



olive tree
FOUNDATION

Spring 2008

Olive Tree Foundation Launches *'Act Now Give Forever'* Campaign

June 1, 2008 – The Olive Tree Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of the *'Act Now... Give Forever'* campaign. The *'Act Now... Give Forever'* campaign is to raise public awareness about the importance of endowments and encourage people to make endowed gifts.

The Olive Tree Foundation is a *waqf* – a public charitable foundation – that promotes community development through the collection of endowed funds and charitable contributions, to fund services for the long-term benefit of the community. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than a dozen grants to innovative projects

within the Canadian community to fund programs that promote education, community outreach, youth programs and social welfare services. The Foundation invites you to join the *'Act Now... Give Forever'* campaign. Whether you:

- Make annual charitable gifts or wish to establish a long-term fund to benefit good works
- Want to give now or through your estate
- Are of modest means or of wealth

The Olive Tree Foundation will help you make a difference ...right here at home!

Olive Tree Foundation Revives Waqf Institution

Azeem Khan was an exceptional Islamic school teacher. He affected thousands of students by teaching them the art of Qur'anic recitation. He died a few years ago. In a few years, Azeem Khan will tutor kids in one of the city's deprived neighborhoods or support Muslims with disabilities or help young people in the community. How is this possible? How can someone who passed away years ago have such a profound impact on a world he no longer occupies? While this question may seem perplexing, the answer is actually quite simple.

The former students of Azeem Khan created an endowment fund with the Olive Tree Foundation in their teacher's name. Through their gift, Azeem Khan's students made sure that their beloved teacher's love for education and community work would benefit and thrive although he is no longer alive.

Leaving a legacy to support your community and to the generations that follow is wise and noble act and an Islamic tradition. The Olive Tree Foundation facilitates these charitable good works and is for reviving the tradition of endowments in the Muslim community.

The *waqf*, as these endowments are called, is one of the oldest legal traditions in Islam. The classic precedent was set by the Caliph Umar, the distinguished companion and father-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad. According to tradition, on the advice of the Prophet, Umar set up some of his lands as a source of income for the needy. The practice

of establishing the *waqf* grew by leaps and bounds during Islamic history. In fact, from West Africa to the Philippines, wherever there was an established Muslim community, one would find the *waqf*. Sadly, the system of *waqf*, has all but disappeared among many Muslim communities.

The Olive Tree Foundation is changing this by helping donors establish endowments into a pooled income-earning fund. The returns from the endowments are used to provide grants to worthwhile projects that improve the community's life and well-being.

Act Now Give Forever

Establishing your named family fund today will provide a source of income for our community now as well as for generations to come. Join our pioneers who have established funds for their families and loved ones.

- Faisal Ali Memorial Fund
- Opheerah Nasir Fund
- Zahid & Sherida Ali Family Fund
- Shabaan & Muhamad Nasir Memorial Fund
- Kutty & Baksh Fund
- Jinette & Mohamed Ishmael Memorial Fund
- Muneeb & Fanieza Nasir Family Fund
- Azeem Khan Memorial Fund
- Mohamed & Jameran Haniff Memorial Fund
- M4S Fund
- Roshan and Nazmoon Ali Family Fund

The Olive Tree Foundation is a **granting institution**. As such, it is not in competition with any other community organization. This is the organization that will lead community development.

Grants are awarded for community projects that effectively address compelling community needs and priorities within the Fields of Interest.

Fields of Interest:

- Social & Health Services
- Education & Library Services
- Policy Institutes & Think Tanks
- Arts, Culture & Heritage

The Foundation welcomes grant applications for innovative projects that strengthen the community's capacity grow and develop.

ENDOWMENTS: CREATING YOUR LEGACY IN CANADA

For most people, becoming a philanthropist starts with speaking to their lawyer and financial advisor to develop a plan for charitable giving, including a will.

"You can establish a Named (Endowment/Waqf) Fund with \$5,000, which can be gifted over a period of years," says Tariq Mohammad, a financial planner and member of the Foundation's Investment Committee. *"You may establish a fund in your own name, your family's name, your business, or a memorial fund for a loved one."*

If you would like more information about endowments & planned giving, please contact us. We would love to show you how becoming a philanthropist is actually quite easy!

INFORMATION

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Olive Tree Foundation Announces 2008 Grants

Olive Tree Foundation has announced that it will provide grants to support innovative projects within the Canadian Muslim community - the **MuslimFest 2008 Arts Exhibition** and the **Muslim Education Project** at the University of Toronto/OISE.

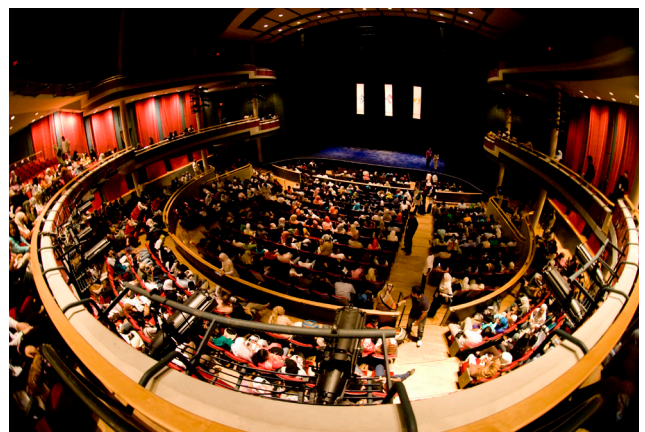
"**MuslimFest 2008** will benefit greatly from the support of the Olive Tree Foundation," said Amer Meknas, Chairperson of MuslimFest.

MuslimFest is the largest Muslim festival of its kind in North America. It showcases the rich diversity of the Canadian Muslim community and contributes to the development and display of new artists and performers.

The Foundation has also awarded a grant to the **Muslim Education Project** which was initiated in 2006 by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE/UT) with support from the Dean's Office.

The Project was created to respond to the over arching concerns regarding the need for teacher education programs to prepare prospective teachers to professionally address issues of Islamophobia in public schools; and to effectively meet the academic and social aspirations and concerns of the growing Muslim student population in public, Catholic, and Islamic schools in Ontario.

"The Olive Tree Foundation's sponsorship of the **Muslim Education Project** at OISE/UT will serve as an integral catalyst for our work in 2008-09," said Nadeem Memon, a coordinator of the Muslim Education Project.



Olive Tree Foundation awarded grant to MuslimFest Art Exhibit.