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INTERFAITH WORKS

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Monthly Bulletin from Interfaith Works

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@HomeTogether

Earlier this month, Interfaith Works took part in a moving memorial service honoring men and women who had passed away over the past year. What they had in common was that each had experienced homelessness. We stood together with our partners from the [Interagency Commission on Homelessness](#), a collaboration aimed at ending homelessness in Montgomery County.



It is undeniable that living on the streets takes a physical toll that can shorten someone's life. Of those we memorialized, most had been successfully placed in housing. Interfaith Works and our partners have made excellent progress in working towards the goal that no individuals go unhoused in our County.

But the progress made isn't enough. Our next goal is to end homelessness for families with children, an initiative known as [@HomeTogether](#). At the memorial service, Christine, a mom served by Interfaith Works' Family Services and Clothing Center programs, offered a vision of hope. She told those gathered:

"I was accepted into a housing program and linked with Interfaith Works. My case manager is from Interfaith Works and I shop at the Interfaith Works Clothing Center. Last year, they gave my daughter school supplies. When I arrived in my new home, I felt the depression lift. I was so happy to have something for me and my daughter. It was a nice place. It's true that housing is expensive in Montgomery County but we have a lot of opportunity in Montgomery County.... Today I am in paradise."

With your support, people like Christine's family eventually find hope and opportunity as they emerge from crisis. With your help we will end homelessness for families with children. Every family can be [@HomeTogether](#).



Shane Rock
CEO

P.S.: Learn more about the @HomeTogether campaign [here](#).

2018 Backpack Campaign



Last year, thanks to generous donors and community support, more than 2,100 school-aged kids received brand-new backpacks filled with school supplies at the IW Clothing Center in Rockville. This year **our goal is 3,000**. The program "helps a lot," one grateful mom told us. "It means that I don't have to spend too much money....I can spend on food and bills."

You can support the program by donating school supplies at the IW Clothing Center, 751 Twinbrook Pkwy. in Rockville. Our most urgent needs:

Backpacks for grades K-12

Scissors

Filler paper

Binders

Rulers

Or you can support the program by making a **financial contribution**. Learn more [here](#).

Gratitude Corner

Last month we gratefully accepted generous support from so many in the community!

We send out thanks to [St. Rose of Lima](#) for purchasing over 70 new bowls, and [St. Luke's Episcopal Church](#) for purchasing over 70 new cups for the Interfaith Works Women's Center. These congregations provided dinner for a full week in June and also generously purchased these much-needed items.

The [Housing Opportunities Commission](#) held a day of service and volunteered at the Interfaith Works Empowerment Center, Interfaith Residences and the Interfaith Works Clothing Center. They organized, cleaned and restocked which was so helpful to the staff!

[BRAWS \(Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters\)](#) created a "shop" at the Interfaith Works Empowerment Center so the women could pick out new bras, underwear and hygiene products along with a shopping bag for their choices.

A big thanks to [Anjuman E Ezzi Mosque](#) for holding a drive for clothing, food and toys and committing to hold drives regularly throughout the year.

[IONA](#), through a volunteer, Janet Bachman, coordinated the donation of canes, walkers, and other items for individuals who are seniors or face physical challenges. They're also willing to keep an eye out for other items that we might need on a regular basis.

A special shout out to **Phil Hannan** who is constantly donating and finding deals for donations to the IW Empowerment Center, including everything from new shower sandals to hats, beanies, and items for emergency weather shelter.



ADP's Rockville Office volunteering at the IWCC.

At the IW Clothing Center June was a very busy month with 294 volunteers serving for 2,683 hours! We are grateful to [ADP's Rockville office](#), [Georgetown Visitation](#), [Deloitte](#), [Ingleside Leadership](#), [Glaxo Smith Klein \(GSK\)](#), and the [Kaiser Permanente, Mid-Atlantic](#)

Underwriting Team for all helping to sort and organize donations, hang clothing and keep the Center stocked and cleaned.

Thank you to **Reid Temple Congregation** for not only volunteering at the IW Clothing Center but also collecting gently used clothing and home goods. The **Youth Service Opportunities Project** brought three volunteer groups from Connecticut to help at the IW Clothing Center from the **Mystic Congregation Church, Pilgrim Fellowship** and **First Congregational Church of Guilford**.

You Are Invited!



Saturday, August 25 - Park Potomac Ice Cream Social to benefit the IW backpack and school supplies drive. The Exotic Car Show starts at 11am and the Ice Cream Social begins at 1pm. Donate a backpack during the event and receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win from a large collection of excellent prizes. More information can be found on the flier posted [here](#).



Saturday, October 20 - Interfaith Works' Race to Empower MoCo 5K/1K, starting from the IW Clothing Center in Rockville begins at 8:30am. We've changed the name for the third year of this highly-regarded run/walk, but it's still the same beautiful course along the paved Rock Creek Trail! Register at [this link](#).

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