Some of our bursary students pictured here at a careers day held at the Toys R Us head office in March 2021.

Learners from one of the rural/township madrasahs we assist, pictured here at our annual rural/township madrasah jalsa held in November 2019.
About Us

WHO WE ARE

The Institute for Learning and Motivation – South Africa (ILM-SA) is a non-profit organisation, based in Durban, South Africa. ILM-SA was founded by Fatima Asmal in 2006, and she was formally joined by her friend, Azra Hassim in 2007. The two of them serve as trustees and directors of the organisation. Other trustees are Ahmed Asmal and Dr Fathima Simjee.

On a day-to-day basis, ILM-SA employs Fatima as a full time director, fund-raising and marketing manager, Sumayah Khan as an administrative assistant and Shaykh Saeed Moosa as an overseer of the rural/township madrasahs we assist. These individuals are based at our office at the NMJ Islamic Centre in Durban.

Other individuals closely associated with ILM-SA, but not based at our office, are: Shaykh Naasiruddin Ibrahim Az-Zubair a haafidh from the Comoros, who assists children at the rural/township madrasahs we support with their Qur’an recitation; as well as Aneesa Gwanitsheni, Fathima Shibe, Khadija Madlala, Khadija Ngubane and Maryama Magwaba. These women initiated madrasahs in Trenance Park, Malukazi, Ndabankulu, Umbumbulu, Folweni, KwaMashu and Lindelani, all of which we assist.

Teamwork and a family spirit is central to everything we do at ILM-SA. The photos on these pages depict our bursary students assisting at our annual jalsa for the rural/township madrasahs we assist, as well as volunteers lending a hand at our annual Eid with a Difference programme at which their involvement is absolutely crucial.
Our core activities are:

- providing bursaries to deserving university students and school learners
- assisting rural/township madrasahs
- assisting underprivileged schools
- assisting historically disadvantaged children who are passionate about cricket
- hosting the annual Muslimah Today conference for women

Social welfare is not one of our primary activities. However, there are instances where members of various communities facing extremely challenging situations have been referred to us by trusted individuals, and we have intervened.

Our philosophy:

We are founded upon the philosophy that all human beings are equal and should be treated accordingly. It is of crucial importance to us that our staff and beneficiaries:

- are treated with dignity, love and respect
- are not exploited
- consider themselves to be part of a family

Our challenge:

By far, our biggest challenge is a shortage of lillah funds with which to effectively run our organisation. We are therefore encouraging individuals to activate a monthly debit order of R500 or more (less is also welcome) into our lillah account so that we can proceed with our activities without having to feel the anxiety associated with a lack of funds to cover our operating expenses. Please see the back cover of this brochure for our banking details.
Our Bursary Programme

HOW WE WORK

Our bursary programme is founded upon the following principles:

• Every individual has the right to access education, irrespective of his/her gender, religion, nationality and chosen course of study.

• Accessing a quality education often involves more than assistance with just tuition fees, therefore a student’s request for assistance with textbooks, accommodation, food and transport should be considered as well.

• Students who are not excelling academically should not be turned away or abandoned without careful consideration of their specific set of circumstances and the designing of interventions to assist them.

• Students should be encouraged to give back to society by volunteering at ILM-SA events – this is a compulsory requirement for Durban-based students.

• A relationship should be nurtured between ILM-SA and its students, as well as between the students themselves, and if donors wish, between the donors and students as well. This is achieved through a dedicated WhatsApp group for past and current bursary students; as well an annual gathering which every student is required to attend, and other regular meetups for KZN-based students.

This year and last year ILM-SA bursary students were invited to attend a careers day at the Toys R Us head office in Durban North. There, they were given invaluable tips on carving successful futures for themselves by Toys R Us co-owner, Mr Mohsin Mia, as well as key Toys R Us personnel.
CURRENT STUDENTS

Aaliyah
Industrial Engineering
Wits

Abdur Rahmaan
Law
UNISA

Brooklyn
Medicine
UKZN

Crystal
Corporate Communications
Varsity College

Fatouma
Medicine
Wits

Fazira
Information and Communications Technology
DUT

Hamza
Teaching
UNISA

Humairah
Teaching
Stadio Embury

Ilunga
Information and Communications Technology
DUT

Jamila
Marine Biology
Stellenbosch

Katambwa
Electronic Engineering
DUT

Layla
Marketing
DUT

Lusamba
Management Sciences
DUT

Mariam
Accounting
UKZN

Mohammed Shoaib Shabbir
Law
NWU

Mohammed Sohail
Medicine
UCT

Omaira
Electrical Engineering
UKZN

Omari
Law
UKZN

Orlin
Mechanical Engineering
Wits

Saadiya
Civil Engineering
UJ

Salmaan
Human Resource Management
NWU

Samina
Accounting
Damenlin

Tasneem
Law
UNISA

Yusuf
Emergency Medical Care
Netcare
In their own words, here is what our latest group of graduates have to say about their journeys with ILM-SA.

Iqsaan

I had heard about ILM-SA at the end of 2016. After meeting with Aunty Fatima and Aunty Azra, I was accepted into the program. This allowed me to register at DUT for IT - I was assisted with my tuition fees. ILM-SA is not like other organisations, they will definitely help you no matter what your problem is. I am grateful for all their help, for being relieved of the burden of paying fees, and for being able to direct my focus on my studies so that I can progress. I remember thinking to myself, I must work hard, achieve good results, and not disappoint them. I was able to complete four years of studying. My goals now seem achievable and my future looks brighter. At the annual meet and greets we learn about each other, how to communicate and socialize. We participated in many fun activities and charitable events. ILM-SA is an amazing organisation, they are always there to help with every problem, be it big or small. Being a part of ILM-SA is more than just being a bursary student, it’s being part of a family. All their assistance means a lot to me, and this journey with them has been the most amazing experience. They have instilled kindness, selflessness, and many other values in each of us. I am proud to have been a part of the ILM-SA family. I make du’aa that Allah makes each of their lives easy, and gives them the strength and means to continue doing the work that they do.

Muhammad Faizel

As a young boy I had always dreamt of a career within the maritime industry. After completing matric, I was forced to take a gap year since my family could not afford to send me to further my studies. In the second year after matric, I met a man who offered to cover my studies. I was ecstatic but that happiness was short-lived as he could not continue helping. I was devastated since it was in the middle of a school year and I was almost de-registered. Luckily I met Shaykh Saeed who introduced me to the ILM-SA bursary programme. They were not taking students at that time as the year had already begun but I was encouraged to apply and after hearing my story they decided to help. I had never been happier in my life. I entered the programme in 2017, and they supported me with school fees, accommodation, food and other basics, until 2020 when I finished my studies. I have certificates in International Trade, Freight Handling, Freight Forwarding and Customs Compliance and Shipping Practice which would not have been possible if it wasn’t for ILM-SA. I will forever be grateful to ILM-SA for the role they have played in transforming my life, helping me reach my goals and making me the person I am today. In future I would like to help them make the dreams of disadvantaged kids like myself come true. I hope they continue with their generous, selfless investment in our education and community. May Allah grant them the strength to continue growing and changing lives.
**Raeesa**

During my matric year in 2016, I attended an ILM-SA conference – an event that was motivational and absolutely inspiring – this is when I was first introduced to ILM-SA – a turning point in my life. I came across their booklet and saw that this organisation offered bursaries and I thought to myself, this has to be a sign – I had just completed all my university applications and I was still trying to figure out how I’d be able to fund my way through tertiary education – an opportunity not many South African youth are afforded. I spoke to one of their bursary students at the time and decided to try my luck and apply. When being interviewed for the bursary I remember being quite surprised at how kind, pleasant and understanding all the staff were. This organisation truly treats their students as individuals, understanding each person’s background and circumstances. I was lucky enough to receive a bursary from ILM-SA - an organisation that not only just funds students' studies, but nurtures and cares for their students as well. It has been an incredible journey of building strong friendships and lifelong relationships with other students, donors and ILM-SA staff. Now after four years of hard work and dedication, and ILM-SA's tremendous support, I have successfully completed my BPharm degree, and I am doing my internship. It actually takes my breath away when I think back and look at how far I've come. None of this would have been possible without the help and assistance of ILM-SA and their generous donors. While I have now qualified and I am no longer a student, I will always be a part of the ILM-SA family.

**Nabeel**

In 2014 I was accepted to study towards a Bachelors degree in Chemical Engineering. Notwithstanding the fact that I still had to write and pass my matric final exams, I had the seemingly impossible task of sourcing funding for my university fees. Tertiary education was always a dream growing up, never a certainty. That year I sent countless applications for a bursary to many organisations but none were successful. I came across ILM-SA through my Aunty who had heard about their bursary program and told me to apply. After much consideration, ILM-SA funded my tuition fees, accommodation as well as textbooks, for all of the years that I spent at university. They also afforded me an opportunity to change my direction of study, after I obtained career guidance, to study towards a Bachelors degree in Law. Having a bursary has given me the ability to achieve the goals I had. That was especially prevalent last year when the pandemic made it especially hard for us to study with online learning and lack of accessibility to resources. Alhamdulillah I was offered a job during that time, which would not have been possible without, not just the financial assistance, but also the academic support and consideration that ILM-SA provides. The impact that having a bursary has had on my studies has been tremendous. I can finally call myself a university graduate.

ILM-SA provides not just bursaries, but also a network of support. There were several instances, throughout my university career, when Aunty Fatima gave me advice that helped me to make important decisions. I cannot express enough gratitude for the role that she, as well as the entire organisation, have played in my tertiary education. May the Almighty reward all of the people that make our studies possible through ILM-SA and enable them to continue making a difference in so many of our lives.
Where are some of our students now?

Ayesha
Associate: ENSAfrica (admitted as an attorney of the High Court of SA)

Jafari
Operations Supervisor: New Horizon Freight Solutions

Iqsaan
Software Developer Intern: XET Solutions

Mubeen
Head of IT at Osman’s Taj Mahal

Nabeelah
Life Science and English Educator: Grosvenor Girls High School

Salma
Social worker at the Association for the Physically Disabled

Thami
isiZulu Head of Department: ADvTECH School

Hlengiwe
isiZulu, English and Life Orientation Educator: John Orr Technical High School

Mubeen
Junior Research Fellow: Gender Health and Justice Research Unit at UCT

Nabeel
Candidate Attorney: Tatham Wilkes Inc.

Rukya
Self-employed (businesswoman): Evalicious Fashion

Rukya
Pharmacist Intern: Johnson & Johnson (PTY) Ltd.

Rukya
Junior Software Engineer: Sikhona Money Transfers

Seher
Quality Assurance Junior Manager: AA Spice

Taahir
Junior Software Engineer: Sikhona Money Transfers

Zainab
Junior Research Fellow: Gender Health and Justice Research Unit at UCT

Zoya
English and Drama Educator: Malvern College (China, working remotely)
After receiving a welcoming rose and chocolate-coated strawberry, the delegates moved on to registration facilitated by our current and former bursary students.

As Haafidhah Radia Bawa-Hendricks of Zahraa Institute in Cape Town speaks, a delegate is inspired to note down a du’aa she has mentioned in her presentation.

Zakeeya Mitha, founder of Sugarlicious, addresses a full house.

Currently in its seventh year, Muslimah Today is a conference, featuring inspirational women speakers from around the country. Women from diverse backgrounds travel to Durban from all parts of the country to benefit from the impactful messages, beautiful atmosphere and networking opportunities.

The registration fees of close to half the attendees is sponsored, making Muslimah Today a non-elitist event which aims to foster a true spirit of sisterhood which transcends race, culture and economic status. Here are some photographs from Muslimah Today 2019.

During a break, delegates protest violence against women and children.
We assist five madrasahs situated in Folweni (Aapa Khadija Madlala), KwaMashu (Aapa Khadija Ngubane), Lindelani (Aapa Maryama Mgwaba), Malukazi (Aapa Fathima Shibe) and Trenance Park (Aapa Aneesa Gwanitsheni), as well as two satellite madrasahs run on a part time basis by Aapa Fathima Shibe in Ndabankulu and Umbumbulu in the following ways:

- We provide a monthly stipend for each teacher.
- We provide each teacher with a monthly grocery voucher.
- We provide assistance with school fees, uniforms, stationery and transport to and from school for the children of each teacher, as well as any grandchildren she may be looking after.
- We also assist various orphaned children at the madrasah with aspects like school fees, uniforms and transport to and from school.
- We provide a rice dish for each madrasah twice a month.
- We provide text books and other teaching resources like white boards, etc. for each madrasah.
- We allocate gently worn clothing donated to us to the madrasahs.
- During Ramadaan, we provide the ingredients for suhoor and iftaar for the madrasahs. The teachers then prepare meals for children attending their respective madrasahs.
- On the occasion of Eid-ul-Adhaa, all madrasah teachers and children are given meat parcels.
- All madrasahs participate in our annual Eid with a Difference programme.
- All madrasahs participate in a year-end jalsa.
- In terms of infrastructure, it is our intention to provide each madrasah with a suitable structure in which learning can take place. Thus far, we have built a madrasah in Folweni, where children were previously learning in a shack. We have also provided Aapa Aneesa in Trenance Park with a wendy house in which to run her madrasah.
- We are also actively researching the socio-economic circumstances of learners at the madrasahs and as the need arises we have been providing interventions to help them overcome the challenges they face.
- Shaykh Saeed Moosa of ILM-SA visits a different madrasah each afternoon. There, he assesses attendance and progress, as well as liaises with the teachers about their needs/the needs of specific children. He then conveys this information to our trustees, for discussion and feedback. The madrasah teachers are also invited to meet our trustees on a regular basis to discuss upcoming events, as well as their needs and concerns, as well as any concerns we may have.
For years the late Aapa Aaminah Madlala (rahmatullah alayhaa) and her daughter Aapa Khadija ran their madrasah in a tin shack. When it was hot, temperatures in the madrasah were unbearable, and when it rained the madrasah was flooded. We raised funds for the building of a new madrasah and with the help of a brother who has experience in this field, the madrasah – which has flushing toilets and wudhu facilities – was completed towards the latter half of last year. Sadly, Aapa Aaminah passed away in January this year, and the madrasah is now run by Aapa Khadija.

REMEMBERING AAPA AAMINAH MADLALA

Pictured here is the late Aapa Aaminah Madlala, standing outside the old madrasah. Born in 1954, Aapa Aaminah converted to Islam in 1991 after having a dream about her mother-in-law in which the latter told her that she should become a Muslim. She started a madrasah in 1993 and was a daa’iyah of note. Aapa Aaminah was later joined in teaching children the basics of Islam by her daughter Aapa Khadija and ILM-SA began assisting them in running their madrasah in 2007/8. Aapa Aaminah also took care of her orphaned grandson, Imraan and showed great concern for his well-being, often taking multiple taxis to the ILM-SA office at the NMJ Islamic Centre to request funding for his schooling needs. Aapa Aaminah passed away on the 3rd of January 2021 - we make duaa that Allah SWT widens her qabr, illuminates it and blesses her with Jannah Al-Firdose without questioning.
Our annual Eid with a Difference programme is based on the prophetic principle that a believer should love for his brother what he loves for himself. Leading up to the day of Eid-ul-Fitr, each madrasah child is sent a brand new set of clothing to wear on Eid day. The madrasah teachers are taken abayah, shoe and bag shopping by the ILM-SA trustees so that they may choose their own clothing. On the day of Eid the children and their teachers are transported to Berea Park in Essenwood, where the Eid salaah is prayed in congregation, with members of the community who join us on the day as volunteers/participants. They are then served breakfast, after which a series of fun activities like face-painting, henna application, sport and other games are arranged for them. Lunch is then served, followed by a giant Eid cake per madrasah. The day concludes with the presentation of “Eidie” – an Eid present for each teacher, and each child being presented with a gift, which is made possible by the Ramadaan Treasure Box project. It must be stated that volunteers are integral to our Eid with a Difference programme. They are there from the word “Go!” laying out musallahs, serving meals, playing with the children and offloading the bakkies, carrying food, gifts and other items.

The Eid With a Difference 2019 programme was even more special as five women took shahadah after the Eid Salaah, Alhamdulillah. Here is one of them, pictured taking her shahadah with Shaykh Saeed Moosa.
Each year, during Ramadaan, we take members of the community to one of the madrasahs we assist, to have iftaar with the teacher and her learners. Thanks to the generosity of various donors, some of whom accompany us, we provide dates, water, savouries, haleem, naan and soup for everyone, as well as a substantial rice dish for the madrasah teacher and learners. The individuals accompanying us also usually bring along goodie bags filled with sweets and other treats for the madrasah learners. These iftaars usually take place outdoors, in total darkness. They are simple, yet thought provoking, and for a few hours at least, participants are given an opportunity to reflect on aspects like equality in Islam, gratitude and the poverty gap in this country. In 2019 we visited the madrasah run by Aapa Khadija Ngubane in KwaMashu and were joined there by Aapa Maryama Magwaba and her learners from Lindelani. We had an unprecedented response to our invitation for people to join us and hired a bus from Durban Transport for the occasion.
Each year the teachers from the madaaris we assist and their learners are transported to a hall in Durban, where they have an opportunity to showcase their singing talents to each other, as well as recite the surahs and duas they have learnt during the course of the year. Breakfast and lunch (a KFC meal) are provided and each learner is given a goodie bag and a certificate. Our bursary students play a critical role during the jalsa, registering children, packing goodie bags and distributing meals (see pages 2 and 5). Here are photos from the 2019 jalsa.
Alhamdulillah, this year, we were able to raise the funds for a new car for our employee, Shaykh Saeed Moosa, who is an integral part of ILM-SA. Shaykh Saeed had been battling with his previous car, which he had owned for several years, which was giving him endless problems.

Assisting the Embizweni High School

The Embizweni High School is a non-fee paying school in uMlazi. Many learners are orphaned and vulnerable and live in informal settlements and RDP houses. Three meals a day is a luxury for most of them. Consequently the school has historically achieved an unsatisfactory matric pass rate. Two years ago we were contacted by its principal Mr Khubone who wanted to ensure that more than 80% of the school’s matric learners matriculated. With this in mind, he introduced “studying camps” at school, whereby the learners would stay over at school, undertaking extra lessons. In 2019 we provided all the meals for this camp. In 2020, we provided foam mattresses, blankets and meals for the camps. Alhamdulillah in 2019, the school achieved a 76% pass rate, a jump from 57%, and in 2020, the school achieved an 86% pass rate. In 2020, we also provided 80 desks and 14 teacher tables, to the school, so that they could implement social distancing under COVID19 conditions. Additionally, we provided 150 litres of sanitiser to the school. This year we also paid the university registration fees for three learners who matriculated with excellent results (they are being funded by NSFAS and only required that their registration fees be paid so that they could secure their places).

Providing desks and chairs for Zwelibanzi High School

ILM-SA appealed for funds to purchase desks for the Zwelibanzi High School, a non-fee paying school in uMlazi. Alhamdulillah thanks to the generosity of various donors, we were able to sponsor 115 desks. The school had the funds to purchase 60 desks, and we used our funds to provide 175 chairs. When the items were delivered, the school held a special assembly to mark the occasion. Ms. Mbatha, the deputy principal explained that apart from the grade 12 learners other grades were only able to attend school once a week due to social distancing concerns, but with these desks and chairs, they will be able to attend 2 to 3 times a week.

Social Welfare

We are NOT a social welfare organisation but we currently assist:
- a widow with her monthly groceries
- a family of four who are finding it difficult to make ends meet with their monthly groceries
- a brother who lives in an informal settlement with a monthly stipend
- a paraplegic brother who is struggling to find employment with a monthly stipend

A message from Brother Muhammad, the paraplegic brother we assist:

“Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh. I’m writing this appreciation message in a state of shock and in tears. When sister Fatima Asmal phoned me and told me she would source funds to help me during this period of being unemployed, I was excited but not sure if people would turn up and help a graduate who is now not working and in debt. I was thus cautiously optimistic because at the back of my mind I knew that sister Fatima’s team works very hard to ease the lives of others. I thank you for the financial assistance you are giving me. With this money, I’ll be able to look after my wife and children as well as my mother. You have given me a lifeline. May the Almighty increase your sustenance and grant you all good in this world and the next. Shukran.”
How you can help

We do not receive government grants or overseas funding, and are dependent on the generosity of the community to help us sustain our projects. You can assist us in making a difference by:

• INITIATING A MONTHLY DEBIT ORDER (RECOMMENDED AMOUNT R500) INTO OUR LILLAH ACCOUNT:
The successful implementation of our projects depends on the efficient running of our office, which entails many expenses including: salaries, printing and stationery, telephone, internet, etc. It is extremely challenging to cover these expenses as donors generally prefer to support a project directly servicing underprivileged sectors of the community. We therefore embarked on an admin drive last year, whereby we appeal to members of the community to initiate a monthly debit order towards the covering of our operating expenses. Please WhatsApp us on 083 271 4500 if you are interested in initiating a debit order.

• ALLOCATING ZAKAAH AND LILLAH TO US:
We have a constant need for lillah and zakaah funding to allocate to the various projects we implement. Please consider allocating a portion of your zakaah and lillah to us.

• SENDING US YOUR INTEREST FUNDS:
We utilise interest funds on assisting deserving individuals within communities who are not Muslim, for e.g. with bursaries. Please consider allocating a portion of your interest funds to us.

• VOLUNTEER:
Volunteers are welcome to assist us at specific events we host during the year, namely our rural/township madrasah iftaar, Eid with a Difference, Muslimah Today and Islam is Fun programmes. High school students are issued with community service certificates, in recognition of the time spent assisting us. Female volunteers on a dedicated WhatsApp group take care of our weekly meal pack donations to disadvantaged cricketers, by making sandwiches and donating other items.

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EFT/Bank Deposit

Zakaah:
Institute for Learning and Motivation - South Africa
Bank: FNB
Branch Code: 223526
Account number: 62143281905
Reference: Your contact number and name

Non-Zakaah donations:
Institute for Learning and Motivation - South Africa
Bank: FNB
Branch Code: 223526
Account number: 62143281905
Reference: Your contact number and name

Cash donations
Please call 031 207 6155 or WhatsApp/SMS 083 271 4500 or email info@ilmsa.co.za, should you wish to make a cash donation.

• Please note that receipts for donations made via EFT/bank deposit will only be issued upon request. Please email proof of payment, and receiving details to admin@ilmsa.co.za
• Please note that we are unable to issue Section 18A certificates, as we are involved in madrasah education which is not a Section 18A activity

Contacting ILM-SA

Phone: 031 207 6155  WhatsApp: 083 271 4500 / 067 056 8975
Email address: info@ilmsa.co.za

Physical Address: ILM-SA, Office 2, Parking C, NMJ Islamic Centre,
37 to 41 Mountainview Avenue, Morningside
Office hours: 8.30am to 4pm (Mondays to Fridays only)
Closed for lunch and Dhuhr Salaah: 12.30pm to 1pm daily, and 12pm to 2pm on Fridays

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