

Candidate Profiles for ICO Board of Directors Election in 2011

- Sakeer Hussain
- Nodir Khayitov
- Suleman Khatri
- Mohideen Abdulkader
- Shafique Nadimulla
- Ehsan Tabassam
- Najam Firoz
- Hesham Basma

All candidates were asked to submit a brief biography about themselves answering questions about their background, family, time in the Omaha, administrative, leadership or management experience, and finally their methodology for understanding and practicing Islam. Each elected candidate will serve a two year term.



Sakeer Hussain has been in Omaha for almost four and a half years and works as a physician. He has three children that attend ICO's weekend school and the Qur'an Academy of Omaha. He is a native of Kerala, India and from a family of practicing Muslims. He has volunteered his time to ICO on previous elections committees. He also volunteered in the Islamic Community of Shreveport, Louisiana. In addition he has experience serving on other boards. His methodology for understanding Islam starts with the Qur'an and supporting evidence from the traditions of Prophet Muhammad (saw).



Nodir Khayitov has been in Nebraska for 12 years. He has three children. He filled in as a reserve member on ICO's board for the last year taking on the responsibilities of the treasurer. In addition to his service on the board, he coordinates Friday prayers at Bellevue University for both students and Muslims in working and living in Bellevue. His vision is to see the Omaha community come closer together and learn Islam from the Qur'an and authentic sunnah.



Suleman Khatri graduated with a master's in Computer Information Systems from the University of Houston. He brings with him the experience of having belonged to eight different Muslim communities throughout the US. He is currently employed as Senior PeopleSoft Analyst at Valmont Industries since February 2010. He is father to two children. His daughter goes to the Islamic Sunday School and his son is a toddler. He also lived in Omaha from June 2006 to February 2007.

He believes that the Masjid is a foundation for the continuance of our Deen for future generations to come and advocates peace and friendship between the people within the community and strives to attain the same. Amongst his beliefs is that "if you are a Muslim staying in the Omaha area you are a part of the Omaha Muslim family irrespective of your involvement in the Masjid." He aims to unite the hearts of this community by always putting the way of the Prophet (saw) first over our own desires.



Mohideen Abdulkader was born in India and moved to Omaha in 2000. Br. Kader has two children and is a Project Lead at Software Engineering Services in Bellevue, Neb. He is an active father of two whose children regularly attend the Qur'an Academy of Omaha and weekend Islamic school at the ICO masjid. His du'aa is for Allah to "show us the right path."



Shafique Nadimulla describes himself as a "born Muslim" who is "happily married and a proud father" of his son Suhail. Suhail is a freshman at Westside High School and a student at the Qur'an Academy of Omaha.

He is a graduate from Bombay University in India. He moved to Omaha in August of 1999. Currently, he works as a Software Engineer at West Corporation, and prior to that worked in the same position for TD Ameritrade. Before coming to the US, he worked as a Software Consultant for HBO-ACI (an American based Healthcaresoftware company) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and in Kuwait, where he lead and mentored the team for the KOC & SFH hospitals project. He also worked as a Software Consultant for the World Bank at Riyadh where he led the team responsible for automating the Budget and Expenditure system for the Ministry of Finance of Saudi Arabia.

He has performed Hajj twice and Umrah numerous times. He outlines his understanding of Islam as coming "from readings of Qur'an and Hadith."



Ehsan Tabassam is a married father of four girls. He describes himself as "enjoying my life with blessing of almighty Allah." He comes from a Muslim family. His "main source of understanding Islam is from the Qur'an and ahadeeth of our Prophet Muhammad (saw)." Islam and in particular Islamic history are his favorite subjects. He "loves to listen to the scholars e.g. Dr. Zakir Niak, Dr. Javed Ahmed Ghamdi, Ahmed Deedat, Abul A'ala Maududi, etc."

He was born in Pakistan and speaks Punjabi, Urdu and English. After graduating from International Islamic University in Islamabad with a degree in computer science he moved to the US in 1998. He has been working as a software engineer since then. He has lived in New York, California, came to Nebraska in 2007, and moved to Omaha in 2008.

He was chairman of the sports committee at the International Islamic University in Islamabad and says his experience in leadership and management comes primarily from his years leading his cricket team from school level to University level. He has also been involved in community service projects. He wants to do his "part and contribute towards helping the Muslim community of Omaha."



Najam Firoz was born and raised in Lahore, Pakistan. He describes himself as a “born Muslim and father of two girls.” He speaks Urdu, Punjabi, and English. He graduated from King Edward Medical College Lahore and moved to USA in 1994.

He completed his fellowship in Nephrology (kidney diseases) from Stony Brook University in New York (SUNY). He practiced medicine in New Mexico before moving to Omaha in 2004 and currently works as assistant professor in the division of Nephrology at Creighton University. He is also the medical director of a dialysis unit. He describes himself as “constantly involved in teaching, mentoring and supervising students and physicians in training.”

He envisions a “united Muslim community in Omaha where Muslim kids can learn and practice true Islam.”



Hesham Basma is a research instructor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). He holds a Ph.D in Pharmaceutical Sciences with major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Al-Azhar University. He is originally from Egypt and came to Omaha with his family in 2001. In his words’ “Allah (SWT) blessed me with my wife Lobna and three wonderful children Basma 16, Hadeel 14, and Norhan 12.”

He was previously elected to the ICO board of directors in March 2009 and resigned in May 2009.

In his view, “the corner stone for any successful society rests in a well raised youth.” For that reason, he thinks that “the most vital priority for our growing Muslim community is our children.” In order to build up a healthy community, he believes that “we must work together, set aside all our differences, and straighten up our priorities.” “The journey of one thousand miles begins with one step and actions speak louder than words, so, we have to take the necessary steps towards our goal.”

One of his priorities is to establish a full time Islamic School. In his words “we have more than one masjid right now, but so far we do not have a real Islamic school that could help in building our children and youth based on the Islamic teachings and the morals of Qur’an.” His message to the community is to “follow what Allah (SWT) and his messenger, Prophet Mohamed (PBUH), advised, (Strength is in unity).”