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INTERFAITH WORKS

connection

Monthly Bulletin from Interfaith Works

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## Our Heroes

The **Interfaith Works Caring Breakfast** is an opportunity for IW to shine the spotlight on a few of the many everyday heroes who lend us their time and talent. Join us on April 26 to celebrate them.

**Home Depot of Bethesda** is our Corporate Champion of the Year. Home Depot is helping make a dream come true at the IW Clothing Center, generously donating supplies, time and expertise to create a beautiful community garden, where neighbors in need will learn the power of planting seeds and nurturing them as they grow. Home Depot has also made the dream of empowerment come true when it opened its doors for clients served by IW's Vocational Services program, hiring them for jobs that provide sustainable employment and a path out of poverty.



**Steve Hull and Bethesda Magazine** are the 2018 Community Partner of the Year. Under the leadership of Editor-in-Chief and Publisher Steve Hull, *Bethesda Magazine* provides an important platform for telling the stories of Montgomery County residents who are experiencing poverty, while highlighting the successes of programs provided by Interfaith Works and other non-profits. The magazine encourages community support of the non-profit community through the annual "Guide To Giving" section. Steve has demonstrated his personal commitment to building a stronger county, bringing a team to volunteer at the IW Clothing Center and mentoring a young professional who has overcome many personal challenges.

**Jessica Hulsey Nickel and her family** are the 2018 Humanitarians of the Year. Jessica and family have

been volunteering and supporting IW's Family Services programs for over two decades, and also introduced the Princeton Club of Washington to Interfaith Works, resulting in a lasting relationship. Jessica also served on the IW board for six years.



We are also thrilled to announce our emcee will be multimedia journalist and communications consultant **Armando Trull**, an Emmy-award winner previously with WAMU/NPR. He recently launched **Armando Media**, providing public relations services to organizations that are working to make the world better.



We are incredibly lucky to be part of a caring and generous community, as exemplified by our honorees this year.

We hope you will be able to join us for an inspirational morning. More information about the event is below.

Shane Rock  
CEO

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**IW Caring Breakfast 2018!**



**WHEN:** Thursday, April 26, 7:30-9:30am

**WHERE:** Bethesda North Marriott  
5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda

**TICKET INFORMATION is [here](#)**

Thanks to our sponsors, including:



**Lesley-Jane Dixon**



For sponsorship information, please contact Suzanne Lofhjelm,  
Director of Development and Community Outreach,  
[slofhjelm@iworksmc.org](mailto:slofhjelm@iworksmc.org), 301.315.1096.

## Success Story - Meet Dante

Through many connected programs, Interfaith Works was able to help Dante overcome challenges and lift himself out of homelessness.

As a teenager, Dante was forced to care for himself when his mother returned to her home in the Virgin Islands and Dante remained in Maryland. Despite this obstacle, he continued to hold a part-time job, rented a room, and almost completed his studies at Montgomery College toward an associate of arts (AA) degree.



Then, he lost his job and found himself unable to afford his rent. Dante experienced homelessness for about a week, and came to the **Interfaith Works Empowerment Center (IWEC)** in Silver Spring to find help. [\(read more\)](#)

## Gratitude Corner

We are grateful for all of the thoughtful kindness shown in February!

Thank you to everyone who made the month special at the IW Women's Center, especially:

**Our Lady of Mercy's** Sodality for donating Valentine's Day gifts.



**Gladys and Noel Howard** and fellow members of the **Rotary Club of Potomac - Bethesda** (*at left*) for giving pashmina shawls to all the women.

**St. Francis Episcopal Church** for organizing Valentine's Day presents for the children in our programs.

**KindWorks** and **Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church** for making and delivering seven baby baskets to the women who are expecting.

**My Girlfriend's House** for treating the women to an extra special "Day of Beauty."

/GIVI/ (at right) for collecting and delivering a dozen tote bags, 70 shower shoes and cash from their Galentine Pop-Up "make one, give one" event.

A special thank you to all the volunteers at the IW Clothing Center for their help, including the [Walter Reed Department of Pathology](#) and [Mary Fehlig](#) and her team from the [Fehlig Group](#). There were more clothing and home good donations to sort due to the generosity of the community stepping forward to help the families displaced by the fire at the [Fireside Park Apartments](#) in Rockville. Thank you to everyone who cared!



Thank you also to the [Holy Cross School Brownie Troop](#) who collected and delivered donations for the IW Clothing Center.



As the need for coats continues through this cold month, we are grateful to Kelly (at left) and colleagues at [Apex Home Loans](#) for collecting coats as part of a "Share the Warmth" coat drive.

A big thanks to [Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church](#) for inviting us to participate in their community service fair and the [People's Community Baptist Church](#) for including us in their prayer breakfast to celebrate Black History Month.

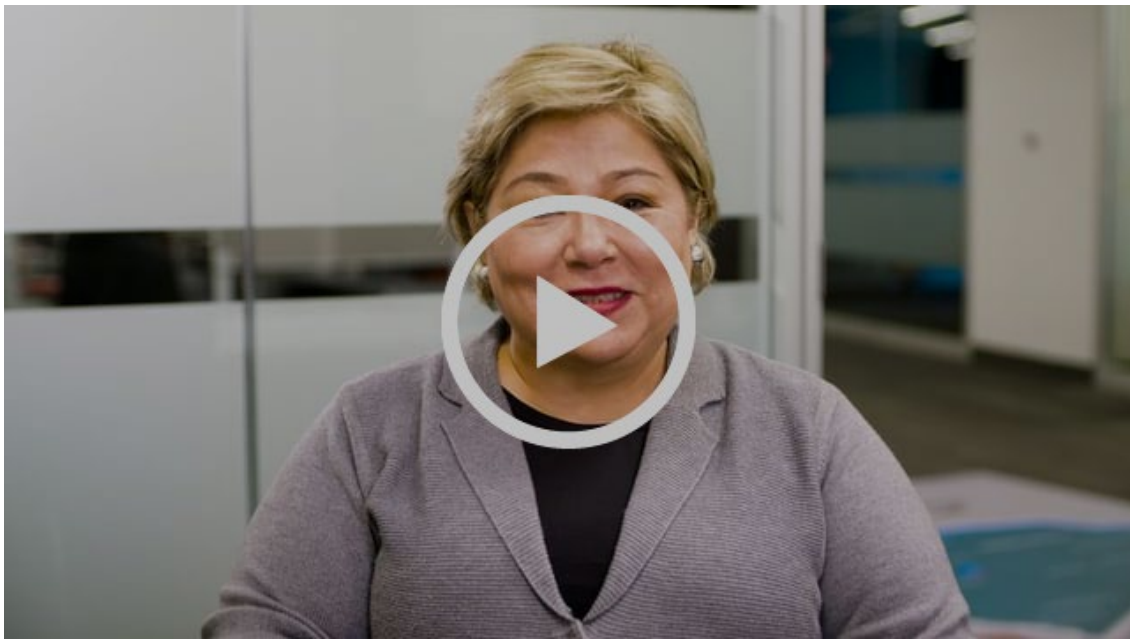
Our sincere appreciation to the [Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation](#) for supporting [IW Connections](#) through a generous grant.

Much gratitude to Sabrina McGowan of [SQM Communications LLC](#) for leading a workshop with our leadership on how to use LinkedIn.



Are you on LinkedIn? If so, [follow Interfaith Works](#) to keep up with the issues affecting our neighbors living in poverty.





Monica Barberis-Young , Interfaith Works Director of Family Services, was featured in this video produced by the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation, the public-private economic organization helping to accelerate business growth in Montgomery County.

## Coming Up

**INTERFAITH WORKS NIGHT AT EL GOLFO RESTAURANT IN SILVER SPRING, Thursday, March 11:** Eat in or carry out authentic Latin food from **El Golfo**; stay for Karaoke Night! Twenty percent of evening's proceeds will go to support Interfaith Works' life-changing programs. Learn more [here](#).



**SAVE THE DATE:** Interfaith Network of Montgomery County (INMC) launch is **April 9, 6:30-9pm**, at the Silver Spring Civic Center. INMC is a partnership between Interfaith Works and the **Montgomery County Faith Community Advisory Council**. Stay tuned for more details!

*Connect with Interfaith Works!*





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