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**INTERFAITH WORKS**

**connection**

Monthly Bulletin from Interfaith Works

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## Open Doors

Interfaith Works was founded almost 45 years ago by a group of congregations that, despite differing faith traditions, were united in a commitment to open their doors to welcome all Montgomery County neighbors in need of help.



That was our commitment in 1972 and it remains our commitment today.

Interfaith Works opposes all policies that discriminate, including those based on faith or national origin, and will continue to serve everyone who comes to our doors seeking help. We look forward to working with faith, business, community and governmental leaders to ensure that Montgomery County continues to be a welcoming, inclusive and caring community for all.

**Shane Rock, CEO**

**Latest News**



*Program Director Farha Mowlana visits with one of her clients, who recently moved into an apartment through one of IW's permanent supportive housing programs.*

## Home At Last

They are hanging curtains and putting pictures on the walls. Four residents in recent weeks have moved into the Interfaith Works (IW) Residences, a new permanent supportive housing program in Silver Spring. The program will provide homes to 21 vulnerable men and women experiencing homelessness, some of whom have lived outside for many years.

For the new residents, moving into these individual units is both an exciting and daunting experience after spending months, years and, for some, even decades living in emergency shelters and on the streets. The transition is made easier with support from Interfaith Works professional staff and generous donations of personal care items, linens and other essentials from IW supporters.

IW Program Director Farha Mowlana said the new residents are making the spaces their own by decorating, and are enjoying the enhanced sense of security and community. One resident soon will be a grandmother. She told Farha she cannot wait to show off her brand-new home to her daughter and granddaughter.

Stay tuned for news of more move-ins! Thank you to the generous volunteers who have provided items to help our residents feel at home. There are still some needs remaining, including kitchen items. If you would like to help support the Interfaith Works Residences program, contact Yvonne Esipila, [yesipila@iworksmc.org](mailto:yesipila@iworksmc.org).

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## 20th Anniversary Companies Caring Breakfast

Mark your calendar! Interfaith Works' 20th annual Companies Caring Breakfast is **Thursday, April 20, 7:30-9:30am**, at the **Bethesda North Marriott** on Marinelli Road.

We will honor these extraordinary community leaders for their service and partnership in addressing poverty in Montgomery County:

Comcast, Corporate Champion of the Year  
Forrester Construction, Local Corporate Champion of the Year  
Ingleside at King Farm, Community Partner of the Year  
Anne & Rick Rudman and Family, Humanitarians of the Year

Sponsorship and ticket information is available [here](#), including information on how to honor our awardees by supporting Interfaith Works. For more information, contact Mary Jo Bean, 301.315.1096, [mbean@iworksmc.org](mailto:mbean@iworksmc.org).

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## Making It Count

Every January, teams of volunteers, including dedicated Interfaith Works dedicated staff, fan out across Montgomery County at night to participate in the Point In Time survey, a census of people experiencing homelessness. The results of the survey, expected this spring, will help guide public policy and funding decisions to address the community needs.

Click on the image at right to watch an interview with Interfaith Works' Kacy Barker as part of a WHAG-TV piece on the survey.



## Interfaith Works By The Numbers



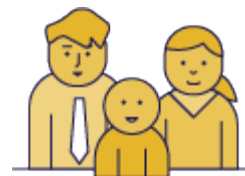
131

### Men & Women

have engaged with  
**Vocational Services**  
 Program since July 2016;

69

have found jobs



33

### Families

have escaped eviction and  
 other financial crises  
 through grants and loans  
 from the **IW Hand to**  
**Hand** emergency assistance  
 program since July 2016

## Zumba For A Cause!

Work out and help out! Sign up for a special 90-minute Zumba class with proceeds to benefit **Interfaith Works Women's Center** residents, thanks to a collaboration with **LifeTime Fitness in Rockville** and **Journey's Crossing** congregation.

**WHEN:** Sunday, March 12, 1-2:30PM

**WHERE:** Lifetime Fitness: 1151 Seven Locks Rd., Rockville, MD

**DONATION:** \$15 through March 11; \$20 at the door

REGISTRATION INFO is [here](#)

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We are grateful to the many supporters who enrich the lives of those who Interfaith Works serves through donations and volunteering. Special thanks to:

- **Whole Foods Market** of Montgomery County and its customers for supporting Interfaith Works' expanding programs to help neighbors lift themselves out of poverty through donations of more than \$12,000 as well as clothing and toiletries;
- **Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church** for providing shower caddies and **Rotary Club of Potomac Bethesda** for providing Valentine's Day goodies to residents of the Interfaith Works Women's Center; and
- Sarah Gingold, the **South Silver Spring Neighborhood Association** and **Bump 'n Grind** coffeehouse for showcasing an art experience that Sarah provided for men and women served at the Interfaith Works Empowerment Center.

## Can You Help?

**Baby needs:** An expecting mom is in need of a crib in good condition and other baby items. If you can help, please contact Melissa Olaskowitz, Interfaith Works **Project Inform**, 301.602.9708.

**Travel-sized toiletries:** Interfaith Works' programs greatly need donations of unopened, travel-sized toiletries, including shampoo and soap. If you can help, bring donations to the **IW Empowerment Center**, 2nd Floor, 8106 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, or to Interfaith Works' main office, 114 West Montgomery Ave., Rockville. For more information, contact Yvonne Espila, [yesipila@iworksmc.org](mailto:yesipila@iworksmc.org), 301.315.1097.

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