



Central Jamia Masjid Charity Project **AID CONVOY 2016**

Central Jamia Masjid in Southall held a hugely successful charity collection day on 25th December 2016, raising over £5000 in cash and sending 13 vans of food, clothing and medicine to the most needy in Syria.

Central Jamia Masjid launched its appeal for food items and clothing on 12th December, after a member of the executive committee, Bilal Khan, successfully confirmed the collection date of Christmas Day with the charity Aid Convoy. This day was chosen due to the availability of free parking and reduced traffic on the roads.

This appeal is made at a time when the plight of the Syrian people is in a dire state with thousands reported dead and millions fleeing their homes seeking refuge. Heavy air strikes carried out by the regime forces supported by Russian troops has left the key battleground Aleppo destroyed. Poverty, despair and hunger is now widespread amongst the Syrian people.

Central Jamia Masjid was overwhelmed by the extreme generosity of the community. Pallets of rice and flour continued to come in during the day, along with large volumes of clothing and loose items. Loading took all day long with over 50 volunteers participating



in a huge physical effort. Aid Convoy initially planned to stay until 5pm, and had four vans on hand for collection. However, this extended beyond 9pm and a total of 13 vans was needed to collect all the food, clothing and medicine donated by the community.

Members from the committee organised pizza and tea for the volunteers during the day and all participants were in very high spirits. Despite being extremely fatigued by the end of the day, volunteers experienced a spiritual renewal of their faith and a strong sense of hope for acceptance of their actions.

Those who could not donate physical items gave cash which amounted to £5173 by the end of the day. This will be used by the charity for fuel and container costs, purchase of further items and distribution expenses. All the items collected will be loaded in a container and driven to Syria through Turkey within 6 weeks God Willing.

Allah will remain committed to helping His servant as long as the servant remains committed to helping his brother.

- Sahih Muslim

We extend huge gratitude towards the community for making this project a success and look forward to organising similar events. We pray God accepts our efforts and relieves the suffering of the Syrian people.