

"In the Name of Allah/the One God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful"

WELCOME to ISOS NEWS



www.i-sos.org

8th Edition

(November 2016 - November 2017)

Mission

Islamic Social Services of Oregon State (ISOS) is a 501c3 social service charitable organization. We strive to be a trusted organization practicing Islamic values when rendering services to people in need of assistance through trying times. In doing so we hope to reflect and spread understanding of Islam, promote self reliance and add to the well being of the community we live in.

Vision

ISOS collaborates with a network of non-profit organizations and community service groups to assist those facing periods of challenge in gaining self reliance through financial assistance and access to public assistance targeted to their needs and goals.

Appreciation

We would like to acknowledge the following agencies for their continued support and collaboration with ISOS:

DHS Child Welfare; AsSaber Mosque; Bilal Mosque; Iraqi Society of Greater Portland; Oregon Islamic Chaplain Organization (OICO); Oregon Muslim Medical Association (OMMA); Islamic Relief USA; African Youth Community Organization (AYCO); Burmese Community; Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO); Muslim Educational Trust - Oregon Islamic Academy; Bashar & Johnson Tax Accountant; Refugee Disability Benefits of Oregon (RDBO); Tualatin Community Warehouse; Jewish Family and Child Services (JFCS); SW Community Health Center; Shafa Clinic; Multnomah County Health Dept; Outside In Agency; Oregon Food Bank; Street Roots; Sesame Donuts; Lutheran Community Services (LCS); Catholic Charities; Portland Police Dept. Portland Refugee Support Group; Portland Police Dept; Relay Resources; Cares NW; Potluck in the Park; Living Hope and Village Coalition.

And most of all to our donors for providing the much needed financial support to help those in need with dignity!

Finance Status

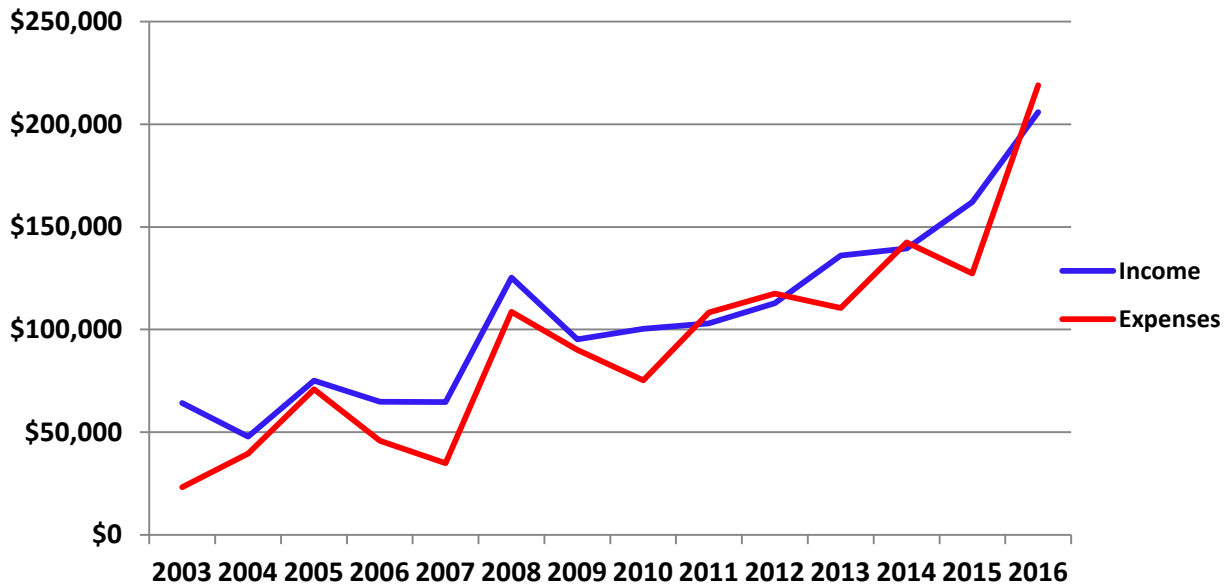
November 2016 – November 2017:

- **Donations Received:** \$205,822 (community private donations; company matching funds; grants)
- **Spent:** \$219,014 (Expense List shown below)

Grants Awarded:

- **IRUSA:** \$64,800 (Refugee Resettlement Aid)
- **Collins Foundation:** \$18,000 (ISOS case workers contractor's funds)
- **IRUSA:** \$10,000 (Day of Dignity)
- **Oregon Islamic Academy (MET) thru Oregon Community Foundation:** \$1,000 (Domestic Violence Aid)

Financial Trend (2003-2016):



Expenses	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
clothes		\$650	\$350	\$182				
education	\$2,245	\$990	\$330	\$500	\$789		\$1,000	
food	\$12,415	\$5,475	\$30,824	\$22,931	\$25,864	\$15,255	\$10,806	\$44,013
housing	\$46,501	\$47,083	\$43,864	\$62,413	\$54,792	\$65,438	\$81,163	\$132,373
*ISOS admin	\$5,326	\$3,320	\$4,047	\$2,065	\$7,535	\$9,579	\$13,318	\$19,034
medical		\$1,309	\$3,015	\$623		\$290	\$835	\$476
transportation	\$5,326	\$4,483	\$8,217	\$6,067	\$2,939	\$6,310	\$1,244	\$7,618
utilities	\$6,317	\$5,723	\$5,411	\$2,667	\$3,759	\$2,639	\$4,829	\$3,943
youth activities			\$114	\$9,988	\$5,350			
death/support	\$7,073			\$830		\$820		\$1,230
Day of Dignity			\$6,268	\$8,267	\$10,000	\$10,076	\$9,366	\$10,327
employment			\$5,842	\$1,000		\$26,620	\$3,891	
disaster relief		\$2,025						
legal	\$4,803	\$4,260			\$40	\$5,400	\$854	
TOTALS	\$90,006	\$75,318	\$108,282	\$117,533	\$111,068	\$142,427	\$127,305	\$219,014

***ISOS admin - infrastructure expenses**

2009-2011: over \$2,000 into storage rent; outreach promotions; utilities. Switched to Community Warehouse.

2012: started leasing ISOS office in Oct (\$299/month); outreach promotions; utilities

2013: DHS requires insurance coverage (about \$2,500); ISOS office lease; outreach promotions.

2014: Office lease and furniture; insurance; Paypal fees; state registration; utilities

2015: Office lease and furniture; insurance; Paypal/Paychex fees; state registration; utilities; office supplies

2016: Office lease; insurance; Paypal/WellsFargo fees; state registration; phone; internet; mailbox; Grant software; office supplies

Accomplishments

• **Grants (Awarded to ISOS):**

- **Islamic Relief USA-IRUSA (Refugee Resettlement):** IRUSA awarded ISOS with \$64,800 specifically to resettle up to 50 refugee families. Refugees that come to Oregon if not transitioned within 8 months are at risk of being homeless, without subsidized aid to complete their transition.
- **Collins Foundation (Contracting ISOS case workers):** Collins Foundation awarded ISOS with \$18,000 to contract caseworkers in order to support the continuous growth and stability of ISOS infrastructure.
- **Oregon Islamic Academy (MET) thru Oregon Community Foundation (Domestic Violence):** Muslim Educational Trust (MET) is working with Oregon Community Foundation to teach their students about supporting community needs through grant offerings. As a part of this project, MET has awarded ISOS with \$1,000 for cases of Domestic Violence.

• **ISOS Website (New Look!):**

Reem Soliman, ISOS's web/software developer, has reconstructed the ISOS website (www.i-sos.org) so it is easier to navigate for information and applying for resources.

• **ISOS Case Workers (New Contractors):**

ISOS is an all volunteer organization, which remains true for the Board. To make the infrastructure strong it was important for ISOS to employ caseworkers. Collins Foundation recognized that need and has awarded ISOS with \$18,000 to be exclusively used to contract case workers. Any additional funds will be subsidized by ISOS. We are very happy to have 2 ISOS case workers on board:

- **Hena Zia:** Has a degree from PSU in social science. She has been an active member of the community and she has demonstrated professionalism and compassion when working with those in need.
- **Kevin Leffler:** Pursuing a graduate degree in logistics and has worked for Refugee Resettlement agencies and currently with 211. He comes with a wealth of knowledge about available resources and has passion in providing community work.

• **Cases (Helping those in Need):**

ISOS requires those receiving assistance to be an Oregonian/SW Washingtonian resident; sponsored by another agency to validate the need and to provide a self sufficiency plan.

Between 10-30 cases served monthly. Majority of the cases are related to refugee resettlement. Others come primarily due to loss of jobs; domestic violence; and insufficient disability funds. Services are provided to both Muslims

and non-Muslims. Keeping from people from losing their home due to increase in rents, remains as the top expense priority for ISOS. The state is struggling with the housing issue and how to best address it with the insufficient funds. We are fortunate to be able to subsidize those at risk of eviction and being homeless - keeping the family/individual safe while completing their plan to be self-reliant.

- **DHS Foster Children Prevention Program (Saving Families):**

DHS Family Service/Child Protection is collaborating with ISOS on specific Muslim families at risk, finding ways to keep children from being removed from their families into foster care. ISOS was contracted to work on 2 families this past year. One case on sexual abuse/incest resulted into criminal charges, and the court permitted the children to remain with one parent. The other case involves alleged abuse on an infant which remains an active case, but looks promising that the family will remain together. **ISOS is a member at the state level with Refugee Child Welfare Advisory Committee.** We meet and review state wide cases and discuss possible resolutions.

- **Oregon Food Bank (Providing Food for Those in Need):**

ISOS is collaborating with Oregon Food Bank and Bilal Mosque to start a mobile food pantry at Bilal Mosque once a month to serve those in need of groceries, including fresh produce. Faiza Kareem, ISOS Board member, is leading this project.



- **Ramadhan Food Drive (IRUSA Food Boxes and WINCO food cards):**

Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA) had provided ISOS with about 312 food boxes (about 40lbs/box) for Ramadhan distribution to those in need. ISOS coordinated with Muslim Educational Trust (MET); Muslim Community Center of Portland (MCCP); African Youth Community Organization (AYCO); Portland Refugee Support Group (PRSG); Iraqi Society of Greater Portland (ISGP) and AsSaber Mosque to pick up and distribute the food boxes to those in need in their communities. In addition, about 878 \$10-WINCO food cards were also provided to the needy and \$300 was provided to Masjed AbuBaker for Iftar meal, serving about 70 people. Total of 2,445 people were served. ISOS thanks our co-partners for working with us in generating a list; picking up and delivering the food boxes and WINCO cards timely and with dignity.



- **Refugee Resettlement (Serving our Refugees):**

The numbers of incoming refugees have declined this year due to the new policies of the Federal Government. This does not mean we do not face issues with helping those that are still struggling with their resettlement. Housing cost increase in Portland is a major issue and ISOS's #1 cost and the refugee's #1 fear. Due to primarily language and cultural barriers, refugees are not being able to get jobs that can support their families. Portland has about 4,000 that are homeless. ISOS wants to prevent any refugee to be added to that population.

One of ISOS's primary objectives is networking with social service agencies that provide needed resources/services and build a mutual and supportive relationship. By doing so, we eliminate duplicating efforts. Some of the agencies that ISOS has collaborated with on refugee services are the following:

- **Catholic Charities, Lutheran Community Services and SOAR** (Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees - Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon). They are the initial agencies that receive the refugees and settle them into an apartment; connect them with agencies that provide job training; disability evaluation; utilizing the transportation system; English classes and evaluate their ability to be self-reliant. Unfortunately, the funds provided typically do not cover more than 90 days of support. For those refugees that did not have savings when coming into the US or had not obtained a job to cover their needed expense before funds were depleted, come to ISOS for support. ISOS case worker works with the agencies' case worker on the plan to complete their ability to be self-sufficient and provide the needed service.
- **Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO)** provides job search, English for job interviews and legal aid with applying for disability. They also provide several other programs for refugee support. Their services extend to 5 years for job search.
- **Lutheran Community Services Multicultural Counseling Services** provides counseling support for those refugees facing trauma and how to cope with it. The clinician group do not have funds for their client's living expenses needs, therefore comes to ISOS for support.
- **Refugee Disability Benefits of Oregon (RDBO)** provides for refugees seeking disability funds legal representation. They also work with ISOS to provide update on disability award status while ISOS covers for their basic living needs. RDBO works with IRCO.

- **Jewish Family and Child Services (JFCS) (Thanksgiving Drive):**

JFCS works with ISOS in selecting needy families to receive Thanksgiving food boxes. In the spirit in giving, the women's group, Sisters@Masjed Bilal, has continued its contribution of requested food items for the JFCS Thanksgiving food boxes. JFCS delivered Thanksgiving food boxes that cover the complete grocery items to provide for a grand Thanksgiving feast. Bilal Mosque's participation is appreciated and posted on JFCS newsletter: <http://cedarsinaipark.org/2017/08/14/help-light-someones-life-holiday-season>.

- **Portland Muslim Community Police Council (Safety Support):**

The Portland Police Department has developed a forum with the local Muslim leaders to address better community support with the Portland Police Dept. ISOS continues to be a member of the council and finds great opportunities to better address safety and community issues with the aid and guidance of our local police force.

- **Community Partnership Annual Meeting (Working Together):**

The meeting was held on April 15, 2017. Attendees came from Muslim Educational Trust, AsSaber Mosque, Bilal Mosque, Oregon Islamic Chaplain Organization and Bosniaks Educational and Cultural Organization. ISOS presented accomplishments and plans. Much of the discussions were centered on how we as organizations can come together to better support community needs and minimize on duplicate efforts. The attendees came to the consensus to continue this annual meeting.

- **Day of Dignity (Serving Portland's Homeless):**

Islamic Relief USA sponsors this annual Day of Dignity event in servicing the homeless in the US. Portland is one of about 15 cities that participates in this event. Farah Abu-Khater is the project coordinator for this year's event, as part of ISOS investing into our youth involvement with community affairs. About 540 homeless attended this year's event, held on Sept 10th. The following agencies participated in this year's event, building a coalition for the homeless, providing the following supplies and services:

- **ISOS** - Purchased 300 water-proof CityPak backpacks (customized for the homeless); 250 hoodies; bottled water, dried food bars; certificates.
- **Japanese American Citizen League:** Provided volunteer services on Day of Dignity.
- **Jewish Family and Child Service:** Donated 250 hoodies and 540 gloves.
- **Living Hope International:** Living Hope advertised Day of Dignity by including event details on their "free breakfast" fliers passed out to the local homeless.
- **Local Barbers:** donated time, skill, and equipment, to provide over 5 hours of haircut and grooming services
- **Multnomah Health Department:** Provided medical resources, enrollments, yoga and walking groups program information.
- **Oregon Food Bank:** Provided fruits, vegetables, and canned goods options for the homeless.
- **Oregon Islamic Chaplain Organization (OICO):** Provided storage for all supplies (winter, medical, dry goods, etc.), managed Day of Dignity setup (tables, chairs, banners, and more), cleanup, security, coordinated donation of **500** bags of chips through the Lays / PepsiCo. Distribute hundreds of fliers to local Portland homeless shelters.
- **Outside In:** Provided resources for youth 16 and under. Also provided free blood pressure checks to the homeless.
- **Potluck in the Park:** Potluck in the Park advertised Day of Dignity by including event details on their "3pm free meal" fliers passed out to Portland homeless. They also provided women sanitary supplies.
- **Relay Resources:** Provided housing packets, job information, lip balm, and hand sanitizers as giveaways.
- **Sesame Donuts** – Donated around 12 dozen donuts for free.
- **Shafa Clinic:** Provided medical resource information and some on-site testing.
- **Village Coalition:** Known for their "POD Housing", showed up with a Pod House, and walked through their homeless transitional plan to stability. Provided information about their programs, which shelters participated in the pod housing program, and how to be involved.
- **William Temple** – Donated 540 pairs of socks.

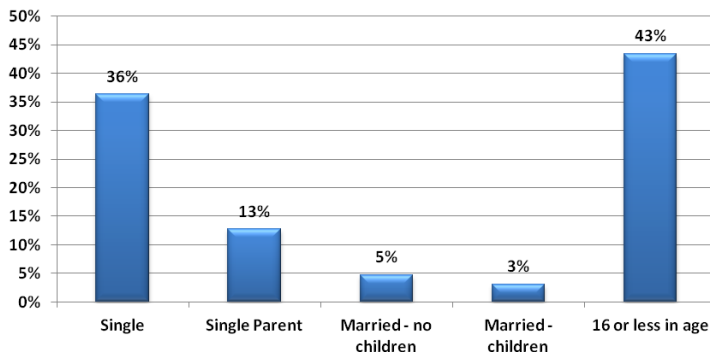
This year we increased our coalition of Day of Dignity agencies by five new organizations: The Village Coalition, Potluck in the Park, Outside In, Relay Resources, and Living Hope International. These organizations provided an array of services from supporting the "under 16" homeless population; housing and access to job searches.



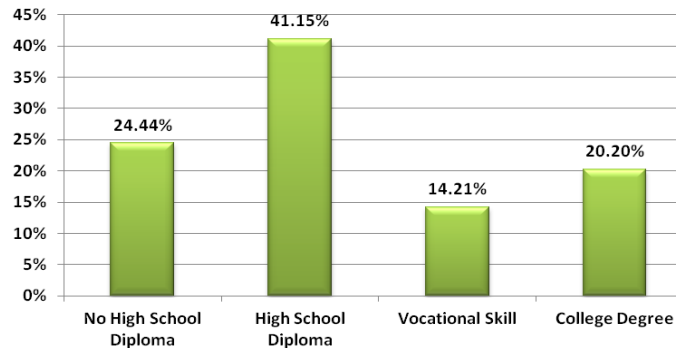
Surveys gathered from the homeless revealed the following data charts about their background and their status:

Day of Dignity 2017 – Homeless Profiles (Total surveyed: 401; attendance 540)

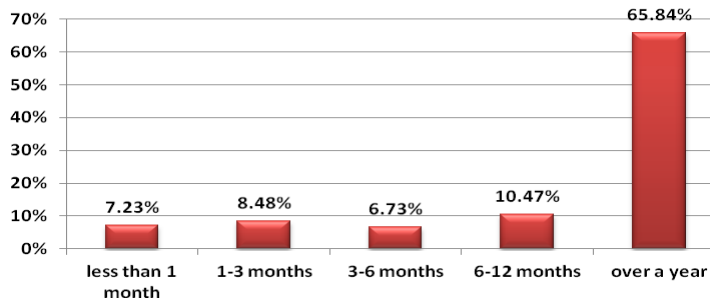
Profile



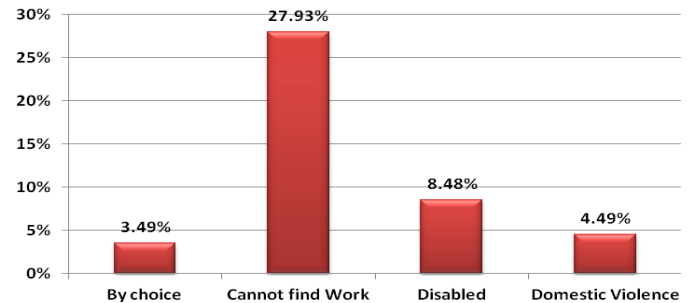
Education Level



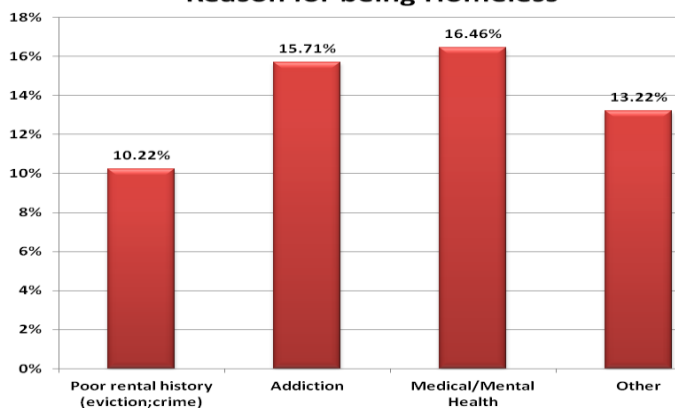
Length in being Homeless



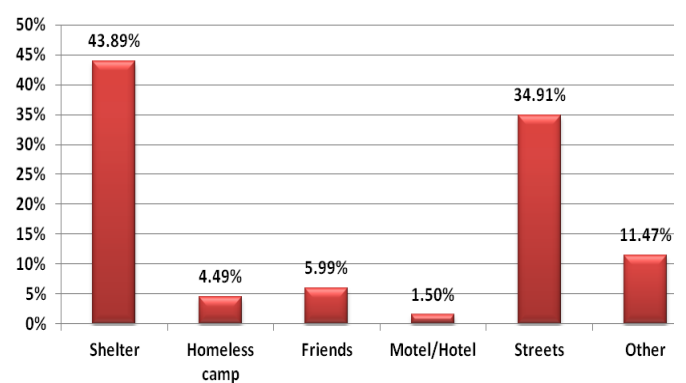
Reason for being Homeless



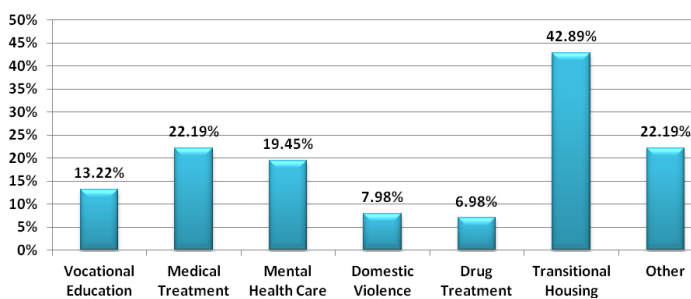
Reason for being Homeless



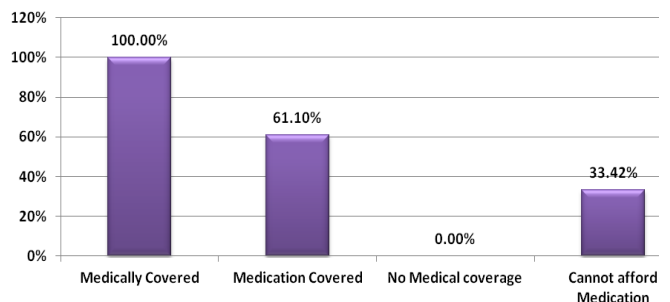
Where are you Staying/Sleeping



Requested Services Needed



Medical Coverage



Day of Dignity 2017 Photos



**MAKE A DONATION
AND
IMPACT A LIFE!**

Let us be a source of hope and comfort to those in need.

To receive the blessings of giving, please provide your Zakat-ul-Mal/Sadaqa/Donations to ISOS via <http://i-sos.org/donate.php> or mail to:

ISOS
P.O. Box 5996
Aloha, OR 97006-5996

or

ISOS
Colonial Office Campus
10175 SW Barbur Blvd; Suite 100BA
Portland, OR 97219

For Amazon shoppers – Amazon is donating to non-profits 0.5% of purchases made when shopping from AmazonSmile. Go to AmazonSmile: <http://smile.amazon.com> and select **Islamic Social Services of Oregon State**, where you see the word **Supporting**.



ISOS Board Members: Laila Hajoo; Issam Abu-Khater; Faiza Kareem; Marion Dawan

Website/Publications: Reem Soliman (also Board Member)