

# MFBCS SURREY FUNDRAISER PRESS BRIEFING 2026



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**Event Name:** Pre-Ramadan Fundraising  
Dinner 2026

**Hosting Organization:** Muslim Food Bank &  
Community Services

**Where:** Taj Park Convention Centre | 8580  
132 St, Surrey, BC V3W 4N7

**Theme:** An Evening of Compassion,  
Community & Change

**When:** Saturday, February 14, 2026

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Muslim Food Bank & Community Services Raises \$120,000+ at 2026 Pre-Ramadan Fundraiser Amid Growing Community Need



Surrey, BC, February 14, 2026, Muslim Food Bank & Community Services (MFBCS) raised **\$120,000+** at its 2026 Pre-Ramadan Fundraising Dinner held at the Taj Park Convention Centre in Surrey, BC. The event welcomed **350+ attendees** under the theme “An Evening of Compassion, Community & Change.”

While this year reflects a **16.5% decrease** from the audited 2025 total, the funds raised come at a time of increasing economic strain and rising demand for food and social support services across Canada.

#### ASPIRE - Holistic Service Model

- ASPIRE Program: Serves approximately **3,000 clients** yearly through structured counselling and case management
- **Integrated support including** refugee assistance, employment readiness, mental health services, and long-term stabilization planning
- A coordinated model **addressing root causes of vulnerability**, financial hardship, immigration challenges, mental health pressures, and social isolation, not just immediate food insecurity

#### Organizational Capacity & Community Impact

MFBCS operates as a national, **80% volunteer-run organization**, combining grassroots efficiency with structured program delivery. With operations spanning multiple Canadian cities, the organization leverages volunteer leadership, centralized coordination, and community partnerships to deliver consistent, measurable support. As demand continues to rise, **MFBCS has strengthened its systems to respond effectively while maintaining cost-efficiency and accountability.**

#### Food Security Programs

- Over **20,000 food hampers distributed annually**
- Approximately **1,800 families served per month**
- Supporting roughly **5,000 individuals monthly**
- Distributions conducted monthly **across multiple Canadian cities**

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COMMUNITY SERVICES

## Growing Demand in a Challenging Economy

While fundraising has become more difficult, the need for services continues to increase. MFBCS reports a steady rise in struggling families seeking assistance, reflecting broader affordability and cost-of-living pressures.

Leadership emphasized that food insecurity is no longer a short-term or seasonal concern, but an escalating issue requiring sustained intervention.

## Event Highlights

The evening featured the **panel discussion**, “Beyond the Hamper: Building Sustainable Pathways Out of Crisis,” moderated by MFBCS leadership and including Tooba Ehtesham (National Program Coordinator, Counselling & Case Management), Mainu Ahmed (ASPIRE Executive Director), Meimoonah Ali (Surrey Headquarters Volunteer), and Asad Ilyas (Public Engagement Manager). The panel **examined the evolving landscape of food insecurity, the operational realities of serving vulnerable families**, and the importance of pairing emergency food relief with structured counselling and long-term case management through the ASPIRE program.

A **youth address** by Fadheela Hussain underscored growing next-generation engagement in community service and volunteer leadership.

The evening’s **keynote was delivered by Sheikh Riad**, whose high-energy address called on attendees to act with urgency and consistency in supporting families facing hardship, particularly in the lead-up to Ramadan.

Special remarks were delivered by:

- **Amna Shah, MLA**
- **Members of the Surrey First Team**

Speakers emphasized collaboration between community organizations and civic leadership to address affordability pressures and rising food insecurity.

## Strategic Outlook

As Ramadan approaches, MFBCS anticipates increased service demand. While attendance declined this year, the organization views the fundraiser as a critical mobilization effort ahead of a high-demand season.

The \$120,000+ raised will directly support monthly food distributions and wraparound services throughout 2026. Leadership acknowledges the need to diversify its donor base, strengthen younger donor engagement, and adapt to a more competitive philanthropic environment.

Despite economic headwinds, MFBCS remains operationally strong, volunteer-powered, and focused on measurable outcomes.

## Call to Action

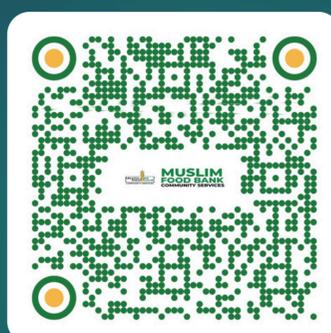
Community members and partners are encouraged to support ongoing efforts:

Learn more: <https://muslimfoodbank.com/>

With food insecurity rising and more families seeking help, sustained community investment remains critical.

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**AZIM DAHYA**

**Azim Dahya, CEO of MFBCS, stated:**  
*“Raising funds in this economic climate demonstrates the strength of our community. At the same time, the demand we are seeing is urgent. More families than ever are turning to us for support, and that reality requires sustained action.”*

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