We are NOT a 501c organization.

Our activities aim to engage the youth in community services that foster relationships, establish and enhance the spirit of generosity that is found in each one of our youth, and develop a sense of pride in their Islamic identity.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to help connect, develop, grow, learn from, and educate our youth from all age groups through community service and working together.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

Our objectives are to provide our youth with opportunities to serve the community we live in, foster relationships with one another, and enhance the good nature in each one of them, all while developing a sense of pride in our Muslim identity.

## OUR SERVICES

Our services fall in one of five categories based on their purpose and/or who they serve.

# SERVICES: YOUTH AND FAMILY INITIATIVES

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



The MMY encourages, supports, and finances our youth ideas and work to improve the society they live in.

The MMY supports the development of the youth character, skills, and knowledge in the realm of faith, social justice, advocacy, leadership, good citizenship, and organization.



## FUN ACTIVITIES

Our fun activities are geared towards every age and are open to everyone regardless of belief. Through these activities, we hope to provide fun, create friendships, build trust, establish bonds, and enhance the sense of pride in one's faith among our community.



## MUSLIM INTER-SCHOLASTIC TOURNAMENT

MIST is the Muslim Inter-Scholastic Tournament (MIST)™. Annually, The MMY will help MIST Nashville and/or our local MIST team by providing volunteers and / or financial support. For more information go to: [Mistnashville.com](http://Mistnashville.com).

# SERVICES: COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

## 30 DAYS OF GIVING

Ramadan is the month of fasting for Muslims. During that month, we put the spirit of Ramadan to action. Our youth are encouraged to give back to the community personally and through activities organized by the MMY.

## CANNED FOOD DRIVES

The MMY helps stock local nonprofit food pantries and food banks. In addition, our volunteers help in any other ways they can.

## SHOWING CARE

We take part in local causes or needs that benefit our community. We help local groups that work with the less fortunate in our community. We help local families in crisis. We sponsor community events. We volunteer in local activities, events, and nonprofit causes whenever we can.

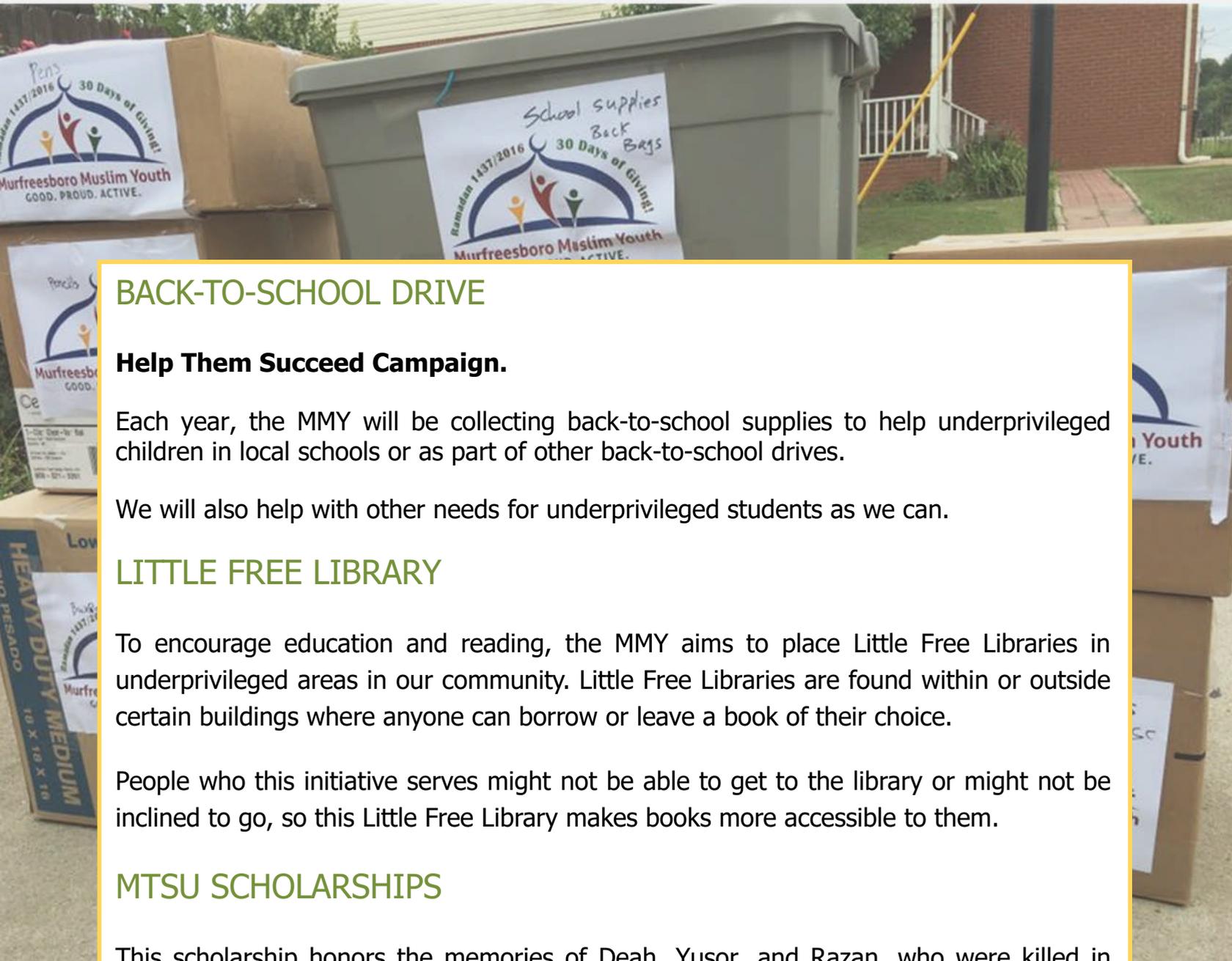
## FEEDING THE HUNGRY

The MMY team works with local groups and shelters to provide food to those in need on a regular and emergency basis.

## FREE MEAL VOUCHER

In partnership with the MMY and The Murfreesboro Cold Patrol, The Kwik Mart owners on Front Street in Murfreesboro are giving back in a unique way that provides free hot meals to the underprivileged. For each two meals purchased they will provide a free meal voucher.

# SERVICES: EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES



## BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE

### **Help Them Succeed Campaign.**

Each year, the MMY will be collecting back-to-school supplies to help underprivileged children in local schools or as part of other back-to-school drives.

We will also help with other needs for underprivileged students as we can.

## LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

To encourage education and reading, the MMY aims to place Little Free Libraries in underprivileged areas in our community. Little Free Libraries are found within or outside certain buildings where anyone can borrow or leave a book of their choice.

People who this initiative serves might not be able to get to the library or might not be inclined to go, so this Little Free Library makes books more accessible to them.

## MTSU SCHOLARSHIPS

This scholarship honors the memories of Deah, Yusor, and Razan, who were killed in Chapel Hill, NC, in 2015. It supports the pursuit of education in our community. The scholarship provides two annual \$500 grants. Applicants must be a Murfreesboro resident, college freshman, GPA of greater than 3.0, and has volunteer hours in a diverse environment(s).

# SERVICES: INTERFAITH INITIATIVES

## LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

A community potluck picnic, in collaboration with Murfreesboro Cold Patrol, is held 3 times a year in Murfreesboro.

This initiative aims to build bridges between people of different faiths and backgrounds in order to grow peace and love in our city.

It brings hundreds of people from all walks of life together.

## A SEAT AT THE TABLE

**ASATT is a project by the Faith and Culture Center.**

A Seat at the Table (ASATT) brings together people of different backgrounds for a conversation over a shared meal.

ASATTs are typically hosted in people's homes.

## APPRECIATION IFTAR

In 2015 and 2016 we held a Fast-A-Thon Iftar (breaking fast) during Ramadan. They were a great success. In 2017, we launched our first appreciation Iftar for local nonprofit organizations in Murfreesboro.

The Appreciation Iftar is intended to show appreciation to those who give in our community and to invite others to join us in fasting and breaking the fast.

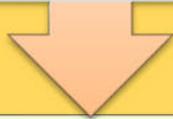


# SERVICES: REFUGEE INITIATIVES

Our goal is to supplement these families' needs, ease the transition into their new start, and give them the confidence and resources to quickly become self-sufficient in our community.

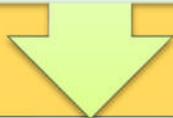
## STEP ONE: Assess and Provide Basic Needs

This step includes basic and urgent needs upon arrival.



## STEP TWO: Household Needs

Once in a home, we provide household and furniture needs.



## STEP THREE: A Step Further

In this step, we provide services that help better equip them to be self-sustaining and independent.



## STEP FOUR: Good Neighbor

We stay in touch with the families and teach them how to navigate their new life. We also provide limited monetary help on a true emergency basis.



Roots for Refugees is a local community endeavor that aims towards welcoming new refugee families to Murfreesboro.



Also known as Middle Tennessee Refugee helpers, is a local community effort that aim towards welcoming new Syrian Refugee families to Middle Tennessee.

# 2017 MMY WORK IN NUMBERS



**4000+**  
Meals  
Distributed

**1500+**  
Volunteer  
Hours

**2000+**  
School Items  
Donated

**4000+**  
Cans of Food  
Donated

**5000+**  
Items to People  
in Need

**700+**  
Free Meal  
Vouchers

**200+**  
Activity and  
Events

**300+**  
Refugees Being  
Helped

**7**  
Awards

And Much  
More...

# REFUGEE WORK IN NUMBERS

300 +

Refugees Being Helped

100 +

Washers and Dryers Delivered

60 +

Drivers Licenses Obtained

20 +

Cars Provided or Facilitated

100s

Of Deliveries and Visits

60 +

Houses Furnished in Part or Full

Countless

Lives Touched



# 2017 HIGHLIGHTS AND MILESTONES

These are the top highlights and milestones for 2017. Much more was done during this year.



## FEBRUARY | WE ALL BELONG

We co-organized a peace rally Downtown Murfreesboro that attracted hundreds.

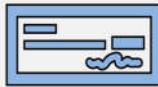


## JANUARY | PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

The DNJ awarded our president Abdou Kattih the Person of the Year award for 2016.

## FEBRUARY | FREE MEAL VOUCHERS

With a generous offer from Kwik Mart, we launched the free meal vouchers program. Over 700 vouchers were distributed in 2017.



## MARCH | AMAC VOLUNTEER AWARD

Our volunteer Safa Baher received the American Muslim Advisory Council volunteer award for 2017 at their annual gala.



## MARCH | UNITED WITH ROOTS FOR REFUGEES

One of our most successful milestones in 2017 was bringing Roots for Refugees on board as part of our refugee work.



## APRIL | MTSU SCHOLARSHIP

We launched our MTSU scholarship. It will provide two annual \$500 scholarships through the MTSU Foundation.

## MAY | CAIR AWARD

We received the Community Service Award by CAIR Alabama.



## JUNE | FIRST APPRECIATION IFTAR

Our first non-profit organization Appreciation Iftar was a hit! Over 15 organizations recognized, and over 100 people attended.



# 2017 HIGHLIGHTS AND MILESTONES

## JULY | PRE-K SPONSORSHIP

We were honored to co-sponsor the Pre-K program for underprivileged children with the city schools.



## AUGUST | LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

With the help of VALOR Schools, we launched our Little Free Library program.



## SEPTEMBER | COMMUNITIES OF PEACE

Communities of Peace was established in NC modeled after the MMY.



## OCTOBER | REMARKABLE WOMEN

Our Christian leader of Roots for Refuges Initiative, Melissa Sohrabi, was recognized as a remarkable woman by the Murfreesboro Post for 2017.



## NOVEMBER | MURFREESBORO LOVES

We were honored to help form Murfreesboro Loves, which helped unite our community in the face of a hate rally that was planned in Murfreesboro.



**#MURFREESBOROLOVES**

## DECEMBER | MURFREESBORO

We received the Murfreesboro Fire and Rescue Annual Community Service Award for 2017.



## DECEMBER | HARVARD

The MMY was invited to take part in the Harvard University's Annual Symposium on Religious Literacy to present about the work the MMY does.

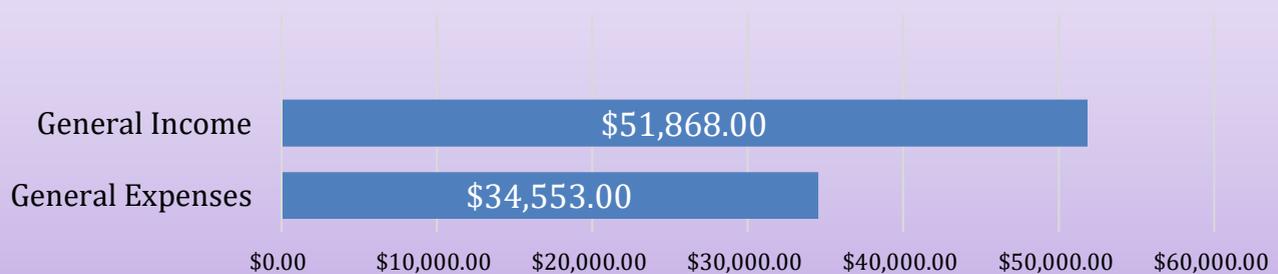


# FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF 12-20-2017

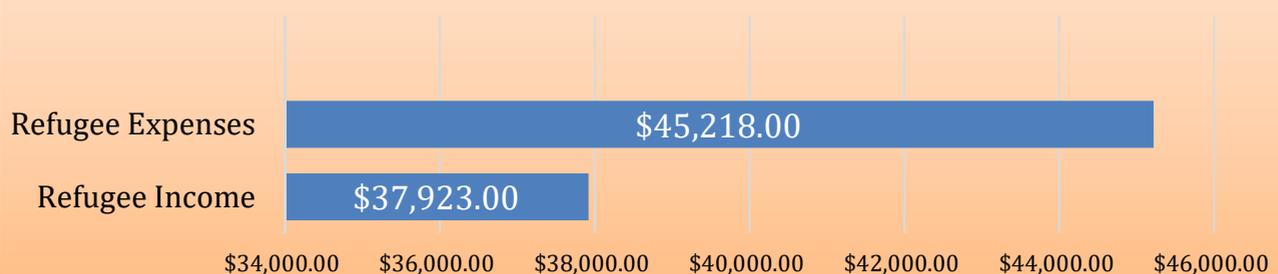
## ABOUT OUR FINANCES IN 2017

- We maintain two bank accounts. One for general operations and one for refugee operations.
- Our finances are reviewed a certified accountant.
- We have no employees, nor do we pay any of our board members or volunteers for any service they provide.
- We received donations from over 400 donors in 2017.
- Twenty donors donated over \$1000 in 2017.

### MMY 2017 GENERAL ACCOUNT INCOME VS EXPENSES

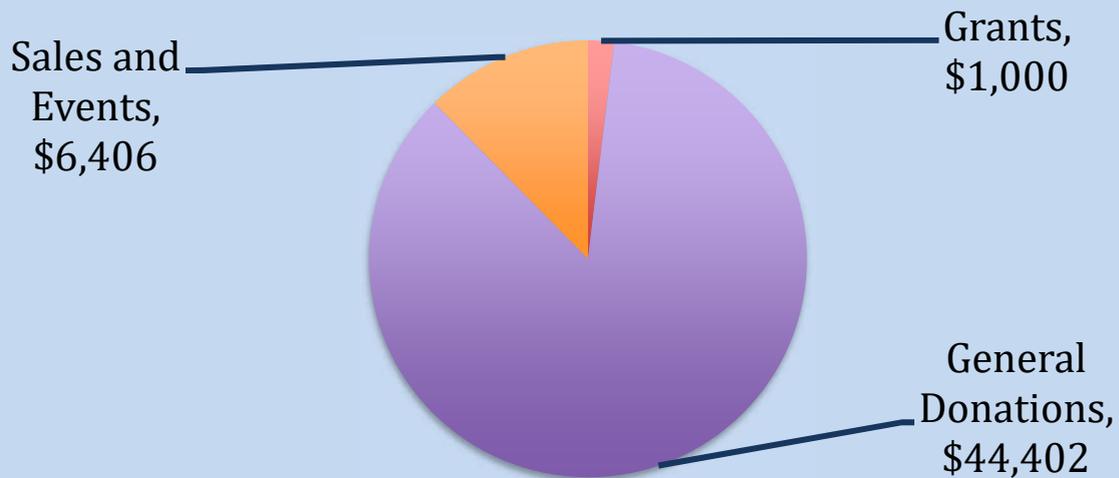


### MMY 2017 REFUGEE ACCOUNT INCOME VS EXPENSES

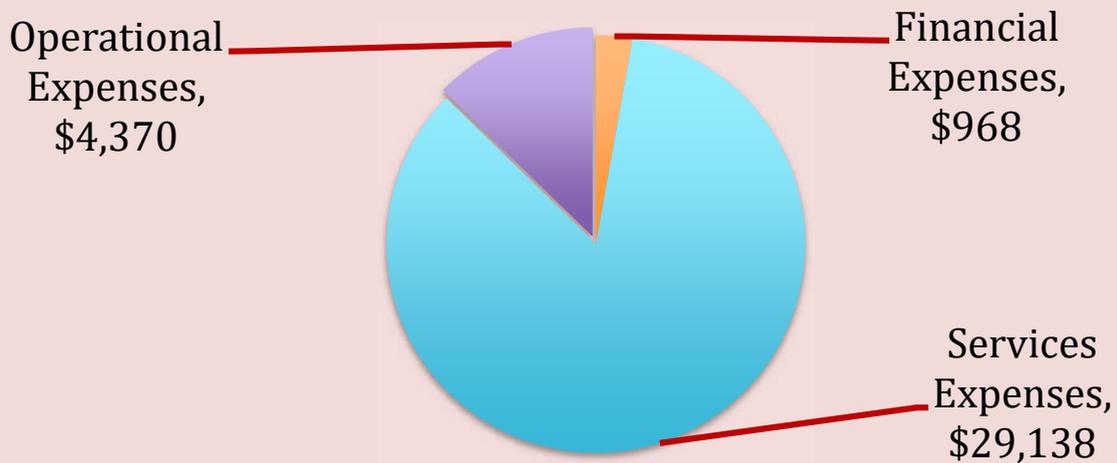


# FINANCIAL REPORTS AS OF 12-20-2017

## MMY 2017 GENERAL ACCOUNT INCOME SOURCES



## MMY 2017 GENERAL ACCOUNT EXPENSE CATEGORIES

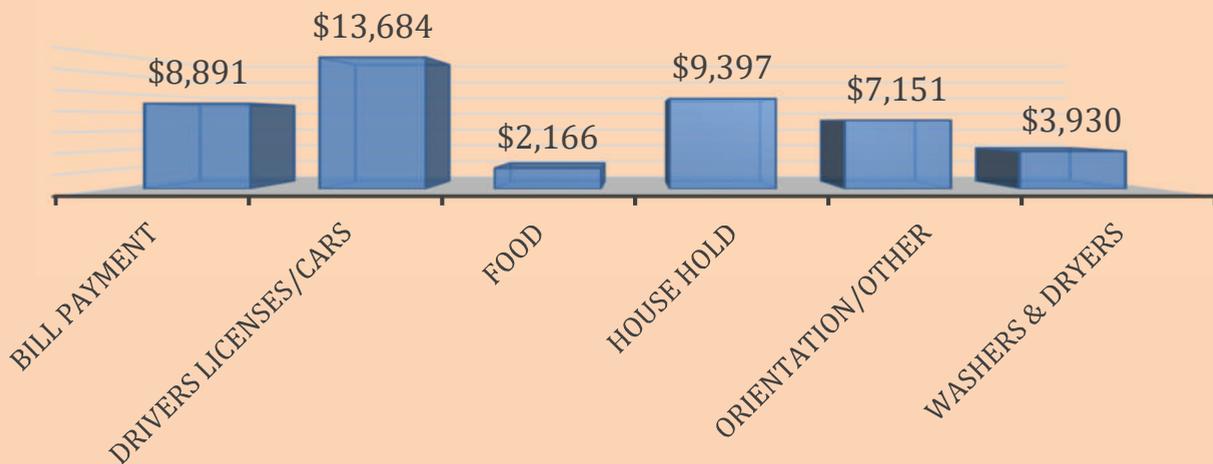


# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## BREAKDOWN OF SERVICES EXPENSES GENERAL ACCOUNT



## BREAKDOWN OF REFUGEE EXPENSES



# ACCOUNTABILITY

## DID WE KEEP OUR PROMISES FOR 2017?

NO



- We promised to keep our non refugee expenses under \$25,000. We did not deliver on this promise. Adding the Appreciation Iftar put us over budget.

YES



- Come up with an out-of-the-box Ramadan idea.
- Strengthen existing services and relationships.
- Improve digital and online presence.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018

Keep 2018 budget under \$40,000, excluding refugee work.

Create an expanded operations board.

Come up with a new creative Youth idea.

Host an MMY Information Gala.

Explore a solution to transportation.

Explore a solution to a physical location.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP?

## DONATE!

- Donations will help keep our programs and activities going.
- You may mail your donation or donate online using the QR code.



## VOLUNTEER/SUBSCRIBE!

- Join our volunteer list by emailing or texting us.
- We will call or email you when we have a need.
- Volunteer hours may count towards community service hours.



## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

- That is the easiest way to stay informed and see when and how you can get involved.



## GET THE APP

- Our app has been online for over a year with over 400 downloads.
- This is the easiest to stay in touch on the go.
- Works for Apple and Android.



### Mailing Address

Murfreesboro Muslim Youth  
P.O. Box 330735  
Murfreesboro, TN 37133

### Website

MurfreesboroMuslimYouth.org

### Email

MurfreesboroMuslimYouth@gmail.com

# 6<sup>TH</sup> LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR POTLUCK



Love



Your



Neighbor



Picnic

## MOVING A REFUGEE FAMILY



## RAFTING TRIP 2017



HOLIDAY  
WORLD &  
SAFARI  
TRIP  
2017



SOME OF ROOTS' AMAZING VOLUNTEERS



ASATT  
A SEAT AT THE TABLE





VOLUNTEERING  
FOR THE AUTISM  
WALK



SPONSORSHIP FOR THE PRE-K PROGRAM WITH  
MURFREESBORO CITY SCHOOLS



PROVIDING HUNDREDS OF MEALS TO FIRST RESPONDERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT DURING WHITE LIVES MATTER PROTEST IN MURFREESBORO





PROVIDING  
OVER 150  
MEALS TO  
PEOPLE IN NEED  
ON  
THANKSGIVING





OUR FIRST NON-PROFIT APPRECIATION IFTAR





Ramadan



30



Days



Of



Giving



2017

*THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT*



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