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INTERFAITH WORKS

connection

Monthly Bulletin from Interfaith Works

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## A Welcoming Table

In this time of gratitude, we are giving special thanks for the many faith communities that are the lifeblood of Interfaith Works. We honored their history and contributions at the 2017 IW Annual Congregational Meeting on November 13, and also introduced our new collaboration with the Montgomery County Faith Community Advisory Council: **the Interfaith Network of Montgomery County**. Community partners, including **Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church** and the **Montgomery County Muslim Foundation**, described their efforts to welcome new refugee neighbors. Learn more about the meeting and view photos [here](#).

A highlight of the evening was a visit from County Executive Ike Leggett, who commended the collaboration between IW and faith communities to serve Montgomery County residents in need. Mr. Leggett used an analogy so appropriate for this time of year. He said we must be sure to make room at the table to serve all residents, not just a select group. And if there is more need, then we must **work together to build a bigger table** so that no one is left out.



You, our faithful supporters, have helped build a welcoming table for men, women and children who are struggling in our community. With **your support**, we don't have to turn anyone away. We are deeply grateful you are our partners.

Wishing you and your family the joy of the season as you gather around your table,



Shane Rock  
CEO

*PS: Please consider getting involved with our Holiday Giving program to provide families with the resources they need to be able to share a special meal and a present or two. Get more details below.*

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## Help Families in Need for the Holidays

We saw a huge holiday need and made a promise. We can't keep it without you!

IW is taking part in the **Montgomery County Holiday Giving Project**, which provides holiday assistance to low-income households. When we heard that over 1,000 families in one zip code did not receive any help last year, we stepped up and committed to serve at least 200 families, in addition to making the holidays special for our clients and residents.

With your help, our goal is to provide both food and gifts so these families can have a memorable holiday meal and the children can get that special present they really want.

Please consider **donating a \$25 gift card** from a local store to make another family's holiday happy. **Giant, Aldi, Kmart, Kohls, and Target** all are located close to their homes so it will be easier for the families to shop. Gift cards can be mailed or delivered to Interfaith Works, 114 West Montgomery Avenue, Rockville MD 20850. (Hours 9-5, M-F) **by Dec. 11**. Please spread the word about this campaign with family, friends, neighbors and co-workers by sharing this **flyer**. For more information, contact Cindy Cotte Griffiths, 301.315.1093, [ccottegriffiths@iworksmc.org](mailto:ccottegriffiths@iworksmc.org).

A special heartfelt thank you to **Pilgrim Church** congregants (*see photo*) who, along with **Glenmont Seventh-day Adventist Church**, collected gift cards and meals to help over 60 families.



We also have 10 clients moving into housing in December, and they greatly need household items to welcome them to their new residences. Can you help by creating and donating a welcome basket? Details are available **here**.

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## Celebrating 25 Years with Interfaith Works



Priscilla Fox-Morrill, IW's homeless services director, is celebrating 25 years with Interfaith Works. Priscilla is a well-known expert in the field of homelessness and has launched new programs with compassion, commitment and creativity. She has made a lasting impact in Montgomery County and on the many staff members she has mentored. Congratulations, Priscilla!

## Join the Global Movement Nov. 28



Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving. We invite you to join this world-wide movement to help others by giving to Interfaith Works on Nov. 28.

Check your inbox and social networks on #GivingTuesday to connect with our volunteers, board members and employees as they share why supporting Interfaith Works is so important to them and our community.



**Donate to IW**, or **volunteer** (our number one need is for IW Clothing Center volunteers). Then spread the word and challenge others to join you by posting why you supported IW on your favorite social network using #MyIWGivingStory. Thank you!

## Homeless Resource Day 2017



The Interfaith Works team was out in force at Montgomery County HHS' Nadim Khan Memorial Homeless Resource Day at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg, providing people experiencing homelessness with free coats (more than 500 from the IW Clothing Center!), toiletries and other essentials, and the opportunity to connect with IW's **Vocational Services** program. Homeless Resource Day is a one-day, one-stop opportunity for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness to access services, resources and information. We ran into many friends, including County Executive Ike Leggett and County Councilmembers George Leventhal and Sidney Katz.

## Gratitude Corner



Where would we be without you? Big thanks to:

**Home Depot Bethesda** for creating a Community Garden in the **IW Clothing Center** (IWCC) courtyard. They generously donated all the materials including two lawn mowers, gardening tools, bushes, scrubs and flowers, mulch and top soil. The volunteers mowed the grass, constructed raised flower beds and created a beautiful space. The IWCC team looks forward to the new volunteer opportunities the garden will provide and plans to host educational gardening classes for clients starting in spring 2018!

**Church of the Redeemer** volunteer team who sorted and organized donations at the IW Clothing Center, freshening up the "Prepare to Impress" professional clothing corner and doing quality control of the donations on the store floor.

**Kehila Chadasha** congregation volunteers who come to IWCC once a month, sorting and organizing donations and restocking the "store" space where customers shop for free.

Toby and colleagues at **Lockheed Martin** who donated boxes of much-needed toiletries, non-perishable food, and winter gloves gathered during a staff event. The timing was perfect because we had just opened our winter overnight program to safely shelter men and women living on the streets and had an increased need for such items.



Everyone who responded to our urgent call for sheets, blankets, and towels for the overnight safe seasonal shelter program. So many of you came by and donated these items or had them shipped to us from our **Amazon Wish List**. We still need more, so please keep them coming!

**Thrive Yoga** in Rockville for a terrific "Yoga for A Cause" session taught by Isabella Fortunato to benefit Interfaith Works. Community vibes abounded throughout the breathing and stretching. We are doubly grateful because Thrive Yoga is also giving all the donations from their first ever Open Mic Night on Dec. 2 to Interfaith Works. More information is [here](#).

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## Coming Up - Special Events

Music + Philanthropy = Festive Holiday Event! **Jazz Vespers** at **Christ Episcopal Church** on Dec. 3 will benefit Interfaith Works. Fr. John McDuffie on tenor saxophone will lead a quartet of great Washington musicians on keyboard, bass and drums, playing modern jazz standards. This special service will feature vocalist Juanita Williams singing familiar Christmas favorites. The event is open to the public. Donations are requested as admission.

**WHERE:** 107 South Washington St., Rockville  
(park in lot down driveway or on street)

**WHEN:** Sunday, Dec. 3, at 5pm

Spin your wheels and your dreidels at the **Bender Jewish Community Center** annual "**Cycle for Good**" spin class in support of IW. You can choose between two sessions on Sunday, Dec. 17: 8:00 AM or 9:30 AM. Location: 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20852. Sign up to be a part of this unique, fun and meaningful way to celebrate Chanukah! Participants with young children are invited to use JCC childcare at no charge. For more information and registration: [www.benderjccgw.org/cycle](http://www.benderjccgw.org/cycle)

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CLOTHING  
CENTER  
SCHEDULE  
IW Clothing Center  
in Rockville is  
closed Thursday,  
Nov. 23, for  
Thanksgiving and  
reopens for regular  
hours Friday, Nov.  
24. Learn more  
[here](#).

SAVE THE DATE  
Interfaith Works'  
21st annual  
Companies Caring  
Breakfast will be  
Thursday, April 26,  
at the Bethesda  
North Marriott Hotel  
and Conference  
Center. Stay tuned  
for more details.

SHARE THE  
WARMTH  
CAMPAIGN  
Strathmore Music  
Center in North  
Bethesda once  
again is holding a  
coat drive to benefit  
IW Clothing Center  
families through  
Dec. 23. Learn more  
[here](#).

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