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Audentior Awards 2009

The 2009 Audentior Awards took place at the Colosseum on Friday 27 March. The winners were:

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Charitable Group - Watford Mosque



We often forget to recognise the role that faith communities play in the voluntary sector, both in terms of how they are run by volunteers, and because of the services they provide to the community.

The Watford Mosque first opened on Thursday 25 April 1985 after many years of hard work by the Muslim community to raise the £350,000 needed to buy the land, build the mosque and purchase a house in Vicarage Rd for the Imam.

10 years later, it was so popular it needed to extend, and so they built a second floor. And by 1999 they were building their second mosque in Leggatts, North Watford. The North Watford Mosque was opened on 18 April 2003.

The driving force behind such a magnificent effort was Mr Haji Yacoob and his small but dedicated

committee. For a such a small Muslim community to have funded and built two mosques is a quite remarkable feat . They rely entirely on donations, not receiving any support through the way of grants or pubic finance.

In addition to all the services you would expect from any faith institution – funerals, weddings, etc – they do much more for the community of Watford and Hertfordshire . Many local schools regularly visit the mosque for pupils to learn more about the Muslim faith, as do teachers who are not Muslim. So important at a time when this faith is so often misrepresented. They have a crèche facility and play area for younger children; regular drop in sessions are held by Hertfordshire police for local residents; and there is an after school club for homework and language classes which is open to all members of the community.

This is why we have such a well-established Muslim community, here in Watford, now into its third generation contributing positively to life in our town. It is due to the ethos and attitude of the committee always mindful of their neighbours, their town and their role in the wider community.

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For more information

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