SPECIAL APPEAL TO THE COMMUNITY

Assalamu’Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatu,

We pray that this Newsletter finds you and your family in the best of Iman and health. Ameen. We are writing to share some of the cases the Zakat Committee has recently taken care of with your Zakat donations. Cases below are real! Inshaa’ Allah, with your donations, we will be able distribute your Zakat to many others just like them!

Don’t forget to pay your Zakat donations! Please click the link below to donate online or mail your Zakat money to: ISCJ: P.O. Box 628, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852-0628. You may also stop by at ISCJ to drop off your Zakat Check. In the memo please clearly state “Zakat”.

An Appeal to Business Owners:
In addition to donations if you can help these recipients find work please contact the Zakat Committee. You can reach us at 732-329-2020 or email us at zakat@iscj.org. Jazak’Allah Khair for your continuous Zakat donations and duas.

ISCJ ZAKAT BASICS

- Zakat questions? Check out the ISCJ Zakat webpage (http://www.iscj.org/Zakat.aspx). You’ll find links to:
  - Frequently Asked Questions
  - Calculators
  - Resource Packet
  - Online Application

- Zakat Hotline has been setup at 732- 329-2020
- For Zakat questions/queries, you can also email us at: zakat@iscj.org
- You can now also donate Zakat funds directly online at http://iscj.org/Donations.aspx or by clicking the link below!

PAY YOUR ZAKAT NOW!
We need your Zakat to help families in need. Below is just a few people who has received assistance from your Zakat.

**Avoiding Eviction:**
ISCJ continues to help many people with eviction notices. They’ve had a life altering event (either lost their job, a divorce, and surgery) and unable to make ends meet. Al-ham dulillah, your Zakat helped these people avoid eviction and we were even able to help some of them register for government assistance programs. *Example:* We helped a father with three kids and one on the way (Insha’Allah), who had to stop working due to a surgery and was unable to pay the rent.

**Single Moms:**
ISCJ helps single moms with kids who are having a hard time finding a job because they either cannot work full time (due to the age of the kids) and/or having a difficult time finding a job. They are behind in their bills and rent. Al-ham dulillah, your Zakat helped them with rent and past due bills. *Example:* We helped a mother who has two kids (one disabled) and is in the courts with her husband now, who is divorcing her and not supporting in financially.

**Special Needs Elderly:**
ISCJ is assisting the elderly who are disabled and struggle to cover the rent and bills. They have to rely on others and ISCJ for help on regular basis. *Example:* We’ve helped a gentleman who has Cerebral Palsy and cannot afford to pay the rent and other bills to support his family.

**Homeless:**
ISCJ has also helped people who were/are homeless and has either been living in a shelter, their vehicle and/or moving from one friend’s house to the other. Your Zakat has helped them resettle by paying some of the deposits for a new apartment.

**Widows:**
ISCJ helps widows who are struggling alone or with children, with no other help. Your Zakat money is helping them make ends meet.

*As you can see, your Zakat money is being put to good use in helping people in our own community.*
Financial Aid is provided from Zakat funds and therefore can be given only to individuals/applicants who qualify to receive Zakat.

1. An Applicant must complete and submit the Zakat Application to ISCJ with all the required documentation.

2. The Zakat committee will assess an applicant's Zakat eligibility based on a set of requirements. As part of the screening:
   - Required documentations will be reviewed (Eg. overdue bills, legal notices, tax returns, paystubs, etc.)
   - Informal interview may be conducted
   - Additional information including paperwork may be requested for further assessment.
   - Past history of payments to applicants is reviewed
   - Zakat Committee may also contact other masajids and organizations for further assistance

3. Financial Aid will only be provided to applicants who are legal residents of USA.

4. If an application is approved, it follows an internal process for approval of payment. This includes the Zakat Committee, ISCJ President, ISCJ Treasurer and the Accounting office. If an application is determined to be non-zakat eligible, it will be denied and the applicant is notified.

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