

## Humanity First Holds a Very Successful Fundraising Event for Pakistan Flood Relief

\$114,000 collected for helping the affected people



Vaughan, Humanity First - a Canadian relief organization held a very successful fundraising event on August 26 at Woodbine Banquet Hall to support the relief operations in the flood affected areas in Pakistan. More than 1000 people attended this event and \$114,000 was collected to assist the victims of the flood.

Honorable Judy Sgro, MP, Honorable Jim Karygiannis MP, Dr. Kristy Duncan MP, Mr. Alan Tonks MP, Dr. Kuldip Kular MPP, Honorable Jean Augustine, Ontario Fairness Commissioner, Tony

Khan addressed the audience briefing them about how devastating the floods are and how it has affected the lives of millions of Pakistanis. He appreciated the efforts of Humanity First.

Dr. Aslam Daud, Chairman of Humanity First briefed the audience about the relief work by Humanity First in Pakistan. He said that more than 200 aid workers are working on the ground across the country in the districts of Rajanpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Muzaffargarh, Layyia, Jacobabad, Jhang, northern Balochistan,

Carella, Councilor City of Vaughn and Mr. Michael DiBiase, former Mayor of city of Vaughn spoke at the event. Chief Guest of the evening, the Consul General of Pakistan, Mr. Sahibzada A.

Peshawar and the Swat valley. He said that more than 15,000 people have received medical treatment, food ration, shelter, household items and water survival boxes through our relief camps deployed in the flood affected areas.

In addition, many other shipments are on their way from Europe and North America which includes additional tents, cholera kits, blankets, water purification tablets and life straws.

Dr. Daud thanked the audience for their overwhelming support and said "While the initial relief plan was for next three months, Humanity First will not leave while people are still suffering! We will continue to assist the affected people as long as it takes."

He added "When people are suffering, it is up to us to put humanity 'first' and stretch ourselves to help out in every way possible to satisfy our humanitarian responsibility". Proceeds from this event will be spent on relief work and disaster response. Please visit the website at [www.humanityfirst.ca](http://www.humanityfirst.ca) for more information. ■

## The Exec director of NAMF Farooq Khan returned from his tour of duty to Pakistan Flood region



The executive director of the North American Muslim Foundation has recently arrived home from his tour of duty to Pakistan Flood region. Mr. Farooq Khan, was one of the first relief workers on scene from Canada to experience the devastation of the Pakistan Floods first hand.

Farooq Khan was deeply saddened to see the devastation that was left behind; with the majority of livestock dead, houses wiped out, farmlands destroyed and streets totally washed away. Mr. Khan visited the hardest hit areas, distributing relief aid in Charsadda, Noshehra, Sawat, and Peshawar Pakistan.

NAMF continues to survey the changing needs of the victims to provide the most suitable goods. NAMF has been adminis-

tering medicine and relief aid from the onset of the disaster. NAMF continues to collect donations to be sent to the people of Pakistan with the hopes of alleviating some of the hardships being suffered by so many men, women, and children.

Operation Rahma 12 hopes you will provide help immediately. Due to the urgency of the situation, we request donation be made in cash. We are also able to accommodate other methods of payment.

You may donate online through our official website [www.namf.ca](http://www.namf.ca) and click 'Donate Now'. You will have the option to donate through PayPal or CanadaHelps.org. If you wish to donate by mail, please send your cheque or money-order with appropriate postage to NAMF address & get further details. ■



## 'Hope for Pakistan' Campaign Launches to Maximize Outcome of Canadian Government's Dollar-to-Dollar Matching Commitment for Pakistan Flood Relief

"Hope for Pakistan volunteers stand for a picture after putting together 200 donation boxes that they will be distributing to South Asian stores across the GTA to raise donations for Pakistan flood relief, in light of the federal government's matching commitment.

Top Row (From left to right). Zack Muqtadir, Imran Khan, Samad Zubairi, Sadia Qureshi, Saira Sheikh, Hina Sheikh, Aisha Azam.

Bottom Row (From left to right). Yaseen Sheikh, Rabia Ameer, Amira Zubairi, Asad Sheikh, Sandleen Azam. "

TORONTO, A GTA-based grassroots campaign, Hope for Pakistan, announced its launch on Monday in an effort to create awareness and raise donations following the devastating flooding that hit Pakistan in late July this year. The campaign has been motivated by the Canadian government's dollar-to-dollar matching commitment. "We were pleased with the federal government's announcement and felt the responsibility to let others know in order to maximize its outcome," said Sadia Qureshi, Hope for Pakistan's Executive Associate Director.

Running until September 12, 2010, the last date by which donations will be matched, the campaign will drive donations through its website ([hopeforpakistan.ca](http://hopeforpakistan.ca)).

Its growing team of forty plus volunteers will also target high-traffic commercial areas frequented by the GTA's South Asian community, such as grocery and clothing stores. "We will be wearing orange t-shirts, and will be placing orange posters and donation boxes in many of our favourite local spots, so look out for us," said Saira Sheikh, also Associate Executive Director of the campaign.

According to the 2006 Census, Pakistan is the third largest source country of newcomers to the Toronto area. Pakistan's national language, Urdu, also experienced the largest growth in Canada of all non-official language mother tongues, from 87,000 in 2001 to 156,000 in 2006. South Asians also form Canada's largest visible minority community. "We are confident that through a proactive approach, members of our local communities will come through, if even by donating a few dollars



each. In Pakistan, one Canadian dollar can feed a family of four for one day so it is no understatement to say that your dollar will really go a long way," said Qureshi. Key GTA-based media and businesses have committed to spreading the word and will be featured at [hopeforpakistan.ca](http://hopeforpakistan.ca).

Matching commitments made by the federal government in response to global disasters apply only to donations given to registered Canadian charities. Given the need to act within the period of the government's commitment, Hope for Pakistan chose the Canadian Red Cross and Islamic Relief Canada as the conduits to their mutual cause. "Every minute is crucial, as instances of fatal water-borne diseases and other preventable circumstances are sweeping over many of the approximately 20 million displaced victims, particularly in Punjab and Sindh provinces," said Qureshi.

"Given Canada's outstanding reputation in providing international disaster relief, we were saddened by the Canadian public's response to the floods since concerns that may be hampering aid to Pakistan have absolutely no direct link to the vast majority of Pakistani women, children and men," said Qureshi. Please visit [www.hopeforpakistan.ca](http://www.hopeforpakistan.ca). ■

## Muslim Volunteers from GTA fast in Ramadan and fight against hunger

A group of volunteers started their Ramadan fast at dawn on Aug. 29th and later prepared and served lunch to needy at The Good Neighbours' Club soup kitchen on Jarvis Street in Toronto

The volunteers are part of a North American organization called Muslims Against Hunger, an organization that partners with soup kitchens and food pantries to provide volunteers and food.

About 10 volunteers helped prepare and serve a lunch of chicken, rice and corn to 150 people gathered at The Good Neighbours' Club soup kitchen. The GTA Coordinator Habeeb Sheikh said the timing of the event had lots of significance. It was held during Ramadan, a month-long celebration when Muslims fast

from dawn until dusk. "This is an important month for us, so we're giving back to community while we're fasting," Sheikh said. Raza Uddin, a volunteer, said giving back to community has made fasting more fulfilling.

"I am fasting, but serving this food is making me stronger." This event was part of Muslims Against Hunger's goal of serving 3,000 meals in 30 days for the month of Ramadan as part of their "Faith in Action for Common Cause" campaign.

The organization is also helping flood victims in Dadu (a rural town in Pakistan) and arranging for a social services center in Kabirwala (another rural town in Pakistan). ■

## CAIR-CAN Reaffirms Commitment to Public Safety and Due Process

Ottawa, In the wake of anti-terror arrests in Ottawa, The Canadian Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-CAN) reiterated the Canadian Muslim community's unequivocal commitment to public safety and national security, and called for the accused to be afforded due process, with the presumption of innocence. In a statement released, CAIR-CAN said:

"As a human rights and civil liberties organization in a country based on democratic values, we are confident that our justice system will afford the accused the transparency, due process and the presumption of inno-

cence all Canadians, regardless of the nature of the charges against them, are entitled to," said Ihsaan Gardee, CAIR-CAN Executive Director.

"Canadian Muslims have categorically and repeatedly condemned terrorism in all of its forms and will continue to do so. We are committed to ensuring the safety of our country and fellow citizens and reaffirm that terrorism is inconsistent with core Islamic principles that include justice, the sanctity of life, mercy and compassion."

"We are grateful to law enforcement officials for their commitment to our safety and protection." ■