

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



URGENT

An Expansion Opportunity Comes at the Right Time



The first Islamic center in the state of Vermont (USA) has outgrown its Masjid. We are expanding from 5,000 sq. ft. to 15,000 sq. ft. We need to raise \$750,000 by September 1, 2014. Help us serve a very special Muslim community.

Why There is a Need

The community of Muslims in Chittenden County, which is the most populous in the state of Vermont, has in recent years grown from a few hundred to well over three thousand, increased by refugees from Bosnia, Somalia, Burma, Iraq, and most recently from war-torn Syria. The ISVT is the first Islamic center in the state of Vermont, and, Alhamdulillah, we have been blessed to see the congregation of our Masjid grow along with the influx of refugees.

What We Need

We have a pressing need to increase the space of our Masjid, located in Colchester, Vermont, just outside of the state's largest city, Burlington. For example, in 2000, we had on average 10 people for Jumu'ah; by 2013, that had grown to over 200 people. In 2000, we hosted around 100 people for Eid al-Fitr; by 2013, that had grown to over 2,400 men, women, and children, so many that, for the last 6 years, we had to rent a banquet hall for these occasions.

Simply put, our current Masjid cannot accommodate all the Vermont Muslims who need it. The lack of adequate space has forced our Weekend Islamic school to rent an outside facility, and we are forecasting that, within two years, we will no longer be able to accommodate everyone for Friday prayer.



Eid al-Fitr Prayer

How Do We Meet the Need?

We have signed an agreement with the current owner of the other two thirds of the building in which our Masjid is located, **to purchase the remaining 10,000 sq ft of the building.**

How Much We Need to Raise

We need to raise **\$750,000** for this space.

Our Deadline

We need to pay the current owner of the space by **September 1, 2014.**

***"Whoever builds a Masjid for the sake of Allah, Allah will build for him a house in Paradise."
[Agreed upon Hadith]***

You receive many requests to help Muslim communities across the world. Please consider helping a very special community in a very special place: The growing congregation of the Islamic Society of Vermont (ISVT), located in a traditionally non-Muslim state in the northeast United States.

Why The Need Is Urgent

The ISVT Masjid currently exists within a condominium in a larger building (182 Hegeman Avenue, Suite 1, in Colchester, Vermont). We recently learned that landlord of the other two thirds of the building has an urgent need to sell the building, and ISVT has the first right of refusal. Because we already have a need and a plan to expand our Masjid, and because the offer price is below market value (due to the landlord's need to sell quickly, we will pay \$75/sq ft, compared to a similar building next door that is currently on the market for \$106/sq ft), in January we put down a \$10,000 deposit to purchase the rest of the building. The agreement is that we must pay the remaining money by September 1 of this year. In total, we need \$750,000.

Why You Should Care About the Islamic Society of Vermont

The ISVT is the first Islamic center in the state of Vermont, offering a full range of services and support to our growing community. Here is a quick list of our ongoing accomplishments:

1999	2000	2008	2009	2011
Established the first Masjid in Vermont.	Established a Weekend Islamic School. The current enrollment is over 80 students (aged 4-16 years old), and the curriculum includes Islamic Knowledge and Manners, Arabic classes, Tajweed lessons, and Quran memorization.	Established an exclusively Islamic burial site in Burlington, winning approval from the city to bury our deceased properly in accordance with Shari'a.	Invested nearly \$100,000 to upgrade the Masjid's external structure and internal facilities, including a new roof, new furnace, expanded wudu stations, a shower for the convenience of visiting jamaats, and new carpet floors.	Hired Imam Islam Hassan as our first full-time Imam. In addition to the traditional khutbah and prayers, Imam Hassan provides much needed services such as Taraweeh prayers, Arabic classes, Quran memorization classes, funeral services, family counseling, halaqahs, and marriage services.

Now we are taking the next big step to build on our achievements by expanding into the rest of our building in Colchester so that ISVT will become an Islamic Community Center. Our vision is that the new facility will serve as a hub for religious, social, and cultural activities for all Muslims in the state of Vermont. Once we have expanded into the new facility, the ISVT will provide an even wider variety of programs, activities, equipment and facilities to serve the entire Muslim family.

"Who is the one who will loan Allah a beautiful loan, which he will then redouble and increase many times?"
[Al-Baqara 245]



Imam Islam Hassan

What Makes Our Geographic Location Unique

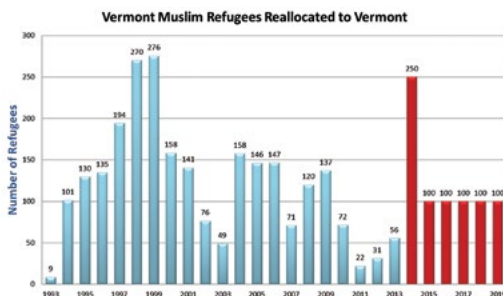
The metro Burlington region in Chittenden County has many special qualities. With four colleges in the area, including the University of Vermont (the state's largest institution), the region is well-known for putting a high value on education and tolerance. With great scenic beauty and proximity to Montréal, Boston, and New York City (as well as to many nearby Vermont ski resorts), the Burlington metro region is a popular place for professionals and families to visit.

However, Vermont has not historically had many Muslim residents. Out of over 626,000 total Vermonters, the 2013 Muslim population estimate for the state is about 3,200 Muslims (based on Eid prayer attendance and assuming a 25% absence rate). Most Vermont Muslims live in Chittenden County, and the

overwhelming majority are Muslim refugees who were brought to the state as part of the Refugee Resettlement Program within the past 20 years.

The chart shows the rapid influx of Muslim refugees to the state of Vermont (primarily composed of

Muslims from Bosnia, Somalia, Iraq, and a few other ethnic communities). We are expecting more Muslim families to arrive this year as well as in subsequent years as the Resettlement Program focuses on refugees from Somalia and Iraq.



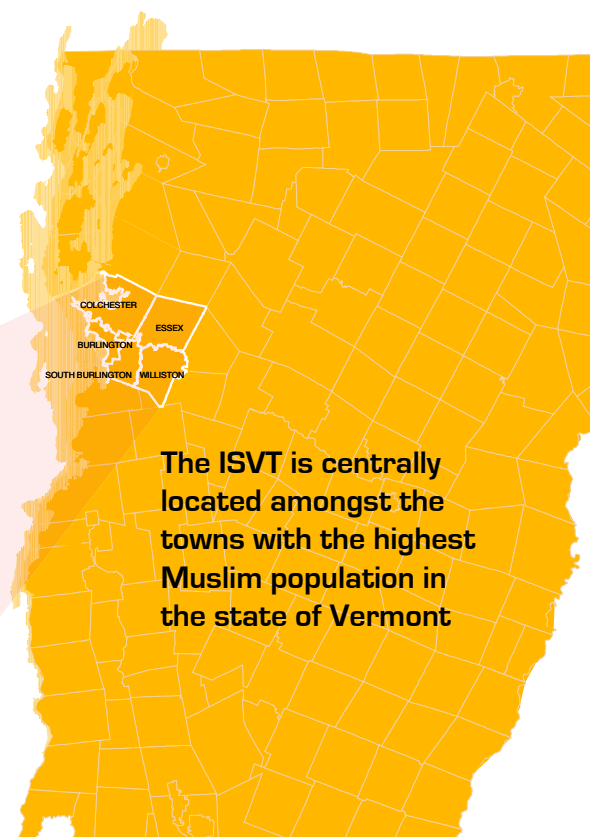
Burlington, Vermont



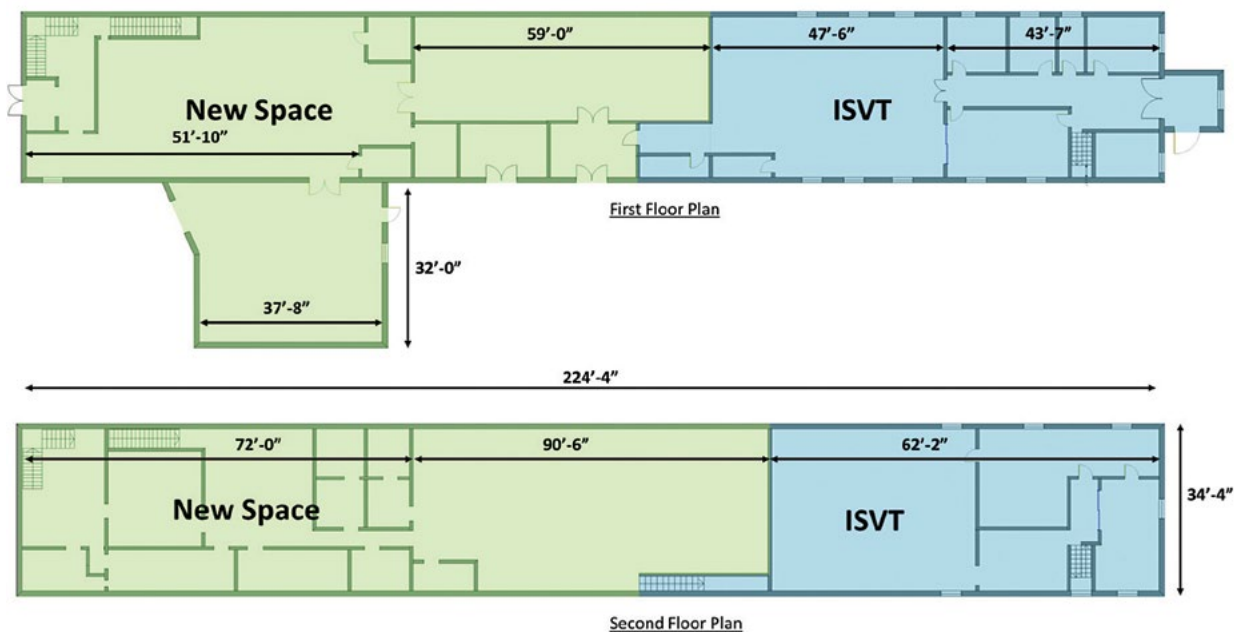
What Makes Our Masjid Unique

Just as Chittenden County contains most of Vermont's Muslims, the specific location of the ISVT Masjid within Chittenden County is of great importance to them.

- The increasing Muslim population has been settling within a 10 mile radius of our Masjid.
- Our location is well known to the community, easily accessible by public transportation, and conveniently close to major business, educational, and government entities that serve and employ the large number of Muslims in the area. Indeed, the building for the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program (the entity responsible for helping relocate all the Muslim refugees), is literally four blocks down the street from our Masjid. Altogether, this facilitates attendance for Jumu'ah and other Islamic community events.
- The Masjid is less than ten minutes away from several exits on Interstate 89, making it a convenient stop for Muslim travelers between Canada, New England, and New York.
- The map below shows the location of the Masjid and proximity to the important spots in Chittenden County.



The ISVT is centrally located amongst the towns with the highest Muslim population in the state of Vermont



Why the Opportunity to Buy the Building Comes at the Right Time

In short, due to the success of the ISVT Masjid, we have outgrown our current space within the building. The current size of our community exceeds the capacity of our current Masjid space.

- There is not enough room for worshippers to participate in Friday prayers and Ramadan activities.
- Inadequate amount of space forces us to rent costly larger venues to conduct our main celebrations such as Eid al-Fitr.

- Our crowded parking lot is causing problems with our neighbors, including those who allow us to use their parking spaces.
- The lack of adequate space has forced our Weekend Islamic school to rent an outside facility.
- We are projecting that by the year 2016, the Masjid will not be able to accommodate everyone for Friday prayer.

We also have pre-existing permit approval as a Masjid.

- The ISVT already has an approved permit to operate as a Masjid in the current location. That means, by purchasing our building, we don't have to deal with

the uncertainty, costly, and challenging Vermont permit process, facing a possible denial of a permit for a new location.

- Due to restrictive sewage allocations, Vermont issues a limited number of permits per year. This alone would be a major concern for our Masjid if we had to pursue a permit for another location, and it is one of the main reasons permits are delayed or denied in Vermont.
- We have made recent upgrades to the exterior of the building and to the internal facilities:
 - The exterior of the building needs minimal maintenance due to the recent investments we have made by resurfacing its brick exterior and replacing the entire roof.
 - The recent interior facility upgrades (carpet, restrooms, wudu stations, and furnace) would not be a lost investment.
- In addition, the layout of the building naturally lends itself to a cost-effective way for the Masjid to gradually expand based on the needs of the community. The building as a whole already has 3 heating zones and multiple existing entrances, which means we can "migrate" into the remaining sections of the building in a planned and cost-effective manner.

What We Plan to Do

We intend our future Islamic Community Center to serve Vermont's growing Muslim community in better ways.

- **Prayer Space:** Today our Masjid is able to host 320 people per praying time. Our plan is to expand the prayer space to a total capacity of 900 people.
- **On-site residence for our Imam:** We intend for our Imam to reside at the ISVT to better serve the congregation.
- **Banquet Hall and Kitchen:** We plan for a spacious banquet hall, an event room in which to carry on Islamic events such as weddings, community dinners, interfaith gatherings, etc. We would also provide our community with Halal meat options all year long.
- **Pre-school Center:** We plan for a fully equipped center for 20 children, including a separate kitchen and bathroom facilities and an outdoor playground.
- **Youth Recreational Room:** We plan to provide a recreational room for our Muslim youth.
- **Designated Area for Burial Preparation:** Provide a space for funeral services (washing and shroud) for Muslims in accordance with Shari'a.

The People Who Will Benefit

Vermont Muslims will receive a fuller Islamic experience with our future Islamic Community Center.

- **Jumu'ah, Taraweeh, and Ramadan Events:** We will have enough praying area for Muslim men and women during Jumu'ah, Eid celebrations, and Ramadan activities (Iftar dinners and Taraweeh). In addition, we will have adequate space for visiting Jamaats.
- **Community Youth:** We will have a place for healthy athletic activities and enable more opportunities for Muslim youth to socialize with one another as well as being exposed to prayers and other religious activities.
- **School Children:** We will have space for classrooms and computer labs, and the opportunity to introduce Islam during critical early years.
- **Sisters:** We will have a separate entrance, complete privacy for women, and exclusive women-only facilities.
- **Families:** We intend to have a full-service banquet hall, including a commercial kitchen for weddings and other functions.



Eid al-Fitr

An Islamic Community Center Means More Effective Islamic Outreach in Vermont

For Muslims involved in Da'wah, the future Islamic Community Center:

- Will strengthen the bonds among Muslims in the State of Vermont.
- Will carry out religious, charitable, educational, literary, social and other activities pertaining to the realization of an Islamic way of life.
- Will allow Islam and Muslims to be better understood by others.
- Will host Muslims travelers from Canada, New England, and New York.

The future Islamic Community Center will better serve new reverts or people interested in reverting to Islam:

- As a source for Non-Muslims seeking to learn about Islam.
- Allowing newcomers to our faith to easily integrate into our community and learn what it means to be a Muslim.

An Islamic Community Center Allows for Full-Time and Weekend School

Above all, our Islamic school will be able to return to the Masjid as well as to expand its crucial services, allowing ISVT to:

- Establish a full-time academic style Islamic School, teaching Muslim children and adults the Quran, Arabic language, and Islamic studies.
- Enhance the attractiveness of weekend Islamic schooling. Our Weekend Islamic School is currently operating outside of our existing building for lack of space, and it averages about 80 students per year.
- Have space for school-related performances and other activities.

We hope you will find it in your heart to help the growing Muslim community of the Islamic Society of Vermont in a region of the United States that is still getting to know its Muslim residents. You know there is a reward for adding to an existing masjid. Do not doubt the reward, for your donation will be a continuous charity for you, even after your death, rewarding you every time a person prays in the new ISVT Masjid, recites the Quran, sits in a class or halaqah, attends an event, etc.

The purchase of the remaining two thirds of the building will make the ISVT a permanent fixture on the Vermont landscape for generations to come - a hallmark for thousands of others to benefit from. Imagine in generations to come, the place that you helped to establish for the sole worship of Allah will still be prayed in, and you will be reaping the rewards. Who would willingly let such an opportunity slip by?

***“The Masjids of Allah shall be maintained only by those who believe in Allah and the Last Day; perform the Salah, and give Zakah and fear none but Allah”
[Al-Tawbah 18]***



Weekend School

*The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said:
“When a man dies, his deeds come
to an end except for three things:
Sadaqah Jariyah (ceaseless charity);
knowledge which is beneficial;
or a virtuous descendant who
prays for him (the deceased).”
[Sahih Muslim]*

Zakat money is acceptable. Please donate generously:

Check donation:

Payable to: ISVT
Mail to: 182 Hegeman Ave, Suite 1
Colchester, VT 05446 USA

All donations are tax deductible in the USA. ISVT is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)3 of Internal Revenue Code registered with the State of Vermont. Our Tax ID number is 03-0346526

Credit Card donation:

Please go to our secure website:
<http://www.isvt.org/fundraise-campaign.html>
Or scan this QR code to go to the web address:



ISVT 182 Hegeman Ave., Ste. 1, Colchester, VT 05446 USA 802-655-6711 salam@isvt.org ISVT.org.