



COMMUNITY IFTAR PROJECT

2020 END OF PROJECT REPORT



A BMCS Project

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Message From The Project Manager

Dear All,

I greet you with the greetings of peace, *Assalamualaykum*, may peace and blessings be upon you. I pray this finds in you in the best of health and wellbeing.

In light of the Covid-19 coronavirus, we were unfortunately unable to proceed as originally planned. Out of the goodwill of our funders, the Quartet Community Foundation, we were able to reach and help out many different communities in line with the project ethos of bringing communities together.

As a team, we planned rigorously and carefully to ensure that we could help as many people as possible in the best way. Research and consultation with individuals and organisations took place until we had a plan. The project in normal circumstances would have taken in the blessed month of Ramadan, in the spirit of the month known as the month of giving, we supported and aided the community of Bristol.

We were able to support many initiatives and projects over the duration of the Ramadan. Please continue overleaf to read what we managed to do.

I would like to give a big thank you to the CIP team who went out and supported many whilst the coronavirus pandemic was becoming worse. We are very grateful to the team at Quartet Community Foundation for allowing us to adapt our project so we could be on the ground and help our community. Thank you to all the volunteers from all non-profit, charity organisations we worked with, your work does not go unrecognised. And finally, a big shoutout to the Cathedral Schools Trust for allowing us to facilitate a 1st ever virtual Iftar and for hosting the 4th Iftar with Bristol Cathedral Choir School.

We hope to return in 2021 bigger and better than before. To not miss out, stay updated with my social media accounts and our website.

Kind Regards,
Ismaeel Akram
Project Manager



The Virtual Iftar & Sponsored Fast

On Thursday 14th May, the Community Iftar Project team facilitated and hosted it's very first "virtual" iftar in collaboration with the Cathedral Schools Trust. Many staff, students, and families joined us via the internet from across the schools of the Cathedral Schools Trust.

This was the 4th community iftar with Bristol Cathedral Choir School and the first for St Katherines School and Trinity Academy.

Typically, an iftar before the lockdown would have taken place in a physical location. But in light of the lockdown restrictions, like many events and services we went online.

The virtual iftar programme addressed how the month of Ramadan was different this year compared to previous years with a very mixed panel of speakers. A run-through of the basic understandings of Islam and a focus on the act of fasting, one of the pillars of Islam was presented to the attendees. A dedicated time slot was given for any questions about fasting, Ramadan or anything regarding Islam was included the programme with some great questions from the attendees. The virtual iftar ended with the call to prayer (adhan) which signals the opening of the fast, attendees were invited to open their fasts with us virtually and join us in opening even if they were not fasting.

On the day of the virtual iftar, many staff members from across the schools of the Cathedral Schools Trust took part in a sponsored fast. They fasted from 3:32 AM in the morning to 8:57 PM in the evening. They had no water, no hot & cold drinks, and no food for around 17 and quarter hours. Altogether, the staff members raised a sum of £300.00 for food banks in the Bristol area. The funds were donated to two food banks in different areas of Bristol, North Bristol Foodbank, and East Bristol Foodbank.

The Community Iftar Project team had prepared 200 iftar meals with the help of Masala Café in Clifton. Each iftar meal contained a vegetable curry portion, a piece of fresh naan bread, and 2 vegetable samosas. These were for the Cathedral Schools Trust and Fairfield high school community to come and collect. As the community iftar project is all about bringing communities together and a big part of this is breaking bread with each other. So, we wanted them in joining us to open our fast during the virtual iftar programme.

Overall, we had great feedback from all that participated in the virtual iftar programme.

RAMADAN MUBARAK

CATHEDRAL SCHOOLS TRUST AND
COMMUNITY IFTAR PROJECT PRESENTS

VIRTUAL IFTAR

THURSDAY 14TH MAY 2020
STARTING AT 8PM

FREE IFTAR MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED
More details to follow



Share the iftar experience online.
Learn about Ramadan in lock down.
Questions and Answers session
about Islam.
Live Call to Prayer (Adhan)



Feeding the Homeless

During the month of Ramadan, a group of volunteers led by the Community Iftar Project Team prepared iftar meals for the Muslim homeless. The meals were prepared in accordance with their dietary requirements such as halal meat and were culturally sensitive.

Due to the covid-19 situation, the homeless were temporarily housed across the city of Bristol. The team produced around 25 meals every day during Ramadan and these meals will be dropped off at a central location to be distributed to the homeless.

At the end of Ramadan, we prepared a special meal for homeless to celebrate the Eid holiday which marks the end of fasting.



Iftar meals being prepared for the homeless

Supporting Referrals

Community Iftar Project partnered up with We Care Foundation to provide food packs to families which were need due to the financial strain of the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.

During the month of Ramadan, we supplied items for 27 family food packs which included core essential such as milk, bread, eggs, meat, etc.

The referrals were from children centres and schools across the Bristol area supporting vulnerable families.



Providing Supplies to Food Banks

We were able to provide supplies to five different foodbanks across Bristol during the month of Ramadan. The foodbanks were identified by our team, specifically finding new foodbanks which were formed due to the Covid-19 Situation and also supporting existing local foodbanks.

We provided items which were requested for by the foodbanks due to high demand.

The foodbanks which we supported:

- St Barnabas CE VC Primary School – Started due to covid-19 situation, supports 40 families on a weekly basis. Located in Montpelier, Bristol.
- Fishponds Church of England Academy – Located in Fishponds, Bristol
- Hannah Moore Primary School – Preparing food packs on a weekly basis for families. Located in St Phillips, Bristol.
- Carpenter's Food & Support – A Christian organisation helping to ease crisis for people in food poverty. Located in Withywood, Bristol.
- St Marks Community Café – A Trussell Trust foodbank supporting people in the Easton area of Bristol.



World Iftar Day

The World Iftar Day Team and the Community Iftar Project Team came together to celebrate the 1st ever global iftar on 18th May 2020. In Bristol, over 1,000 meals were distributed on the day.



Supporters and Partners



A very big thank you to Quartet Community Foundation and The Wilde Family for funding our project



Financial Breakdown

Staff Costs

£107.03

Administration and logistics

Volunteer Costs

£95.23

Expenses - Travel & Purchases

Operational Costs

£3,460.24

Food bank supplies, iftar meals & food packs

Publicity Costs

£157.00

Posters and printing

Total Costs

£3,819.50



The Community Iftar Project (CIP) is a Project of Bristol
Muslim Cultural Society (BMCS).
BMCS is a registered charity (1121092) & company limited
by guarantee (4495887).