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INTERFAITH WORKS

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Monthly Bulletin from Interfaith Works

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Inside, Not Outside

The recent brutal temperatures are inconvenient to most of us, but pose extraordinary challenges for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. It can be a life-or-death situation.



In partnership with Montgomery County, Interfaith Works opens the doors of our Silver Spring-based IW Empowerment Center to be sure that **no one is left to face the elements outside** if they need shelter. There is a network of county staff and social service providers who work together to provide these essential services. Sadly, at least one person experiencing homelessness, who had been living in his car, passed away. That is one person too many.

Since we opened the emergency seasonal shelter in November, we have been serving an average of 60 community members a night, providing a safe place to sleep **more than 4,000 times**. As you might imagine, the number served per day is much higher when the bitter cold arrives. The winter shelter will remain open through March. The IW Empowerment Center is a busy place day or night, providing case management, vocational services, and access to laundry and **more than 800 showers** per month.

While this emergency service is essential, Interfaith Works and our community partners also are focused on finding longer term solutions. IW is proud to be part of a campaign known as "**Inside/Not Outside,**" an intense effort by the **Interagency Commission on Homelessness** in collaboration with Montgomery County Health and Human Services and non-profits to find permanent, supportive housing for all Montgomery County residents experiencing chronic homelessness. The goal is to **end chronic homelessness in Montgomery County this year**. We continue to make progress towards this goal. Just last week, **four residents of the IW Women's Center moved out of the shelter and into permanent, supportive housing**. That is a great victory and an affirmation of the deep

dedication of our staff.

We are **celebrating one year** of operations at the new Progress Place location in Silver Spring, home to the **IW Empowerment Center** and **IW Residences**. The Residences program provides 21 men and women, many of whom have experienced homelessness for years or even decades, with efficiency-style living quarters and support from our case managers who are invested in ensuring the residents have what they need to succeed living inside, not outside.



Take a look at [this great video report](#) by our friends at Montgomery Community Media about the one-year anniversary. Learn more about the **Inside/Not Outside campaign** and ways you can help [here](#).

Thank you, as always, for your support. You are the reason Interfaith Works is able to provide programs that change -- and sometimes **save** -- the lives of our neighbors.

Shane Rock
CEO

Companies Caring Breakfast 2018!



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

WHERE: Bethesda North Marriott
5701 Marinelli Road, North Bethesda

TICKET INFORMATION is [here](#)

Thank you to our sponsors!



Lesley-Jane Dixon



For sponsorship information, please contact Suzanne Lofhjelm,
Director of Development and Community Outreach,
slofhjelm@iworksmc.org, 301.315.1096.

Transitions

We are pleased to announce that Priscilla Fox-Morrill,
previously IW's Director of Homeless Services, is the new



program director of the **Interfaith Network of Montgomery County** (INMC). INMC is a member-based, public/private partnership created through a collaboration between Interfaith Works and the **Montgomery County Faith Community Advisory Council**.

In her new role, Priscilla will provide professional support to the County's Interfaith Liaison in carrying out the work of the FCAC. Interfaith Works CEO Shane Rock said, "Priscilla is an innovator who has led Interfaith Works' homeless services programs for more than 20 years. Her long history working with congregations across the county in their support of the Community-Based Shelter program makes her uniquely qualified for this exciting new role."

Stepping into Priscilla's shoes as IW Director of Homeless Services is Christine Hong. Christine has served as Deputy Director of the program for four years and has been with Interfaith Works since 2005, taking on expanding responsibilities during her tenure. She earned a masters degree from the University of Maryland School of Social Work and is a Licensed Certified Social Worker - Clinical (LCSW-C) in Maryland.



On Jan. 29, Christine will take part in an important community dialogue about homelessness in Montgomery County. Learn more [here](#).

Gratitude Corner

Where would we be without you? Big thanks to all who supported our residents and clients throughout the holiday season, including:



US Pharmacopeia staff in Rockville (at left with IW's Suzanne Lofhjelm and Monica Barberis-Young), who provided financial support, lots of gift cards and gifts to ensure families served by Interfaith Works had a happy holiday season.

The folks at **Visionary Eye Care**, especially Dr. Alberto Martinez and Carolina Clavijo, who donated many toys to families who shop at the **IW Clothing Center** (and thanks

to Marko Oven at right, an IWCC volunteer and Visionary Eye Care employee, who dropped off the gifts).



For more holiday thank yous, look [here](#).

Coming Up

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON HOMELESSNESS, Monday, Jan. 29: Interfaith Works will join Councilmember George Leventhal, Montgomery County HHS Director Uma Ahluwalia and a panel of social service agency representatives for a community dialogue on the state of homelessness in Montgomery County. The session is **Monday, Jan. 29, 7-8:30pm at the Silver Spring Civic Center** and is open to the public. More information is [here](#).

SUNDAY FUNDAY IN KENTLANDS, Sunday, Feb. 11: Cycle with a purpose to benefit IW at [Zengo in Kentlands](#) at a 1:30pm session led by the amazing Rhonda! Then toddle over to [Not Your Average Joe's](#) for noshing and rehydration. Be sure to mention you are there supporting Interfaith Works, so our programs receive 15% of the proceeds. More info is [here](#).

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](#).



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