



9608 SPRING ST.
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April 30, 2019

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For Immediate Release

Local Islamic Center Celebrates 21 years of service

The Illiana Islamic Association has completed 21 years of service since launching in 1998. During these years, the organization has enhanced and expanded as a known center within Northwest Indiana that services the Muslim community.

Muhammed Mazen Kudaimi is president of Illiana Islamic Association, board certified physician in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology, chairman of CAIR-Chicago Organization, and he currently practices gastroenterology in multiple hospital in the area.

Kudaimi has joined the Illiana Islamic association in 1994 as a board member when it was a two-floor rented building as an Arabic school. “The members of the organization paid \$500 for every Sunday to teach their students Islam and Arabic language,” Kudaimi said. “In 1998, members and funders helped the organization to buy the \$4 million building located in Highland.”

The organization was well-served by volunteers in the surrounding society and Muslim’s community to reach this point. Now the mosque is serving more than 500 Muslims to practice their prayers. Noon school teaches the Arabic language and is open for everyone. Also, religious and Quran studies, a gym, marriage and funeral services were offered.

Ralph Potesta, a police officer, has enjoyed his time in the organization during his shift. “I didn’t know this organization before I was assigned here. However, now I am happy to spend my time here, and the people are open-minded, friendly and treated me with generosity,” Poteste said.

“Over 11 years, we haven’t faced any difficulties, instead we were welcomed by the American society here,” Kudaimi said, “Muslims are new here, so misunderstandings might appear, and that happened with Catholics and Jewish people before, but over time all barricade vanished with hard work.”

Moreover, Kudaimi describes the religious practicing in the United States. “We freely practice our Islamic rituals in America even more than we do in some Arabic countries.”

Muhammed Zahabi, board member at Illiana Islamic Association since 2018, said, “I knew Dr. Mazen Kudaimi for 18 years. He is honest, hard worker and a good friend. Dr. Kudaimi always helps the members to go through all kind of difficulties despite their race, nationality and religion.”

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Illiana Islamic Association Add one

Muhammed Musa, board member since 2017 said, “The more you know Dr. Mazen, the more you like him, and we are thankful for him behalf of the organization for donating almost \$1 million over the last 11 years.”

Kudaimi offers advice to all members of any Islamic organization, “We are proud of what we have reached over the last decade, so be a good example of what you represent. Help your community and show the world how to be useful with a big peaceful smile.”

The Illiana Islamic Association is a non-profit organization that provides religious services to the communities and an Arabic school. located in Highland, Ind. For more information, please contact 219-942-2940

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9608 SPRING ST.
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March 16, 2019
Photo opportunity

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For Immediate Release

The Center of Congregation meets with northwest Indiana clergy

The Illiana Islamic Association recently hosted a meeting with northwest Indiana's clergy. The center has welcomed McKenzie Lewis, northwest director of Center for Congregations, and discussed ways to develop local organizations and finding resources.

Rev. Michael Pennanen, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, described the meeting as "a promising platform to enhance organizations' social activities."

"Meeting with Mr. Lewis will help us to achieve our goals faster," Rev. Pennanen said, "We are working to spread better understanding between our communities."

Nazir Chahin, interfaith director at Illiana Islamic Association, said, "we meet regularly with the clergy in northwest Indiana to coordinate between religious organizations in the area. We are about to establish projects containing Muslims, Jewish, Christens and other religions"

Illiana Islamic Association is a non-profit organization located in Highland, Ind. For more information, please contact 219-942-2940

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Photo one caption: prayer before starting the meeting.

Photo two caption: group photo after the meeting.

Contact:



April 18, 2019

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Multicultural Potluck Night

The Illiana Islamic Association's members recently gathered a multicultural potluck dinner with the community.

Families of different nationalities attended this event bringing several food choices and wearing their traditional clothes.

The dinner included activities to enhance a healthy lifestyle and cultural knowledge within its members. There was a contest previously for adults to lose weight in a short time called Big Loser.

Mohammed Issa, came in first placed by losing eighteen pounds in one month, and was given a prize of \$200 at the potluck.

"This was not easy at all to lose that much in a little time, however, the challenge had pushed me forward to make a difference in my body, plus the prize was worth it," said Mohammed Issa.

The Illiana Islamic Association has been hosting this dinner every month to enhance the connections between families in the community. This dinner successfully groups more than twenty families from different cultures under one roof.

Alaa-Eldin Abdul-Jabbar, Illiana Noon School principal, was one of the organizers of the Potluck dinner.

"For three years, we successfully managed this dinner by hosting several families with multiple cultures and nationalities," said Abdul-Jabbar. "Our goal is to build strong communication inside our community, and to improve the relationship between the center and its members plus the surrounding community."

The center will continue this potluck dinner as a monthly event and will be happy to host all families and members within the community.

"We are happy to see people introducing their traditional food, and connecting with each other away from their stressful jobs," said Abdul-Jabbar. "We have programs for children after the dinner, such as playing videogames, basketball or soccer. There are prizes for the winners."

Illiana Islamic Association is a non-profit organization, the center offers wedding and funeral services, Arabic language school and prayer service. located in Highland, Ind. Please contact 219-942-2940 for further information.

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Photo one caption: Illiana Islamic Association Members at the potluck