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INTERFAITH WORKS

connection

Monthly Bulletin from Interfaith Works

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A Year In Reflection

The end of the year is a time for reflection and to remember those events and people who have left a mark upon our lives. As I reflect on this past year, it is the people – donors, faith communities, volunteers, colleagues, partner organizations, staff, board members, our elected officials and others who are committed to Interfaith Works for whom I am most grateful. Every single day I have the privilege of working side by side with an incredibly dedicated group of professionals. The compassion and respect with which they serve knows no bounds. Each and every one of them embodies the **Core Values** of Interfaith Works: **Compassion, Respect, Inclusion, Empowerment and Social Justice**. Core Values that they themselves developed.

Supporting our work this past year were over 12,000 volunteers, individuals who with their families, faith communities or employers, decided to share their personal time with us because they “want to give back.” It is not an overstatement to say that **we are only able to support so many of our neighbors as they lift themselves out of poverty and homelessness because of the volunteers who support our work** in making meals, holding drives, sharing life skills or providing their expertise in job training or financial management. It’s incredible to think, every meal served at the Interfaith Works Women’s Center, 365 days a year was prepared, delivered and served by volunteers. Our Clothing Center distributed millions of dollars’ worth of free clothing and household goods this past year, all of which was donated by members of our community. As donations are dropped off, they are unpacked, separated and hung by volunteers so that nearly 13,000 of our income-qualified neighbors can “shop” for the items their families need.

I am grateful, too, for the hundreds of interfaith communities, large and small, that continue to support Interfaith Works with their time and treasure year after year. Congregations have been the backbone of our organization since its inception 46 years ago and their support has been unwavering. The business community is no different. We are fortunate

to live in a county where the business community values philanthropy and its role in creating a healthier and more equitable community.

And finally, I am grateful to the over 16,000 individuals who participate in Interfaith Works' programs. Grateful for their trust and their commitment to lifting themselves out of poverty, knowing that **Interfaith Works exists to support individuals and families as they find a brighter path to the future.**

I thank each and every one of you for your role in helping create a brighter path for all members of our community. As you consider your year-end donations, I hope you will think of Interfaith Works. I wish you all the best as you celebrate the holiday season.



Shane Rock
CEO

How You Can Help During the Holidays

- **DONATE UNWRAPPED TOYS AND GIFT CARDS TO FAMILIES IN NEED OF SUPPORT.** In addition to our regular holiday giving for all Interfaith Works' programs, we are serving over 500 additional children and teens through participation in the [Holiday Giving Project of Montgomery County](#). As you do your personal holiday shopping, we hope you'll think of us. Donations can be dropped off to our administrative offices at 114 W. Montgomery Ave in Rockville, MD. We also have a ["Holiday Giving Wish List" on Amazon](#) where you can easily add items to your cart and they'll be delivered directly to us. The deadline for our holiday giving efforts is December 20. **All presents have to be new and unwrapped.** We currently need;
 - 13 toys for infants
 - 85 toys for children ages 1-3
 - 142 toys for children ages 4-6
 - 93 toys for children ages 7-9
 - 92 toys for children ages 10-12
 - 115 \$20 gift cards (Target or Amazon) for teens ages 13-17
 - Holiday Cards and Stamps
 - Gift Wrap
- **ADOPT AN INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY.** Directly impact the life of someone in need by sponsoring an individual or family that IW serves for the holidays. If you're interested, please send an email to development@iworksmc.org.
- **VOLUNTEER AT THE CLOTHING CENTER.** Thanks to your overwhelming

generosity, the pile of donations is literally "through the roof"! We're in desperate need of hands to help sort and hang clothes for our neighbors in need. Even an hour of your time will help! The Clothing Center is open Tuesday – Friday from 9am to 4:30pm and Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm. Walk-in volunteers are welcome! Email volunteer@iworksmc.org for more information.

The Interfaith Works Clothing Center will be closed Christmas Day and from January 1 to January 7.



Thank you!



Thank you to the many, many donors of special meals, toys, warm clothing, toiletries, gift cards, linens and more. Your generosity makes the season bright for our neighbors.

Thank you to all who have supported our year-end campaign. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please consider [making a donation now](#).

DONATE

Gratitude Corner

We are grateful to so many of you who provide volunteer support and other help, including:

- **Marriott International** for holding a Community Service Day to benefit IW's Holiday Shoebox Project for individuals experiencing homelessness. Thanks to Marriott's 200 shoeboxes we exceeded our shoebox goal!



- **Steve and Susan Hughes** and volunteers from **Clark Construction** for donating their time and skills to give a long overdue facelift to Becky's House, IW's home for 8 senior women.



- **Margo and Bruce Fonoroff** and the **Park Potomac Community** for hosting and contributing to a drive at the Fonoroff's annual Hanukkah party to benefit families at the Clothing Center.



- The **Potomac Area Interfaith Communities** for making over 100 goodies bags for our guests at the Women's Center.
- **Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce's** Young Professional Network for baking holiday cookies for our clients at the Empowerment Center.
- **Meagan Brady and Liz Sargent** of **/GIV/** for hosting a gift card collection for the Women's Center at their holiday pop-up shop and volunteering on Giving Tuesday at our Clothing Center.
- **Pilgrim Church** for hosting a Thanksgiving food drive for families in our Housing Initiative Program (HIP) and providing and serving meals to our guests at the Women's Center for a full week.

CAN YOU HELP? *One of our Housing Initiative Program (HIP) needs Christmas trees for 2 to 4 families. If you have one to donate, please contact Farha Mowlana, fmowlana@iworksmc.org.*

JOIN OUR TEAM

Join an incredible team at Interfaith Works. We have several positions open in Programs and Development. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

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