



2014

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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It is my great honor to present this report on the activities of the Olive Tree Foundation during 2014.

The Olive Tree Foundation is a small, volunteer-run public foundation that is dedicated to promoting philanthropy and enhancing community life through responsible grant making in Canada. As a result of the funds raised during 2014 and returns from the endowments, we were able to provide grants to fund some worthwhile projects.

GRANTS

A grant was awarded to *Faith & the Common Good* for the project, "*Neighbourhood Community Service Resilience Hubs*." *Faith & the Common Good* is an interfaith organization that helps faith communities make the connection between their faith and care for the environment.

Faith & the Common Good used the grant to study how faith communities can act as neighborhood resilience hubs during the next extreme weather event. The project developed a model that can serve as a template for future community-based responses to extreme weather. The overall objective was to learn and understand what makes a "good" community resilience hub, specifically, what criteria need to be in place, for a Faith community to be successful in caring for the vulnerable, in the case of extreme weather conditions.

A grant was also awarded to the *Inspirit Foundation* for the project, "*2014 Survey of Muslims in Canada*", which is to be conducted by *Environics Institute for Survey Research* in 2015.

The Environics Institute for Survey Research promotes relevant and original public opinion and social research on important issues of public policy and social change. This important survey of Canadian Muslims will provide a snapshot of the community and it will be used by many groups, including governments, agencies and other public institutions as they craft policies. This type of study of Canadian Muslims has become even more vital in order to provide empirical data about the community to counteract the overwhelming negative stereotypes about Muslims.

Another grant was awarded to ISNA Schools for the project, "*Neglected Voices Curriculum Pack*" to be conducted by *Tessellate Institute* in 2015.

The *Tessellate Institute* is a non-profit, research institute incorporated that provides the Canadian public and policymakers with academically-rigorous research, educational materials, and programs that explore and document the lived experiences of Muslims in Canada. In 2011, The *Tessellate Institute*

SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY AWARDS:

The “*Muslim Scholarship and Bursary Awards*”, which is offered annually by the Olive Tree Foundation, continues to grow and gain attention across the country.

A highly professional and competent team of educators who form the Scholarship and Bursary Awards Committee administers the awards. The awards are given to students entering full-time programs of study at a college or university in the upcoming academic year. The awards are funded by endowment funds of the Olive Tree Foundation and include the *Mohamed and Opheera Nasir Leadership Scholarship* and, in 2014, five bursary awards.

In November of 2014, the Foundation held its Annual Awards Ceremony at Sayeda Khadija Centre that showcased the achievements of the OTF and featured the distribution of the Scholarship and Bursary Awards.

The theme of the program was “Building a Better Community through Service” and was held in partnership with the Muslim Seniors Circle which showcased a documentary of pioneering Muslim seniors. The event celebrated community - the achievements of youth, contributions of seniors and all who dedicate themselves through service. Another highlight of the afternoon ceremony was the Foundation’s recognition of two of their early endowment donors.

The Olive Tree Foundation continues to provide an opportunity for non-profit organizations to network and identify areas of collaboration. In March of 2014, the annual networking event was held at Studio 89 in Mississauga to provide organizations with a platform to discuss the priorities and challenges faced by non-profit groups working within the Muslim community.

As a philanthropic organization that promotes community development we are seeking to build the Foundation to occupy a clear, distinctive, and desirable place in the minds of donors, volunteers, and partners. In this regard, the Olive Tree Foundation has distinguished itself for its governance and transparency over the years.

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

Sincerely,



M. Nasir

Mission

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

The 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

In 2004, civic leaders and philanthropists within the Canadian Muslim community founded The Olive Tree Foundation.

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 sustain 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 provided for the flourishing of the Muslim contribution to societies. The establishment of such an institution in Canada will provide a vehicle for leading 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

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 led many charitable organizations and been actively engaged in numerous community 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.



Naeem Siddiqi, B. Eng, MBA

Vice President

Naeem Siddiqi started his work with the Olive Tree Foundation as member of the Grants Committee in 2004, and joined the Board of Directors in 2012. His community work includes serving on the board of the Canadian Muslim Civil Liberties Association as Communication Director, as member of National Shura with CAIR-CAN (now NCCM), as mentor with TRIEC's Mentoring Partnership and a Scout Troop Leader at the 163rd IIT Scouts Group.

Naeem is a Director of Risk Product Management at a software company. He has a BEng(Hons) Civil Engineering degree from Imperial College of Science and Technology at the University of London and an MBA from the Schulich School of Business at York University. Naeem resides with his family in Markham, Ontario.



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 Federal Government of Canada. Haseeb is an active volunteer in the community and lives with his family in Markham, Ontario.



Shaneeza Nazseer Ally

Secretary

Shaneeza Nazseer is a recent addition to the Olive Tree Foundation, joining in 2014. She is a Non-Profit Consultant who serves as Secretary of the organization. Her past community work includes serving on the boards of Pathways for Youth, Children and Families of York Region (now 360 Kids), North York Community House, and as Fundraising Events Manager for Islamic Relief Canada.

Shaneeza holds an HBA from the Richard Ivey School of Business and is a 2015 Fellow of the School for Social Entrepreneurs. . Shaneeza spent 7 years in corporate marketing and market research consulting before transitioning to the non-profit sector to focus on fundraising, community and corporate engagement strategies. She currently manages a training department that mentors young leaders to establish and manage their own community programs and services. Shaneeza lives with her family in Toronto, Ontario.

Olive Tree Foundation Supports Faith and the Common Good



(December 2, 2014) – The support of a leading community foundation for the charity, Faith & the Common Good (FCG), is a testament to the value of multi-faith collaboration said Dr. Lucy Cummings, Executive Director of FCG.

Cummings made the remarks on Sunday at the announcement of a grant to [Faith & the Common Good](#) by the Olive Tree Foundation (OTF).

“The support for our work from the Olive Tree Foundation is an important sign of support from a leading Canadian Muslim community foundation,” said Dr. Lucy Cummings. “This is not only a deep honor, but a testament to the value of multi-faith environmental collaboration in Canada.”

The grant was announced at the Annual Awards Ceremony of the Olive Tree Foundation held at the [Sayeda Khadija Centre](#) in Mississauga on Sunday, November 30.

“The Olive Tree Foundation is very pleased to be able fund this important project of Faith & the Common Good,” said Muneeb Nasir, President of the Olive Tree Foundation, in announcing the grant. “This project will build upon the trust of Faith communities in helping vulnerable people in our society with compassionate outreach.”

Faith & the Common Good will use the grant to study how faith communities can act as neighborhood resilience hubs during the next extreme weather event. The project will develop a model that can serve as a template for future community-based responses to extreme weather.

The overall objective is to learn and understand what makes a “good” community resilience hub, specifically, what criteria need to be in place, for a faith community to be successful in caring for the vulnerable, in the case of extreme weather conditions.

said Dr. Lucy Cummings. “The Olive Tree Foundation grant will allow us to engage and mentor youth members to help us analyze neighborhood extreme weather needs at each of the faith community sites.”

“We will also lead a workshop to teach the youth volunteers how to write and present a key findings report on the topic,” she added.

Faith & the Common Good (FCG) is an interfaith organization that helps faith communities make the connection between their faith and care for the environment.

Annual Scholarship and Bursary Awards

(December 8, 2014) – Youth expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the support of the Olive Tree Foundation (OTF) at the 2014 Awards Appreciation Ceremony held by the organization on November 30 at the Sayeda Khadija Centre in Mississauga.

“I am very grateful to the Olive Tree Foundation for this prestigious award and would like to thank OTF for encouraging Muslim youths in the community for the hidden skills they possess and for this wonderful recognition,” said Syed Saad Ejaz, recipient of the 2014 Mohamed & Opheerah Nasir Leadership Scholarship. “It’s a great honor and privilege to be an Olive Tree Foundation Leadership Scholarship award recipient.”



Syed Saad Ejaz, recipient of the 2014 Mohamed & Opheerah Nasir Leadership Scholarship and Muneeb Nasir, President of OTF

Syed Saad Ejaz graduated from ISNA High School in Mississauga and was chosen as the scholarship recipient for his exceptional leadership qualities, social conscience and academic achievement.



Momin Daanish, recipient of the 2014 Academic Excellence Bursary and Hany Hassan O.C.

Momin Daanish of Glenforest Secondary School, Mississauga was awarded the 2014 Academic Excellence Bursary for excelling in his academic studies in high school.

Komal Javed of White Oaks Secondary School, Oakville was recognized for taking consistent action to make a positive impact on the larger community with the 2014 Youth Action Bursary.



Hisham Mohammad, recipient of the 2014 Abdullah ibn Umm Makhtum Student Bursary and Mohamed Bhabha, Chair, Muslim Seniors Circle

The recipient of the 2014 Abdullah ibn Umm Makhtum Student Bursary was Hisham Mohammad of O'Neill Collegiate and Vocational Institute, Oshawa. The bursary, named after a blind companion of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be on him, was awarded to Hisham Mohammad for overcoming challenges and barriers faced as a result of his disability and for his in-school achievements and community involvement.

Samiyah Khan of Longfields Davidson Heights Secondary School, Ottawa was awarded the 2014 Women's Educational Bursary as an exceptional female who consistently demonstrated that she is a high achiever in both academics and extracurricular activities.

Leadership Scholarship, told the audience at the awards ceremony. “In Canada, volunteerism is regarded as a highly noble duty. It not only brings you an inner satisfaction by helping others, but also reinforces the virtues of sincerity, compassion and better understanding of human lives.”

Donors were also acknowledged by the Foundation at the Awards event.



Donor recognition of Vahed family

“The family of Zubeda and Ahmed Shakir Vahed were among the earliest supporters of the Olive Tree Foundation,” said Muneeb Nasir, President of the Olive Tree Foundation. “Their support will leave a legacy for Canadian Muslims and be an ongoing charity for the Vahed family.”

The audience was told that among the pioneer donors to OTF in 2005 were a group of Muslims who wanted to honor the memory of their Qur’an and Islamic Studies teacher in their home country of Guyana.

“They established a memorial fund, the ‘Azeem Khan Memorial Fund’, that will leave a legacy for their teacher and be an ongoing charity for him,” said Muneeb Nasir.



Donors to Azeem Khan Memorial Fund honored

“Donors who establish endowments have the foresight to plant the seed,” he added. “They are giving a perpetual gift that will be a lasting legacy.”

Olive Tree Foundation helps create awareness of issues facing Muslim Youth

Olive Tree Foundation is pleased to announce a grant awarded to The Tessellate Institute, to prepare a curriculum pack in support of Muslim Youth.

In [Neglected Voices](#), The Tessellate Institute produced a series of short videos highlighting Muslim youth, identity formation, and marginalization. This new OTF funded initiative seeks to create a curriculum pack that would accompany those videos and be used as educational modules in the public school system. These will include both lesson plans as well as grading rubrics for teachers. Once completed, the curriculum pack will be made publicly available as a resource for teachers to implement in their classrooms.

This project is currently being developed by a dedicated Research Fellow with the assistance of an advisory group of current and former teachers. It is currently in progress and expected to be completed by Summer 2015.

Olive Tree Foundation helps promote understanding of Muslims in Canada

In 2006, [The Environics Institute](#) conducted the first-ever national survey of Muslims in Canada, focusing on the experience of Muslims in this country. This study, which received good media coverage, showed that Canadian Muslims are well integrated, and have concerns very similar to other members of the broader society. This helped counter the more negative narratives that had become commonplace in

The Olive Tree Foundation is pleased to be able to fund this critical initiative, together with the Tessellate Institute, the Inspirit Foundation, the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and Thinkforactions.

According to Environics Institute, some of the issues that may be included in this multi-lingual survey are:

- Experience of being Muslim in Canada;
- Concern about the future of Muslims in Canada;
- Selfidentification within the Muslim community;
- Desire for accommodation of religious and cultural practices;
- The roles and rights of women in ethnic communities;
- Islamic identity and extremism among Muslims;
- Integration of Muslims into Canadian society and the economy;
- Canadian foreign policy (in the Middle East and elsewhere), and
- Views on who speaks for Muslims in Canada.

Grants Disbursed

Over the past 11 years, the Olive Tree Foundation has been able to affect change through its granting programs.

2014

The Inspirit Foundation / Environics Institute for the project, "2014 Survey of Muslims in Canada."

Faith & the Common Good for the project, "Neighbourhood Community Service Resilience Hubs."

Tessellate Institute / ISNA Schools for the project "Neglected Voices Curriculum Pack."

2013

\$5,000 awarded to Youth Troopers for Global Awareness (YTGA) / Peel Multicultural Council for the "How To Train Your Computer Project."

\$5,000 awarded to The Intergeneration Community Network Services (TICNS)/ Social Services Network for "The Craft Club – Program for Women."

2012

\$5,000 awarded to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto for pilot project to mitigate the high drop-out among Somali students in a north west Toronto neighborhood.

\$1,500 sponsorship awarded to Muslim InterScholastic Tournament (MIST) of Toronto for 2012 competition.

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.

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

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."*

Balance Sheet

As at December 31, 2014

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
ASSETS		
Current		
Bank – CIBC	\$ 10,147	\$ 11,560
Bank – Endowment funds	36,570	14,319
	<u>46,717</u>	<u>26,218</u>
Long Term		
Investments – Endowments Funds	142,625	137,258
Total Assets	<u>\$ 189,342</u>	<u>\$ 163,137</u>
LIABILITIES		
Total Liabilities	–	–
FUTURE PROJECTS		
Accumulated Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:		
	<u>\$ 189,342</u>	<u>\$ 163,137</u>

Prepared and Presented by the Treasurer
Muhammed Haseeb Ali, MBA, CPA,CA

Approved by the Board of Directors
Muneeb Nasir
President

Naeem Siddiqi
Vice President

Income Statement

For the year ending December 31, 2014

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
RECEIPTS (INCOME)		
Donations	\$ 41,028	\$ 20,980
Investment Income	5,367	5,125
Total Income	<u>46,395</u>	<u>26,105</u>
DISBURSEMENTS (EXPENSES)		
Donations to Registered Charities	13,850	8,000
Bank Charges	605	824
Administrative Expenses	2,735	4,560
Promotional Expenses	-	-
Fundraising Activities	-	-
Bursaries and Scholarships	3,000	3,500
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Expenses	<u>20,190</u>	<u>16,884</u>
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$ 26,205</u>	<u>\$ 9,221</u>
Accumulated Excess of Receipts over Disbursements at beginning of Year:		
	<u>163,137</u>	<u>153,916</u>
Accumulated Excess of Receipts over Disbursements at end of Year:		

\$ 189,342

\$ 163,137

Notes:

1. Significant Account policies

a) These Financial Statements have been prepared and presented on a cash basis.

2. Endowment Funds

Endowment Fund Investments are presented on an adjusted cost basis. The cost value of the Fund as at December 2014 is \$142,625 (2013 - \$137,258).

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 2014 a successful year:

- Ansar Financial Group
- Muslim Seniors Circle, ISNA
- Islamic Institute of Toronto
- Sayeda Khadija Centre
- Islamic Society of North America

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
- 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
- Saleem Haniff and Nailah Qadeer Family Fund
- Shamim and Farida Siddiqi Family Fund
- Musarrat and Sabiha Hussain Family Fund
- Zahida and Yasin Ali Family Fund
- Nargis and Hameed 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.

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



Canada Revenue Agency Charitable Registration # 857334700RR0001

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