



# 2010

The Olive Tree Foundation is a philanthropic organization that promotes community development through the collection of endowed funds, the earnings of which are used to fund services for the long-term benefit of the community, and help people achieve their charitable goals.

## Annual Report



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# Message from the President

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*President's Report to the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Olive Tree Foundation*



It is my great honour and pleasure to deliver this message on behalf of the Olive Tree Foundation. As President of the Foundation, I could not be more pleased with the achievements of the organization during 2010.

While the Olive Tree Foundation is an emerging, volunteer-run public foundation, it continues to make an impact in the community.

As a result of the funds raised during our Annual Ramadan Campaign, we were able to provide grants to fund a number of worthwhile projects in 2010.

The Foundation awarded a grant to the Tessellate Institute for the project, "Canadian Muslim Youth: Concepts of Political Participation" which was done in conjunction with the Muslim Educational Network, Training and Outreach Service. The project provided policy-makers and community leaders with much-needed empirical data that will assist in policies aimed at encouraging Canadian Muslim youths' political engagement within Canada.

A grant was also awarded to MIST (Muslim Interscholastic Tournament) and ISNA Canada for the annual competition of high school students. MIST is an educational, interactive program of competitions and workshops geared towards bringing students together to develop leadership, communication and creative skills, all while gaining a deeper understanding of their faith and values.

The Olive Tree Foundation was also pleased to support the inauguration of the Ontario Association of Islamic Schools (OAIS) with a grant to the Muslim Educational Network, Training and Outreach Service. OAIS is an umbrella organization that will bring together Islamic schools across the province to increase their efficiency by reducing costs of educational services; provide professional and leadership development training of teachers; and help Islamic schools in developing a standardized curriculum.

The Foundation was once again at the forefront of supporting disability rights with the awarding of a grant to the Centre for Independent Living Toronto and the Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities (CAMD) for the project "Spring into Disability Rights Campaign 2010". Support was also provided to the MOEEN Centre for their annual gala event. The MOEEN Centre is a charitable organization that provides services for physically disabled and developmentally challenged, young adults.

As a philanthropic organization that promotes community development we continue to build the Foundation to occupy a clear, distinctive, and desirable place in the minds of donors, volunteers, and partners.

I want to express my sincere thanks for the time and support provided by the Board of Directors who have given freely of their time in support of the Foundation.

I would like to thank all of our members, volunteers and generous donors who have supported the Olive Tree Foundation over the past year. I also thank the recipient organizations for working along with us in our granting process.

We look forward to the coming year with anticipation and enthusiasm. And we invite our community to join us in building a brighter future, today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Nasir". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the letter 'i'.

Muneeb Nasir

President, Olive Tree Foundation



olive tree  
FOUNDATION

# Mission, Vision and Values

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## Mission

The Olive Tree Foundation is dedicated to promoting and perpetuating philanthropy and enhancing community life through responsible grant making in Canada.

The Olive Tree Foundation encourages and facilitates the creation and growth of endowment funds to enable the community to realize its potential. The Foundation maintains effective stewardship over all assets entrusted to it; distributes grants that reflect donors' wishes and community priorities; and provides leadership in the Muslim and general communities.

## Values and Purpose

The Olive Tree Foundation was founded in 2004 by civic leaders and philanthropists within the Canadian Muslim community.

The Foundation is a charitable organization formed to attract and manage permanent endowment funds and to distribute income from those funds back to the community. We provide grants to registered charitable organizations for projects that maintain or improve quality of life in the community.

Unlike other charities, which are usually dedicated to a single cause, the Olive Tree Foundation supports a range of charitable activities in our community: social, community and health services; education and library services; policy institutes and think tanks; and arts, culture & heritage. Because of this unique mandate, we can provide seed funding for new projects or other initiatives that might otherwise fall between the cracks.

Our Foundation also has a mandate to act as a catalyst for community initiatives that support and sustain our community. An endowment foundation (*Waqf*) is an institution that has been part of the Islamic historical experience and has, in the past, provided for the flourishing of the Muslim contribution to societies. The establishment of such an institution in Canada will provide a vehicle for leaving an ongoing legacy and contribution to the Muslim community and to Canada.

The guiding principles of the Olive Tree Foundation are to provide support where there is genuine need, build on the strengths of the community and encourage innovation and community development.

## Guiding Principals

- Promote the growth, development and success of community endeavours within the Foundations areas of interest
- Provide philanthropic leadership
- Manage funds responsibly while respecting Islamic financial principles
- Operate in an open, accessible and ethical manner
- Encourage and nurture innovation
- Strengthen community capacity and volunteerism
- Enable and encourage human growth, dignity, inclusiveness, fairness and the equality of all people
- Work as a catalyst within the charitable sector
- Develop partnerships & Promote sustainability

# Board of Directors

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The Olive Tree Foundation is governed and managed by a team of volunteer board of directors.



## **Muneeb Nasir**

### **President**

Muneeb Nasir is a community activist, writer and public speaker. He is a founding board member of the Olive Tree Foundation and its President. He is the publisher of an online magazine, Iqra.ca, and a freelance writer. He is a frequent guest speaker at institutions where he promotes greater inter-community and interfaith understanding and active citizenship.

Over the years, Muneeb has been actively engaged in numerous community organizations and initiatives. Educated at the University of Toronto and University of Guelph, he works as a Senior Business/Systems Analyst and resides in the city of Toronto with his family.



## **Saeed Haniff**

### **Vice President**

Saeed Haniff is a founding board member of the Foundation. It was his passion for creating an endowment foundation that was the driving force behind Olive Tree. It is no surprise therefore, that Saeed's key asset to the Foundation is channelling his youthful exuberance to create excitement about the Foundation and its work.

Whether he is chairing an event or promoting the Foundation on the radio or TV, Saeed constantly encourages Canadians to "Dream Big" about the legacy they want to leave for future generations. He reminds everyone that they have the ability to shape their legacy through philanthropy.

Saeed brings his highly analytic and result-oriented approach to the Foundation from his career as a Senior Sales Manager at a Fortune 500 company.



## **Muhammed Haseeb Ali, MBA, CA**

### **Treasurer**

Muhammed Haseeb Ali joined the Olive Tree Foundation shortly after it was formed in 2004. He is a Chartered Accountant and serves as the Treasurer of the organization. In addition to his financial expertise, Haseeb plays an instrumental role in identifying and setting corporate strategy for the Foundation as well as investment planning.



Haseeb has a BBA and an MBA from York University and his professional experience includes International Tax with the Canada Revenue Agency. Haseeb is an active volunteer in the community and lives with his family in Markham, Ontario.



**Imran Yousuf, MSc, PMP**

**Secretary**

Imran Yousuf started his work with the Olive Tree Foundation as member of the Grants Committee in 2005. He joined the Board of Directors in 2009 as Board Secretary. His not-for-profit work experience includes serving on the board of the Scarborough Housing Help Centre for five years, three of which he served as Chair. He is also a partner with the Social Venture Partners of Toronto, an organization promoting the concept of engaged venture philanthropy.

Imran is a software developer by profession, and has worked in the telecommunications and airline industries in various capacities. He obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Toronto and the University of Wisconsin, respectively. He is a certified Project Management Professional.

# Year in Review

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## **Study on Muslim youth involvement**

The Olive Tree Foundation has announced that it will fund a study by the Tessellate Institute (TTI) on “Canadian Muslim Youth: Concepts of Political Participation.”

TTI’s project will be conducted in the context of growing governmental and community concern over the ‘radicalization’ of Canadian Muslim youth.

By investigating, through empirical research, their perspectives on participation, the research aims to learn what Canadian Muslim youth think about politics and their involvement with it.

The study will seek to answer some pressing questions: Are they similar to other youth, who are only marginally involved in formal political processes? Do they share with other Canadian youth a more extensive involvement in local, voluntary, and civic engagement? What is their political socialization in the home, at school, in civic associations, amongst peers? Is there a sub-culture(s) particular to Canadian Muslim youth as far as political engagement goes? What demands are Muslim youth placing on the political system? What diffuse support do they offer to the Canadian regime? Are Canadian Muslim youth being ‘radicalized?’

## **Public foundation recognizes ‘good works’**

The Olive Tree Foundation celebrated community development at its Annual Appreciation Brunch on Sunday June 20, 2010.

“Successful public foundations that fund community initiatives can lead to community development,” said Muneeb Nasir, President of the Olive Tree Foundation.

The event, titled, ‘Leading Community Development’, recognized the Foundation’s contributions as one of Canada’s first Muslim granting agencies and public endowments, and recognized the Olive Tree Foundation’s donors and grant recipients.

The event was attended by a number of non-profit organizations, community workers and supporters of community development.

“Our annual event recognizes all those who are doing good works and providing services to our community,” Nasir told the audience in his opening remarks.

## **Ontario Association of Islamic Schools**

TORONTO, ON, January 28, 2011 – Olive Tree Foundation has announced that a grant of \$4,000 has been awarded to the Muslim Educational Network, Training & OutReach Services (MENTORS) for the “Ontario Association of Islamic Schools Action Planning Project”.

The Ontario Association of Islamic Schools Action Planning Project is an initiative to form an umbrella organization that looks after the collective needs of Islamic schools in the province.

"The Olive Tree Foundation is very pleased to fund this initiative that will bring together Islamic Schools in Ontario," said Muneeb Nasir, President of the Foundation, in announcing the grant. "Anytime we come together for the betterment of our children, their families and this society, we are making an important civic contribution."

Ontario has over 50 Islamic schools that run privately and each school must register with the Ministry of Education in order to operate in Ontario. Unlike other Faith groups, Islamic schools do not have a school board.

Alimamy Bangura, Executive Director of MENTORS, outlined a number of benefits to be gained by creating an association of Islamic schools, such as providing professional services – social workers, psychologists, curriculum specialists, speech and language pathologists and special education experts to Islamic schools.

"One of the greatest pluses of such a body would be reducing costs related to education services such as purchasing equipment and supplies, text books, library resources, etc., in bulk to benefit from the economies of scale," Bangura said.

He said that sharing best practices and advocating to government and other agencies on behalf of all Muslim schools on issues such as the tax system, funding and legal issues will be of vital importance.

## **CAM-D celebrates big and honours champions at Annual Gala**

(March 14, 2011) – North American Muslims have fallen short in addressing disability issues in their communities according to Imam Zaid Shakir.

Imam Shakir made the remarks during his keynote address at the Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities (CAM-D) 'Building Opportunities for People with Disabilities 2011 Gala Dinner' that took place on Sunday, March 13.

He called on the audience to be actively engaged in helping those members who are on the margins of the community.

"If we are not assisting them, can we expect Allah to assist us?" Imam Shakir said. "Religion is not talk."

Imam Zaid Shakir is a prominent American Islamic Scholar, writer and co-founder and faculty member of Zaytuna College in Berkeley, California.

"We sometimes look for the causes of our problems outside of ourselves," he added. "But the first place to look is in the mirror, at ourselves."

The dinner event, which drew 400 people, took place at the Candles Banquet Center in Mississauga and was chaired by Rabi Khedr, the Executive Director of CAM-D and the visionary behind the organization.

CAM-D is a non-profit association of Muslims with disabilities whose vision is to create a global village that includes full access for persons with disabilities.

The organization also distributed its first annual CAM-D awards during the program in recognition of individuals and organizations that are at the forefront of raising the quality of life for people with disabilities in the Canadian Muslim community.

The Olive Tree Foundation was recognized for its ongoing commitment to advancing disability rights and awarded the CAM-D Towards An Inclusive Society Award 2011.

“CAM-D must be commended for its excellent work in raising the awareness of disability issues in the Muslim community,” Muneeb Nasir, President of the Olive Tree Foundation commented. “We are indebted to them and, most especially, to Rabia Khedr for the leadership she has provided in this area.”

The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, David C. Onley, sent greetings to everyone attending the Gala.

“As the 28th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and the first with a physical disability, I have taken on “Accessibility” as the over-arching theme of my mandate,” David Onley wrote. “Accessibility to me means that which allows people to achieve their full potential – those with not only physical disabilities, but also non-visible ones.”

The Lieutenant Governor also sent his congratulations to the award recipients of the CAM-D awards.

“As The Queen’s representative in Ontario, I congratulate this evening’s honourees: the Olive Tree Foundation; the Islamic Foundation of Toronto; the Muslim Association of Canada – Masjid Toronto; and Shaikh Abdool Hamid,” he wrote.

CAM-D offers a number of programs including special projects with mosques such as Access Islam 101 in ASL (American Sign Language), residential planning for individuals with severe disabilities when caregivers pass away, activity nights for youth and adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities, as well as, ongoing public education.

## **Annual scholarship and bursary awards**

(March 25, 2011) - The Olive Tree Foundation and MENTORS (Muslim Educational Network, Training and Outreach Service) have announced that they will provide an annual scholarship and bursary awards to students entering full-time programs of study at a college or university in the upcoming academic year.

The Muslim Scholarship and Bursary Awards are funded through the endowment funds of the Olive Tree Foundation.

The awards will be handed out at the Annual Olive Tree Foundation’s Gala Dinner on Saturday, June 25, 2011.

An annual scholarship of \$1,000 is made possible through the endowment of Mohamed and Opheera Nasir family fund.

The Mohamed and Opheera Nasir Leadership Scholarship, has been established to honour the significant contributions to the Canadian Muslim community of late Mohamed Nasir and his wife, Opheera Nasir; and as a memorial to honour their parents Shabaan and Mohammed Nasir (parents of Opheera) and Jinette and Mohamed Ishmael (parents of Mohamed).

The recipients of the scholarship will be chosen on the basis of exceptional leadership qualities

and social conscience, as well as, academic achievement.

4 bursary awards of \$500 each will also be awarded. These awards are made possible through the returns from the Olive Tree Foundation's Community fund.

The **Academic Excellence** bursary will be awarded to a high school graduate who has excelled in academic studies.

The **Women Educational** bursary will be awarded to a graduating female student who excelled in school despite the exceptional challenges and barriers she faced as a Muslim woman.

The **Youth Action** bursary will be awarded to a student who has taken consistent action to make a positive impact on the larger community.

The **Special Needs Student** bursary will be awarded to a high school student with disability who excelled despite the exceptional challenges and barriers she or he has faced.

# Grants Disbursed

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Over the past 7 years, the Olive Tree Foundation has been able to affect change through its granting programs.

## 2011

\$4,000 awarded to the Muslim Educational Network, Training & OutReach Services (MENTORS) for the "Ontario Association of Islamic Schools Action Planning Project".

\$750 awarded to the Centre for Independent Living Toronto/Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities (CAMD) for the project "Building Opportunities for People with Disabilities" Campaign 2011 Gala Dinner.

## 2010

\$2,000 awarded to the Centre for Independent Living Toronto/Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities (CAMD) for the project "Spring into Disability Rights Campaign 2010"

\$500 awarded to the Muslim Educational Network, Training & OutReach Services (MENTORS) for the upcoming project, *Ontario Association of Islamic Schools meeting*, on December 4, 2010.

\$5,890 awarded to Tessellate Institute/Muslim Educational Network, Training and Outreach Service for the project, *"Canadian Muslim Youth: Concepts of Political Participation."*

\$2,000 awarded to ISNA Canada for the upcoming MIST, *Muslim Interscholastic Tournament, on May 21-24 2010.*

\$200 awarded to the Moeen Centre for the upcoming event on May 8, 2010.

## 2004 -2009

\$5,000 awarded to Family Services of Peel/Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities (CAMD) for the project *"Planning for the Future: Symposium for Parents/Caregivers and People with Intellectual Disabilities"*

\$11,613 awarded to International Development and Relief Foundation for the project *"We Need A Bigger Space to Pray: Oral Histories of the First Community Prayer Centre in Toronto (Dundas St)"* which is to be conducted by the Tessellate Institute.

\$1,500 awarded to University of Toronto for the project *"Muslim Education Roundtable Project @ OISE/UT."*

\$8,000 awarded to DawaNet/IRFAN CANADA for the project *"MuslimFest 2008"*.

\$5,000 awarded to Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities (CAMD)/Muslim Educational Network, Training and Outreach Service (MENTORS) for the project *"Towards an Inclusive Ummah – Breaking Down Barriers For Muslims who are Deaf"*

\$5,000 awarded to Islamic Chaplaincy Services Canada and the Ontario Multifaith Council for the project *"Violence Anger and Conflict Awareness Program (VACAP)"*.

\$5,000 awarded to Scouts Canada for the project *"One World, One Promise, Scouts Canada Video Project."*

\$6,750 awarded to Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities (CAMD)/Muslim Educational Network, Training and Outreach Service (MENTORS) for the project *“Towards an Inclusive Ummah – Muslims with Disabilities speak out!”*

\$5,500 awarded to Muslim Educational Network, Training and Outreach Service (MENTORS) for the project *“Student Opportunity Bursary.”*

\$6,000 awarded to the Federation of Muslim Women/Islamic Social Services and Resources Association – ISSRA for the project *“Youth Community Connections Phase 2.”*

\$5,850 awarded to Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Centre for the project *“H.O.P.E I.N.C. Harmony, Potential, Excellence: Involving New Canadians”*

\$6,240 awarded to Milo Productions Inc. (sponsor: Islamic Association of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon) Inc.) for the project *“A New Life in a New Land: Presenters Training.”*

\$7,000 awarded to Muslim Educational Network, Training and Outreach Service (MENTORS) for the project *“Count Me In: Empowering Newcomer Parents to Build Inclusive Schools.”*

\$5,160 awarded to Muslim Educational Network, Training and Outreach Service (MENTORS) for the project *“Student Opportunity Bursary.”*

\$5,000 awarded to the Islamic Social Services and Resources Association for the project *“On Behalf of Our Children”* homework club.

\$7,600 awarded to the Federation of Muslim Women/Islamic Social Services and Resources

Association for the project *“Youth Community Connections.”*

# Financial Report

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## Income Statement

For the year ending on December 31, 2010

	Notes	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
<b>RECEIPTS (INCOME)</b>			
Donations		13,798	71,450
Zakat		8,863	12,548
Investment Income		2,625	
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>25,286</u>	<u>83,998</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS (EXPENSES)</b>			
Donations to Registered Charities		10,905	17,813
Bank Charges		1,226	1,073
Administrative Expenses		2,611	4,629
Fundraising Activities		2,871	2,991
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<u>17,613</u>	<u>26,506</u>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<u>7,673</u>	<u>57,492</u>
Accumulated Excess of Receipts over Disbursements at beginning of Year:		<u>131,916</u>	<u>74,424</u>
Accumulated Excess of Receipts over Disbursements at end of Year:		<u>139,591</u>	<u>131,916</u>
Represented by Net Assets:		<u>139,591</u>	<u>131,916</u>

Notes:



# Financial Report – continued

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## Balance Sheet

As at December 31, 2010

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Bank – CIBC	19,559	14,282
Bank – Endowment funds	14,889	65,119
<b>Capital</b>		
Furniture and fixtures	904	904
<b>Long Term</b>		
Investments – Endowments Funds	104,239	51,611
<b>Total Assets</b>	139,591	131,916
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	-	-
<b>FUTURE PROJECTS</b>		
Accumulated Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:	139,591	131,916

Notes:

# Giving Thanks

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The Olive Tree Foundation relies on the strength of its supporters, volunteers and partners in helping to achieve its mission and goals. The following organizations have been instrumental in making 2010 a successful year:

- Ansar Financial Group
- Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities
- Centre for Independent Living Toronto
- DawaNet
- Family Services of Peel
- Islamic Development and Relief Foundation
- Islamic Society of North America
- The Tessellate Institute
- Moeen Center
- Muslim Educators Network, Training and Outreach Services (MENTORS)
- Muslim Inter-Scholastic Tournament (MIST)

## **NAMED FUNDS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY FUND**

In addition, the Olive Tree Foundation would like to recognize the far-sighted generosity of donors who have established endowments. The following named funds have been established with donations to the Olive Tree Foundation Community Fund.

- Faisal Ali Memorial Fund
- Zahid & Sherida Ali Family Fund
- Kutty & Baksh Fund
- Muneeb & Fanieza Nasir Family Fund
- Azeem Khan Memorial Fund
- Mohamed & Jameran Haniff Memorial Fund
- M4S Fund
- Roshan and Nazmoon Ali Family Fund
- Canadian Women's Educational Scholarship Fund

## **DONOR ADVISED FUNDS**

Donor Advised Funds are a specific type of endowment fund which enables the donor to have ongoing participation in the grant-making process. The Olive Tree Foundation is honoured to recognize the following Donor Advised Fund:

- **Ansar Healthcare Fund**  
A donor-advised fund called the 'Ansar Healthcare Fund' was established with Ansar Financial Group as the initial contributors. Returns from the fund will be used to improve the quality of life in the community by supporting initiatives in the health care services area.

## **FIELD-OF-INTEREST FUNDS**

This type of fund may be named for an individual, such as a memorial to a loved one, or for a specific purpose such as think tanks or library services. Grants are made in accordance with the priorities of the Foundation within the specific field of interest agreed upon by both parties at time of the establishment of the fund. The Foundation is honoured to recognize the following Field of Interest Fund:

- **Mohamed and Opheera Nasir Leadership Scholarship**

A Field-of-Interest fund called the 'Mohamed and Opheera Nasir Leadership Scholarship' was established to honour the significant contributions to the Canadian Muslim community of late Mohamed Nasir and his wife, Opheera Nasir; and as a memorial to honour their parents Shabaan and Mohammed Nasir (parents of Opheera) and Jinette and Mohamed Ishmael (parents of Mohamed).

The fund combines the previously established Named Funds within the Community Fund: Opheera Nasir Fund, Shabaan & Muhamad Nasir Memorial Fund, Jinette & Mohamed Ishmael Memorial Fund



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