

# ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION of NORTH AMERICA

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## IONA Wraps Up Months of Food Distribution

The Islamic Organization of North America, IONA, wraps up over five months of large scale food distribution to neighbors and people affected by the COVID-19 health crisis. IONA was key in helping to facilitate and distribute thousands of fresh produce and dairy boxes.

The Michigan Muslim Community Council, MMCC, headed by Dr. Mahmoud Hadidi took advantage of a government grant from the Department of Agriculture to distribute massive amounts of food from Michigan farms because of the COVID-19 shutdown.



Nearly, every Saturday the IONA masjid was the center stage for multiple semi-trailers full of boxes of vegetables, fruits, milk and cheese parking and getting unloaded into smaller refrigerated trucks that were sent to many other distribution sites like churches, mosques, and soup kitchens from the far west side of Detroit to Bloomfield and the Flint area.

IONA had its local distribution serving thousands of local residents from Warren, Sterling heights, Madison Heights, Eastpointe, Centerline and Detroit. The hard work of the Muslim community volunteers was met with love and appreciation from mostly non-Muslim residents waiting in line to get the badly needed food assistance. Naveed Ashraf, IONA's Director of Operations, appreciates the help he received, "We could not have done this without the IONA and community volunteers who in spite of the COVID-19 risk stepped up and sacrificed their weekends to be part of this noble cause," he said.



There were also some high profile volunteers who came to assist like senator Gary Peters, Representative Andy Levin, state representative Lori Stone, and Warren city councilman Jonathan Lafferty. "We are grateful that we are part of this charity helping many families with food baskets in our surrounding areas during such health crisis," said Steve Mustapha Elturk, Imam and President of IONA.

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IONA's mission is to transform its members and help transform the surrounding communities to righteous, God-fearing people, who collectively strive for the highest moral standard and constantly seek forgiveness from our Creator to earn His pleasure. We seek His compassion and mercy in this life and in the hereafter. We rejuvenate our soul through internal struggle and spiritual exercise in worship of our creator God. The strength of our belief in God gives us the courage to establish good and forbid evil, thus promoting a system of justice for all mankind.

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