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INTERFAITH WORKS

connection

Monthly Bulletin from Interfaith Works

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A Loss and A Legacy

Interfaith Works lost a beloved staff member and dear friend earlier this month. Rodney Ames, a long-time IW employee supporting the **Interfaith Works Empowerment Center** (going back to when this program was known as Community Vision), passed away suddenly. Our hearts go out to his wife Brenda and to his family at this very difficult time.

Rodney was special. As someone who had experienced homelessness long ago and who also had embraced sobriety, he brought a unique, down-to-earth perspective that enabled him to connect deeply with those served by Interfaith Works. Rodney's work was informed by his experience and by his faith. He was a bishop active in his church, First Baptist Church of Highland Park.

He was the welcoming face at the door. Rodney always had the interests of the clients at heart, seeking to lift them up while working for them to be treated with dignity. Along with his wife Brenda, he was a committed model of transformation, with both sharing their stories of recovery with clients to inspire them in the midst of hard times. They would hold an annual party with clients to commemorate Rodney and Brenda's own recovery and to encourage others to embrace sobriety.



Rodney worked in the IW Empowerment Center day program and in the Overflow seasonal shelter program, devotedly working tough hours to ensure both programs were staffed, come snow and frigid temperatures or extreme heat.

He was a guiding influence on clients and staff alike, nurturing those whose lives he touched. Those who worked with him will miss his warmth and his knowing smile that always seemed to say, "Everything will work out fine in the end."

We at Interfaith Works are richer for having known Rodney. We will miss him dearly, but are comforted knowing that Rodney never will truly be gone. He was an essential part of the diverse fabric of the Interfaith Works community. His legacy lives on in the many clients who Rodney successfully encouraged to embrace sobriety and in the work of IW staff members influenced by the example he set through his commitment to the dignity and success of our clients.

Rodney, we will never forget you.



Shane Rock
CEO

*PS: A special thank you to generous partner **Bankers BMS** for donating the services of drivers and two buses to ensure IW staff and clients could attend Rodney's funeral.*

School Supplies Drive/Ice Cream Social!



Interfaith Works' school supplies drive is off and running! The program will provide 2,500 Montgomery County students with brand new, filled backpacks to start the school year right. Thanks to those of you who have already contributed. There are plenty of ways to **support the program**.

A highlight of this campaign is the Park Potomac community's ice cream social to benefit the backpack program. This fun event on **Saturday, Aug. 19**, is open to public and will include facepainting and balloon-making. Bring your friends, family and neighbors!

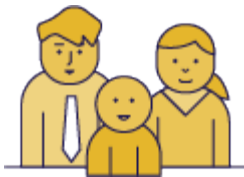
This year's social includes a classic car show starting at 11am and ice cream sundaes available for purchase at 1pm. **Bring a new backpack to donate to help Interfaith Works Clothing Center families and receive a raffle ticket to be eligible**

to win amazing door prizes.

Advance tickets for sundaes are \$5 each and are available at the front desk of the Park Potomac highrises at 12500 Park Potomac Place. Sundaes are \$10 the day of the event. Proceeds to benefit Interfaith Works' programs to help families in need.

A flyer with details on the Ice Cream Social is [here](#). Many thanks to Park Potomac residents Bruce and Margo Fonoroff for organizing the event with the support of many Park Potomac residents and businesses.

Interfaith Works By The Numbers



1,130

Individuals

Representing

351

Households

engaged with **Interfaith Works Connections** (previously known as Project Inform) over the past year, linking with services for food, vocational counseling, clothing, English and literacy classes, furniture, health care services and more.

Community Forum on July 31



IW CEO Shane Rock will join a distinguished panel of immigration experts and faith leaders for an interfaith community forum on immigration issues. All are welcome!

WHEN: Monday, July 31, 5-8PM

WHERE: Islamic Education Center of Maryland
7917 Montrose Rd., Potomac

LEARN MORE: A flyer is available [here](#).

Make Your Mark Fun Run Is Oct. 28

Join us for our 2nd annual Make Your Mark Montgomery 5K/1K fun run/walk on Saturday, Oct. 28. This family-friendly event is a great chance to support Interfaith Works AND get some exercise on a crisp fall day on Rock Creek Park Trail. Feel free to dress in costume on race day!

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 28; 5K starts at 8:30AM

and 1K immediately after

WHERE: **IW Clothing Center**
751 Twinbrook Pkwy., Rockville

To get more information about sponsoring this event or registering to participate,



go [here](#). Register soon! The early bird pricing expires Aug. 20. If you would like to sponsor the event, contact IW Development Director Suzanne Lofhjelm, slofhjelm@iworksmc.org, 301.315.1096.

Update on IW Women's Center

Interfaith Works Women's Center at 2 Taft Court has temporarily moved to the Interfaith Works Empowerment Center due to a water system failure at the Women's Center building. Repairs will take several weeks. The residents will remain housed at the **IW Empowerment Center** (8106 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring) until repairs are completed.

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of Women's Center supporters, who are doing so much to bring comfort to the residents in their temporary home. Thank you to all, including: **Women's March of Maryland**, which provided first aid kits (see *Stacy Small with IW staff member Vanessa Waldrop in photo above*);



KindWorks for providing snacks and activities for the residents; Michele Craig and fellow members of **Christ Episcopal Church** for the donation of 60 eye masks and sets of ear plugs as sleep aids; Gordon and Jacqui Cragg and fellow

members of **North Bethesda United Methodist Church** for many donations, including water and financial support; Bibi Mohamed, snacks; and Vanessa and Chris Morris, who dropped off 30 cases of bottled water.

This list is by no means exhaustive. Thank you to **all of you** who have helped ease this challenging transition for our residents. If you would like to support our residents, please contact Sabina Rai, srai@iworksmc.org, 202.705.1437.

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