



Cordova Spiritual Education Center
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Sunday, March 15th, 2015

To the Members of the World Interfaith Harmony Week,

This is the report submission requested by the committee of the 2015 World Interfaith Harmony Week. In this report I will first start off by providing a short introduction of the school I am nominating for the prize award, the Cordova Spiritual Education Center, and its founder, Imam Mohamad Jebara. In the second half of this report I will be listing and describing the various events that the school had participated in during the month of February.

Introduction to the Cordova Spiritual Education Center

The school that I am nominating this year for the 2015 World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize is the Cordova Spiritual Education Center. This is a school that has conducted pioneer and revolutionary work in the province of Ontario and continues to bring enormous difference to the community. The very mission statement of the school is as follows:

"To establish understanding, leading to respect, friendship and love, through interfaith/intercultural outreach, dialogue and education; practically promoting social responsibility; and providing essential social services".

The Cordova Spiritual Education Center (CSEC) has been fulfilling its purpose by conducting literally countless of interfaith and social service events in the Ontario region. Such programs and events include Christmas dinners, Spread the Love day, Blood Drives, Garbage Clean-Up Initiative, visitations to synagogues, churches, and temples, and much more!

The difference that the Cordova Center has created over the past few years is simply unparalleled. The aim of the school has not only created friendship and understanding among various cultural and faith groups, but in addition to this, it has also created the

establishment of healthy integration of young Muslims as productive and positive contributors to the success of the "Canadian dream".

Introduction to His Eminence, Imam Mohamad Jebara

The founder of the Cordova Spiritual Education Center is His Eminence, Imam Mohamad Jebara, who is currently acting as the school's Head Master and Resident Scholar in Ottawa, Canada.

He has a speciality in numerous disciplines including Arabic, the Holy Qur'an, Islamic Law, the four schools of Islamic thought and the Ja'fari and Zaydi schools of thoughts as well. He has authored approximately ninety books in the English language, many of which are intended to be used in Cordova Academy's educational curriculum. Due to the immensity of his knowledge, in 2009, he was given the honorary title "His Eminence, the Venerable Imam" by the Mufti of Bekaa, Lebanon.

Despite being reputedly known for his in-depth knowledge of the Islamic sciences, Imam Mohamad Jebara is ever-more recognized for his exhaustive and extensive work in interfaith projects, so much so that he has made bridge building with those of other faiths the primary focus of his work. Imam Jebara's pioneer efforts in working alongside those of other religions has not only created long and lasting relationships between members of the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim community, but in addition to this, he has created a roadmap for his students to follow in his work in creating peace and tolerance in the community.

Imam Mohamad Jebara has traveled to various countries to spread his wisdom. He has been featured in the media countless of times (in television, radio, and newspaper articles). Below I will expound on the interfaith projects he participated in during the month of February, which is when the celebration took place of the World Interfaith Harmony Week.

Events Report

As there are several events that the Cordova Spiritual Education Center had conducted during the month of February, I will be dividing the events into two categories, the first being the two events the school had hosted, and the second being the events that were hosted by other organizations, but in which the Cordova Spiritual Education Center had participated in.

EVENTS HOSTED BY THE CORDOVA SPIRITUAL EDUCATION CENTER

There were two events that the Cordova Spiritual Education Center had hosted during the month of February, they are as follows:

1) Welcome Baskets for Shepherds of Good Hope

On Saturday, February 14th, members of the Cordova Spiritual Education Center teamed up with members of Temple Israel in Ottawa, Canada to collect basic household and personal hygiene items, for homeless clients of Shepherds of Good Hope. Items were packaged into Welcome Baskets to give to those less fortunate who were moving into housing on their own from the shelter. Some items that were donated include dinner plates, dish towels, kitchen utensils, and much more!

2) Interfaith Outreach at the Grace St. Andrews United Church

Imam Mohamad Jebara established the *Cordova Center Interfaith Outreach Program* within his school. This was done in order to establish interaction and a close relationship with those of other faiths as a means to build knowledge, peace, tolerance, and understanding.

On Wednesday, February 25th, as part of the Cordova Center Interfaith Outreach Program, Imam Mohamad Jebara visited Grace St. Andrews United Church for a discussion on faith and shared values.

The Imam elaborated on the shared morals and ideas between Islam and Christianity. He had also spoken about extremism and explained how Islam is a religion of peace. This was all done with an effort to promote understanding, love, and friendship. The event was concluded by a question and answer session.

EVENTS HOSTED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH THE CORDOVA SPIRITUAL EDUCATION CENTER PARTICIPATED

1) McGill Interfaith Day

The McGill Interfaith Student Council hosted "McGill Interfaith Day" on Friday, February 6th, 2015, in Montreal, Canada. Throughout the day different faiths took turns presenting smaller events for students to attend. The Muslim Student Association of McGill University as well as the Ahmadiyya Muslim Students' Association and the Thaqalayn Muslim Association participated in Interfaith Day by hosting Friday

Jumu'ah prayer for all faiths to attend. Imam Mohamad Jebara was invited to speak at this Friday prayer. He spoke of the importance of having good character and he also spoke of the Prophet Abraham, who is a common respected prophet among Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

2) Fundraiser for Displaced Iraqi Refugees

On Friday, February 27th, Imam Mohamad Jebara, participated in an event hosted by Human Concern International on displaced Iraqi refugees. This event was also joined by leaders of various religions. Imam Jebara spoke about the commonalities between Islam and Christianity and made a joint statement with other faith leaders denouncing violence and ISIS.