



Inmate Support Services Correspondence Course Overview

Goal: to provide inmates with an opportunity to learn about moral development in the Islamic religion and apply this knowledge to their lives.

Project summary:

The course will be made available to inmates, regardless of religious affiliation, at all San Diego facilities (jails and prisons).

An interested inmate can apply for the course by mailing an application to the MCSSD PO Box. (Applications will be made available to each facility counseling staff).

The curriculum will consist of three books: Realities of Faith by Umm Muhammad, Muslim Character by Imam Al-Ghazali, and The Sirah of the Final Prophet by Hasan al-Bana. Copies of each book have been made available at each jail/prison, all Praise to Allah.

Once a student has applied, he/she will receive a letter with the title of the first book to check out, the first "Reflection and Application" writing assignment and the first exam (a number of questions pertaining to the book), and a pre-paid postage envelope to mail the assignments back to MCSSD.

Volunteers will be responsible for reviewing and grading the returned course material and providing feedback. If the student "passes" the first assignment and exam, he/she will be sent the title of the next book to check out and the next assignment and exam.

When the student has read all three books and completed all of the course work, he/she will receive a certificate of completion.

Project Costs:

Costs for this project are minimal.

The initial cost of stocking the facility libraries with the course books was donated by local Muslim families, all Praise to Allah.

In the future, it may be necessary to supplement certain facilities with additional books, depending on the demand for the course.

Maintenance costs include making copies of course materials, postage to send course materials, and pre-paid postage provided to students to return materials.

Total cost is estimated to be approximately five dollars per student.

Projected Volunteer hours

The initial volunteer hours needed were substantial. Volunteers created the curriculum, assignments and exams. They also contacted facility counselors, ordered and delivered the books, etc.

We have no idea how many Muslims there are in jail or how many will want to take the course. There are 5000 inmates in San Diego county jails on any given day. Even if only one percent are Muslim, that is still 50 brothers and sisters.

If it takes about 45 minutes to an hour to grade each exam and assignment and prepare the next correspondence, then a volunteer would spend about 4 hours per student.

Project Benefits:

- *Providing support from the Muslim community during a inmate's time of need.
- *Providing a means of gaining knowledge to a seeker
- *Encouraging an inmate to get his/her life back on track by adhering to the Islamic religion.
- *Empowering inmates to make d'awah while incarcerated.
- *Creating a way to find out what brothers and sisters are in jail and how else we can help them