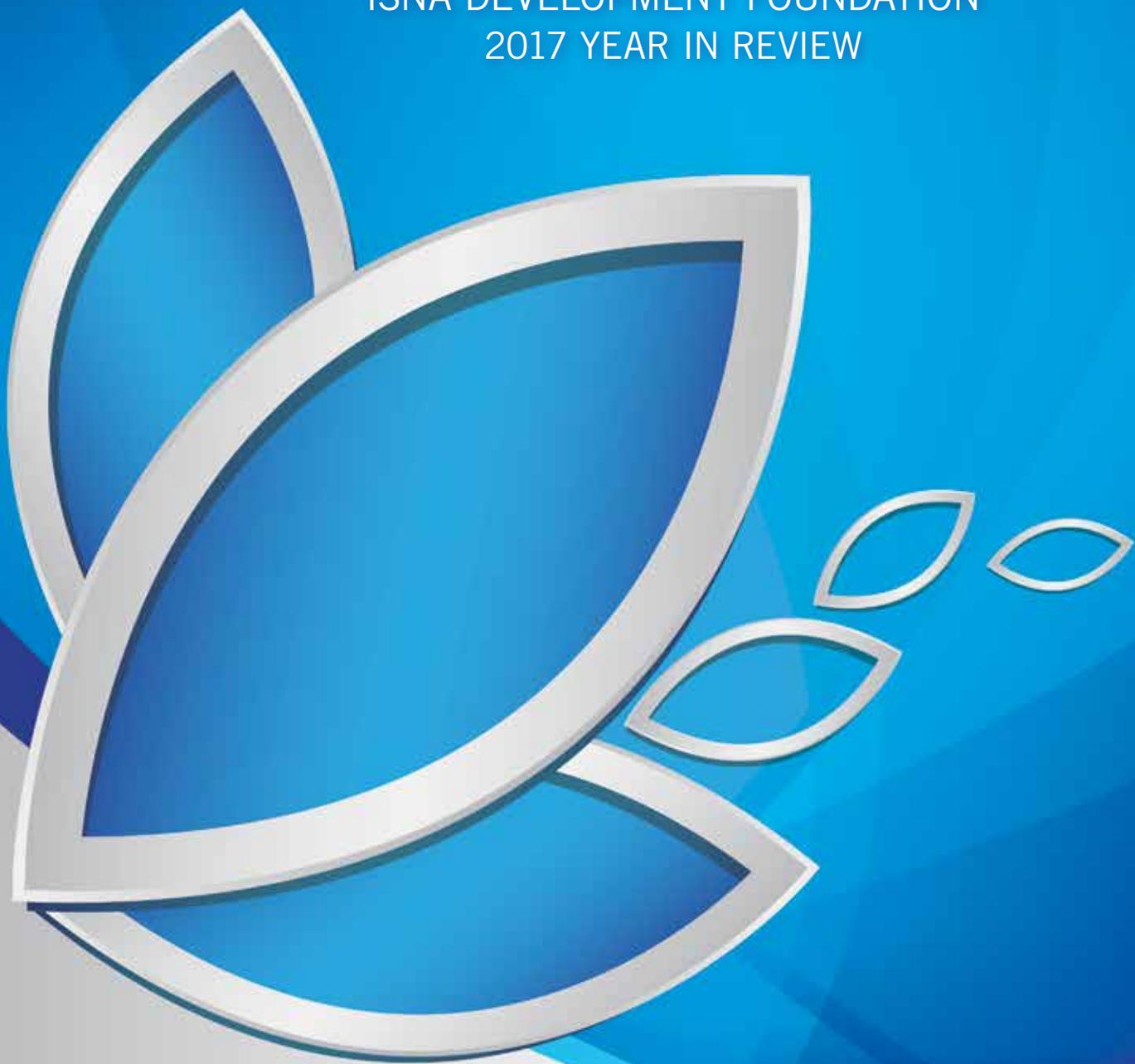


YOUR MONEY AT *Work*

ISNA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
2017 YEAR IN REVIEW



The *Your Money at Work* newsletter highlights some of ISNA's 2017 activities. Since the newsletter is just a summary, you can visit our website (www.isna.net) to read more details about our mission and further accomplishments.

 **JANUARY**

◆ **6th Annual ISNA West Coast Education Forum, "Harnessing the Power of Faith: Serving Humanity" in Anaheim, CA**

The West Coast Education Forum provided a stage to touch upon the political climate and how it can be a challenge, yet an opportunity for Islamic schools to use the power of faith to inspire, encourage and empower youth; to help them become active in their community and serve all humanity. The gift of faith is a powerful



instrument that can be used to nurture the innate potential in each individual, and over 500 educators benefitted from numerous sessions and useful discussions around this topic.

- ◆ Following the unexpected results of the 2016 election, ISNA partnered with the Institute on Social and Public Understanding (ISPU) to host a webinar titled "Post-Election American Muslim Self Care" to provide useful methods of handling any mental distress caused by the increased rhetoric of bigotry and hate during the election cycle.

*"It was more than perfect."
"Very nice job. Full of activities."
"The information was new and
necessary for me."*

— California Education Forum attendees





- ◆ With the rise of hate crimes, ISNA held the webinar *“Masjid Crisis Communication & Response,”* designed to give masjid and community leaders practical advice and resources on handling crisis situations. This included communicating with the community, media, and law enforcement and government officials.

primary focus was on enhancing the quality of programming, preserving policy, its communication and implementation, and capitalizing on MYNA’s potential to provide youth, counselors, and advisors with professional and personal benefits.

- ◆ ISNA attended the National Conference for the Ministry of Armed Forces (NCMAF), whose mission is to connect member faith groups with military and Veterans’ Administration chaplaincies, and to celebrate religious diversity. The conference’s theme was *“Emerging Trends: Serving on the Cutting Edge.”*

DID YOU KNOW?
 YPSD’s MYNA program held a total of 30 events nationwide, and added an entire new Regional Executive Committee in 2017!

- ◆ ISNA Youth Programs and Services Department’s (YPSD) program Muslim Youth of North America (MYNA) held its annual Majlis Youth Committee (MYC) meeting. The Committee’s chairs examined MYNA’s best practices and biggest struggles, and identified action items for the remainder of the term. The





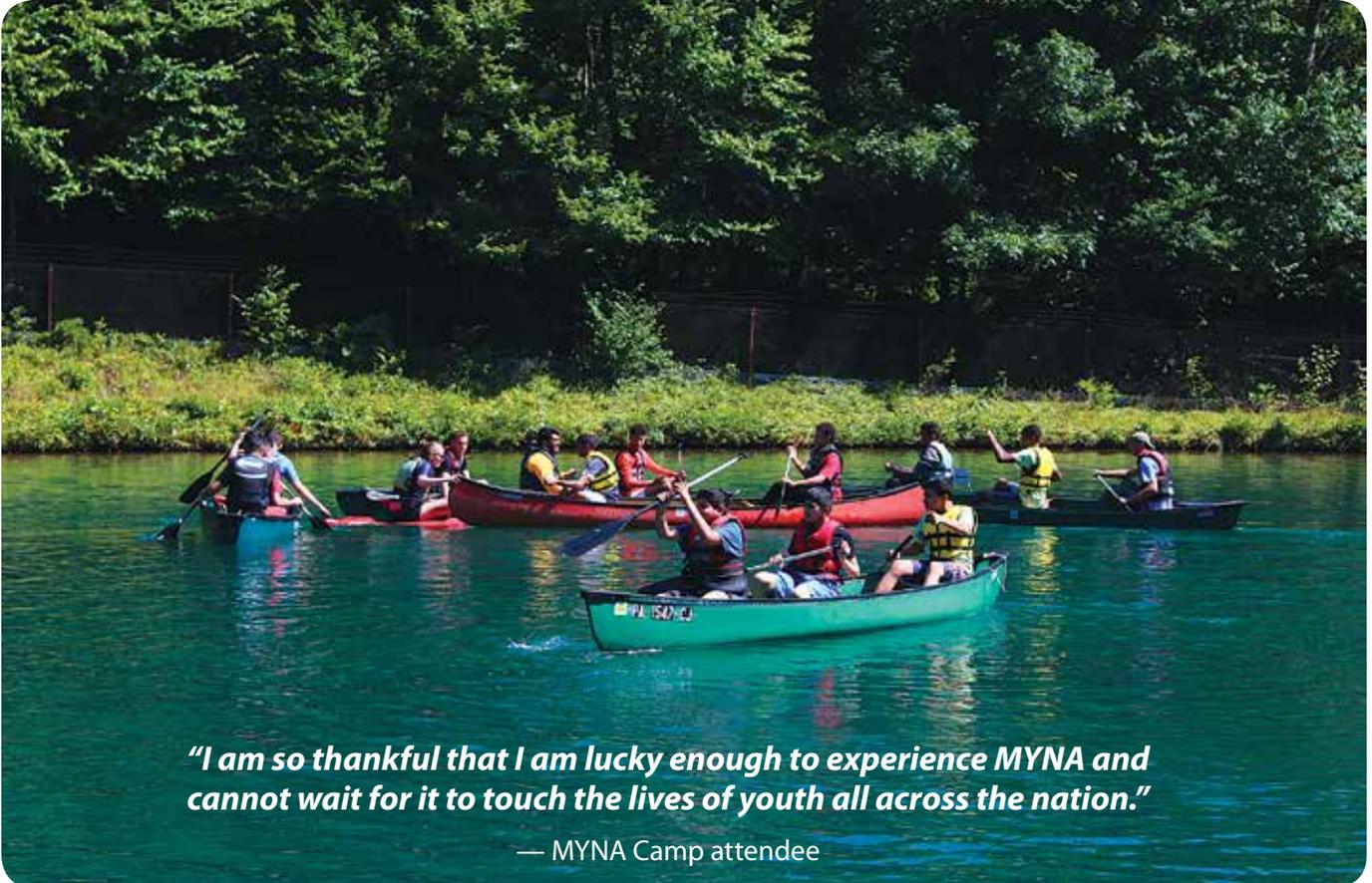
- ◆ YPSD’s MYNA program launched bi-weekly personal development halaqas, via webinars, for youth and their families on Sunday afternoons. Each webinar features a different prominent speaker and/or scholar to explore relevant topics rooted in Islamic morals and values.

MARCH

- ◆ YPSD held five spring MYNA camps, in Texas, Florida, Indiana, Illinois and California, benefiting 452 total youth. The season’s theme was “*Living on a Prayer*,” which explored the power of du’a and its essence in worship. Each camp also featured a service component, including assembling care packages, a canned food drive, and greeting local residents through the “Meet a Muslim” experience, which helps break down stereotypes of Muslims.
- ◆ ISNA hosted the webinar “*American Muslim Identity in the Age of Islamophobia*” to discuss

FEBRUARY

- ◆ ISNA hosted a webinar titled “*Making Sense of the Executive Orders*” to answer some frequently asked questions to help people better understand the flurry of executive orders signed by the President and their impact on the Muslim community.



“I am so thankful that I am lucky enough to experience MYNA and cannot wait for it to touch the lives of youth all across the nation.”

— MYNA Camp attendee

self-care mechanisms to help our community, particularly youth, stay connected with their faith and reclaim the American Muslim identity during a time that identity is often questioned.

- ◆ YPSD’s MYNA program started the *MYNA Moments* blog, which serves as a platform for youth to express themselves through any means they wish and to learn from each other. With MYNA officers’ hard work, the blog has exceeded expectations by accumulating over 40,000+ views. The blog is full of camper testimonials, reflections, poems, journal entries, du’as, photography and more.



 **APRIL**

- ◆ **18th Annual ISNA Education Forum “Preparing Islamic Schools for a Changing World” in Rosemont, IL**

For Islamic schools in America, the struggle to combine academic excellence with

emphasis on Islamic morals has proved fruitful. The Education Forums are a venue to help achieve this, by providing scholarly papers and reports, professional expertise, and thorough discussions relevant to current and ongoing issues in education. More than 600 educators learned many lessons and tips from this forum, and often return year after year to reap its benefits.



MAY

- ◆ ISNA partnered with the Khalil Center to provide weekly webinars to raise awareness about mental health. Webinar themes included: *"Islamic Roots of Mental Health," "The Mind-Body Connection," "Pornography: Prevalence, Causes and Solutions,"* and *"Waswasa: Islamic Manifestation of OCD."*
- ◆ YPSD's MYNA program introduced a new Regional Executive Committee; five youth were selected from Florida to carry out a year-long term to execute retreats and events, and to help grow and develop MYNA's presence in the Gulf Coast.
- ◆ ISNA's Office for Interfaith and Community Alliances (IOICA) joined a host of Muslim leaders from across the country to commemorate what would have been Malcom X's 92nd birthday. Ceremonies recognized the contributions he made to the American-Muslim community, the African-American community, American society, and to civil and human rights globally. ISNA participated to relay its message of support for all he stood for at the end of his life, and to recognize that the rights and dignity he fought for still remain a continual struggle for many in the U.S. and around the world.
- ◆ YPSD's MYNA program hosted their first ever City Edition service event in Flint, MI with the theme *"No Nation without Representation."* About 58 youth gathered for a weekend of icebreakers, skits and workshops, interacted with local farmers' market shoppers, and helped to clean up the Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village.

June

- ◆ ISNA organized a month-long nationwide campaign of outreach visits and iftars during Ramadan. This blessed time allowed ISNA leadership and representatives to connect with local communities, share spiritual inspiration, and to listen and receive feedback on how ISNA can best serve those communities.





- ◆ IOICA co-sponsored an iftar with the Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, and a few other co-host organizations, to facilitate a panel Q&A that featured over 100 people from a variety of faith-based organizations and institutions. The panel focused on questions related to Ramadan, Islamic spirituality, what it means to be a refugee, and how to respond to the spike in anti-Muslim sentiment.

- ◆ ISNA co-hosted a candlelight vigil for Nabra Hassanen, with the Center for Interfaith Cooperation and the Muslim Alliance of Indiana, to give the community an opportunity to come together, pray, and heal after her tragic death. ISNA also established a scholarship fund in her name in coordination with her community and her family.
- ◆ ISNA took part in a live interview on WUSA9 in DC, which talked about white supremacy and institutionalized racism. The discussion touched upon the noose left at the Museum of African-American History and Culture, and how it's part of the growing public issue of racism around the country. It was important to show how the Muslim community understands anti-Muslim sentiments to be another manifestation of white supremacy and bigotry.
- ◆ ISNA participated in the Eid prayer with New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio. The Mayor and other faith leaders stood with Muslims during a time of increased hate crimes, anti-Muslim legislation and Islamophobia.



ISNA CONFERENCE TOUR



ISNA's Power of Faith Conference Tour visited seven cities across the country. The tour featured several renowned scholars and speakers who addressed audiences under the theme "Power of Faith: Transforming Self and Society," which looked at how faith can be a source of inspiration and guidance to help one become a positive agent of change, and strive towards a just society. Some of the conferences also had a youth track component.



★ **FEBRUARY:**
Houston, TX



★ **APRIL:**
Dallas, TX

★ **MAY:**
St. Louis, MO



★ **SEPTEMBER:**
Phoenix, AZ

★ **SEPTEMBER:**
Seattle, WA



★ **OCTOBER:**
Memphis, TN

★ **NOVEMBER:**
Cincinnati, OH





ISNA'S 54TH ANNUAL CONVENTION IN ROSEMONT, IL

"Hope and Guidance through the Quran"

This year's convention was held just as Muslims celebrated the end of Ramadan. In addition to fasting, Ramadan is the month in which the divine gift, the Quran, was revealed. The Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) serves as our best example of how to internalize and practice the Quran's message and teachings. As current challenges facing Muslims intensify, the Quran is a constant source of hope and guidance. Thousands of attendees convened to learn from sessions that focused on the appreciation and application of our Holy Book.

"Finally something for me! Something that reflects my experience in addition to all the other great workshops!"

"Inspiring, informative, enthusiastic. Very well done."

"So glad we are able to hear a variety of Muslim voices."

"Relevant. Timely. Warm. Respectful. Wholesome. Connecting."

— Annual Convention attendees



ISNA Annual Convention Activities

- ◆ Over 100 speakers, including 40 female speakers, and totaling over 100 sessions
- ◆ Bazaar with more than 500 booths
- ◆ Special Eid celebration activities for children
- ◆ Community Service Recognition Luncheon banquet keynote speaker was Linda Sarsour. Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed received the community service award for his lifelong dedication to the Muslim community, Islamic work, social justice issues and interfaith initiatives.
- ◆ MYNA's convention program *"Heeding the Message, Changing the Situation"* focused on empowering youth attendees by gaining a better understanding of the life of the Prophet (pbuh) and the stories provided to us through the Quran, to cultivate a generation of 'go-getters', and to enhance the American Muslim experience. Sessions were highlighted under tracks such as: knowledge, community, identity and action. Youth also participated in an open mic, where they could showcase their skills and talents. MYNA also held a youth mentor networking event, comprised of MYNA alumni and counselors, for youth seeking advice about future professions.
- ◆ Children's Program and Carnival
- ◆ MSA Program





- ◆ IOICA's Government Breakfast had many conversations which explored the panelists' office activities, personal stories, and specific ways in which the Muslim community can more actively contribute to the civic process, both related and unrelated to the electoral process.
- ◆ Young Professionals Luncheon
- ◆ National Qira'at Competition
- ◆ Meet the Author
- ◆ Film Festival
- ◆ Art & Photography Exhibit
- ◆ Matrimonial Banquets
- ◆ Basketball Tournaments
- ◆ IOICA's Interfaith Banquet honored the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ECLA) and Bishop Elizabeth Eaton for their interfaith partnership with ISNA over the years, and the education they continue to do, within hundreds of ECLA congregations nationwide, on Islam and Muslims. Dr. Sayyid Syeed was also recognized for his contributions to interfaith work and many of the achievements made by IOICA over the past 11 years.
- ◆ ISNA's Chaplaincy Services Department (ICSD) had its 8th annual chaplaincy training, which provided Muslim chaplains the opportunity to share notes, evaluate concerns and challenges, and plan for the future.





July

- ◆ YPSD's MYNA program held its Summer Leadership Summit in Flint, MI. The meeting hosted 44 officers from across the country for a week of leadership and training, personal, professional, and spiritual development, community service and civic engagement. Outgoing officers taught newcomers how to
- ◆ develop an action plan and program, manage a team, book speakers, create marketing strategies, organize transportation and more.
- ◆ The MYNA HIRA intensive retreat was held in Chicago and gave students the chance to participate in Quranic science courses, sessions on purification of the heart, the Seerah of the Prophet (pbuh), and a study of Hadith sciences.

"My MYNA experience was one of the best experiences I've ever had. The lectures were moving and I genuinely benefited from them, and the people are some of the nicest I've ever met. It was the perfect balance of lectures and fun, which is hard to manage."

— MYNA Camp attendee

August

- ◆ YPSD organized three major summer MYNA camps in Indiana, Pennsylvania and Kansas, serving almost 300 youth. The theme *"Falling in Love with Allah"* set the stage for a week full of lectures, workshops and discussions that focused on strengthening one's devotion to Allah (swt) through His 99 attributes.

September

- ◆ ISNA Board and Executive Council members partnered with the Islamic Society of Greater Houston (ISGH) and Risala Foundation for a weekend of service to help clean homes impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The group worked in the Bear Creek area of the city, which experienced severe flooding due to the releasing of the Addicks Reservoir.



"I never would have guessed that so many people care so much about us."

— Homeowner flood victim

ISNA HQ ACTIVITIES

ISNA headquarters hosts hundreds of visitors each year, as well as giving presentations in various settings around the metropolitan area, thereby reaching thousands of friends and neighbors. Visiting groups include churches, schools and universities, seminaries, chaplaincy programs, civic organizations, interfaith events and public forums.

- ❖ ISNA HQ staff performed a day of service, in which they worked at a local food bank to distribute food to those struggling with hunger.
- ❖ ISNA's Interim Secretary General participated in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis' Mass of Installation for the newly appointed Archbishop of Indianapolis. She joined other interfaith leaders in sharing words of welcome as a symbol of collaborative support for the common good of all.
- ❖ ISNA HQ continued its collaboration with a local Catholic Church to present a program about the encounter between St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan Malek al-Kamil in 1219 CE, as depicted in the film *"The Sultan and the Saint,"* and the lessons we can apply today.
- ❖ ISNA was invited to collaborate with the local Downey Avenue Christian Church on a youth project intended to document each other's places of worship, scriptures, prayer, and other sacred traditions. The project received an award from a local university competition aimed at preventing Islamophobia, discrimination and violence in the community, and will culminate with a public showing of the photographs.
- ❖ ISNA co-sponsored a community-wide event entitled *"Talking through Unity and Civility"* which featured key speaker Khizr Khan. The discussion addressed the need for everyone to be promoters and defenders of our universally shared values, and to be engaged in our society to work together for the common good. ISNA also hosted Khizr Khan at its headquarters in which he focused his talk mainly towards the youth and how they can be exemplary American Muslims.



- ◆ Joining ten other heads of Washington, D.C. faith-based offices, IOICA spoke with legislative directors and other office staff about the importance to care for those most in need when Congress votes on the budget, tax reform, entitlement programs, and immigration-related issues. The group also held up its third iteration of the Faithful Budget Campaign.



“It is time for our representatives to craft legislation that equitably collects taxes, fully funds social programs, and eliminates the loopholes that only help the wealthiest among us... Let us take advantage of this moment and do what is right.”

— IOICA Director

- ◆ IOICA met with the Acting Head of the U.S. Department of State’s Office for Religious and Global Affairs. Discussion focused on the role of religious actors’ relationship with the Department of State to create spaces for

MATRIMONIAL BANQUETS

ISNA organizes matrimonial banquets to provide a platform for single Muslims to meet, interact and network with others, in search of a potential spouse. All banquets are held in a safe, Islamic environment, so participants can feel confident and comfortable during the event. This year, ISNA held 10 matrimonial events nationwide; over 600 people attended the events during convention, and over 500 total people attended events throughout the regional conferences.

“Good opportunity to network, meet new people and learn from everyone.”

“It was a pleasant experience.”

— Matrimonial participants



dialogue on peace, economic prosperity and other issues. The meeting also explored how IOICA can more effectively engage on issues related to religious freedom within the current political environment.



October

- ◆ ISNA hosted a webinar titled *“Lightening Up with Renewable Energy,”* exploring the causes of climate change, renewable energy’s potential, and the ways in which Muslim communities in the U.S. and abroad are taking action.

ISNA SCHOLARSHIPS

ISNA awarded 34 students scholarships in 2017, totaling \$107,500. Field majors include journalism, political science, medical technology, computer science, finance, business administration and more.

- ❖ **Dr. Abdulmunim A. Shakir** — 20 freshman students were awarded \$1,000 each; this is a one-time scholarship established to support freshmen in their first year of higher education.
- ❖ **Aziz Jamaluddin** — 10 students were awarded \$4,000 each; this is a recurring scholarship established to support students throughout their education in the fields of journalism and political science.
- ❖ **Amana Mutual Funds** — One award of \$2,500; this scholarship follows a value-oriented approach consistent with Islamic finance principles.

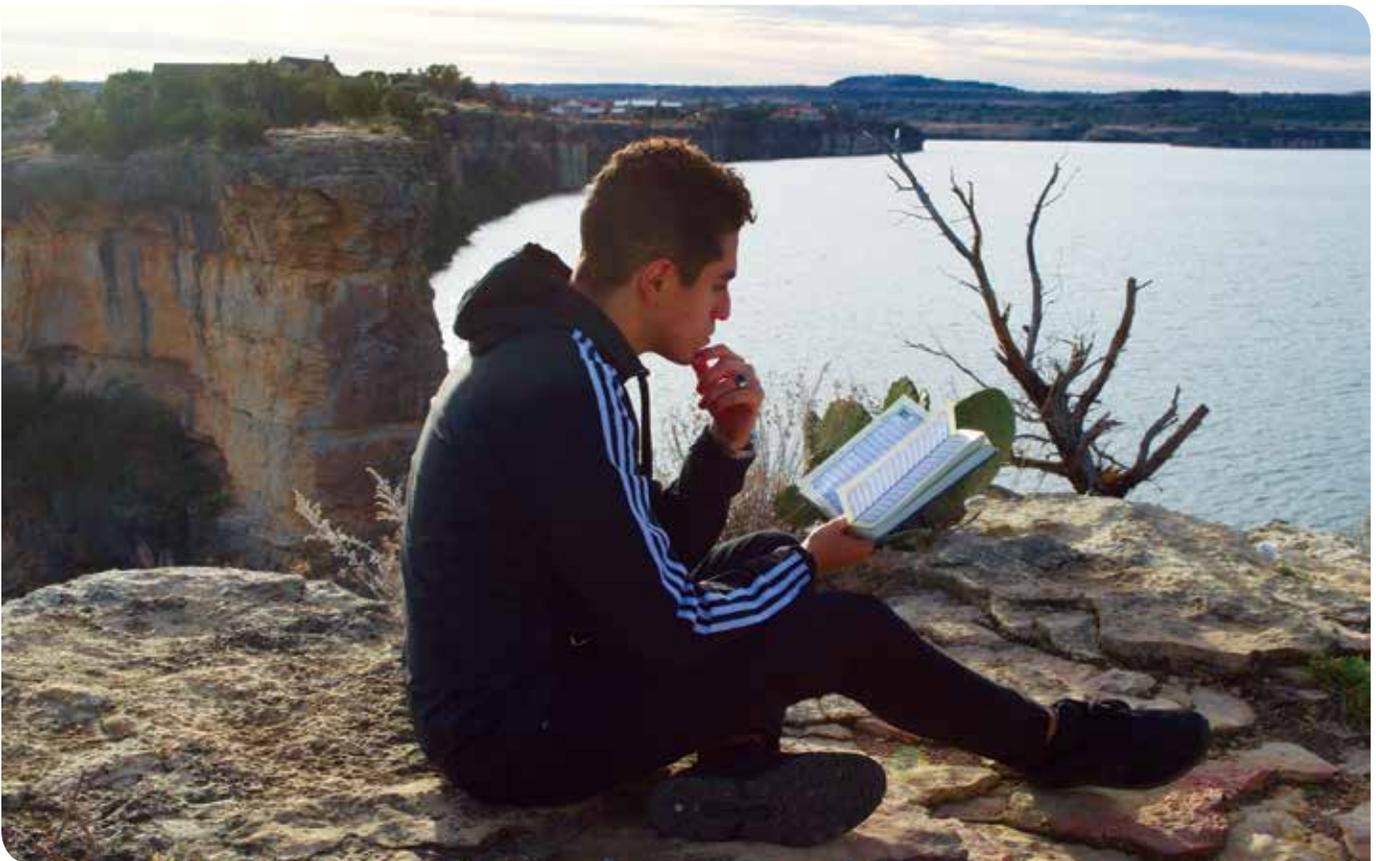
- ❖ **Plainfield (IN) Muslim Women for a Better Society** — One Plainfield High School senior and one full-time Indianapolis Islamic high school senior are awarded \$500 each.
- ❖ **Hajja Razia Sharif Sheikh** — ISNA was selected by Dr. Hamid Sheikh to host an endowment dedicated to a scholarship in Islamic studies and/or journalism in the name of his mother, Hajja Razia Sharif Sheikh. This endowment fund was matched by the Musa Dakri Family.
- ❖ **Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Loan Scholarship** — Five scholarships of \$15,000 each are awarded an interest-free loan (qard hasan). The objective is to help students succeed by providing financial aid, and then have them pay back the funds to benefit other future students. Fields of study vary.



December

- ◆ YPSD held its MYNA winter camps in Indiana, Chicago, Texas, Maryland, California and Florida. The theme *"Following in His Footsteps"* was a week-long retreat exploring the life of

our Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) through the lens of the Quran. The camps' lectures and workshops were structured with the purpose of helping youth attendees understand his life, his story, and his teachings, through reflection and analyzation of the Divine Revelation.





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