



View this email in your browser | iworksmc.org



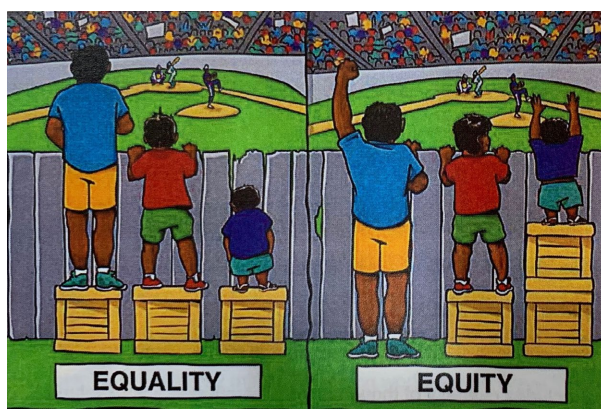
INTERFAITH WORKS

connection

Monthly Bulletin from Interfaith Works

[Donate](#) | [Volunteer](#) | [Wish List](#) | **May 2019**

Working Toward a More Equitable County



Montgomery County has the second highest per capita income in Maryland and is tied for the highest percentage of households earning more than \$200,000 a year. The poverty rate is now 6.9%, and the number of people living in households with income below the Federal Poverty Threshold increased to nearly 73,000. For a family of four, the Federal poverty threshold is about \$25,000 a year.

Poverty in Montgomery County is disproportionately non-white and female, and it is geographically concentrated. **Non-Whites comprise 48% of the county's total population, but makeup 70% of those below the poverty line.** Additionally, about 60% of adults living in poverty are women. **Nearly one in four female single head of household families, with children under 18 years old, lives in poverty.**

Interfaith Works is focused on helping families and individuals escape poverty and homelessness. Last year we helped 156 people, including people experiencing homelessness, to get jobs earning collectively more than \$2.8 million dollars. Those jobs

meant that individuals who had been relying on government support were instead able to support themselves and contribute to our local economy. **Our Homeless Services team sheltered or maintained permanent housing for more than 800 people last year**, and more than 60 people shifted from being homeless to residing in permanent housing, ending their homelessness for good. These are examples of the impact Interfaith Works has every day in helping families and individuals lift themselves to a better life.

You play a vital role in achieving these outcomes. Through your gifts of time, talent and [financial donations](#) you offer a hand up to our neighbors who need an opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty.

Thank You,



Shane Rock
CEO

[***This month's letter was taken from Shane's Caring Breakfast speech. To read the speech in its entirety click here***](#)

22nd Annual Interfaith Works Caring Breakfast

On April 29th, Interfaith Works celebrated “*Giving Back*” at the 22nd annual Caring Breakfast! A special thank you to all of our sponsors who made this event possible.

[***View a full list of our sponsors.***](#)

Congratulations to Adventist HealthCare for being named the Interfaith Works Philanthropic Champion of the Year, Park Potomac Master Association as Community Partner of the Year, and Fabia Mahoney as Humanitarian of the Year. Thank you for your generous support and your dedication to giving back to our neighbors in need.

In addition to recognizing this year’s honorees, we were excited to have Representative Jamie Raskin and Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich join the celebration and address attendees about the importance of creating an equitable Montgomery County and recognizing Interfaith Works’ commitment to ensuring that our community is truly a place that provides opportunities to all of its residents.

Finally, we would like to thank attendees and volunteers, many of whom arrived at the break of dawn to help set up! We are grateful for your continued generosity and support of

Interfaith Works' commitment to helping all members of our community lift themselves out of poverty and homelessness.

2019 Equity Caregivers Conference

Interfaith Works is proud to be a leader in advocating and working for a more equitable Montgomery County. Our annual Caregivers Conference, in partnership with the [City of Gaithersburg](#), focused on explaining how achieving a more equitable Montgomery County is a critical part of helping every person pursue happier, longer and more successful lives. More than 250 people learned how racial inequality impairs success, including through structural racism, racial disparities in health outcomes, and barriers to ex-offender re-entry and reintegration.

In a more equitable Montgomery County:

- **14,800 more Hispanic;**
- **13,100 more black;**
- and **3,500 more Asian or Pacific Islander** residents would live above the poverty level.

([Urban Institute, "Racial Inequities in Montgomery County," p. 12](#))

Promising approaches to fostering greater equity were also discussed such as building a culture of equity, housing the most vulnerable, and advancing equity through the work of faith communities.

Interfaith Works is prioritizing advocacy and education efforts to address structural racism and ethnic disparities in our community. Interfaith Works is applying a racial equity lens to everything we do to help our neighbors lift themselves out of poverty and homelessness. Only by creating a more equitable community can we realize the community we wish to create one that offers opportunity to all. A place where experiencing homelessness or living in poverty is brief and rare.

Interfaith Works Recognized!

At their May 3rd awards breakfast, Nonprofit Village recognized Interfaith Works' ability to enact social change through collaboration and sustainable management practices with the *2019 Large Nonprofit Making A Difference Award*. We are honored to be recognized for the work to empower our neighbors and prevent them from falling through the social safety net and into deeper poverty or homelessness. We are grateful for the support and partnership we have with the Nonprofit Village and look forward to what we will accomplish

together.

We were privileged to have the opportunity to have one of our clients tell her amazing success story, and for allowing us the time to share with the attendees some of the work that we do. Thank you to Jerry Pasternak for presenting Interfaith Works with the award and to Joan Kleinman for presenting us with a special Congressional Citation from Senator Chris Van Hollen.

[Click Here to Help Our Neighbors in Need](#)

Gratitude Corner

We are grateful to so many of you who support Interfaith Works financially and through volunteer support, including:

- **2019 Caring Breakfast Sponsors:** We truly appreciate your partnership and are privileged to have such a tremendous group of supporters.



- **Bethesda and Potomac Wards of the Washington D.C. Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints:** for all of the amazing work you put into cleaning up and preparing the garden at the Interfaith Works Clothing Center. The entire area looks fantastic!



- **Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention (SHARP) Motorcycle Group:** Coordinated by USAMEDDAC FGM and Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center, this wonderful group collected items that the Women's Center needed and drove all the way from Fort Meade to provide us with their donations. They also toured the facility and learned all about the work we do for our guests at the Women's Center.



- **Trinity Lutheran Church:** Thank you for awarding Interfaith Works' Becky's House with the Mission Endowment Fund by the Youth of Trinity! This donation will go a long way toward allowing us to purchase some of the much-needed upgrades to the facility. We are honored to receive such a tremendous donation and we are so grateful for your continued support of Becky's House.



Join Our Team

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

Interfaith Works endeavors to reflect the diversity of our community on our staff. Members of traditionally marginalized groups are strongly encouraged to apply

Copyright © *|CURRENT_YEAR|* *|LIST:COMPANY|*, All rights reserved.
|IFNOT:ARCHIVE_PAGE| *|LIST:DESCRIPTION|*

Our mailing address is:

|HTML:LIST_ADDRESS_HTML| *|END:IF|*

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

|IF:REWARDS| *|HTML:REWARDS|* *|END:IF|*
