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RAMADAN IN AMERICA: FAITH AND COMMUNITY

ISSUE-IN-FOCUS: AUGUST 18, 2010

"Ramadan is a celebration of a faith known for great diversity and racial equality. And here in the United States, Ramadan is a reminder that Islam has always been part of America and that American Muslims have made extraordinary contributions to our country."
-- Statement by President Obama on the Occasion of Ramadan, August 11, 2010

As with Muslim communities around the world, Ramadan for American Muslims is marked by fasting and charity. But while fasting is observed one month of the year, many Muslim Americans make charity and giving back to their communities year-round activities. From disaster relief to promoting peace, Muslims are making a difference in communities.

SPECIAL MESSAGES FROM THE UNITED STATES

[Statement by President Barack Obama on the Occasion of Ramadan, August 11, 2010](#)

[Statement by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on the Occasion of Ramadan, August 11, 2010](#)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



[Muslim-American Charitable Efforts Extend Beyond Ramadan](#) (August 11, 2010) - Muslim-American relief organizations highlight Islam's charitable spirit, and their role this past year has taken them overseas. In Haiti, both Islamic Relief USA and the Zakat Foundation continue their efforts to help Haitians who still struggle in the aftermath of last January's catastrophic earthquake. Both groups are now working to help Pakistanis suffering from the latest devastating floods that have displaced millions of people.



[U.S. National Eid Toy Drive Expands in Its Second Year](#) (July 26, 2010) - During Ramadan 2010, a group of Muslim Americans is working to provide thousands of needy children toys to celebrate Eid al-Fitr. Volunteers are immigrants who originally come from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, China and other countries. They are joined by African Americans and those of Jewish heritage.

[President Obama Celebrates Ramadan at White House Iftar Dinner](#) (August 13, 2010) - President Obama continued the White House tradition of hosting an Iftar - the meal that breaks the day of fasting – by celebrating Ramadan in the State Dining Room. During his remarks at the Iftar dinner, President Obama reflected on the importance of religious freedom as one of the founding principles of the Nation.

PHOTO GALLERY



[Muslims in America: 1957–2007](#) documents important historic milestones for Muslims in America since 1957, beginning with the dedication of the Islamic Center of Washington, D.C., which was attended by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and first lady Mamie Eisenhower.

[Muslims in America: 1619–1934](#) documents important historic milestones for Muslims in America, beginning in the 17th century and continuing through 1934, when the first building built specifically to be a mosque was established.

[Images of the Veil in Muslim Life](#) - The veil is one of the most visible icons of contemporary Islam. While the donning of the veil sometimes can convey ideas about faith, public life, religion and identity, it remains an important cultural tradition and personal and spiritual practice for women around the world.

VIDEO AND PODCAST ON RAMADAN 2010



[Eid in America](#) (3:00mins) – More than 400,000 ethnically-diverse Muslims celebrate Eid and the holy month of Ramadan in Washington, D.C.

[Muslim Women Enriching American Society](#) (4:01mins) - Three Muslim-American women — a politician, a social worker and an educator — are leading initiatives that touch the lives of thousands of Americans. Recently in Chicago, these women shared their stories with hundreds of others at the Islamic Society of North America’s annual convention.

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