



MAC YOUTH CENTRE



MAC
Muslim Association of Canada

**INVEST IN OUR YOUTH,
OUR FUTURE.**



"I feel so comfortable being here. It is a relaxed atmosphere where I know people care about me. And my parents know I am in good hands, so that makes it easy too."



Building a balanced and integrated Islamic understanding for today's Muslim youth.

The MAC Youth Centre exists to provide the Muslim youth of London, Ontario with a creative, nourishing, stimulating and supportive environment. We continue to develop services and programs that are customized to meet the needs of our youth. Our aim is to enrich them with the outlook and skills necessary to make future contributions to our society.

A Letter from the President

The Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) was established in 1997. From the outset, we were blessed to have a mix of experienced activists and enthusiastic and dedicated younger members. MAC is devoted to a vision of Canada in which the prevalent understanding of Islam is a balanced one. We see a future in which the community is constructively engaged in the broader issues of our country and is integrated into its social and cultural fabric. We strive to meet these goals while retaining the distinctiveness associated with our faith.

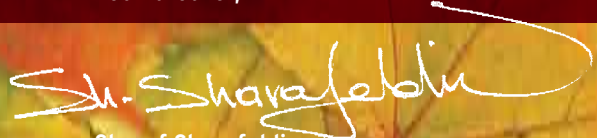
Our chief asset in bringing about this vision is people. We strive to develop ourselves and our fellow Muslims to understand, appreciate and cherish the challenges that lie before us.

Since its incorporation, MAC has continued to grow and yet we remain a relatively young organization with the majority of our members under 40 years of age. There are currently 10 Chapters across Canada based in the main population centres. The Association owns and operates a variety of institutions dedicated to bringing about our vision into reality. Whether it is Masjid Toronto, Corodoba House (Hamilton), Abraar School (Ottawa), or Ecole Dar Al-Iman (Montreal) the common spirit that runs through all these and other MAC institutions is the desire to bring about that vision into a reality.

The MAC Youth Centre in London serves an essential part of that vision. Under the direction of the MAC London Chapter, the Centre is playing its part in implementing the national plan developed by the MAC Youth department. As with other MAC institutions, the Centre serves the local community but plays a part in the national effort in which the other MAC chapters join.

The response of the community in London has been heartening and we pray for the ongoing success of this important endeavour.

Your brother,



Sharaf Sharafeldin
President, Muslim Association
of Canada



The First Muslim Youth Centre in Southwestern Ontario

The Centre was completed in 2007 through incredible support from the London community. As the first centre of its kind in Southwestern Ontario, the number of people who use it grows every day. In the first year, more than 500 youths came through our doors.

The Centre was designed with the community at large in mind, and so, the Youth Centre also offers its meeting rooms to community groups. Events like an art exhibition received extensive media attention and made a positive impression of the Centre among the general community. Sharing our Centre also ensures that the space is well used.

Age & Religion

According to the 2001 census, Muslims are the youngest population in Canada.

RELIGION	MEDIAN AGE
Presbyterian	46.0
United Church	44.1
Anglican	43.8
Lutheran	43.3
Jewish	41.5
Greek Orthodox	40.7
Baptist	39.3
Buddhist	38.0
Roman Catholic	37.8
Pentecostal	33.5
Hindu	31.9
No religion	31.1
Sikh	29.7
Muslim	28.1

What We Offer:

A LEARNING Place

- Library with more than 200 books, computers and Internet access
- Lecture series and workshops
- Quran & Tajweed classes
- Arabic classes
- French classes
- Tutoring and homework help
- Art, calligraphy, sewing classes and workshops



An EXCITING Place

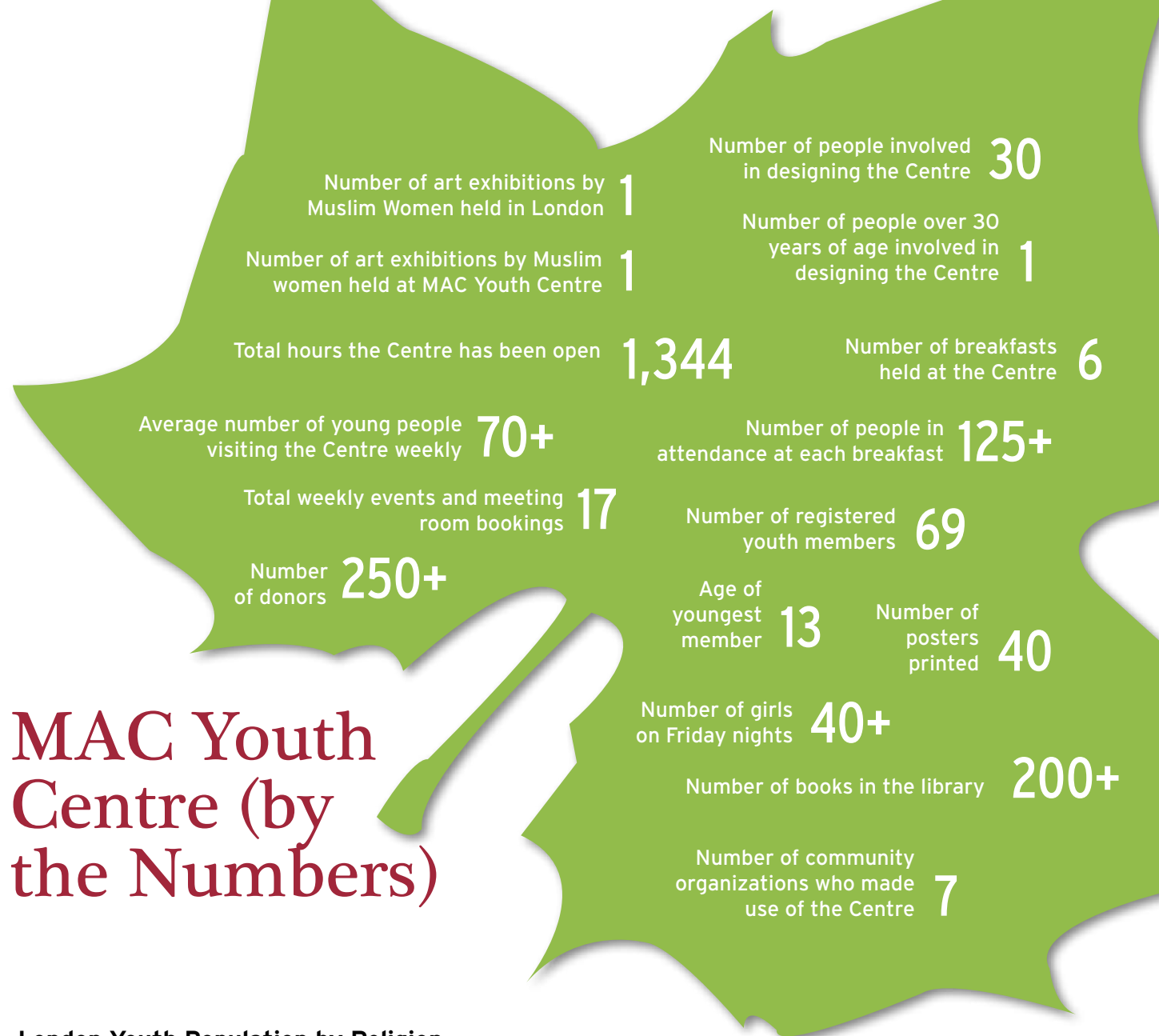
- Fully furnished, comfortable lounge
- Games and activities
- Billiards, ping-pong, air hockey, foosball
- Movie nights
- Nintendo Wii
- Extra-curricular clubs



A VIBRANT Place

- A cozy space
- A safe place
- Mentors and role models for peer counselling and social counselling
- Welcoming to youth from all backgrounds
- Youth groups
- Study circles
- Pray & Play

MAC Youth Centre (by the Numbers)



London Youth Population by Religion

RELIGION	ALL AGES	UNDER 15 YEARS	15-24 YEARS
Total	427,215	84,220	60,205
Catholic	119,235	24,120	17,205
Protestant	188,020	29,855	21,870
Christian Orthodox	6,320	1,060	775
Christian, n.i.e	10,350	2,730	1,740
Muslim	11,725	4,110 (5,754)*	2,260 (3,164)*
Jewish	1,880	315	290
Buddhist	2,610	565	385
Hindu	1,450	245	275
Sikh	515	105	110
Eastern Religions	465	60	90
Other Religions	960	125	285
No Religious Affiliation	83,675	20,935	14,925

These figures are based on the Statistics Canada 2001 report. * figures represent our projected increase for 2008.



1. Youth playing foosball at the centre.
2. Youth activities.
3. Eid party with Sound of Reason.
4. MAC Centre opening.
5. Youth enjoying some Wii time.

6. Go graffiti go.
7. MAC Give.
8. Youth at the Centre enjoying a board game.
9. Children playing a card game at the Centre.
10. A family enjoying a MAC breakfast.



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11. Brothers' sleepover.

12. Blood donation.

13. Make a Wish walk-a-thon.

14. Volunteers at the London Food Bank.

15. Sisters' Youth Group.

16. Youth playing a game of chess at the Centre.

17. MAC recognition night.

Where We Are!

As a result of the generosity of the community and with the help of a Grant from the Government of Ontario, we have recruited an Executive Director for the Centre who can effectively manage the day-to-day needs of running the facilities and looking after its tenants. Having purchased the building with our Capital Campaign, we have a responsibility to our tenants to keep the building in good order.

We have been blessed with incredible volunteers. One of our goals is to further develop the volunteer program by recruiting and training more volunteers. This will allow us to continue to expand our programs and services in order to reach as many young people as possible. Nurturing our volunteers sets a



wonderful example for our youth, encouraging them to be involved in the future.

We have worked closely with other Muslim organizations in London such as the London Muslim Mosque (LMM), Islamic Centre of South West Ontario and the Muslim Students' Association at the University of Western Ontario (MSA). We hope this will continue to be an important component of our future efforts.

Our responsibility to the youth we serve is to ensure we maintain a positive, supportive and responsive environment with all the programs and services to meet their needs. This requires continuous evaluation of our services and programs in order to serve the needs of young people.



“There is a lot of love here. Our mentors are like good friends; always here with advice and even homework help.”



The Future of MAC Youth Centre— How you can help

We have been humbled by the great response to the Centre and its activities and programs. By the grace of Allah, the Centre has achieved several successes. We know that however much we accomplish, much remains to be done. Our responsibility to our youth and to our donors is to be transparent with both our needs and reporting of how we steward the funds we receive.

The first installments towards the purchase of the Centre were made possible by the generosity of many individuals, families and indeed young people over the last two years. In order to continue to serve our youth, we must plan for the future. To secure funding for the Centre and future activities and programs, we are actively seeking grant funding from a variety of sources. Our current grant from the Trillium Foundation of the Government of Ontario provides funding for salary support to facilitate managing, enhancing and developing programs for the Centre. Revenue from our tenants covers a portion of our operational, maintenance and some program costs.

In order to support our ongoing work, we have two major requirements: ongoing payments towards the capital cost of the building; and the programs and services so necessary for our young people.

Your Gift to Our Youth, Our Future

By supporting the MAC Youth Centre with as generous a gift as you can give, you will be supporting our youth and helping build the future of Muslim Canadians. Our youth need a supportive environment for their education, socializing and religious enhancement. The MAC Youth Centre offers London's youth community the opportunity to experience Islam in its comprehensiveness. Together we are cultivating a generation of Muslim youth who value Islam, are proud to be Muslim and feel welcomed and valued in their community.

"I like the fact that playing sports develops a different kind of friendship. You really get to know the other guys. It's something that I'll have for life."



About the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC)

A national, grassroots organization, MAC currently operates in 11 Canadian cities. With a vision to establish an Islamic presence in Canada, that is balanced, constructive and integrated, though distinct, within the social fabric and culture of Canada, MAC believes the primary means of achieving that vision is by investing in human resources, particularly youth. MAC works to achieve its mission by building Muslim individuals, through active educational efforts, who are spiritually connected, strongly grounded in their own faith, motivated and enthusiastic, with an understanding of what Islam means in the modern world.





For More Information, please contact:
Muslim Association of Canada, London Chapter
366 Oxford Street East, Suite 201
London, Ontario N6A 1V7

T. 519.936.2304
F. 519.936.2325

www.maclondon.net

