

ISGR 1428 AH

Islamic Society of Greater Richmond (ISGR)



August 2007

Establishing the Community

Early Days: The Islamic Society of Greater Richmond (ISGR) searched for a year or so for some land to build a Masjid in the West End. On [September 13th, 1997](#), ISGR rented an office building at 6325 Antler Road. After the property was sold to Home Depot, the ISGR moved to its present location at 6324 Rigsby Road. Since July 2001, the ISGR is renting another office building at 6326 Rigsby Road, with an initial purpose to resettle refugee Muslims. Since 2002, Friday and Taraweeh prayers are held in two buildings and in the backyard as ISGR congregation continues to grow.

Worship Services: ISGR began its [Friday, or Jummah, services](#) within a week of renting the Antler Road location. Since then, numerous Imams, scholars, and brothers from all over the central Virginia has given Khutbahs (or sermons) at ISGR.

Since January of 1999, the ISGR Web site offers [audio recordings](#) of Friday Khutbahs (or sermons) and other lectures. The ISGR provides [Friday](#)
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Permanent Site

Background: Islamic Society of Greater Richmond (ISGR) is located in the western part of metropolitan Richmond, Virginia (West End). Metropolitan Richmond includes the city of Richmond, which is the state capital of Virginia, located in the Southeast region of United States and about 100 miles from Washington, DC.

Besides the ISGR, there are six other Masjid (plural of Masjid, Islamic place of worship) in metropolitan Richmond: [Masjidullah Inc.](#) in north side, [Masjid Bilal](#) in east end, [Masjid Rahman](#) in south of metropolitan Richmond, [Islamic Center of Virginia](#) further south, [Petersburg Islamic Center](#) in Petersburg, and in Farmville [Islamic Center of Prince Edwards](#). There are Friday prayer services at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) campus and Medical Center (MCV).

Since opening its doors to area Muslims, ISGR continues to add new services and activities to benefit the Muslim community and other Americans. After achieving the immediate goals, the long-term plan is to establish a [permanent site](#) for the ISGR in the West End.

Current Location: The ISGR has four prayer rooms for brothers and two small rooms for sisters in two buildings. During Sunday school, classes are held in four rooms at 6324 Rigsby Road.

Need a Bigger Place: On Fridays and during Ramadan, it is [very hard](#) to find a place in the buildings. Many brothers have to pray in the tent and on the ground in the back of the buildings. [Parking](#) is limited during Fridays, or Jummah services. Size and number of rooms limits the activities during Sunday school.

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Establishing a Community - continued from page 1

Lunches donated by local families since the Summer 1999. After establishing Friday services, ISGR has been open for five daily prayers. ISGR also has comprehensive **Ramadan activities** since December 1997, which include daily Suhr/Iftar, Taraweeh, and lectures led by visiting scholars from South Africa. The ISGR has an extensive selection of **prayer calendars** for many locations available on Internet and on ISGR's **automated telephone system**.

Charity: From the very first Ramadan, the ISGR streamlined the collection and distribution of **Zakat** (obligatory charity) and **Sadaqa** (voluntary charity) the ISGR evaluates the financial aid request on an as needed basis, and usually distributes the charity immediately. ISGR also cooperates with other Masajid to provide assistance to the needy people in other congregations. From March 2000, ISGR started **Electronic Donations**. Donors can elect to have the ISGR withdraw a fixed amount from their bank account every month or one time for a general donation, Zakat, Sadaqa, permanent location, or for any purpose. Since December 2002, the ISGR has a **Zakat form** to calculate **Zakat-ul-Maal**. In 2002, ISGR reevaluated the whole concept of **Zakat-ul-Fitr**. ISGR distributes Zakat-ul-Fitr mainly as food assistance to the needy in terms of cash, grocery cards, and food from the ISGR **Food Bank**. In order to provide temporary employment to some needing more financial assistance, the ISGR started a **Community Worker Assistance**. The ISGR also provides **Loan and Financial Assistance** to individuals and businesses.

Islamic Education: Since December 1997, the ISGR offers **Sunday School** for children to learn Qur'an, Hadith, history, Islamic studies, manners, prayers, and much more. Sometimes there is additional teaching for children during the week and Saturdays. Between July and August, children have **Summer School** with more classes during the week. Since spring 1998, ISGR has **Halaqas** (Study Circles) for brothers and sisters. Sometimes there are **classes for adults** that teach Qur'an and different topics of Islam.

Learning Center: From the very first day, the ISGR has kept books and magazines at the Masjid; later it developed into a more formal library. By

2003, the ISGR established the **Learning Center** with broadband Internet, access to Islamic and other computer software, multimedia etc. Books, periodicals, newspapers, and multimedia collection are on a electronic catalog. The learning center provides many adult classes on Islam, computers, English language, cooking etc.

Outreach: From the very first day, the ISGR has been giving **Daawah** (outreach) to other Muslims. Through the years, ISGR has continued to provide information and conducts classes on Islam to **Non-Muslim** visitors and journalists and responds to inquiries through the phone and Email. The ISGR has conducted many **Shahadah ceremonies** and provides orientations for new Muslims. During the summer of 1999, the ISGR reorganized the outreach program for Muslim inmates at various prisons. Since then, the ISGR developed a comprehensive **prison Daawah** effort which includes regular Friday prayers at local jails, steady mailing of Islamic literature, attire, and prayer calendars to prisons all over the nation. The ISGR continues the effort to create its own dawah literature and organize community outreach programs.

Funeral Services: Over the years, the ISGR has cooperated with other Masajid to provide funeral services including washing the deceased, prayer, and burial services. ISGR has been aggressively working to establish a cemetery for Muslims.

Community Presence: ISGR has a **sophisticated telephone system** with **fax on demand** and menus with timings of congregational prayers, directions to the ISGR, and information on other activities and services. Since November 1997, the **ISGR web site** serves the local and global community. ISGR participates in community events such as Eid. In early 2006, the ISGR initiated the effort to provide prayer and Zabiha in the same location during the festival of **Eid-ul-Adha**.

Other Services: ISGR conducts **Islamic weddings** and provides **marriage counseling**. ISGR also provides relief to many **refugees**. ❖

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BUDGET AND PLAN

Current Facility \$4,000 per month
(6324 & 6326 Rigsby Road)

Phase I: Sign the Contract for the Land

Initial Expenditures \$50,000*
(Professional Services & Deposit for Land)

Phase II: Buy the Land (5+ Acres)

Land Price \$800,000

Phase III: Construction

* Subject to Change

Separate bank account for Permanent Masjid.
Ultimately Masjid's assets will be transferred
to a permanent Waqf or Trust.

How to Support ISGR

- One time check \$_____
- Post dated checks each for \$_____

Write checks payable to ISGR.

- Cash in ISGR Donation Boxes Slot 4
"Permanent Masjid" or at various Muslim
Businesses

- Electronic Deposits

I give ISGR the permission to **electronically**
withdraw from my bank account \$_____ per
month for:

- General donations Zakat/Sadaqa
- Permanent Site Others _____

Starting Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

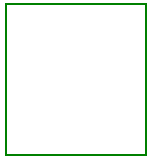
Please attach a voided check or deposit slip.

Mail this form or any donations to:

Islamic Society of Greater Richmond (ISGR)
6324 Rigsby Road
Richmond, VA 23226

Cut along the dotted line

Islamic Society of Greater Richmond (ISGR)
6324 Rigsby Road
Richmond, VA 23226
www.isgr.org Email: info@isgr.org (804) 673-4177



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED