



LIC Volunteers Feed the Homeless

"LIC's Winter Drive to Lend a Hand"

In March 2015 young volunteers from Lewisham Islamic Centre decided to go to Central London on the 1st Saturday of every month to feed the many homeless people there.

With winter approaching, [Lewisham Islamic Centre](#) decided that it would be a good idea to start serving hot food outside the Islamic Centre to help and support the homeless and poor people in the local area. Islam places deep emphasis on our individual duty to our neighbours. In fact, Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said: *"Angel Gabriel advised me continuously to take care of the neighbour till I thought that God is to make him an inheritor."*

Being a good neighbour and realising the duty to our neighbours doesn't just mean being friendly to the homeowners next door. It means to help take care of the community as a whole—and that includes the poor and the deprived in the community. Allah says in the Qur'an:

"Serve God, and join not any partners with Him; and do good—to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, those in need, neighbours who are near, neighbours who are strangers, and the companion by your side, the way-farer (ye meet), and what your right hands possess: for God loves not the arrogant, the vainglorious."

(Quran 4:36)



Thus, from the 23rd of December 2105 to 31st of December 2015 from 9.00pm until Midnight, every night volunteers from the Lewisham Islamic Centre served tea, coffee, biscuits, soup and bread to the homeless as well as passers-by.

It was an amazing experience to see and meet people and bring them some benefit and happiness in their lives. Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) stated:

“The most beloved of people according to Allah is the one who brings most benefit to people”

In another statement Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“He is not a believer whose stomach is filled while the neighbour to his side goes hungry”

In line with these Prophetic statements, the Centre and its volunteers carried out this project of feeding the homeless. One Volunteer stated: “What gave the most satisfaction was to see people smiling after having hot food at the Centre.” Another Volunteer said, “This has been one of the most worthwhile projects of the Centre that he has been involved in”.

It was also pleasing to hear the many words of support we received not just from our own Muslim community but also the wider non-Muslim community. A local non-Muslim woman proudly declared, “I am going let all my friends know what my local Muslims are like” whilst another passer-by said: “I am very happy to see the Islamic Centre doing Positive Work in the Community”. A local resident by the name of Judith even cooked food on one of the nights.

The Imam of Lewisham Islamic Centre, Shakeel Begg stated: “It makes me happy and proud of a Centre and a Community that serves the need of the whole Community, Muslim and non-Muslim alike”.

Lewisham Islamic Centre would like to take this opportunity to Thank All that were involved in making Feed the Homeless project a success.