

Barakah Bulletin



On October 4th, 2025, Barakah Chicago held a fundraising dinner at the Holiday Inn in Skokie. We're proud to report that with the help of our muslim community, we were able to raise \$275,000! Read more about the dinner below.

Upcoming Events

February 1: Ink & Intentions (Youth Girls)

February 21: Community Iftar

February 28: Community Iftar

March 7: Community Iftar

March 14: Community Iftar

Event Recap

Saturday, October 4, 2025: Fundraising Dinner

By the will of Allah (SWT), Barakah Chicago gathered this past October for our largest fundraising dinner yet, and it was truly a night to remember. What began as a small group of believers has grown into a diverse and vibrant community, and this evening felt like a celebration of this journey.

We were honored to welcome esteemed guests from near and far, including Ustaz Abdul Rashid Umar, Chicago's own Sheikh Feysal and Sheikh Sa'ad Quadri, and our beloved keynote speaker Mufti Hussain Kamani.

The night was made even more memorable by a live traditional coffee ceremony that highlighted the beauty of unity rooted in culture. Guests shared in the excitement of a raffle including Barakah merchandise, an Apple watch, and a one of a kind coffee table crafted from 135 year old Barakah wood.

Alhamdulillah, \$275,000 was raised towards the masjid project. None of this would have been possible without our devoted team, generous sponsors, and supportive community. May Allah (SWT) reward everyone abundantly!

To watch our recap video, visit our YouTube channel: @BarakahChicago (this is optional just a suggestion to include somewhere)



Islamic Reminder

قُلْ يٰعِبَادِيَ الَّذِيْنَ اَسْرَفُوْا عَلٰى اَنْفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوْا مِنْ رَّحْمَةِ اللّٰهِ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ يَغْفِرُ الذَّنُوْبَ جَمِيْعًا اِنَّهٗ هُوَ الْعَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ

“Say, ‘O Prophet, that Allah says,’ “O My servants who have exceeded the limits against their souls!

Do not lose hope in Allah’s mercy,

for Allah certainly forgives all sins. He is indeed the All-Forgiving, Most Merciful.”

(Surah Az-Zumar: Ayah 53)



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Heartfelt Reflections on My Journey with Barakah Chicago:

By: Ahmed Mensur

As I reflect on my experience with Barakah Chicago, I am reminded that being part of this community since its foundation has been a true blessing, Alhamdulillah. Through the spirit of shura with the community, especially the board members, different opinions were always welcomed, and thoughtful decisions were made as we sought to align ourselves with the Qur'an and Sunnah. This experience has taught me the true value of shura and the strength of a united community.

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We celebrate our differences and diverse backgrounds, knowing that together they bring both beauty and strength while we stand united against nationalism and tribalism.

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At Barakah, we strive to build a strong community where families and youth are supported and encouraged. We celebrate our differences and diverse backgrounds, knowing that together they bring both beauty and strength while we stand united against nationalism and tribalism. One of the most rewarding experiences has been watching our youth grow into confident, and intelligent Muslims who will become the future leaders of Barakah. I am also deeply

thankful to the sisters, whose tireless efforts in organizing events, contributing to various committees, and supporting our fundraising efforts reflect just how far we have come together.

Serving as president of Barakah for two terms was a profound honor. It allowed me to learn, grow, and reflect on my own journey while being inspired by the dedication of those around me. A highlight of this journey has been the purchase of our new building, a milestone that ensures Barakah has a permanent home to serve our community for generations to come. With the help of Allah (swt), I truly believe Barakah is in good hands, and our youth will guide us into a bright and hopeful future.



Al-Isra' wal Mi'raj: The Night Journey

From Hardship to Ease



The Night Journey and Ascension (al-Isra' wal-Mi'raj) occurred right after an extremely painful year of grief in the life of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. He was grieving the loss of Khadijah and Abu Talib, facing relentless persecution from Quraysh, and had just been violently rejected in Ta'if. In the midst of this hardship, Allah honored him with a journey unlike any other, reminding us that divine ease often comes when hope feels most distant.

In a single night, the Prophet ﷺ was taken from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al-Aqsa on al-Buraq, stopping at sacred locations tied to earlier prophets.

When the Prophet (saw) was sleeping in the house of Umm Hani (ra) in Makkah he said, 'the roof of my house was opened and the Angel Jibril [as] descended' (Bukhari). He then continued, 'I was then brought a white beast which is called al-Buraq [from the Arabic word barq, meaning lightning], bigger than a donkey and smaller than a mule. Its stride was as long as the eye could reach'. [Muslim]

In Al-Aqsa, he led all the prophets in prayer, symbolizing the unity of their message — Islam. He then ascended through the heavens, meeting prophets such as Adam, Isa, Yusuf, Musa, and Ibrahim (عليهم السلام), each welcoming him with love and honor. The journey culminated at Sidrat al-Muntaha, beyond which no creation may pass, where the Prophet ﷺ was brought into the Divine Presence. There, Allah (SWT) gifted the Ummah salah, originally fifty daily prayers, reduced to five yet rewarded as fifty, making prayer the believer's own ascension.

For many Muslims today, miracles of Islamic history can feel distant or symbolic, disconnected from real life. Al-Isra' wal-Mi'raj invites reflection: this miracle was reassurance for the Prophet ﷺ. It did not remove hardship from the Prophet's life, yet it reframed it with meaning, closeness to Allah (SWT), and renewed strength. Our daily prayers are a living miracle—linking our struggles, doubts, and exhaustion to the same Lord who carried His Prophet ﷺ beyond the heavens. Al Isra' wal Mi'raj doesn't have to be a miracle that feels so far away. We can reflect on it and allow it to influence how we endure, hope, and return to Allah.

"With every hardship [there will be] ease." (94:5)

GAME CORNER

A	N	T	E	A	H	J	A	L	O	O	R	A	F
R	S	I	Y	A	M	T	A	H	A	J	J	U	D
R	O	A	A	U	D	F	S	M	O	O	N	U	U
A	E	O	H	A	R	R	F	A	D	D	A	S	Y
T	S	Q	H	I	M	Y	A	S	T	M	T	T	A
F	I	A	E	U	L	F	M	J	A	A	I	C	Y
I	A	N	M	N	S	A	I	I	R	R	E	L	T
D	D	Y	A	B	S	T	L	D	A	S	I	R	I
S	A	R	U	A	U	I	Y	H	W	E	D	D	N
E	U	S	R	L	N	S	C	U	E	J	M	E	U
Q	F	C	S	H	D	R	A	A	E	R	U	T	M
N	A	M	D	M	T	A	D	H	H	H	O	F	M
R	Y	U	S	J	I	G	N	I	T	S	A	F	O
S	B	I	F	S	E	T	A	D	N	J	F	M	C

FRIENDS
HILAL
SIYAM
TARAWEEH
CHARITY
TAHAJJUD
QURAN
SAMBUSA
EID
DATES
COMMUNITY
FAMILY
MOON
SUHOOR
MASJID
DUA
FASTING
IFTAR



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO PLAY!

Op Ed: Nothing Changes if Nothing Changes

School, work, eat, sleep, repeat. School, work, eat, sleep, repeat. School, work, eat, sleep, repeat. We've become robots.

Just going through the motions of life without taking a break to step back and evaluate how far we've come. There's a certain beauty in being still that's so difficult to capture in the chaos of the world we live in. We need to reclaim the time that we've so graciously been gifted by Allah (swt) to grow in ways that we've been neglecting. As much as your career and academics are important, it's difficult to balance those while neglecting your social life and mental health. As much as self-care is important, it's important to incorporate practices from your deen in your self-care routines.

Most importantly, pay attention to the passing of time. Days can quickly turn into weeks, and weeks can quickly turn into months when you don't live every day with intention. Form fresh intentions by reflecting on your past. Recognize which goals were achieved and which weren't- then make a plan to follow through on those goals.

