



Muslim Coalition of Connecticut

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Letter From The President

Assalamu alaykum (may peace be upon you). My name is Mike Karpman, and I am honored to serve our community as the new president of the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut. I hope to continue the great work of our last president, Samia Hussein.

I would like to thank all those who attended our 12th Annual Leadership Banquet. The theme was Healthy Minds, Healthy Communities: Breaking the Silence on Mental Health. Dr. Rania Al-Awad delivered an illuminating keynote address on Islam and Mental Health, clarifying misconceptions and deepening our understanding of the intersection between religion and psychology. We also recognized the amazing work of four awardees—the Khalil Center, the Institute for Muslim Mental Health, the Wheeler Clinic, and the Family and Youth Institute. And an especially heartfelt thanks goes out to all those who donated to MCCT. We could not do this work without your financial support.

We have some exciting new initiatives happening at MCCT. One of our major ongoing goals is to expand the reach of our Speaker's Bureau. To that end, we launched a brand new marketing campaign targeting churches, synagogues, libraries, and other local institutions. Have no doubt: We are engaged in an ongoing battle for hearts and minds, against an organized, well-funded, and well-documented Islamophobia machine seeking to vilify Islam and Muslims. Each year, MCCT speakers deliver presentations to thousands of our friends and neighbors throughout the state, with the goal of promoting mutual respect and understanding and dispelling harmful myths and misconceptions. Through our new marketing effort, we hope to further expand the reach of this important program.

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns about MCCT and the work we do, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at mike@muslimcoalitionct.org. God bless you all, and hope to see you soon at an MCCT event!

Mike Karpman

MCCT BY THE NUMBERS – January to March 2019

- ✓ Speakers Bureau engaged about 600 attendees at 15 events.
- ✓ Over 450 new towels, socks, and gloves collected as part of National Day of Service community service efforts.
- ✓ Approximately 500 people were served by at least 40 volunteers at the monthly Shelter Serves.

CONTENTS

PAGE 1

- LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
- MCCT BY THE NUMBERS

PAGE 2

- MONTHLY SHELTER SERVE PROGRAM

PAGE 3

- NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE TOWEL DRIVE

PAGE 4

- WOMEN'S SWIM SESSIONS

PAGE 5

- MCCT UPCOMING EVENTS
- GET INVOLVED WITH MCCT

PAGE 6

- WALK AGAINST HUNGER ANNOUNCEMENT

PAGE 7

- OUTSIDE EVENTS OF INTEREST

MONTHLY SHELTER SERVE PROGRAM

MCCT Volunteers serving at Mercy Shelter in Hartford. Shelter serves take place the first Saturday of each month throughout the year. For more information and to register online, check out the MCCT website at www.mcct.us and like our page on facebook.



NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE TOWEL DRIVE



MCCT volunteers collecting and donating new towels, socks, and hats to be distributed at South Park Inn and Mercy Shelter in Hartford. Harriett Beecher Stowe Center, Madina Academy, Hartford Seminary, and Berlin Masjid were among the collection centers.



WOMEN'S SWIM SESSIONS

MCCT has worked to put together swim sessions for Muslim women and girls so they have the opportunity for fun and healthy exercise without having to compromise their faith.

Female lifeguards are present for all the swim sessions.

There is still time to register for the current session!

4 Week Session

Dates: Sundays 5:30-7:30 pm

March 31, April 7, April 14, and April 28

Adults are ages 12+

*Children are ages 4-12

Schedule:

5:30 - 7:00 pm Free Swim (Lifeguards Provided)

7:00 - 7:30 pm Dress and Departure

Prices:

1 adult, no child \$50

1 adult, 1 child \$60

1 adult, 2 children \$75

1 adult, 3 children \$90

Location:

Newington Health Trax (375 East Cedar St, Newington CT 06111)

*no children under 4 please

(Minimum 10 families/Maximum 18 families)

For Registration Link go to: www.mcct.us

UPCOMING MCCT EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE: Dates and venues are subject to change – please look out for announcements via email, facebook, and on our website closer to each date.

Saturday, April 6
Shelter Serve
Mercy Shelter, Hartford 11:30 am
Register via online link at
www.mcct.us

Saturday, April 27
Walk Against Hunger
Dunkin Donuts Park
Hartford
Check in 8:00-9:00 am
Walk Begins 10:00 am
Register via online link at
www.mcct.us

Saturday May 4
Shelter Serve
Mercy Shelter, Hartford 11:30 am
Register via online link when it
becomes available at
www.mcct.us

***Shelter Serves are held the first Saturday
of each month in Hartford.**

GET INVOLVED!

If you are interested in volunteering with MCCT or would like more information about our events, please send your inquiry to **info@mcct.us**. We are currently looking for interested members of the community who would like to serve on one of our program committees, or volunteer at one of our events. Programs include:

- **MONTHLY SHELTER SERVE**
- **TASTE OF RAMADAN**
- **WOMEN'S EVENTS**
- **SPEAKERS BUREAU**
- **LEADERSHIP BANQUET**

We are also looking for volunteers to help us with web design, marketing design, videographers, photography, social media, volunteer coordinating, newsletter editors, etc.

ANNUAL WALK AGAINST HUNGER

JOIN THE MUSLIMS AGAINST HUNGER TEAM!

It is time for Foodshare's Annual Walk Against Hunger event! Another year, and a new opportunity to make a difference in the lives of thousands of our neighbors.

Hunger is a very serious issue affecting millions of people across the globe, and sadly also right here in our own state of Connecticut. Thankfully, we can do something about it! Your donation, big or small, will make a world of difference to someone in need.

The Muslim Coalition of Connecticut has been participating in the annual FoodShare Walk Against Hunger since 2007. We have collectively raised over \$35,000 with active participation from our amazing community. Please do join our Muslims Against Hunger team and help us meet or exceed our goal!

DATE: Saturday, April 27th

VENUE: The walk begins and ends at Dunkin' Donuts Park, 1214 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103. It will be an easy 2 mile walk around downtown Hartford.

TIME: Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. The walk kicks off at 10:00 a.m.

PARKING: Limited Free Parking will be available at the lots directly across the stadium on a first come, first served basis. Once these lots are full, parking in the remaining lots will cost \$5.

Come find the MCCT table! A limited number of Muslims Against Hunger Team T-shirts will be available at the MCCT table for \$5 each. We encourage you to reuse your green t-shirts from previous years!

To JOIN AND REGISTER for the Muslims Against Hunger Team go to: www.mcct.us

We look forward to seeing you there!



OUTSIDE EVENTS OF INTEREST



THURSDAY, APRIL 4 GREEN FORUM ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

Join us for a 90-minute forum on plastics on Thursday, April 4 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Vernon. We will view a 22-minute version of "A Plastic Ocean," an award-winning documentary on the impact of plastics on our ocean. We will also hear about the plastic pollution in CT's rivers and recycling efforts, the current state legislation to regulate single-use plastic, and the moral imperative for addressing this issue.

Hosted and sponsored by the St. John's Episcopal Church and co-sponsored by the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network.

RSVP at <https://greenforumonplastics.eventbrite.com>

Visit www.irejn.org for more information.



PANELISTS

LOUIS BURCH,
*Connecticut Program
Director, Citizens
Campaign for the
Environment*

ALICEA CHARAMUT
*Connecticut River
Steward, CT River
Conservancy*

REVEREND VIRGINIA
ARMY,
*Rector, St. John's
Episcopal Church*

Thursday, April 4
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Refreshments served at
6:00 PM

FREE, but RSVP's required

St. John's Episcopal
Church

523 Hartford Turnpike

Vernon, CT