



# 2016

The Olive Tree Foundation is a philanthropic organization that promotes community development through the collection of endowed funds, the earnings of which are used to fund services for the long-term benefit of the community, and help people achieve their charitable goals.

## Annual Report

# Table of Contents

---

Table of Contents .....	ii
Message from the President .....	3
Mission, Vision and Values .....	5
Board of Directors .....	6
Year in Review .....	8
Grants Disbursed .....	11
Financial Report.....	14



It is my great honor to present this report on the activities of the Olive Tree Foundation during 2016.

The Olive Tree Foundation is a small, volunteer-run public foundation that is dedicated to promoting philanthropy and enhancing community life through responsible grant making in Canada.

As a result of the funds raised during 2016 and returns from the endowments, we were able to provide grants to fund some worthwhile

projects.

## **GRANTS**

The Olive Tree Foundation awarded a grant to the Institute Of Canadian Archives and the Christian-Jewish Dialogue Toronto for the project, “Hearts and Minds - Interfaith Living Library (HAMILL 2017).”

The ‘Hearts and Minds - Interfaith Living Library’ is a series of facilitated conversations between individuals in a library setting - a Living Book and a Reader.

‘Living Books’ are individuals who represent groups within society who are at risk of suffering from discrimination. The ‘Living Books’ often have unique personal narratives ranging from professional excellence in exciting careers, to a history of social exclusion. The conversations will happen in an inclusive environment, where Books give Readers permission to enter into a dialogue with them.

The grant recipient, the Institute of Canadian Archives (ICA) is a social capital building initiative focusing on increasing social cohesion through the art of storytelling. Its mission is to create, curate and celebrate diverse narratives which reflect Canada’s intercultural and interfaith harmony. ICA achieves these objectives by engaging seasoned professionals, young adults, community organizations and regional stakeholders in capacity-building workshops, events and online arts campaigns.

In 2016, the Olive Tree Foundation also awarded a grant to the Ottawa Muslim Association for the project, “Say Salaam Campaign – Conflict Mediation Techniques for Muslims”. The project will be developed by the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM).

Islamophobic attacks can be disorienting, frightening and can sometimes escalate into violence. The Say Salaam Campaign will work with conflict mediation experts to develop an appropriate response framework that will aim to keep a targeted individual safe and equipped with tools, which allow them to

how to safely intervene or safely respond and seek help.

The conflict mediation framework will be shared widely with organizations and through community networks through a coordinated social and print media campaign.

The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the human rights and civil liberties of Canadian Muslims (and by extension of all Canadians), promoting their public interests, building mutual understanding and challenging Islamophobia and other forms of xenophobia.

## **SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY AWARDS**

The “Muslim Scholarship and Bursary Awards”, which is offered annually by the Olive Tree Foundation, continues to grow and gain attention across the country.

A highly professional and competent team of educators who form the Scholarship and Bursary Awards Committee administers the awards.

The awards are given to students entering full-time programs of study at a college or university in the upcoming academic year. The awards are funded by endowment funds of the Olive Tree Foundation and include the Mohamed and Opheera Nasir Leadership Scholarship, The Faisal Ali Academic Excellence Scholarship and three bursary awards.

The Olive Tree Foundation continues to network with non-profit organizations and charities to discuss projects and identify areas of collaboration.

As a philanthropic organization that promotes community development we are seeking to build the Foundation to occupy a clear, distinctive, and desirable place in the minds of donors, volunteers, and partners. In this regard, the Olive Tree Foundation has distinguished itself for its governance and transparency over the years.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of our members, volunteers, committees, and generous donors who have supported the Olive Tree Foundation over the past year, as well as, the recipient organizations for working along with us in our granting process.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Nasir". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the letter 'i'.

Muneeb Nasir  
President. Olive Tree Foundation

---

## Mission

The Olive Tree Foundation (Foundation) is dedicated to promoting and perpetuating philanthropy and enhancing community life through responsible grant making in Canada.

The Foundation encourages and facilitates the creation and growth of endowment funds to enable the community to realize its potential. The Foundation maintains effective stewardship over all assets entrusted to it; distributes grants that reflect donors' wishes and community priorities; and provides leadership in the Muslim and general communities.

## Values and Purpose

In 2004, civic leaders and philanthropists within the Canadian Muslim community founded The Olive Tree Foundation.

The Foundation is a charitable organization formed to attract and manage permanent endowment funds and to distribute income from those funds back to the community. We provide grants to registered charitable organizations for projects that sustain or improve quality of life in the community.

Unlike other charities, which are usually dedicated to a single cause, the Olive Tree Foundation supports a range of charitable activities in our community: social, community and health services; education and library services; policy institutes and think tanks; and arts, culture & heritage. Because of this unique mandate, we can provide seed funding for new projects or other initiatives that might otherwise fall between the cracks.

Our Foundation also has a mandate to act as a catalyst for community initiatives that support and sustain our community. An endowment foundation (*Waqf*) is an institution that has been part of the Islamic historical experience and has provided for the flourishing of the Muslim contribution to societies. The establishment of such an institution in Canada will provide a vehicle for leading an ongoing legacy and contribution to the Muslim community and to Canada.

The guiding principles of the Olive Tree Foundation are to provide support where there is genuine need, build on the strengths of the community and encourage innovation and community development.

## Guiding Principals

- Promote the growth, development and success of community endeavours within the Foundations areas of interest
- Provide philanthropic leadership
- Manage funds responsibly while respecting Islamic financial principles
- Operate in an open, accessible and ethical manner
- Encourage and nurture innovation
- Strengthen community capacity and volunteerism
- Enable and encourage human growth, dignity, inclusiveness, fairness and the equality of all people
- Work as a catalyst within the charitable sector
- Develop partnerships & Promote sustainability

---

The Olive Tree Foundation is governed and managed by a team of volunteer board of directors.



## **Muneeb Nasir**

**President**

Muneeb Nasir is a community leader, writer and public speaker. He is a founding board member of the Olive Tree Foundation and its President. He is also the Executive Director of the *Cordoba Centre for Civic Engagement and Leadership* and the Managing Editor of the online Canadian Muslim magazine, *IQRA.ca*. Muneeb is a member of the *National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee* and an advisor on the *Community and Patient Advisory Council* of the Scarborough Hospital.

He is a frequent guest speaker at institutions where he promotes greater inter-community and interfaith understanding and active citizenship.

Educated at the University of Toronto and University of Guelph, Muneeb had a distinguished career as a Senior Business and Systems Analyst at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. He also has Professional Certificates in *Not-for-Profit Management* from the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and in *Interfaith Understanding* from Claremont Lincoln University.

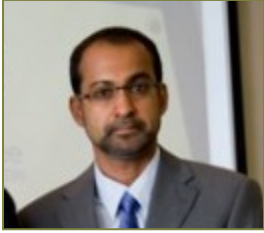


## **Naeem Siddiqi, B. Eng, MBA**

**Vice President**

Naeem Siddiqi started his work with the Olive Tree Foundation as member of the Grants Committee in 2004, and joined the Board of Directors in 2012. His community work includes serving on the board of the Canadian Muslim Civil Liberties Association as Communication Director, as member of National Shura with CAIR-CAN (now NCCM), as mentor with TRIEC's Mentoring Partnership and a Scout Troop Leader at the 163rd IIT Scouts Group.

Naeem is a Director of Risk Product Management at a software company, and is the author of several papers and two books on credit scoring. He has a B.Eng (Hons) Civil Engineering degree from Imperial College of Science and Technology at the University of London and an MBA from the Schulich School of Business at York University. Naeem resides with his family in Markham, Ontario.



## **Muhammed Haseeb Ali, MBA, CA**

### **Treasurer**

Muhammed Haseeb Ali joined the Olive Tree Foundation shortly after it was formed in 2004. He is a Chartered Accountant and serves as the Treasurer of the organization. In addition to his financial expertise, Haseeb plays an instrumental role in identifying and setting corporate strategy for the Foundation as well as investment planning.

Haseeb has a BBA and an MBA from York University and his professional experience includes International Tax with the Federal Government of Canada. Haseeb is an active volunteer in the community and lives with his family in Markham, Ontario



## **Shaneeza Nazseer Ally**

### **Secretary**

Shaneeza Nazseer joined the Olive Tree Foundation in 2014. Shaneeza is a Non-Profit Executive and Consultant who serves as Secretary of the organization. She is currently Executive Director of For Youth Initiative, a community-based non-profit organization in Toronto's West-end, equipping teens and young adults with the mentorship, tools and support networks to unlock their full potential. Her community work includes served on the boards of Pathways for Youth, Children and Families of York Region (now 360 Kids), North York Community House, and as Fundraising Events Manager for Islamic Relief Canada.

Shaneeza has an HBA from the Richard Ivey School of Business and spent 7 years in the private sector before transitioning to the non-profit sector.

---

## Olive Tree Foundation announces grant to support Interfaith Dialogue

(TORONTO - December 15, 2016): The **Olive Tree Foundation** has announced that a grant has been awarded to the [Institute Of Canadian Archives](#) and the Christian Jewish Dialogue Toronto for the project, *“Hearts and Minds - Interfaith Living Library (HAMILL 2017)”*.

The ‘Hearts and Minds - Interfaith Living Library’ is a series of facilitated conversations between individuals in a library setting - a Living Book and a Reader.

‘Living Books’ are volunteers who represent groups or individuals within society who are at risk of suffering from discrimination. The ‘Living Books’ often have unique personal narratives ranging from professional excellence in exciting careers, to a history of social exclusion. The conversations will happen in an inclusive environment, where Books give Readers permission to enter into a dialogue with them.

"This is an innovative and timely initiative that we are proud to support," said Naeem Siddiqi, Vice-President of the Olive Tree Foundation, in announcing the grant. "These conversations that will be facilitated through the HAMILL 2017 project will go a long way to increase understandings between cultures."

“As racism continues to increase globally, Canadians are also slowly witnessing an increase in hate incidents and hate crimes,” said Syed Azfar Ali Rizvi, Executive Director of Institute of Canadian Archives (ICA). “These have mostly translated into acts of Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and a general fear of anyone who subscribes to a different faith.”

“Historically, Living Library events have been a breeding ground for groundbreaking consequential dialogue between books and readers from different backgrounds.”

“The support for our work from the Olive Tree Foundation is an important sign of support from a leading Canadian Muslim community foundation,” added Rizvi.

The Olive Tree Foundation is a philanthropic 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.

**The Institute of Canadian Archives (ICA)** has been Canada’s premier interfaith storytelling initiative. The purpose of the Institute is to encourage and build capacity of Canadians to create digital stories. It has a track record of creating and curating multicultural diverse stories.

**The Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto (CJDT)** works to promote, encourage and facilitate a better understanding between members of the Christian and Jewish communities, with the hope of eliminating



(TORONTO – January 5, 2017): The Olive Tree Foundation has announced that a grant has been awarded to the Ottawa Muslim Association for the project, “Say Salaam Campaign – Conflict Mediation Techniques for Muslims”. The project will be developed by the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM).

Islamophobic attacks can be disorienting, frightening and can sometimes escalate into violence. The Say Salaam Campaign will work with conflict mediation experts to develop an appropriate response framework that will aim to keep a targeted individual safe and equipped with tools, which allow them to walk away from a negative situation feeling empowered.

The project will develop materials and videos describing various situations where the Say Salaam framework can be utilized. The aim is to empower Canadians with practical steps to respond to hate - how to safely intervene or safely respond and seek help.

The conflict mediation framework will be shared widely with organizations and through community networks through a coordinated social and print media campaign.

"The Olive Tree Foundation is very pleased to fund the Say Salaam project," says Muneeb Nasir, President of the Olive Tree Foundation, in announcing the grant. "With the rise of Islamophobia and hate incidents, Canadian Muslims, as well as other marginalized and targeted communities, will benefit greatly from this project."

"This idea emerged from within the community and we're excited by this opportunity to develop it with the Ottawa Muslim Association," said Amira Elghawaby, Communications Director of the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM). "We believe this project will provide a useful blueprint for both victims and bystanders in how to respond to hatred."

Hate crimes against Muslims in Canada have doubled over a three-year period, according to the most recent data. However, up to two-thirds of all hate crimes go unreported, according to Statistics Canada's Criminal Victimization Survey and the federal Justice Department.

Related Resources:

[NCCM Online Hate Crimes Map](#)

[NCCM Community Safety Guide](#)

**The Olive Tree Foundation** is a philanthropic 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.

**The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM)** is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the human rights and civil liberties of Canadian Muslims (and by extension of all Canadians), promoting their public interests, building mutual understanding and challenging Islamophobia and other forms of xenophobia.

## **Scholarship and Bursary Awards**

Olive Tree Foundation was pleased to present our scholarships and bursary awards to the following in 2016.

Razan Samara – Mohamed & Opheerah Nasir Leadership Scholarship

Ishraq Alam – Faisal Ali Academic Excellence Scholarship

Sarah Baig – Women’s Achievement Bursary

Mariam Abdel Akher – Youth Action Bursary

Hamza Furmli – Youth Action Bursary

---

Over the past 12 years, the Olive Tree Foundation has been able to affect change through its granting programs.

## 2016

\$5,000 awarded to [Institute Of Canadian Archives](#) and the Christian Jewish Dialogue Toronto for the project, "*Hearts and Minds - Interfaith Living Library (HAMILL 2017)*".

\$5,000 awarded to the Ottawa Muslim Association and National Council for Canadian Muslims for the project, "*Say Salaam Campaign – Conflict Mediation Techniques for Muslims*".

## 2015

\$5,000 awarded to Regent Park Focus Youth Media Arts Centre/Popular Education and Research Catalyst Centre Incorporated for: "*In Focus: Identity Project – a Community Broadcast Training Initiative for Youth*."

\$5,000 awarded to METRAC for : *Faith to End Violence and Oppression Project*.

\$2,000 awarded to Yusuf's Heart Charity Drive, for : *Hospital for Sick Kids Young Families Program*

## 2014

\$5,000 awarded to The Inspirit Foundation / Environics Institute for the project, "*2014 Survey of Muslims in Canada*."

\$4850 awarded to Faith & the Common Good for the project, "*Neighbourhood Community Service Resilience Hubs*."

\$4,000 awarded to Tessellate Institute / ISNA  
Schools for the project "*Mentored Muslim*"

## 2013

\$5,000 awarded to Youth Troopers for Global Awareness (YTGA) / Peel Multicultural Council for the "How To Train Your Computer Project."

\$5,000 awarded to The Intergeneration Community Network Services (TICNS)/ Social Services Network for "The Craft Club – Program for Women."

## 2012

\$5,000 awarded to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto for pilot project to mitigate the high drop-out among Somali students in a north west Toronto neighborhood.

\$1,500 sponsorship awarded to Muslim InterScholastic Tournament (MIST) of Toronto for 2012 competition.

## 2011

\$4,000 awarded to the Muslim Educational Network, Training & OutReach Services (MENTORS) for the "Ontario Association of Islamic Schools Action Planning Project".

\$750 awarded to the Centre for Independent Living Toronto/Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities (CAMD) for the project "Building Opportunities for People with Disabilities" Campaign 2011 Gala Dinner.

Living Toronto/Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities (CAMD) for the project *"Spring into Disability Rights Campaign 2010"*

\$500 awarded to the Muslim Educational Network, Training & Outreach Services (MENTORS) for the upcoming project, *Ontario Association of Islamic Schools meeting*, on December 4, 2010.

\$5,890 awarded to Tessellate Institute/Muslim Educational Network, Training and Outreach Service for the project, *"Canadian Muslim Youth: Concepts of Political Participation."*

\$2,000 awarded to ISNA Canada for the upcoming MIST, *Muslim Interscholastic Tournament, on May 21-24 2010.*

\$200 awarded to the Moeen Centre for the upcoming *event on May 8, 2010.*

## **2004 -2009**

\$5,000 awarded to Family Services of Peel/Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities (CAMD) for the project *"Planning for the Future: Symposium for Parents/Caregivers and People with Intellectual Disabilities"*

\$11,613 awarded to International Development and Relief Foundation for the project *"We Need A Bigger Space to Pray: Oral Histories of the First Community Prayer Centre in Toronto (Dundas St)"* which is to be conducted by the Tessellate Institute.

\$1,500 awarded to University of Toronto for the project *"Muslim Education Roundtable Project @ OISE/UT."*

\$5,000 awarded to Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities (CAMD)/Muslim Educational Network, Training and Outreach Service (MENTORS) for the project *"Towards an Inclusive Ummah – Breaking Down Barriers For Muslims who are Deaf"*

\$5,000 awarded to Islamic Chaplaincy Services Canada and the Ontario Multifaith Council for the project *"Violence Anger and Conflict Awareness Program (VACAP)"*.

\$5,000 awarded to Scouts Canada for the project *"One World, One Promise, Scouts Canada Video Project."*

\$6,750 awarded to Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities (CAMD)/Muslim Educational Network, Training and Outreach Service (MENTORS) for the project *"Towards an Inclusive Ummah – Muslims with Disabilities speak out!"*

\$5,500 awarded to Muslim Educational Network, Training and Outreach Service (MENTORS) for the project *"Student Opportunity Bursary."*

\$6,000 awarded to the Federation of Muslim Women/Islamic Social Services and Resources Association – ISSRA for the project *"Youth Community Connections Phase 2."*

\$5,850 awarded to Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Centre for the project *"H.O.P.E I.N.C. Harmony, Potential, Excellence: Involving New Canadians"*

\$6,240 awarded to Milo Productions Inc. (sponsor: Islamic Association of Saskatchewan

\$7,000 awarded to Muslim Educational Network, Training and Outreach Service (MENTORS) for the project *“Count Me In: Empowering Newcomer Parents to Build Inclusive Schools.”*

\$5,160 awarded to Muslim Educational Network, Training and Outreach Service (MENTORS) for the project *“Student Opportunity Bursary.”*

\$5,000 awarded to the Islamic Social Services and Resources Association for the project *“On Behalf of Our Children”* homework club.

\$7,600 awarded to the Federation of Muslim Women/Islamic Social Services and Resources Association for the project *“Youth Community Connections.”*

---

## Balance Sheet

As at December 31, 2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Bank – CIBC	\$ 3,334	\$ 2,691
Bank – Endowment funds	52,772	40,821
Prepaid Rent	1,165	
	<u>57,271</u>	<u>43,512</u>
<b>Long Term</b>		
Investments – Endowments Funds	153,061	148,255
	<u>\$ 210,332</u>	<u>\$ 191,767</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	–	–
<b>FUTURE PROJECTS</b>		
Accumulated Excess of Receipts over Disbursements:	<u>\$ 210,332</u>	<u>\$ 191,767</u>

Prepared and Presented by the Treasurer : Muhammed Haseeb  
Ali, MBA, CPA,CA

Approved by the Board of Directors

Muneeb Nasir    Naeem Siddiqi  
President        Vice President

# Income Statement

For the year ending December 31, 2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>RECEIPTS (INCOME)</b>		
Donations	\$ 37,436	\$ 20,812
Investment Income	4,806	5,630
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>42,247</u>	<u>26,442</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS (EXPENSES)</b>		
Donations to Registered Charities	10,000	12,000
Bank Charges	568	671
Administrative Expenses	3,393	2,586
Rent	6,215	-
Fundraising Activities	-	5,760
Bursaries and Scholarships	<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,000</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>23,676</u>	<u>24,017</u>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<u>\$ 18,565</u>	<u>\$ 2,425</u>
Accumulated Excess of Receipts over Disbursements at beginning of Year:	191,767	189,342
Accumulated Excess of Receipts over Disbursements at end of Year:	\$ 210,332	\$ 191,767
Represented by Net Assets:	<u>\$ 210,332</u>	<u>\$ 191,767</u>

# Giving Thanks

## **NAMED FUNDS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY FUND**

The Olive Tree Foundation would like to recognize the far-sighted generosity of donors who have established endowments. The following named funds have been established with donations to the Olive Tree Foundation Community Fund.

- Zahid & Sherida Ali Family Fund
- Muneeb & Fanieza Nasir Family Fund
- Azeem Khan Memorial Fund
- Mohamed & Jameran Haniff Memorial Fund
- M4S Fund
- Roshan and Nazmoon Ali Family Fund
- Canadian Women's Educational Scholarship Fund
- Saleem Haniff and Nailah Qadeer Family Fund
- Shamim and Farida Siddiqi Family Fund
- Musarrat and Sabiha Hussain Family Fund
- Zahida and Yasin Ali Family Fund
- Nargis and Hameed Fund
- The Ashraf Foundation
- Hyatt & Zabeida Shaffeeullah Family Fund
- Mohamed, Umm Kulsum & Rahman Khan Family Fund

## **DONOR ADVISED FUNDS**

Donor Advised Funds are a specific type of endowment fund which enables the donor to have ongoing participation in the grant-making process. The Olive Tree Foundation is honoured to recognize the following Donor Advised Fund:

- **Ansar Healthcare Fund**  
A donor-advised fund called the 'Ansar Healthcare Fund' was established with Ansar Financial Group as the initial contributors. Returns from the fund will be used to improve the quality of life in the community by supporting initiatives in the health care services area.

## **FIELD-OF-INTEREST FUNDS**

This type of fund may be named for an individual, such as a memorial to a loved one, or for a specific purpose such as think tanks or library services. Grants are made in accordance with the priorities of the Foundation within the specific field of interest agreed upon by both parties at time of the establishment of the fund. The Foundation is honoured to recognize the following Field of Interest Fund:



established to honour the significant contributions to the Canadian Muslim community of late Mohamed Nasir and his wife, Opheera Nasir; and as a memorial to honour their parents Shabaan and Mohammed Nasir (parents of Opheera) and Jinette and Mohamed Ishmael (parents of Mohamed).

The fund combines the previously established Named Funds within the Community Fund: Opheera Nasir Fund, Shabaan & Muhamad Nasir Memorial Fund, Jinette & Mohamed Ishmael Memorial Fund

- **The Faisal Ali Academic Excellence Scholarship**

A Field-of-Interest fund called the 'The Faisal Ali Academic Excellence Scholarship' was set up by the late Opheera Nasir, grandmother of Faisal Ali, as a memorial to honour her grandson who will always be loved and cherished in the memories of the family.



Canada Revenue Agency Charitable Registration # 857334700RR0001

7025 Markham Road, Suite 205,  
Markham, ON L3S 0C3 Canada

Web: [www.olivetreefoundation.ca](http://www.olivetreefoundation.ca)