

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Assalamualaikum Dear IFN community members,

I am truly humbled to be nominated for the position of Vice-President at Islamic Foundation North, Alhamdulillah. I have an undergraduate degree in Biotechnology and a Graduate Degree in Biology and worked as Research Assistant at Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne University, Indiana. My family and I have been a part of the IFN Community for the past 16 years. I live in Green Oaks with my husband Dr. Saquib Ahmed, our three children Mariam, Ibraheem, Zayd and my mother Gulzar. My family are active members who are all contributing in their own unique ways at IFN.

I am an engaged volunteer at IFN and have been involved in the following programs and activities:

- 1) I have served as Principal at Al-Ihsan Academy during the pandemic, volunteered as a Sunday School teacher for several years at IFN Sunday school and worked as a substitute teacher at Oak Grove School in Green Oaks.
- 2) Lead Coordinator of the IFN MUHSEN (Muslims Understanding and Helping Special Education Needs) program which provides services for disabled and special needs children/individuals in our community. We have also provided special accommodations during many events including eid salah and fundraisers. IFN has been awarded the gold certification for all the accommodations provided. This has been a remarkable and proud achievement for IFN and with the help of dedicated team members, we are trying to expand it to the next level, In Shaa Allah
- 3) Member of the Education committee where I have contributed to IFN Sunday School related programs and activities, arranged teacher trainings with speakers, held teacher performance evaluations to improve quality, accountability and discipline.
- 4) As the chair of the Women's advocacy committee, I have conducted weekly educational classes, organized social gatherings including an event on social injustice, a muslims perspective, where connections were formed with the youth and the adult generations. These organized gatherings, where adults and youth come together to share time and experiences is a perfect example of intergeneration in our community. Resources like these have helped many women to stand up and have a voice that they need in order to strive as muslimahs and have a strong bond of sisterhood.

- 5) Pre-COVID, lead and wrote the newsletter (IFN Community Chronicle) keeping the IFN community well informed about events happening around the masjid and updated them on all IFN related programs, events and activities. I now write the monthly campus expansion newsletter with the help of the community engagement team to engage the community on the phases of expansion so they understand the benefits of having a multipurpose facility to help transform the current space into a full Islamic center.
- 6) I have been an active member of the fundraising committee, the membership committee and the health committee. Through these humbling experiences at our masjid, it has given me a strong sense that religion and community are weaved together where we are one big unified family who should not only stay together but also grow together.

I hope to use my experiences to focus on some of the areas, that I am passionate about:

Improvements to the current educational programs :

I would like to encourage community service projects as a teaching tool, expand the educational focus from memorizing the Quran and prayers to include behavioral goals regarding Islamic character development. I would like to have the curriculum connected with contemporary issues facing Muslims today and broader social justice topics. This would include bringing in guest speakers to delve into contemporary and even sensitive topics. I would like the administration to set aside a budget for teacher's professional development. I want to see the present Islamic school, Al-Ihsan for early childhood, grow in leaps and bounds. Our youth are the future leaders and ummah of our community, and I want to see greater youth engagement at multiple levels and leadership roles. Initiating fun and engaging activities for all educational entities at IFN are ways to bring the youth of our community together.

In Shaa Allah, if elected, I will first and foremost remind myself that I am accountable to Allah SWT for this huge responsibility and Amanah. By being in these various positions and different levels at IFN, from volunteering to leadership and the experience and knowhow that I have gained, I hope to take it to the next step by humbly asking you to consider me for the esteemed position of Vice President at IFN. I pray to Allah SWT to pave the path of ease for me, to make sure that I listen to the community, and have an engaging and collaborative leadership with all executive committee members to the best of my abilities.

I urge you all to please reach out to me with ideas and thoughts about our community, either in person or via phone at (260)312-5146 or sadiathiryayi@yahoo.com

Jazakumullahu Khairan

Sadia Thiryayi