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**INTERFAITH WORKS**

**connection**

Monthly Bulletin from Interfaith Works

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## Who We Are

Interfaith Works staff and board recently went through an important exercise: defining Interfaith Works' core values. This task was an outgrowth of our strategic planning process and sparked some important conversations about who we are as an organization.

Through a collaborative discussion process, we agreed upon a statement framing the values that shape and define Interfaith Works and our role in the community:

***Interfaith Works was founded in 1972 by a diverse group of faith communities united in their commitment to respond to the needs of our neighbors.***

***That commitment continues to sustain and guide us today while we draw on the support of the broader community.***



At an all-staff meeting earlier this month, wall posters listing these values were distributed to our staff to be displayed in all IW programs and workspaces.

We invite you to visit our programs, not just to see the Core Values poster, but also to get a closer look at the work we do, thanks to your generous support! If you would like to tour an IW program, please contact Development Director Suzanne Lofhjelm, 301.315.1096, [slofhjelm@iworksmc.org](mailto:slofhjelm@iworksmc.org). You can schedule a tour of the IW Clothing Center in Rockville [here](#).

Shane Rock  
CEO

**PS: I hope to see you at our Oct. 28 5K/1K at the IW Clothing Center. See details below.**

## 'We're Home!'



"We're home!" There was joy and relief on the faces of **IW Women's Center** residents as they returned to the Interfaith Works Rockville facility they call home. Another resident commented, "It feels great!" The women spent many weeks relocated to temporary quarters at **IW Empowerment Center** in Silver Spring due to a water leak that closed the Rockville shelter.

Upon their return, the residents drew comfort from the rituals of making their beds and setting up personal items that make the space their own. Huge kudos and thanks to our committed IW staff, incredibly generous volunteers and to the many partners who provided what was needed during this challenging time, including **Shepherd's Table, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, Cornerstone Montgomery** and **Montgomery County Health and Human Services - MD**.

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## Calling All Runners & Walkers!



You can support the great work that Interfaith Works does by running or walking along lovely Rock Creek Trail on Saturday, Oct. 28, in the 2nd annual IW Make Your Mark Montgomery 5K/1K (or you can participate from the comfort of your couch by registering to be a virtual runner/walker).

The 5K is a timing-chipped event. Pre-registrants will receive a fall-themed tech tee-shirt. Same-day registration is available, but shirts are not guaranteed to those registrants. Costume is optional but welcome.

**WHEN:** Saturday, Oct. 28;  
5K starts at 8:30AM and 1K immediately after

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

For information on sponsorship, contact IW Development Director Suzanne Lofhjelm, 301.315.1096, [slofhjelm@iworksmc.org](mailto:slofhjelm@iworksmc.org). Thanks to those who have committed as sponsors, including:



**RSM US LLP | US Capital Associates, LLC  
SpeedPro Imaging of Silver Spring  
Road Runner Sports | Toy Kingdom | Bargain Box  
Cynthia Cotte Griffiths & Charles W. Griffiths  
Dynamite Graphics | Crazy Dog Events LLC**

## Check It Out!

We are pleased to introduce Rachel Sanborn, IW's new Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator. Feel free to reach out to her to learn more about volunteering for Interfaith Works. You can reach her at 240.641.6305, [rsanborn@iworksmc.org](mailto:rsanborn@iworksmc.org). And check out Interfaith Works' [volunteer page](#), which has undergone a makeover to make it easier to use and register to volunteer.



**Volunteer Info**

## Interfaith Works By The Numbers



**1,664**

**Adults and Youth**  
volunteered at IW Clothing  
Center, providing more  
than **20,000 hours** of  
service and ensuring  
access to free clothing to  
families in need  
in fiscal year 2017

**21**

**Men & Women**  
who previously  
experienced  
homelessness are now  
safely housed in personal  
living quarters at Interfaith  
Works Residences, so all  
quarters are now  
occupied

## Gratitude Corner

You are the best!

A big shout out to all who responded to urgent donation needs at **IW Clothing Center**. We continue to see big spikes in the number of families shopping at the Center, which means we continue to have significant ongoing needs for gently used or new children's clothing, from baby clothes up to teen sizes. Drop donations off Tuesday through Saturday at 751 Twinbrook Pkwy. in Rockville. More info is [here](#).

Thanks to:

Families from the **Auburn School** in Silver Spring for donating clothing to the **IWCC**, and volunteers from Kaiser Permanente (*at right*) and **St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church**, who provided service teams who organized clothing;

**Potomac Women's Support Group**, who toured the IWCC and donated three benches for our customers to use as they await the opportunity to shop;

**Bethel World Outreach** congregation for providing volunteer hair stylists to serve **IW Women's Center** residents; and

**KindWorks**, which provides ongoing programming to **IW Women's Center** residents and to clients served by **IW Empowerment Center** day



program in Silver Spring.

## Walk the Walk!



Are you looking for a fun team-building event that raises awareness about poverty and homelessness in Montgomery County? Schedule your school, congregation, book club or any other group to hold a Help the Homeless Walk benefiting Interfaith Works' programs. Consider making your neighborhood Halloween parade a two-fer: a Help the Homeless Halloween parade.

Thank you to those who have scheduled fall walks already, including: the Auburn School, Bethesda Friends Meeting, Cold Spring Elementary School, Earle B. Wood Middle School, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, Potomac Elementary School and Woodfield Elementary School.

For more information on holding a walk, contact IW Walk Coordinator Meera Raja, [mrja@iworksmc.org](mailto:mrja@iworksmc.org).

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