



# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024

## FINDING AND CREATING EQUITABLE SOLUTIONS A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Courtney Hall

Dear Friend,

As we celebrate Black History this month, it is especially important to reflect on the progress made while acknowledging the realities facing our African American neighbors. Across our programming, we see evidence that African Americans are disproportionately experiencing poverty and homelessness in our county. We cannot create equitable solutions unless we are willing to examine and address the challenges head on.

At IW, addressing these issues is an ongoing conversation.

This month we hosted the 1st Annual IW Faith & Community Partnerships Community Service Awards Brunch. This event provided an opportunity for guests to engage in a Faith & Philanthropy Forum focused on Economic Justice, in partnership with the Greater Washington Community Foundation. The Forum examined rights to a living wage, housing, education, health care, clean environment, and food in Montgomery County. We were excited to bring this important conversation to the forefront and encourage honest discussions around the disparities we see in the experiences of those we serve.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS

Advocacy in Annapolis

Point In Time - Early Results

Transformational Tuesdays

Impact By the Numbers

Upcoming Events!



# IMPACT

## A DAY OF ADVOCACY IN ANNAPOLIS



Earlier this month, representatives from IW staff and Board went to Annapolis to advocate for the needs of our clients and greater community. The day was a great success with IW team members meeting with several State Senators and Delegates to discuss the challenges we are facing.

Many conversations surrounded the growing needs of our community like lack of affordable housing, access to essential needs, lack of employment opportunities, and threats of eviction.

We hope these conversations can result in funding for our programs, as well as creative solutions to help address the systemic barriers blocking our neighbors.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and supported us on this day. **We can only create change by working together!**



## POINT IN TIME ANNUAL COUNT: WHAT WE KNOW

In January, many IW team members participated in the annual "Point in Time" count, which is an in-person survey of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night. While we will not have the official results for a few months yet, our staff shared a startling observation.

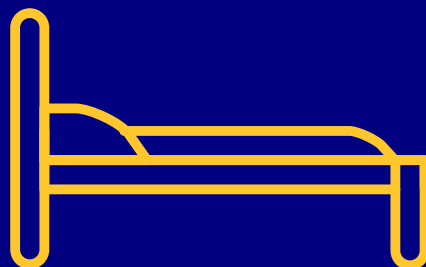
*"The early numbers from the PIT count are strong indicators of a substantial increase in persons experiencing homelessness in our community, but the most alarming implications come from the unprecedented number of unsheltered persons found experiencing homelessness. We must collectively identify and address the root causes of homelessness, not look at homelessness as the problem itself." - Liz Krueger, IW Director of Homeless Services*

Unfortunately, these early results underscore how necessary it is for us to work together as a community, with partnering organizations, faith houses, and elected officials to create solutions so homelessness in Montgomery County becomes rare, brief, and non-reoccurring.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**25,533**  
**nights**

*FY23 data*



In FY 23, the IW Women's Centers provided clients with **25,533** nights of safe shelter.

# GRATITUDE

## TRANSFORMATIONAL TUESDAYS AT PROGRESS PLACE



Twice a month, Pastor Darryl Burton from Converted Heart CME Church hosts "Transformation Tuesday" at the IW Drop-In Center at Progress Place. Pastor Burton and other volunteers provide free haircuts to the men and women as well as snacks, beverages, and a calming atmosphere. Read on to learn more about this fantastic program!

### 1 Tell us about yourself and your congregation.

My name is Pastor Darryl A. Burton, the senior pastor of Converted Heart CME Church, right here in Silver Spring, MD. Today is what we call "Transformational Tuesday." We're here to cut the hair of the men and women at the (Progress Place) shelter and to allow them to feel good about themselves with a fresh haircut.

### 2 Share with us your personal connection with Montgomery County.

In 2015 when we launched our ministry, we started out at the Veterans Plaza Civic Center Building holding our services on Sunday. One of the ways we wanted to connect with the community was by giving out socks. Since that time, we've given out nearly 4000 pairs of socks to the men and women who are on the street and who are in need of clothing such as socks and other things. At some point in our journey, we made our way here to Progress Place and we started giving out food.



[Read the Full Interview Here](#)



## DONOR ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

We love all our donors at Interfaith Works, and we must hear from you! Please complete this survey to tell us more about you, why you donate to Interfaith Works, and what kind of content you are looking for from us. This short survey will help us understand what we are doing right, and what we can improve on. Please respond by the end of April.

[Click here to complete the survey!](#)

## LEAVE A LEGACY THROUGH COMMUNITY

Over the years, you have made a difference in our community by supporting and volunteering with Interfaith Works. Leaving a gift to IW through a will, trust or by beneficiary designation is a simple and powerful way to continue building a Montgomery County where everyone can live and thrive.

[Learn More Here](#)





# EVENTS



## JOIN US FOR A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: **FOOD INSECURITY**

**THURSDAY MAR. 28TH 7PM - 9PM**

7548 STANDISH PLACE. ROCKVILLE, MD 20855

**REGISTER HERE!**



Did you miss our February Community Conversation on Affordable Housing?

Catch up before part 2 of this conversation:

**WATCH HERE!**



## THE WORLD BANK

Are you a World Bank retiree or do you currently work at the WB HQ in DC? Do you want to give back to the Montgomery County community? Interfaith Works is looking to be a part of the FY24 Community Connections Campaign.

If you're interested in nominating IW, please reach out to Alex at [across@iworksmc.org](mailto:across@iworksmc.org). Alex will work with you (and 9 others!) on the nomination process. Thank you for thinking of us!



Want to see what else IW is up to?  
Click below to see more!

**EVENTS CALENDAR**

## CONTACT US

[info@iworksmc.org](mailto:info@iworksmc.org)

**(301) 762-8682**

## DONATE AND VOLUNTEER

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