



# Zakat Chicago

Local Collection. Local Distribution.

In the Name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## 2020 Annual Summary & New Projects

### About Zakat Chicago

Zakat Chicago's mission is to make Zakat a living institution in the Greater Chicago area. Zakat Chicago was established by and is a Committee of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC)

Zakat is collected from Muslim individuals and businesses. The Zakat collected is distributed among various Chicago area Muslim community projects in accordance with the Quranic guidelines.

### 2020 Impact Summary

As you can imagine, the community's needs soared this year, mostly due to the impact of COVID-19. The lives and livelihoods of all were disrupted. The poor and disadvantaged among us – the Zakat eligible ones - felt the impact more than anyone else. In order to meet their needs we had to spend 46% more money this year than in the previous year. The important and essential uses included:

- Almost half (47%) to meet food needs
- 12% to Healthcare
- 9% on Youth Empowerment
- 8% on Refugee Assistance

### COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 pandemic has kept Zakat Chicago concerned, busy, and supportive in a major way. Your Zakat has helped us do a lot already but a lot still needs to be done. Your Zakat is needed now more than ever before to help the local Chicago community - your community. This year we will need your Sadaqa as well to help the broader community. Each box contains enough food for a family for a full month.

### IMPACT:

- 6,100+ Food Packages
- 50% -100% partnership in all cases
- Total dollar amount \$200K +

### 2019-2020 Zakat Distribution



### Mental Health First Aid Training

Zakat Chicago sponsored American Muslim Health Professionals' (AMHP's) program of providing Mental Health First Aid Training for community members across Chicagoland. The new reality of COVID-19 and the physical distancing measures have triggered various mental health challenges, including increased anxiety, uncertainty, and depression.



Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a course that teaches participants how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders. Program participants have expressed the tremendous benefit they received.



*With your gifts to Zakat Chicago, we have been able to sponsor the certification of over 80 individuals.*

### Counseling Sessions

Zakat Chicago also sponsored, at the Khalil Center, the professional counseling sessions for people who could not afford them.

### Care for Asylum Seekers

Viator House and Bethany House of Hospitality rescue young men and women, respectively, from immigration detention, house them and mentor them towards a productive life in this country. A majority of these young men and women are Muslims. Zakat Chicago is pleased to provide financial assistance.



*Ten young men were helped with clothing and emergency needs and two young men were helped in their move to an independent living.*



*Three young women who were ready to start their independent life and remaining education were helped until they received work permits.*

### Winter Kit Distribution

During Winter 2020/2021, Zakat Chicago gave relief to thousands of unsheltered people and families in need across Chicagoland with Winter Kits that included winter jackets, hats, gloves, and socks. Winter Kits were distributed through partner food pantries and some Masjid.



*With your generosity, we have been able to provide nearly 3,000 Winter Kits to the unsheltered and families in need across Chicagoland.*