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**INTERFAITH WORKS**

**connection**

Monthly Bulletin from Interfaith Works

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## Now More Than Ever

When our fiscal year ended in June, we realized the value of in-kind donations received by Interfaith Works greatly surpassed our totals from prior years. Over \$9.1 million in material donations came through our doors compared to \$7.7 million the previous year! We owe this tremendous achievement to all of our generous donors and volunteers who assisted with the distribution of these items.



This larger number means that we had warm winter coats for the mother and her infant who needed to keep warm and backpacks filled with supplies for the brother and sister who needed them for 3rd and 5th grade. We had dinner for the women in our shelter all 365 days of the year along with soap and shampoo for the men and women experiencing homelessness who needed showers.

This increase in donations, is accompanied by an increase in expenses to process them. Interfaith Works has wonderful volunteers each and every day and we still need paid staff to successfully manage our programs.

Going beyond the distribution of these donations, Interfaith Works has a more significant mission. As C.S. Lewis has written, "The proper aim of giving is to put the recipients in a state where they no longer need our gifts."

Our goal is to support our neighbors so that they can lift themselves out of poverty and homelessness. This requires paid professional staff such as vocational counselors and case managers, who work tirelessly with individuals supporting them through their struggles and eventually, their accomplishments.

Please consider a contribution today to support our staff as they manage the distribution of

these in-kind donations and provide the supports our neighbors need. I promise, we'll transform your gift into positive action in our community.



Shane Rock  
CEO

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## Empower!



Sign up and feel good! Interfaith Works' **Race to Empower MoCo 5K/1K** is on **Saturday, Oct. 20!** The amount of your registration fee will be matched by the Cafritz Foundation to support Interfaith Works' programs to help our neighbors lift themselves out of homelessness and poverty.

The scenic course along the paved **Rock Creek Trail** will start and finish at the **Interfaith Works Clothing Center**. Come out for a great outdoor experience whether you are training for a major run or walking with the whole family!

Prizes for the **5K chipped race** will be given to the 1st place male and female finisher in ten-year age groups and the 1st place male and female overall. You can form a team with friends, family or co-workers.

The **1K family-friendly run/walk** is sponsored by **L.L. Bean** with lots of outdoor activities for kids. All children preregistered for the 1K will receive a special, custom medal for the Race.

The L.L.Bean logo is displayed in a green, serif font with a registered trademark symbol.

If you can't run or walk, you can participate in spirit by supporting the event as a virtual runner. **Register or make a donation at [bit.ly/iwrace](http://bit.ly/iwrace).**

If you know of a business or organization that would like more visibility (especially their logo on the race t-shirt) then sponsor the Race to Empower! Find out more on the **Interfaith Works' website**.

## Prevent!

**Volunteers Needed** - Do you have time during the weekdays to prevent families from falling deeper into poverty or homelessness? We need volunteers to sort and organize donated clothes and household goods at the Interfaith Works Clothing Center, 751 Twinbrook Parkway in Rockville. These donations will be provided to our neighbors free of charge, allowing them to use more of their resources on food, rent, utilities, medicine and other basic needs. Volunteer hours are Tuesday – Friday: 9am-4:30pm; and Saturday: 9am-2pm. Fill out our online application on our website <http://www.iworksmc.org/volunteer/> and we will contact you. You can volunteer as an individual or with a group. Thank you to Church of the Redeemer pictured here.



## Gratitude Corner

August, of course, means getting ready for school! In order to give away over 2,500 backpacks filled with school supplies to students in need, we needed some expert packers. Thanks to the employees of **Deloitte** who volunteered at the Interfaith Works Clothing Center and filled 300 pencil boxes in one day! Other stalwarts of the effort were **Micah Byrd, Kyle Wong, Alejandro Sanchez, Christopher Hunman, University of Maryland College Park Scholars, Mike & Heather Bouslog, Samantha Cheakalos, Paul Young, and Jim Cheakalos.**

At the Interfaith Works Women's Center, we have many dedicated volunteers to thank. We are grateful to **Mill Creek Parish** (pictured on right) and **St. John Episcopal Norwood Parish** for providing and serving all three meals for a full week. Thanks also to **Adat Shalom** for providing and serving the meals for almost a week and to their coordinator, Debbie, who went above and beyond to recruit volunteers for one of our open dinner dates.



Our sincere gratitude to the **Islamic Center of Maryland, Church of the Redeemer, and St. John's Evangelical Lutheran** for providing and serving dinner for all 70 women, along with a special shout out to long-time volunteer **Darla** for providing the main dinner courses for all 70 guests.

Three new groups served dinner and would love to come back! Thank you to [Boyds Presbyterian Church](#), the [IREM Chapter](#), and [Dominique & Friends](#). We can't wait for you to return!

Thanks to our partner, [KindWorks](#), which provided and served dinner and also hosted a birthday party with bingo for the ladies. Great appreciation to the [Mosaic Community Fellowship of Silver Spring](#) for hosting "pampering day" for the ladies, which they loved!

We also want to send our sincerest thanks to [Barbara Clark](#) for dedicating her time and talent to teach our ladies sewing class every month.

During August, [Comcast](#) sent a crew to produce a video about Interfaith Works' impact in the community. We are very grateful for this extensive effort by Michael, Joel, Thomas and Linda and we can't wait to show it to you!



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