

## **ISLAMIC CENTER OF THE EAST VALLEY HAS BECOME MORE THAN JUST A DREAM**

After struggling for ten years to put an Islamic Center in the Chandler area, the Islamic Center of the East Valley, (ICEV), is finally becoming a reality.

In the coming weeks the roof of the ICEV building will be raised, thus providing the contractors with an opportunity to begin the finish work on the outer shell of the structure.

Once the outer shell of the building is complete, an interior section of the ICEV facility can be finished, bathroom fixtures will be installed, and with the City's minimum requirements for electrical, dust control and fire safety installations can then be completed. Then the ICEV should be able to obtain the long sought after Partial Occupancy permit. This will allow the facility to be used for the five daily prayers as well as the Friday prayer.

Despite numerous tests from Allah, which have included a general contractor going bankrupt, an engineer being stranded in Turkey due to earthquakes, a loss of overseas funding commitments due to 9/11, and considerable opposition from the neighbors. The project team and the Chandler community members have rallied to ensure that the commitment to establish an Islamic Center in the Chandler area would be realized.

Funding has come from a variety of sources, but almost entirely from Muslims here in the United States. Brother Syed Huq, a Trustee and ICEV Treasurer have done an excellent job of managing the funds collected, and has maintained excellent records for every penny spent. Allah has blessed the project with faithful volunteers who have worked tirelessly to bring this house of Allah one step closer to completion.

Yet, while the project building is finally taking shape, and there is much anticipation for the day when we can pray there five times a day, there has been a very beneficial by product resulting from the years of struggle. A genuine sense of community is developing, where brothers and sister are working together for a common goal, but not just to build a place to pray, but for an Islamic Center that boldly states: "We are Muslims who live in the East Valley, we are proud of our beliefs and we wish to share them with the world".

A fund raising event will be held on Sunday, September 24th. This will be the first Sunday in the month of Ramadan. We will have Iftar and Dinner. The event will be held at the Holy Trinity Church on Erie Drive in Chandler. For any questions about the event, please call David L. Hadley Director of Public Relations at 480-966-6115 or 480-986-0178.

**ICEV**