

## **ABOUT THE ISLAMIC CENTER OF MURFREESBORO**

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### **Who does the Islamic Center serve?**

The Islamic Center of Murfreesboro serves the residents of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County.

### **Is the Islamic Center associated or affiliated with any other organization?**

The Islamic Center of Murfreesboro is a local independent religious organization that is NOT, in any way, associated or affiliated with any local, national, or international organization whether religious, political, civil, or otherwise. The Center has NO political or hidden agenda.

### **What is the size of the Islamic Center's congregation?**

Current estimates indicate that there are over 250 families in Rutherford County that follow the religion of Islam and participate in the center's activities.

### **What are the Islamic Center's activities?**

Like any other religious organization, we focus on religious and social activities as well as the education and personal development of our individuals and the community. Such activities include prayers, religious classes, weekend school for the youths, picnics and social dinners, sport activities, etc.

### **How does the Islamic Center contribute and serve the non-Muslim community?**

We have been involved in many communal activities that include, but not limited to, the tornado relief efforts, the flood relief efforts, Haiti earthquake relief, and in collecting funds for Feed America First (a local non-profit organization). We also hosted several dinners for the Murfreesboro community at large and helped several non-Muslim families during their financial and/or emotional crises.

### **Who are the members of the Islamic Center congregation?**

Lawful American citizens and residents, who were mostly born in the US or emigrated from various parts of the world. Therefore, the congregation has a diverse heritage and ethnicity and includes Caucasians, African Americans, Middle Eastern, Indian sub-continentals, Asians, Europeans, and Hispanics. The congregation also includes many international students from MTSU along with their families.

### **For how long has the Muslim Community been in Murfreesboro?**

Muslims have resided in Murfreesboro for over three decades and their numbers continue to grow.

## **ABOUT THE NEW ISLAMIC CENTER OF MURFREESBORO**

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### **Is there a need for a new Islamic Center? Why in this size?**

The current facility is totally inadequate and we are in dire needs for a larger one. The proposed 52,000 sq. ft. multi-phase center is a vision for the future and will be built in stages as the needs arise. The first phase of the master plan includes a 6,800 sq. ft. multi-purpose room that will be used for prayers and



for holding social events. Outdoor sport and recreation areas will be also included in this first phase. Future phases include a weekend school, a gym, a swimming pool, and a prayer hall.

**Who funds the Islamic Center? Does the Center use any local or federal tax money?**

Donations from the local residents mostly fund this project. NO tax money has ever been used or requested. Non-Muslim individuals have also contributed in small amounts to the new Center.

**Did the Islamic Center inform the community about this project?**

A sign was posted on the property in December 2009, a month after purchasing the lot, to inform the neighbors and the public of our future intentions. We invited members from the Rutherford county non-Muslim community to a dinner to share with them our visions. Over 100 members attended the dinner. We also informed the county officials of our plans and sought their feedbacks. We advertised and conducted seminars to help answer questions that the public may have. Our website, which includes information about the proposed center, has been open for comments for several months. We have received many supportive e-mails as well as some questions that we have answered accordingly.

**Why is there a need for a cemetery? Did you bury someone in the cemetery?**

The cemetery will be private, used for members of the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro, and will not be open to the public. This is just like any other church that has a cemetery for its members. A member of the center was buried in the cemetery after getting the proper legal approvals to do so from the county. The funeral procession was done with help from the Murfreesboro police department.

**ABOUT THE ISLAMIC CENTER PRACTICES AND POLICIES**

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**How many times do Muslims pray? When is the main prayer service?**

Muslims pray 5 times a day. At the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro, the number of attendees varies between prayers. It may be as few as 2 to 4 persons in some prayers and as many as 12 to 24 persons in others. This does not include the main Friday prayer. The main prayer service is on Friday between 1:10 and 2:00 PM. Most of the community participates in it, males and females.

**How do the Muslims in Murfreesboro call for the prayer?**

There is no prayer call that is made outside the Islamic Center. Members of the Islamic Center know the prayer times and arrive at the Center accordingly. A minaret, if included, will not have loudspeakers.

**What is the Islamic Centers view on polygamy?**

The policy of the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro is to follow and abide by the laws of the United States and its Constitution. We have not in the past and we will not perform or support polygamy. If any member chooses to practice polygamy, since Islam allows it in certain circumstances, he or she will not be a member of the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro.

**What is the Islamic Centers view on dealing with non-Muslims?**

They are our neighbors, families, and friends. We greatly care about them, treat them with utmost respect, and wish them the very best.

**Freedom of Religion is for Everyone, Including Muslims!**