

Ghousia Wajid's - Brief Profile

I am Ghousia Wajid; I moved to the US in 1987 from India and settled in Illinois. I have been a Naperville resident for the last 23 years living with my husband and three kids: two daughters and a son. I have always been a working mom, a businesswoman, a good neighbor, an activist, a leader/enabler for community service since my college days.

I'm friendly, enthusiastic, self-motivated, responsible and a hardworking individual. A mature team player, adaptable, and always open for new challenging opportunities. I possess strong interpersonal, analytical, problem-solving and communication skills that has tremendously help me navigate through my personal and professional life.

I have worked for 18+ years in various industries such as Banking, Retail, Business Consulting, and Food services as a Senior Program/Project Manager or Change Manager. I have successfully led various enterprise IT/Business projects. Additionally, I am proficient at working with people within community and interfaith to achieve goals.

I have always been working very closely with the community in my 23 years of residence while supporting my kids who were in school. As they are now older, I have more time on hand to serve the community at a larger scale and will do so. I have volunteered at different not-for-profit organizations of Naperville and surrounding towns. These not-for-profits consist of:

HESED HOUSE (Aurora): Volunteered to paint the parking lot, serve food in the cafeteria, help build a play yard, painted and help build a toy store. I've also volunteered with family members for a 100+ hours doing different chores to instill a sense of community.

United Way (Chicago): Championed the annual United Way donation campaign at BMO Bank and provided support on bi-weekly basis.

Helping Hands (Addison): Raised awareness in the neighborhood, collected money, clothes, and miscellaneous items for people in need of help

Youth/Women Support Programs (Naperville): Mentored several youths towards pursuing career development through internship applications. Helped build resumes and prepare them for interviews.

Advised and supported women to become more independent by attending school and building a career. Provided help to prepare for interview.

Waubonsie Valley Senior Committee (Aurora): Appointed as a Publicity chair for the committee. Planned and organized events at large for seniors to make the year memorable. Worked with different vendors and Senior/Junior parents for all the activities through-out the year.

ICN Al-Falah Academy (Naperville/Aurora): Volunteering as a Islamic Studies teacher for the last 15+ years for kids from grades 3 to 10. Assisting the admission's committee during the school

year, reviewing and suggesting needed changes to the curriculum, and planning yearly Graduation day events.

Local Business Owner (Lisle/Aurora/Naperville): Owned retail stores, in the aforementioned cities, from 1999- 2017. Been member of the City Chamber of Commerce. Owned Subway fast food restaurants in Aurora and Lisle for over 10 years. Participated in an initiative to donate partial proceeds to the needy in the community. Worked with local schools to provide food at additional discounts for school events.

Local Elections (Naperville): Hosted Meet & Greet *Zoom* meetings for candidates running for the **IPSD 204 School Board** and **the Naperville City Council**. Led the phone banking program for the community: requested people to participate in the local elections. Volunteered for door-to-door canvassing. Hosted & attended Meet & Greet *lunch* events, dinner events and rallies for Naperville council candidates to show support.

Ansar Services (Naperville): Arranged and led a Toy Drive program in the local ICN mosque to collect toys and raise funds to support impoverished children and their families.

During the pandemic, I have realized that I have the potential to do more for the community. Since then, I have started engaging parents and the youth to volunteer and create different clubs that allow for a sense of community. Currently, I am actively engaging with many non-profit organizations based in Illinois and Naperville such as ICN, ANSAR, ICNY, HESED House, and ICNA to help support the community in different ways. In totality, I hope to make a difference for our families and the future of our children.