

CERV IT UP

ACCT | HOUSTON | SOUTHWEST

Dearest iCERV Family,

I want to start with acknowledging the entire Southwest iCERV family for taking part in this first ever newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to collaborate and encourage the sharing of knowledge, inspiration and showcase the external relationships that all of you are taking part in to make a difference. iCERV as it stands for Ismaili Community Engaged in Responsible Volunteering is already making an impact and we hope it sustains for generations to come.

This year the focus of iCERV has been on Leadership and Excellence. We started the year together at our first 'fun-shop' to make a one family promise. All SW coordinators gathered to discuss their 'Why', roles and responsibilities, and ambitions for iCERV not only for this year but years to come. From that day and onward, everyone has been communicating strongly, working together, and preparing service events and socials.

As we continue to become stronger as a family, I am deeply very proud of each and every one of you for putting this outstanding work together. Everyone is engaging in exciting service events each month and working hard to live up to their goals and vision for iCERV.

As I look proudly to the future, it reminds of this quote from Steve Jobs:

"You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future."

I am very excited and hopeful for the future generations as the SW iCERV family continues to strive to make a difference as inspiring leaders and fulfill our beloved Imam's vision. Let's continue the legacy that all of you started to live to our iCERV motto, *From Compassion to Action* as we together make a difference in millions of lives.

I want to conclude with a special acknowledgment to Anna Ali and her team for making this newsletter happen. We appreciate all your hard work and effort. Lastly, I also want to congratulate and applaud all the coordinators and their respective teams for all their time and dedication. Let's keep the momentum and continue to make a difference one service event at a time...

With lots of love,
Shaila Lalani



North Houston iCERV

In the month of October, North iCERV was able to volunteer for a couple of hours at a retirement home called Harvest Home (bottom left). iCERV members played games and did arts and crafts with the retired seniors which they really enjoyed. In November, North iCERV volunteered at the Children's Festival where they helped children do dot painting (bottom right)—a unique form of art that all of the children enjoyed and all of the members enjoyed as well. Another upcoming event coming up for North iCERV is the Turkey Trot. Members will assist runners with registration and at water stations where they'll be able to keep the runners hydrated! We look forward to this event and many more to come!

Clear Lake iCERV



Nocturnal Lands: iCERV Clear lake had taken part in an event known as Nocturnal Lands. Nocturnal Lands is a 5K Run that is a fun way to run a marathon with colorful lights, glow sticks, and upbeat music. Members were able to enjoy the event while volunteering.

Members were able to cheer for the marathon runners and pass out water to the runners. The experience and knowledge gained in volunteering made the members understand that helping the community can make a great impact!

What's going on in College Station?



iCERV organized and came together for a day of fun-filled activities for the celebration of Eid-al-Adha. A few of the activities included the moon bounce, face painting, ring toss, balloon darts, tug-of-war, and four square. Overall, it was a day of excitement and joy.

College Station iCERV's first external service was volunteering with Special Olympics of Texas. Our tasks at Special Olympics were but not limited to taking participants to and from the award ceremony, helping them get

into position, assisting them after their activity, and most importantly encouraging and cheering them on. Volunteering with Special Olympics of Texas allowed members to expand their social knowledge beyond their everyday interactions and was indeed a pleasant and rewarding experience.



Beaumont iCERV



Park Clean Up: There was so much trash at the park so we decided to pick it up and make it pretty again. The kids had so much fun because they were able to give service and play outside. (Top Left) . In the Crocheting Event we decided to start preparing for Christmas early by crocheting hats and scarves for the less fortunate so they can keep warm during the winter. The kids loved learning something new and a lot of parents were involved since they knew how to crochet themselves and helped out. (Bottom Left). Partnership Walk Fundraiser: What's a better way to help end global poverty than by eating chicken? We hosted a spirit night at Chick-fil-A to raise money and awareness for Partnership Walk. Many members came with their families and had a wonderful time. (Right)

Sugar Land iCERV

Sugar Land Area iCERV at Houston's Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) No Shortcuts 5K Walk/Run. (On the right).

Sugar Land Area iCERV Coordinators and Board Members's at Zoo Boo- a non-scary Halloween event for families with children 12 years of age or younger, held on the grounds of the Houston Zoo. (On the left)

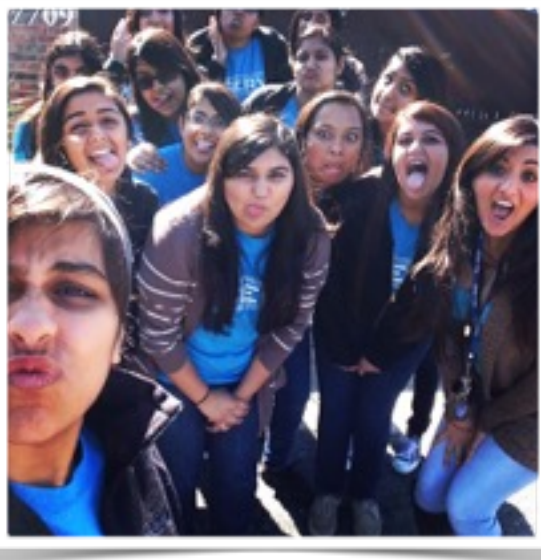


Upcoming events for December: Jingle Bell Run for the Arthritis Foundation, Animal Shelter for the Houston Humane Society, Alief Wildlife Preservation, PB&Js for the Hungry

Austin iCERV

Austin iCERV's past events were Step Out to Stop Diabetes, Hands for Hope, Light the Night Walk, AIDS Walk, Zero Prostrate Cancer, and Beckett Meadows Nursing Home. Austin iCERV

members helping out at the AIDS Walk with making balloon decorations for the event and setting up. It seems easy and quick but it took a lot of time and effort to make it perfect. Hats off for the outstanding job! (Right). Austin iCERV members helped at the Beckett Meadows Nursing Home with the elders. On the left is our event selfie.



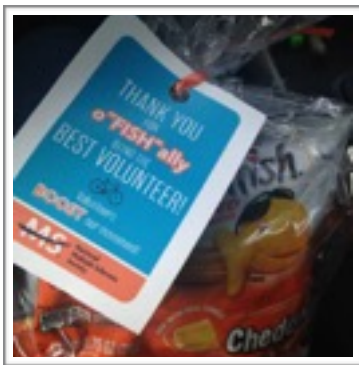
Closer Look at San Antonio

For the past two years, SA has been given the wonderful opportunity to work with the Multicultural Heritage Society (MCHS). The MCHS Festival is one of our favorite events to participate in. Our members love to serve the community while exploring different cultures. Recently, our team has been awarded for the hard work they have done by the MCHS team and the Mayor of Live Oak, Ms. Mary Dennis. We are very proud of our team for how far they have come. We would like to thank MCHS for supporting us and always inviting us when they need help. Remember Compassion to Action my friends!



New Things in iCERV

San Antonio's new way to appreciate members of the event. It is a great way to boost moral and encourage others to work harder.



Clear Lake iCERV has a cool new website, where members can view upcoming events, and get latest updates at their convenience.

CHECK IT OUT: <http://icervclearlake.weebly.com>

Leadership Corner

Team iCERV met up in November to share best practices and collaborate amongst all but this time with a different style. The ACCT team planned and organized a fun day retreat on a beautiful day in Austin. We started off with a service event in which we cleaned graffiti and picked up trash. We bonded over yummy lunch together and then a fun outdoor meeting at Zilker Park to discuss challenges, goals and work together as one SW family.



Shoutouts....

College Station iCERV:
Thank you to everyone who came to events! For those of you who couldn't make it, no worries, there are plenty more yet to come. ICERV would not be possible without your support and time. Therefore, again we'd like to say thank you for your dedication. Let's make this a successful and fun year full of excitement and positive change. This is only the beginning!

Austin iCERV: This month has been going fantastic thanks to the hard work of all the members coming to serve at the events despite the cold weather! Kudos for waking up early and having a bright smile as all of y'all give back to the community with dedication and passion. Keep it up Austin iCERV!

Team iCERV: Special Thanks to Reema Dhuka, lead ACCT coordinator and the entire ACCT team for a job well done for organizing our Austin Day Retreat.

"Of The Months"

Sugar Land iCERV:
Board Member of the Month
Rabia Farishta

Austin iCERV:
Event of The Month
Austin iCERV's event of the month goes to Beckett Meadows Nursing Home. Our members helped the elders at three stations..coloring, reading, and games. Interacting and spending time with elders and hearing their childhood memories was a touching experience for all of us. We are excited to go back soon and have another fun filled day with them again.

San Antonio iCERV:
Board Member of the Month,
Armaan Malik. You're a great asset to our team, and we love working with you! Your dedication to iCERV is shown through the great work you do. Thank you for always being on time with everything and helping all of us whenever we

....Shoutouts

San Antonio iCERV:
San Antonio ICERV would like to make a shout out to our first member of the event (in October), Adeeb Ali! We would like to thank you for your dedication towards iCERV this year. We love your enthusiasm to help at all our events and we hope to see you at the events in the future.

North iCERV:
Thank you North ICERV for your continuous support! Although our events so far have been small, you guys have participated in any way possible! I look forward to our next events and I hope you all continue to come out and do service throughout the community! Go North!

