



CITCD

PORTFOLIO MAGAZINE



***Center for Islamic Teachings & Community Development (CITCD)
Serving Islamic Education and Humanity in Chicago's South Side***



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The Center for Islamic Teachings & Community Development (CITCD) is an Islamic, non-profit, community-based organization located in Harvey, Illinois, serving one of the most economically challenged and ethnically diverse regions of Chicagoland.

What began in 2012 as a few volunteers teaching weekend Islamic classes and running a small home-based school for three students has grown into a multi-dimensional institution that now:

- Educates more than 200 students from over 15 countries.
- Serves thousands of meals through Ramadan iftar and food support.
- Provides free, dignified, Shariah-compliant burials through the American Muslim Cemetery (AMC).
- Offers Islamic-based programs, social welfare, and structured support for men, women, youth, and reverts.

Through Allah's mercy and the tireless efforts of a small team of dedicated people, CITCD continues to serve to the best of its capacity, striving every day to reach more families, uplift more children, and meet community needs within its limited means. With scarce resources but unwavering sincerity, the center fulfills its mission faithfully and humbly, seeking only Allah's acceptance.

This portfolio presents the journey of CITCD: why it was needed, how it developed, what it offers today, and how it can grow with your support. It is an invitation to those who believe in service, community, and the power of sincere effort.



CITCD Infrastructure at a Glance

CITCD today stands as one of the largest and most impactful Islamic infrastructures in Chicago's South Side. What began as a small home-based effort has now grown into a combined 95,000 square feet of operational facilities serving education, worship, community development, and burial services.

Abraar Academy - 58,000 sq. ft.

A full K-12 Islamic school with classrooms, gym, activity spaces, and parking for almost 250 vehicles.

CITCD Main Center - 19,000 sq. ft.

A multipurpose facility for Jumma, programs, women's services, weekend maktab, and community events, supported by dedicated parking.

American Muslim Cemetery - 10,200 sq. ft. on 30 Acres of Land

The largest Muslim land development on the South Side of Chicago, providing complete Shariah-compliant burial services.

Together, these spaces represent a total of 95,000 sq. ft. of infrastructure that must be maintained, staffed, and preserved for future generations.

Alongside the infrastructure details, add this powerful vision as the closing paragraph:

Our long-term vision for the next decade is simple and heartfelt:

- **Every Muslim household developing a connection with the Qur'an.**
- **Every child having access to quality Islamic education, regardless of financial hardship.**
- **Every deceased Muslim receiving a dignified Islamic burial - never cremated due to poverty or lack of support.**

These facilities were built for this purpose - to serve the Ummah with dignity, sincerity, and continuity.





Necessity and Background Mapping

Harvey, in the southern suburbs of Chicago, is home to a diverse but economically distressed population. Families face challenges such as persistent poverty, unemployment, underperforming public schools, crime, and a lack of access to community resources.

Among them is a large and diverse Muslim population, consisting of African American families as well as immigrants from Jamaica, Morocco, Congo, Nigeria, Pakistan, India, and many other countries - nearly twenty different ethnicities.

Yet despite this diversity and spiritual thirst, for many years this region lacked even basic religious and social infrastructure:

- **No accessible masjid or Jumma services**
- **No dedicated space for women's prayer or taraweeh**
- **No affordable Islamic education for children**
- **No easily available halal meat or groceries**
- **No local Muslim cemetery providing Shariah-compliant burials**

These deficiencies caused both spiritual and social struggles. Many reverts and low income families had no guidance or community support.

CITCD emerged as a grassroots effort to fill that void - built by people who believed that even if resources were limited, sincere action within one's capacity could transform lives.

It became not just an organization but a symbol of empowerment and unity for Muslims across the South Side, serving Islam, education, and dignity.

Past Background

The foundation of CITCD was laid by a small group of families who began informal study circles and salah gatherings in their homes almost forty years ago. What started as a few people seeking to preserve their faith eventually evolved into a cohesive community.

In 2012, the need for structured learning led to the establishment of weekend Islamic classes for reverts and a small home-based school with just three students.



The vision was simple: protect children from the negative influences of local public schools - gangs, drugs, violence - and nurture their Islamic identity in a safe, values-based environment.

From that small beginning of three students, the effort grew to thirteen, then thirty-three, and now over 200 students from multiple nationalities.

As the educational mission expanded, another serious challenge came to light - Muslim families in the South Side who couldn't afford burial costs were facing cremation of their loved ones.

CITCD could not ignore this tragedy. With perseverance and prayers, the community took on the responsibility to ensure that no Muslim, regardless of financial situation, would ever be denied a proper Islamic burial.

After three years of continuous work - obtaining permits and approvals from MDT, IDOT, city councils, and completing soil testing and legal processes - the community succeeded in establishing the American Muslim Cemetery (AMC), the first dedicated Muslim cemetery in Illinois.

AMC was founded on a masjid-model philosophy: providing dignified burial services free of charge for those in need. It includes facilities for:

- **Ghusl (washing) of the deceased**
- **Overnight storage and preparation**
- **Janazah prayer and gathering area**
- **A place for families to grieve (azaah) and make duā**

Within the past few years alone, AMC has served more than 200 families annually.

This success is not due to wealth or numbers - it is the result of doing our best within our capacity, relying on Allah's mercy, and serving sincerely.

Our Pathway to Improvement

After building the foundation of learning and service, CITCD focused on creating an infrastructure that could sustain growth and meet the ever-increasing needs of the community.

The organization acquired two abandoned buildings - a warehouse and a corporate-training center - for under \$300,000, a sum unimaginable for any institution of this size. What followed was an extraordinary community effort: volunteers, donors, and families joined hands to transform these neglected structures into a living, breathing center of faith and service.



Through Allah’s grace and relentless work, the following improvements were made:

- **New roofing and insulation to ensure safety and energy efficiency**
- **Forty washrooms and forty wudu stations, designed for large gatherings and events**
- **Full LED lighting throughout the campus to conserve power and enhance visibility**
- **Functional classrooms, prayer areas, and community halls built entirely through community labor and small donations**

Today the campus stands at nearly 75,000 square feet on 30 acres, with parking for more than 400 vehicles - a monumental transformation achieved not through wealth but through will, du ā, and perseverance within limited capacity.

The institution now employs 26 staff members, educates 200+ students from over 20 ethnicities, and provides full zakat support to about 70 students each year.

The guiding principle, “No Child Left Behind,” is lived daily. Whether a family can pay or not, CITCD ensures that every child receives the opportunity for quality Islamic education. Graduates have gone on to work in information technology, healthcare, engineering, business, aviation, and other professional fields, while Huffaz alumni serve as imams and teachers throughout Chicagoland.

Every milestone achieved reflects sincerity, dedication, and working to the best of our capacity. Nothing here was built easily or quickly; it was built brick by brick through hard work, prayer, and the conviction that Allah multiplies small, sincere efforts.

Looking Forward Despite Challenges

While grateful for all that has been accomplished, CITCD acknowledges that much remains to be done. The community’s children deserve the same quality of education, facilities, and mentorship as those in wealthier suburbs, and the organization continues striving within its humble means to bridge that gap.

Facility Enhancement Needs

To strengthen student learning and youth engagement, the next phase of development includes:

Science Laboratory - for hands-on experiments and STEM education.

- **Computer Lab - to provide digital-literacy skills and technology access.**
- **Comprehensive Library - offering both Islamic and academic resources.**
- **Gymnasium and Sports Center - to channel youth energy into halal recreation.**
- **Safe Spaces for Sisters and Youth - areas where young women and men can meet,**

learn, and grow in a protected environment. These projects are not ambitions of luxury but necessities for holistic growth. CITCD continues planning and fundraising, fully aware that resources are limited yet believing that consistent effort within capacity eventually attracts divine barakah.



Socio-Economic Reality

Harvey and its neighboring suburbs remain among the most financially depressed areas of Illinois. Many families survive paycheck to paycheck. Drugs, gang violence, and hopelessness continue to plague youth. Against this backdrop, CITCD operates as both a masjid and a social-welfare lifeline.

The organization's leadership and volunteers understand that they cannot solve every problem but are committed to doing their best with the resources Allah has provided. Their perseverance itself is a message of Islam - that progress, no matter how gradual, is still victory when done for Allah's sake.

Staffing and Talent Challenges

Because funds are scarce, recruiting and retaining top-tier teachers and administrators is difficult. Salaries remain below regional averages, yet CITCD's educators continue out of passion and commitment. This sincerity forms the backbone of the school's success.

Even in these circumstances, CITCD continues its mission with optimism, trusting that Allah will bring helpers from unexpected places. As the Qur'an teaches, "Allah does not burden a soul beyond what it can bear." Within that measure, the center keeps striving every day.

"We know our resources are small compared to the magnitude of the need, but we continue to do our best - step by step, within our humble capacity - to bring lasting benefit to the community."

Unique Financial Challenges

CITCD serves a population where many families live below or near the poverty line. The reality is stark: most parents cannot afford even minimal tuition for private education.

- **Approximately 70 students are fully zakat-funded each year.**
- **The total cost for their education is about \$420,000 annually, roughly \$500 per month per child.**
- **Local zakat contributions are limited because many residents themselves face financial hardship.**

Despite this, the organization continues operating within its financial capacity, using every donation with accountability and care. Each dollar is stretched to cover essentials:

- **Teachers' salaries and classroom materials**
- **Utility and facility upkeep**
- **Food pantry and burial service costs**
- **Student scholarships and community programs**



CITCD takes pride not in the scale of its budget but in the integrity of its stewardship. It does not claim perfection; it claims sincerity, transparency, and an unwavering determination to serve to the best of its means.

The financial model rests entirely on Allah's help and the generosity of donors who understand that supporting such an institution is not charity alone but a trust.

Every contribution directly translates into action: a child learning the Qur'an, a family receiving food, a soul buried with dignity. In this way, even the smallest support becomes a share in continuous reward.

CITCD Community Services and Outreach

CITCD's mission extends into every aspect of community life. Its programs are built on three interconnected pillars:

- 1. Religious Services**
- 2. Social Welfare and Humanitarian Efforts**
- 3. Community Development and Engagement**

Each program is driven by volunteer effort and sincerity - done not from abundance, but from the determination to serve within whatever capacity Allah grants.

1. Religious Services

Jumma Service:

There was a time when Muslims across Chicago's South Side missed Jumma Salah entirely. Some prayed alone in workplaces or gas stations; others could not find a masjid nearby.

CITCD took the bold step to establish regular Jumma prayers, making special arrangements for both men and women. With ample parking and a welcoming environment, Muslims from across the region - African Americans, immigrants, reverts, and new families - began attending.

The Jumma congregation quickly became a place of unity, learning, and brotherhood. People not only came to pray but also witnessed the school children, learned about the weekend classes, and started enrolling their kids.

It was a simple step, but it reconnected hundreds of Muslims to the masjid - a reminder that even small acts done within one's capacity can bring large spiritual transformation.



Taraweeh and Ramadan Services:

Ramadan is the heart of CITCD's yearly activities. In its early days, many families on the South Side could not even afford a proper iftar. CITCD decided to begin an Iftar Program, starting with just 100 meals per night.

Today, by Allah's grace and through steady effort, the program serves nearly 1,000 people each evening during Ramadan. Attendees come from over thirty surrounding suburbs, including Muslims and reverts who would otherwise have nowhere to go.

The food served is simple - rice, curry, fruit, and water - but the value goes beyond nourishment. It is food for the soul, a reflection of brotherhood, and a renewal of faith.

The program has been running for twelve consecutive years, and it continues solely through community donations and volunteer help. It remains one of CITCD's most heartfelt examples of working to the best of our means for the sake of Allah.

Taraweeh Salah for Women:

Before CITCD, there were no local Taraweeh spaces for sisters in a safe, Shariah-compliant setting. The center established a separate area for women and girls, where they could listen to the complete Qur'an each year. Families testify that their daughters' love for the Qur'an deepened through these gatherings.

Through this effort, hundreds of women who had no previous access to nightly prayers now experience Ramadan in a spiritually uplifting and secure environment.

Eid-ul-Fitr Program:

The joy of Eid is best felt when shared, and for fourteen years, CITCD has ensured that no one in the South Side feels left out of this celebration.

Each year, families from different ethnicities - African American, Arab, South Asian, and others - gather for Eid Salah, food, and fellowship. The event has become a beloved tradition where hundreds attend, meet, and reconnect.

Children receive toys and small gifts, creating cherished memories that bind them to their community. These gatherings foster inclusiveness and continuous engagement with the masjid beyond the month of Ramadan.

It is not an extravagant event, but a deeply spiritual and joyous occasion - a testament that even with limited means, the community can celebrate beautifully when hearts are united.



Eid-ul-Adha Program:

Eid-ul-Adha holds special meaning at CITCD because it directly connects to the sunnah of sacrifice and the value of sharing blessings.

Not every family can afford to perform Qurbani; CITCD therefore arranges the sacrifice of animals each year, ensuring that every household, especially those in need, receives meat.

Through this, families fulfill a pillar of worship, children witness generosity in action, and community bonds strengthen. As one elder said, “We may not have much, but we make sure no one around us sleeps hungry.”

This annual effort exemplifies the center’s ethos - doing our best with what Allah gives and trusting that He multiplies the reward of sincerity.

2. Social Welfare and Humanitarian Efforts

Food Pantry:

Guided by its motto “Service to Mankind is Service to Allah,” CITCD runs a community food pantry that provides essential groceries to both Muslim and non-Muslim families.

Volunteers distribute rice, flour, oil, canned goods, and fresh produce to dozens of households each month. This small operation, sustained by donations, is often the difference between hunger and comfort for many struggling families.

It also softens hearts - several recipients who were not Muslim have expressed appreciation and curiosity about Islam, opening doors to dawah through compassion.

Winter Jacket Distribution:

Winter in Chicago can be harsh, particularly for low-income families without proper heating or clothing.

CITCD’s Winter Drive collects and distributes coats, scarves, gloves, and blankets every year. The drive serves both Muslims and non-Muslims across the South Side, ensuring warmth and dignity for those in need.

What may look like a simple service is, in reality, a lifeline - a small gesture that communicates love, care, and solidarity.

The Prophet ﷺ said, “The most beloved people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to others.” Through efforts like these, CITCD strives to be beneficial, to the best of its capacity.



Job Assistance and Support for Reverts :

When someone accepts Islam, the community rejoices - but the new Muslim often faces challenges such as job loss, family rejection, and isolation.

CITCD's Job Assistance Program addresses these challenges by helping reverts find stable employment. Volunteers connect individuals with gas stations, shops, and small businesses willing to provide work.

The goal is not only financial stability but also integration and dignity - to ensure that a revert can provide for their family while staying firm on deen.

This support, though modest, has helped many brothers and sisters rebuild their lives after embracing Islam.

Zabiha Halal Meat Facility :

For many years, obtaining halal meat was a serious issue on the South Side. African American Muslims and other local residents had to travel long distances or pay high prices to find authentic zabiha meat.

To help solve this, CITCD supported efforts to provide zabiha halal meat and grocery access at cost-to-cost (no-profit) pricing. This initiative makes halal living practical and affordable.

It reflects the center's wider mission to bring deen into every part of life and to provide services that safeguard both deen and daily needs.

Free Gym and Fitness Program

As youth began seeking recreation outside Islamic boundaries, community members approached CITCD with a new request: a safe, halal space for exercise and health.

In response, CITCD opened a Free Gym, accessible to men and women in separate time slots. The gym promotes physical health, discipline, and halal recreation, while also being used by students during school hours.

No fees are charged; the only rule is to use it responsibly and with respect. The intention behind it is pure - to safeguard our youth from environments filled with temptation and to promote health within our capacity.

This facility, though simple, is one of the community's most appreciated projects. It keeps young people connected to the masjid and reminds them that Islam encourages strength in both body and spirit.



3. Community Development and Engagement

CITCD ensures that its outreach is not limited to worship alone but extends to holistic community building. Regular events are organized for:

- **Men - lectures and gatherings focused on family, responsibility, and leadership.**
- **Women - mother-daughter sessions, classes, and halaqahs.**
- **Youth - mentorship programs, sports activities, and motivational talks.**
- **Families - community dinners, discussions, and volunteer drives.**

These events foster togetherness, strengthen relationships, and keep people attached to the masjid.

CITCD's volunteers and teachers go above and beyond, often using personal time and resources - a living example of working within capacity while serving the ummah wholeheartedly.

The community now sees CITCD as a place where everyone, regardless of background or income, is welcomed, supported, and valued.

Free Gym and Fitness Program

The American Muslim Cemetery was born from a deep pain - Muslim families being forced into cremation simply because they could not afford burial. CITCD resolved that no believer should ever face such indignity.

After nearly three years of approvals, environmental reviews, zoning processes, and community effort, the dream was realized: the first dedicated Muslim cemetery in Illinois built entirely according to Shariah.

AMC follows a masjid-model approach, offering essential services free of charge for families in need. The facility includes:

- **Separate ghusl (washing) areas for men and women**
- **Cold-storage units for overnight holding**
- **Space for janazah prayers**
- **A welcoming azaa area for family duā and gathering**

Today, AMC serves nearly **200 families each year**, providing dignified Islamic burials to all, regardless of their financial situation. Every funeral conducted here is an act of communal mercy and a reflection of the trust the community has placed in this institution.



AMC Project Completion & Remaining Need

Alhamdulillah, the entire cemetery development - including land work, road construction, utilities, ghust facilities, and the prayer building - is now fully complete and fully operational.

The only remaining responsibility is to clear the **outstanding project debt of \$165,000**. Completing this final payment will close the financial chapter of AMC's development and ensure that the cemetery continues to operate smoothly for generations to come.

Supporting this effort is a powerful form of **sadaqah jariyah** - every burial, every prayer, and every moment of benefit at this sacred site becomes an ongoing reward for those who help complete this amanah.

Facility Growth, Achievements, and Expansion

CITCD's campus is a visible sign of transformation. What were once two abandoned properties have become a vibrant center of education and service.

Current Facilities and Achievements

- **75,000 sq. ft. of operational space across 30 acres**
- **Parking capacity for 400 vehicles**
- **40 washrooms and 40 wudu stations**
- **Complete LED lighting for safety and efficiency**
- **Multipurpose classrooms, gym, and assembly areas**

All of this was achieved through duā, volunteer labor, and prudent spending - not luxury grants. Every wall and classroom tells the story of people working within capacity and depending on Allah alone.

Future Vision

As one of the most comprehensive Islamic service centers in Chicagoland's underserved region, CITCD stands at a unique crossroads - blessed with achievements but facing growing demand.

Our infrastructure - spanning nearly 75,000 sq. ft. of facilities, 400-car parking space, and 30 acres of land - is now valued at approximately \$15 million. These assets belong to the ummah, built and maintained through sacrifice, duā, and dedication. At the same time, our day-to-day operations remain dependent on monthly donations and support.

The next decade requires strategic growth - expanding, upgrading, and preserving these facilities for generations to come. To continue serving effectively, CITCD needs consistent donor engagement, professional staff, and capital improvements.

Your partnership ensures that this foundation, built for the sake of Allah, continues to serve thousands more, in better and more sustainable ways.



Future Expansion Plans with Cost Estimation

1. Indoor Basketball and Youth Facility - Estimated \$1.1 Million

(We are still working to obtain the final detailed estimate; more information can be provided upon request.)

To retain and engage the youth of the South Side, CITCD plans to establish a dedicated Indoor Basketball Court and Youth Activity Center. The facility will serve school, weekend, and summer students, providing a safe and supervised environment for recreation, teamwork, and mentorship. This initiative will not only promote health but also protect youth from negative street environments, helping them build strong bodies and strong faith.

Sponsorship Note: If you would like to sponsor this project, we can dedicate and name the new Basketball Gym in your honor. You may also choose to contribute directly to the contractor. CITCD will manage the entire project while you establish a lasting legacy.

2. Adjacent Building Acquisition - Price to be Determined

To expand school classrooms and administrative offices, accommodating growing enrollment.

3. New roof needed - 36,333 sq. ft. (Buildings 15214 & 15240) - Approx. \$381,000

Necessary maintenance to preserve and protect the facility. The current EPDM roof is over 25 years old and has multiple leakages, requiring full replacement.

4. Parking and Safety Lighting - \$50,000

To improve parking-lot visibility, safety, and accessibility during large community gatherings and evening programs.

5. Children's Outdoor Play Area - Estimated \$25,000-\$40,000

A safe, fenced playground for early-grade students to support physical development and healthy recreation.

6. Comprehensive Science Lab for Boys & Girls - \$35,000

Hands-on lab equipment and science resources to support STEM learning in a structured environment.

7. Computer Lab for Boys & Girls - \$42,000

Modern computers and technological infrastructure to prepare students for digital literacy and future careers.



8. Zakat and Scholarship Fund - \$35,000 per month

The Zakat Fund supports about 70 students every month - many from poor families, single mothers, refugees, reverts, and children who simply cannot afford Islamic education. Your zakat gives these children a chance to learn Qur'an, build good character, and grow in a safe and caring Islamic environment.

CITCD has always believed that every child deserves a future rooted in deen, no matter what their financial situation. By supporting this fund, you are helping shape the next generation of the Ummah with love, dignity, and opportunity.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said,

“The believer’s shade on the Day of Judgment will be his charity.” (Muslim)

Your zakat not only uplifts a child - it brings barakah into your own life, your family, and your future.

9. Well-Equipped Library - \$25,000

A growing academic and Islamic library to encourage reading, research, and lifelong learning. The space supports students in reflection, study, and academic excellence.

10. Classroom Improvements - \$65,000

Upgrading flooring, furniture, boards, and classroom design to create a more effective learning environment.

11. Lighting Upgrades - \$35,000

Full LED and safety lighting enhancements across classrooms, hallways, and common areas to improve visibility and reduce energy costs.

12. Washroom Renovations - \$36,000

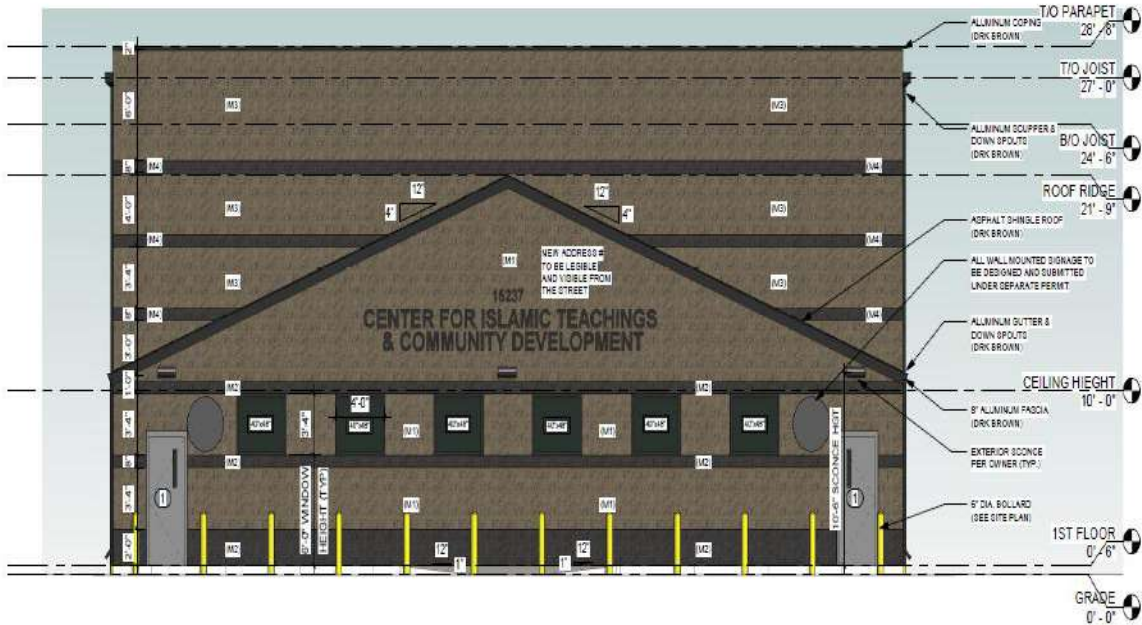
Essential repairs and upgrades to ensure clean, functional, and hygienic washrooms for students and staff.

13. Ablution (Wudu) Area Improvements - \$30,000

Necessary upgrades to wudu areas to improve safety, accessibility, and water efficiency.

With more resources, this library can expand into a full Academic Resource Center, giving underserved students access to knowledge and opportunity.

Each project represents another step forward - steady, transparent, and achievable through collective duā and participation.



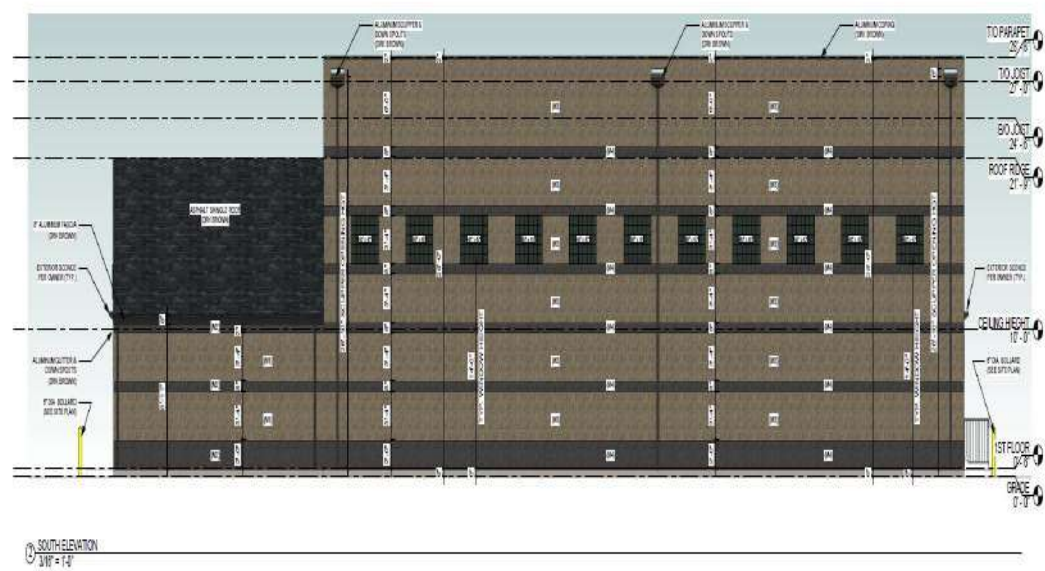
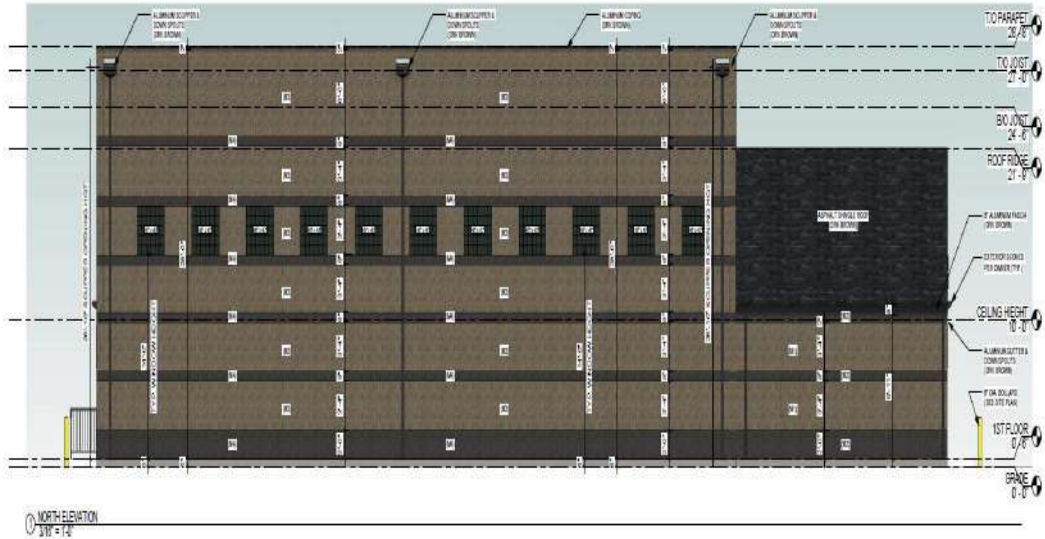
1 WEST ELEVATION
3/16" = 1'-0"



2 SOUTH ELEVATION
3/16" = 1'-0"



MATERIAL SCHEDULE					
NO.	COLOR	TYPE	SIZE	MANUFACTURER	NOTE
M1	DARK	SPLIT FACED	7.5" x 7.5" x 8.5"	MASONRY	MASONRY TYPE I (8.5" STIP MATCH COURSE)
M2	TWILIGHT	SPLIT FACED	7.5" x 7.5" x 8.5"	MASONRY	MASONRY TYPE I (8.5" STIP MATCH COURSE)
M3	DARK	SPLIT FACED	7.5" x 11.5" x 11.5"	MASONRY	MASONRY TYPE I (11.5" STIP MATCH COURSE)
M4	TWILIGHT	SPLIT FACED	7.5" x 11.5" x 11.5"	MASONRY	MASONRY TYPE I (11.5" STIP MATCH COURSE)



PROJECT NO. 2023-001
 SHEET NO. 101
 DATE: 10/20/23
 DRAWN BY: [Name]
 CHECKED BY: [Name]
 APPROVED BY: [Name]
 PROJECT NAME: NEW GYMNASIUM 4 WORKOUT ROOMS
 PROJECT ADDRESS: 1122 BULLY BROWNDAY AVE., HARVEY, LA 70058



ARCHITECT: ABRAAR ACADEMY
 1122 BULLY BROWNDAY AVE.
 HARVEY, LA 70058

NO.	DATE	REVISION

ELEVATIONS



Abraar Academy - Academic Division of CITCD

Vision and Growth

Abraar Academy is the educational heart of CITCD. From three homeschool students it has grown into a full K-12 Islamic school serving more than two hundred children from 22 nationalities.

The academy provides a balanced curriculum combining:

- **Core academics (Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies)**
- **Islamic Studies, Tajweed, Nazirah, and Qur'an memorization**

The program focuses on literacy, numeracy, akhlaq, and strong moral foundations. Classes are gender-separated, promoting modesty and concentration. Assessments, exams, and teacher reviews ensure consistent progress.

Abraar's model is intentionally simple, affordable, and authentic - designed for underserved families while maintaining quality. Many Islamic schools across Chicago have since adopted elements of this approach.

Weekend Maktab and Adult Learning

CITCD recognizes that not every family can join the full-time program. The Weekend Maktab therefore provides structured Qur'an, Fiqh, Aqidah, and manners classes for children and adults. Reverts attend sessions that teach the basics of Islam in a warm, non judgmental atmosphere.

Attendance and progress are recorded, and graduates often transition into leadership or volunteer roles.

Through these classes, learning becomes accessible to everyone, regardless of schedule or income.

Student Support and Scholarships

Abraar Academy's core principle is equality of opportunity.

About 70 students each year are fully zakat-funded, costing roughly \$420,000 annually.

The school maintains a "No Child Left Behind" policy, ensuring that every child willing to learn receives an education, regardless of financial status.

Graduates have gone on to careers in IT, healthcare, engineering, business, and aviation, while Huffaz serve as imams and Qur'an teachers throughout Illinois.

Donor support sustains this chain of reward, turning generosity into lasting transformation.



Holistic Development

Abraar emphasizes balanced development of body, mind, and soul.

- **Physical fitness sessions in the CITCD Gym.**
- **Hifz and Tajweed tracks to strengthen spiritual discipline.**
- **Science fairs, debates, and public-speaking events for confidence.**
- **Community service projects teach responsibility and empathy.**

These activities build self-esteem and attach students to their deen.

Future Educational Goals

- 1. Acquire the adjacent building to expand upper grades.**
- 2. Gain accreditation and teacher-training partnerships.**
- 3. Integrate smart-classroom technology.**
- 4. Increase scholarships to 100+ students per year.**
- 5. Establish an endowment (waqf) for long-term sustainability.**

Each initiative is pursued patiently and realistically, always mindful of resources and guided by the intention to serve within means.

Sustaining the Vision

CITCD and Abraar Academy together form a unified ecosystem of faith, education, and community service - a living example of what can be achieved through duā, perseverance, and cooperation.

The facilities and land, now valued at roughly \$15 million, are not the mark of wealth but of responsibility. They are an amanah that must be preserved, maintained, and improved for future generations. Every classroom, prayer hall, and burial plot was built through sacrifice, and continued operation depends on Allah's mercy and the generosity of believers.

At present, CITCD and AMC together still rely heavily on monthly zakat and sadaqah donations to cover student scholarships, teacher salaries, utilities, and maintenance. The American Muslim Cemetery carries an outstanding debt of approximately \$165,000, which must be cleared to keep services running smoothly and ensure that free burials remain available to all families in need.



Funding Priorities

- Pay off AMC debt and secure long-term sustainability of burial services.
- Support zakat expenses and teacher stipends.
- Maintain and upgrade facilities (roof repairs, lighting, security).
- Develop youth and sports facilities to engage our next generation.
- Expand science and computer labs at Abraar Academy.

Why Your Support Matters

CITCD serves one of Illinois's most underserved Muslim populations. Almost seventy students depend entirely on zakat every year; dozens of families receive free burial services; hundreds rely on food, clothing, and community support.

Your contribution directly sustains these essential services. It helps retire the cemetery debt, funds education for children who cannot pay, and keeps this light of faith shining in a community that needs it most.

Supporting CITCD means investing in:

- The education of a child
- The dignity of a deceased believer
- The guidance of new Muslims
- The future of an entire neighborhood

“We continue to do whatever we can with sincerity and limited means, but your support can turn effort into excellence and hope into reality.”

Community Impact Showcase - Program Flyers & Highlights

The collage features several program flyers:

- Henna Event:** Saturday, March 29th | 1PM - 5PM. Come adorn your hands with beautiful henna designs - for free!
- Islamic Essentials:** A guided course for new-Muslims. Starting August 23rd, 2023. Saturdays 11:30am - 12:30pm.
- Annual Girls' Youth Retreat: Pathway to Jannah.** Small Steps, Eternal Rewards. Includes Archery, Bonfire, Food, Ice Cream Social.
- Annual Boys' Overnight Retreat: MEN OF MORALS.** Guided by the Qur'an, Inspired by Sunnah. Includes Archery, Bonfire, Food, Ice Cream Social.
- Girls Youth Halaqaah:** Grow in Faith, Connect in Sisterhood. Topics include: Balancing Life and Worship, Creating Time for Worship, Living with Respectful, Honoring Parents and Elders, Faith, Science, and Smart Choices: A Quarter for Allah.
- Mothers' Halaqaah:** A place for mothers to connect, grow, and enjoy together. Topics include: Balancing Life and Worship, Creating Time for Worship, Living with Respectful, Honoring Parents and Elders, Faith, Science, and Smart Choices: A Quarter for Allah.
- Siraah Series: Part Two: HIS NOBLE UPRISING.** Exploring the legacy of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his impact on the world.
- Workshop on Zabiha Halal:** CITCD in collaboration with the Shariah Board of America. Saturday 10:00 AM - 6:15 PM (SHARP).
- Boys & Girls Full Time Hifz Program:** With secular studies. Includes Quranic studies, Arabic, and English.
- Islamic Preschool:** Start your child's education journey with Abraar Academy. Includes Quranic studies, Arabic, and English.
- Free Grocery Box Giveaway:** Sunday, March 26th • 11 AM to 3 PM. First come first serve • limited supplies.
- Islamic Summer School - 2023:** For Boys, Girls, Men and Women. Let's make it a productive summer June 21 - August 14.
- Ramadan Iftar Services:** (TO-GO ONLY). Serving the Muslims of Chicago, our goal is to facilitate the fast, spiritual, and social aspects of Ramadan.



CITCD acknowledges that everything accomplished so far is only by Allah's permission and the generosity of donors and volunteers. We do not claim success; we claim effort - the effort to serve within our capacity and to keep moving forward despite challenges.

As long as Allah gives us strength, we will continue to educate, to bury, to feed, and to guide - always doing our best with what little we have, trusting that when sincerity meets support, transformation follows.

Contact and Donation Information



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How to Give

- **Donate online or through QR code.**
- **Monthly pledges and one-time contributions welcome.**
- **Zakat and sadaqah accepted; all donations are tax-deductible.**

“The most beloved of people to Allah are those who bring the most benefit to others.” - Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

“When a person dies, all his deeds come to an end except three: ongoing charity, beneficial knowledge, and a righteous child who prays for him.” - Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (Muslim)

“Allah will continue to help His servant as long as the servant is helping his brother.” - Prophet Muhammad ﷺ