



# FaithLines

March 2005

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## A Publication of Inter-Faith Ministries

Working for over 120 years to build inter-religious understanding, promote justice, relieve misery, and reconcile the estranged.

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*View this edition of  
FaithLines in full color  
at [www.ifmnet.org](http://www.ifmnet.org)!*

**The 2004 Inter-Faith Ministries Block Party** was a great success! The hard work of the staff and volunteers made it possible for many friends and neighbors to enjoy a day of celebration and hope. The **2005 Inter-Faith Ministries Block Party** promises to be bigger and better than ever! Mark your calendar - June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005!

**The Benefit Bank** is a web-based software program that enables low-income individuals and families to apply for benefits. Currently equipped for federal tax filing, Inter-Faith Ministries counselors have helped low-income people in the Wichita area with over \$80,000 in tax credits, averaging \$1450 per household. With plans to develop software for state taxes also, The Benefit Bank could help clients apply for federal and state tax credits, food stamps, low-income energy assistance, children's health insurance, and more. For information, contact Karole Bradford or Pat Cameron.

### Campaign To End Childhood Hunger

*Working to promote awareness of hunger and to advocate for federal child nutrition programs.*

In cooperation with FRAC (Food Research & Action Center) and CBPP (Center on Budget & Policy Priorities), Campaign To End Childhood Hunger is developing grassroots advocacy during the **2005 Congressional Budget** process. Proposed budget cuts include restructuring the Food Stamp program, elimination of 660,000 children and infants from WIC, fewer families with children and elders getting help keeping their heat on, less medical help for kids in poverty, fewer people receiving subsidized housing, fewer job training programs, and less money for schools, Head Start and special education programs. *Campaign To End Childhood Hunger is encouraging individuals of faith, congregations, and faith groups to advocate on behalf of these programs with their Members of Congress.*

**Hunger-Free Communities** is a project in partnership with Bread for the World and funded by the Kellogg Foundation to recruit, train, and mobilize anti-hunger advocates. This 2-year project is nearing its end and has provided dozens of training and networking opportunities, helped advocates develop relationships with elected officials, and created a core group of advocates who regularly promote federal child nutrition programs.

Campaign To End Childhood Hunger's work on the **Summer Food Service Program** is renewed annually. Currently funded through a grant from Parade Magazine's Great American Bake Sale, the Campaign works to support state and local efforts to bring nutritious meals to hundreds of area children in low-income neighborhoods. In the past three years, Wichita's SFSP (run by USD 259) has gone from 29 sites to over 45 sites. This tremendous growth reflects the dedication of Wichita Public Schools and several Wichita area congregations that collaborate on the program. The Campaign is gearing up for the summer by encouraging congregations to serve as lunch sites. For the second year, "mini-grants" will be offered to cover overhead expenses for congregations that develop and promote sites in low-income neighborhoods. If your congregation is interested, contact Karole Bradford at 264-9303.



**Souper Bowl** is Campaign To End Childhood Hunger's annual advocacy and fundraising event. Attendees gather for a small meal of soup and bread as a reminder of those in our community facing hunger. About 450 people attended this year's February 4th Souper Bowl, which raised about \$5,500 and generated many advocacy calls to elected officials.

### Memorial Gifts Received

**Norma Swank Johnson**, October 2004

**Carol Forward**, December 2004

**Randy Taylor**, January 2005

**Marjorie Brown Fox**, February 2005

The following poem was written by Sandy Swank, Inter-Faith Ministries Director of Housing & Homeless Services, “in memory of our mom and dad who always loved my sis and me unconditionally and provided unlimited space to all of our less fortunate friends” ... and also to the memory of Randy Taylor.

#### ***WITH OR WITHOUT A HOME***

*You cannot always see me*

*But I am always there*

*I am all around you and others —*

*Invisible to the determined mind*

*Washed away with a mere glance*

*Or a deliberate brush off*

*I am every mother’s son, father’s daughter*

*Someone’s aunt or uncle*

*Your grandmother’s sister’s son’s child*

*Or worse yet — I am you*

*I am not seen and most often ignored*

*I breathe the air that you breathe*

*And my heart beats in unison with*

*The same God that you worship*

*Though you may think that I am nothing*

*I know that, like me, you are precious*

*To the one that created us in His image*

*For like me — you belong to God*

*And maybe, just maybe*

*The only difference is in how we live*

*On this earth together with or without*

***A PLACE CALLED HOME***



### Sam is Presenter at India Institute

This past February, Rev. Sam Muyskens was honored to accept an invitation to make a presentation on reconciliation to the Gobind Sadan Institute on Comparative Religions in Delhi, India. The invitation came from His Holiness Baba Virsa Singh, founder of the institute. Sam participated in a panel entitled “Cooling the Fires Around the World.” Sam’s presentation to representatives of governments and religious institutions from numerous countries was entitled “Living in Respectful Presence.” He called for leaders to challenge their constituents to move beyond tolerance to respect and to envision a world where we “live in reverence of each other.” Sam also visited temples, mosques, and other places of prayer, worship, and meditation. Sam says, “It was a spiritual journey — a time when I experienced God’s presence in surroundings seldom if ever experienced in my lifetime. I am renewed and believe more than ever in Inter-Faith Ministries’ mission.” If you would like to hear more about his experience, he is accepting invitations!



*May basket made with a caring heart at a city-wide GoZones! event.*

### Good Options, Great Opportunities

GoZones!, a neighborhood strengthening program, addresses those critical neighborhood issues that may fall through the cracks. Each GoZones! site determines where it will focus its efforts. AmeriCorps members help neighbors assess their strengths and assets, then use those to provide good options and great opportunities to enrich lives and boost their neighborhood. Most GoZones! sites focus on youth, but we are branching into adult enrichment opportunities and community projects such as ESOL classes and community gardens.

The GoZones! sites are growing. St Paul’s UMC has around 200 middle and high school participants every Friday night. The awesome growth of the sites increases the need for volunteers. Even if you only have an hour to give, give us a call and we can match you with a volunteer task. Please call LaVeta Noble, 264-9303.

## Volunteer Spotlight



Jane Frederick

Jane Frederick, a star volunteer for Operation Holiday, started helping with the intake process in late summer. She took it upon herself to organize the voucher and intake system. Working with Operation Holiday Assistant Rella Grimmett, Jane handled applications, coordinated volunteers, and answered numerous phone calls from those needing assistance. Her presence was delightful and very uplifting. Jane's excitement and dedication to Inter-Faith Ministries has led her to volunteer again, this time as our new Volunteer Coordinator. Jane will be recruiting volunteers and responding to calls from people that want to volunteer. If you or somebody you know is interested in volunteering for any of Inter-Faith Ministries' programs, call Jane at 264-9303 or email [jfreesrick@ifmnet.org](mailto:jfreesrick@ifmnet.org)

## Operation Holiday Thanks All Donors and Volunteers

Operation Holiday 2004 was a great success. We served over 10,000 individuals with holiday assistance, including coats, blankets, non-perishable foods and food vouchers for perishable foods. This took countless volunteer hours, over 40 pallets of food and many cash and in-kind donations. We here at Inter-Faith Ministries want to thank all of our supporters. Each donation and volunteer hour was needed to successfully complete such a large and heartfelt task.



Volunteer Bruce Harris from A-OK Pawn Shop, a sponsor of Operation Holiday and Toys For Tots.

## Thank You For Giving a Hand Up to People in Our Community

*Your contributions are much needed, appreciated, and provide assistance to thousands of families and individuals!*

Grants and donations of \$5,000 or more received since July, 2004:

The Forrest C. Lattner Foundation, Inc.

United Methodist Health Ministry Fund

Excel/Cargill Cares

Kansas Health Foundation

K.T. Wiedemann Foundation Inc.

Share Our Strength / Great American Bake Sale

Mary MacLeod Annuity

John S. & James L. Knight Foundation

University Congregational Church

David & Barbara Rolph

Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)

The Boeing Company

Don and Lora Barry

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Grace Presbyterian Church

Cessna Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Clayton

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Stevens



Susan Jaax from Excel/Cargill Cares presents a check to Sam, Carl, & Karen at Inter-Faith Ministries.



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**Programs**

Anti-Racism Program  
 ASAP Haiti  
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 Cowan-Haupt Communication Center  
*Faith In Action*  
 GoZones!  
 Housing & Homeless Services  
 Mother to Mother  
 Operation Holiday  
 Restorative Justice  
 Safe State Kansas  
 Wichita Area Inter-Faith Disaster Response

**Participating Religious Communities**

Bahá'í  
 Buddhist  
 Eastern Orthodox  
 Hindu  
 Jewish  
 Muslim  
 Native American Spirituality  
 Protestant Christian  
 Roman Catholic  
 Unitarian Universalist

**Change Service  
 Requested**

**IFM “Guidelines” TV Show Back On Air!!!!**

*8:30 p.m., Thursday evenings on KPTS Ch. 8, beginning May 5th*

Inter-Faith Ministries’ “Guidelines” is dedicated to communicating the untold stories from our community, stories of social justice, human interest, and artistic endeavors. It was produced by KWCH Ch. 12 for 30 years at their expense. Convinced that the show would return one day, Annabelle Haupt, one of the founders of “Guidelines,” and her husband James, began helping Inter-Faith Ministries create a studio that would make it possible to produce “Guidelines” and other productions. The Haupt family partnered with Leonard Cowan and his family to make sizable contributions towards the creation of the Communication Center. The Rev. Leonard Cowan was past Executive Director of Inter-Faith Ministries and also a founder of the “Guidelines” TV show.

Although Leonard and Annabelle have passed on, their dream did not. On the first anniversary of Annabelle’s death on 3/19/04, we are pleased to announce that their wish has come true! The “Guidelines” show is back on the air, this time produced by Inter-Faith Ministries’ Cowan-Haupt Communication Center.

Two business sponsors have come forward to help with the production costs: *Parks Motors of Augusta* and *Carpet One*. We are in need of additional sponsors! If you can be a sponsor or know of a business, congregation, individual, or family who would like to be a “Guidelines” sponsor, please call us for the exciting details at 264-9303 (ask for Sam Muyskens or Karen Dobbin).



“Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself.”  
 The Prophet Muhammad, Hadith  
*The Golden Rule - Islam*



“One should treat all creatures in the world as one would like to be treated.”  
 Mahavira, Sutrakritanga  
*The Golden Rule - Jainism*