



Building Neighborhood Campaign Update, March 2007

A Publication of Inter-Faith Ministries

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

A Tribute to Our Friend Gary Cox

Inter-Faith Ministries and all who strive to live in respectful presence of each other lost a remarkable friend last summer and continue to grieve his loss.

The Rev. Dr. Gary Cox, Senior Minister of University Congregational Church and Vice President of Inter-Faith Ministries' Board of Directors, lived his life filled with faith, hope, love, and service to all. For Gary, God's love was beyond any human's comprehension. "God's love," Gary would say, "is higher, deeper and wider than the furthest limits of our imagination." That is the love that he lived, preached and taught.

Gary believed that Christianity, the religion he lived and breathed, could be summarized in four words: "*Love everybody. Judge nobody.*" "No one is forever beyond the grace of God because of the way that person practices religion."

Gary's love of life, even during his battle with cancer, has demonstrated to us at Inter-Faith Ministries a faith that is beyond common understanding. We have been reminded through the death of Gary that life is fragile and that there is an urgency to live our faith today.

Because Gary was a devoted and committed member of the Inter-Faith Ministries Board of Directors, Inter-Faith has established the Gary Cox Interfaith Endowment to perpetuate the "*Love everybody. Judge nobody.*" teachings of Gary. Interest from the endowment will promote interreligious understanding and dialogue, a critical issue in the world we live in today. The endowment is a "living tribute" in perpetuity. Anyone who believes in the tenets shared by Gary is invited to participate by giving to this endowment that will honor an important voice of love and understanding. A voice we will miss in our community.



A Home For Lydia

Lydia, four years old, slid her little hand into the hand of the case manager at Villa North permanent housing units and said, "Com-on, let's go – I want some gum." I watched as the two of them walked to the office. In a minute, the little girl emerged with a small stuffed bear tucked under her arm and a beautiful smile on her tiny face. As she ran off to her "new home" she shouted, "I love my house – and you too!"

This is just one of the many stories I could tell about the families that enter our shelter and permanent housing units. We want to help people that are disenfranchised, often ignored and just needing a little help. Unfortunately, women and children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless. It doesn't discriminate and it could happen at any time of the year.

Thank you for your past and future support of the Capital Campaign. It will help families stay together and increase their strengths to remain off the streets, become self-supporting and give back to the community that helped them. Together we can end chronic homelessness and help every child like Lydia love her own home – at last.

Sandy Swank, Director of Housing and Homeless

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A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

TO THE CONTRIBUTORS OF THE BUILDING NEIGHBORHOOD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Inter-Faith Ministries Building Neighborhood Capital Campaign has encountered many milestones on our journey. Our donors have been there when we needed them and are sharing our dreams.

Housing the homeless has been a learning process. The past successes of our Housing and Homeless staff has built the confidence and reliance needed to grow and improve our neighborhood. We are proud and thankful that our major donors will share in our future to make a positive difference in the lives of thousands of people.

All of the donors listed below are making it possible to help us end chronic homelessness, increase our outreach in the mid-town community, and provide safe housing for at-risk individuals and families (including job and life-skill training). The Campaign is an investment in the future of Inter-Faith Ministries and our community. Included in the list are contributions to the Gary Cox Endowment Fund.

Inter-Faith's Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers and Clients cannot express adequate gratitude to the following individuals, corporations, congregations and foundations for their trust and compassion for the clients of Inter-Faith Ministries.

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Dear Inter-Faith Friends:

I have had the pleasure of serving on the Board of Directors of Inter-Faith Ministries for over four years. Inter-Faith offers many fine services for this community, but its greatest gifts are compassion and hope to those living in poverty, particularly the homeless men, women and children of our city—compassion with immediate care and hope for long term solutions. The Inter-Faith Inn and Safe Haven both supply the compassion of temporary shelter for the homeless. Besides a place to sleep, these simple quarters sometimes mean the difference between life and death during winter.

Inter-Faith also offers hope for a long-term solution to homelessness by building and operating permanent housing with supportive services. These are critical in the fight to end chronic homelessness. Inter-Faith already operates two permanent housing facilities, the Villas and Villa North. Our current campaign includes plans to build a third housing facility, the Villa Courts. This will move our community another step closer in our quest to end chronic homelessness.

Ivonne Goldstein and I, as co-chairs of this Capital Campaign, have had the opportunity to meet with new and long-standing supporters to discuss the future of Inter-Faith and our community. We are encouraged to find so many of you support Inter-Faith's goals of ending chronic homelessness in ten years; increasing Street Outreach Services; and providing life and job skills-training.

My favorite moment of this campaign was when a donor told me she was "genuinely happy" to give to the project because she grew up with very little and felt so glad she was now in a position to help others. My deepest thanks to her, and to all of you who have supported this campaign and Inter-Faith Ministries. We greatly appreciate your help. If you haven't given yet, I encourage you to join us by making a gift or pledge. Gifts can be made all at once or a pledge may be made over a three-year period. If you are able to participate, I suspect you too will feel "genuinely happy" with the thought that you were able to help Inter-Faith Ministries and the many people it serves.

Mert Buckley, Campaign Co-Chair



Cargill, Cessna Foundation, Spirit AeroSystems and K.T. Wiedemann Foundation "Kick Off" Campaign with Major Gifts!!!

As with anything in life, we all know how important it is to get a good start when undertaking a major project. Especially when you know the positive changes that will affect thousands in our community. We are very grateful and honored that Cargill, the Cessna Foundation, Spirit AeroSystems and the K. T. Wiedemann Foundation have shown their confidence and support in our campaign. Their combined gifts came at the beginning of our campaign and is the cornerstone of our success.

"The Cessna Foundation is proud to partner with Interfaith Ministries to provide the Learning Center in the new expansion and refurbishment of the Villas. It will provide a place for residents to learn or improve their skills so they will have the opportunity for better employment. Improving the lives of those in our community is one of our highest priorities for funding," said Marilyn Richwine, Secretary-Treasurer of the Cessna Foundation.

Doug Pringle, President of the K. T. Wiedemann Foundation, Inc. is "pleased to be able to support this campaign. While the campaign may not solve the problem of homelessness in our community, it is an essential step in that direction. Inter-Faith Ministries, through its numerous ministries, is not only to be commended for its efforts to help the needy in our community, but also for the foresight and leadership it is taking in making Wichita a better place to live for all of its citizens."

Chuck Dodson of Cargill Cares stated, "When Sam shared with me the plans for Inter-Faith Ministries' Villa Courts project, I could clearly see his vision and passion to end chronic homelessness in Wichita. By providing services through the Enrichment Center in conjunction with safe, affordable housing at Villa Courts, this project will help Wichita realize Sam's vision. Considering Cargill's commitment to nourishing people and enriching communities, we were excited to contribute to this project and look forward to its positive impact on the Wichita community."

Ways to Give

We invite you to be a part of this exciting venture into our future. The community will benefit by helping people remove themselves from poverty and homelessness and becoming self-sufficient.

- **Send a check** to Inter-Faith Ministries with a notation of "Capital Campaign."
- **Use your credit card.** We can make a one-time or monthly credit card charge.
- **Planned Gifts:** Individuals who are thinking of estate planning can make a significant statement about their commitment to helping people during and beyond their lifetime by setting up a planned gift to Inter-Faith Ministries
- **Wills or Bequests:** A gift can be made through a will, testamentary trust or codicil to a will or trust. Bequests may include cash, marketable securities, closely held stock, real estate, insurance policies, or tangible personal property.

Inter-Faith Ministries also accepts marketable securities, stock, real estate, insurance policies or tangible personal property. Pledges are accepted over a three-year period. For more information, please call Karen Dobbin, Director of Development (264-9303), or discuss with your attorney.



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**\$6 Million Committed for Inter-Faith Ministries’ Project and Programs
Campaign Continues to Need Support to Achieve Key Goals**

Connecting the past, present and future of Inter-Faith Ministries brings a diverse group of community support together. At the time of this writing we are nearing our goal and need to raise \$320,870 to complete our campaign.

But, it’s much more than just dollars!

The new Inter-Faith Villa Courts pictured at right will primarily serve families that are low-income, homeless, or hard to place (children are the fastest growing populations of homeless). The Villa Courts complex includes 40 units consisting of one, two and three bedrooms with an outside children’s play area. It will become an addition to the existing Villa Central and Villa North complexes.



What makes this unique? Residents needing a helping hand will have supportive services available 24 hours, 365 days a year. The supportive services staff will guide them through opportunities made available to them in the Enrichment/Learning Center. This important part of our campaign will help individuals and families build self-sustaining, productive life skills, while also helping them learn job readiness and integration into a community.

It is our Board of Directors and Staff’s vision for building better neighborhoods that we chose to undertake this important responsibility for our community. The focus of the campaign is:

- Build a new 40-unit low income permanent housing facility w/supportive services.
- Capital Investment for building improvements and reduction of liabilities.
- Launch a Homeless Outreach Program and Sustain/Expand other vital IFM programs.
- Increase our Endowment to ensure the future of Inter-Faith Ministries. *(Please see information on the Rev. Dr. Gary Cox Memorial Endowment Fund.)*

Our 2006-2007 Board of Directors have taken the challenge to make an important step in ending chronic homelessness in our community. The board has shown support in leading the challenge as well as contributing personally 100%.

Prem Bajaj, Retired
Sister Becky Balthazor, Adorers of the Blood of Christ
Timothy L. Binns (Past Pres.), Equity Bank
Mert Buckley (Secretary), Adams Jones Law Firm, P.A.
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Ivonne Goldstein, Community Service
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FaithLines

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Contact Us:

Inter-Faith Ministries
829 N. Market
Wichita, KS 67214
316-264-9303
fax 316-264-2233
Email: kdobbin@ifmnet.org

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Souper Bowl

Inter-Faith Ministries' Campaign To End Childhood Hunger hosted the annual Souper Bowl on 2/2/07 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Each year, Souper Bowl raises awareness of hunger in our community and gives participants a tangible symbol of that hunger. 2007 donations are still coming in, but in 2006 over \$6100 was raised. Over 425 people came for lunch and donated over 1200 lbs. of food. The 2006 Souper Bowl was so successful that it outgrew Inter-Faith Ministries' facilities! This year's Souper Bowl was held at the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Wichita. We were grateful to First Presbyterian for their spacious facilities and support!



Operation Holiday

2006 was the 46th year that Inter-Faith Ministries' Operation Holiday offered holiday assistance to individuals and families in need. Since inception in 1960, Inter-Faith Ministries' Operation Holiday has served over 100,000 people. Each year, hundreds of individuals, local congregations, and corporations all work together to meet the challenge of gathering adequate amounts of food, coats, blankets and cash donations for fresh food vouchers.

Operation Holiday makes it possible for low-income individuals to receive nutritious food and other holiday gifts that may lift their spirits and let them know there are others who care. In 2006, we served 12,711 people, including 6,385 children. Our assistance is not a handout, but an empowerment to help individuals and families create and keep holiday traditions.

Client applications were taken during the month of November at various sites around the city. Distribution was on Dec. 14-16 in the upper level of Twin Lakes Shopping Center and, for southcentral Wichita, at the former Longfellow School. We worked alongside the United States Marine Corp Reserves' Toys for Tots and Catholic Charities' Christmas Sharing.

Our sincerest gratitude to all who gave donations of cash, volunteer time, non-perishable food, coats, blankets, hats and gloves!

Congratulations Jane Frederick

Inter-Faith Ministries is proud to announce that Jane Frederick, IFM Volunteer Coordinator, has received the President's Volunteer Service Award.

President Bush created the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to find ways to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making in our nation. This council created the President's Volunteer Service Award program as a way to thank and honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals and groups that have achieved a certain number of hours served.

Jane has dedicated countless hours organizing and administering the Inter-Faith Ministries volunteer program. Her determination is an inspiration to all who know and work with her. Congratulations and thank you Jane!

Youth Bring Joy to Inter-Faith Ministries' Mother to Mother Group

Bethel Mennonite Youth from Greensburg, Kansas were included in the 75 people at the annual MTM Christmas dinner. They helped serve and clean up, sang carols and entertained the children with crafts and games. They brought great gifts like socks, toothpaste, laundry soap, 5 car seats, and a gas card for the van at First Church of the Brethren where MTM meets the first and third Saturday of each month. The Mennonite Youth were a real Christmas blessing and an inspiration to all who attended the event.

Memorials

In the past year, Inter-Faith Ministries has received gifts in memory of:

Lyle Albright
Jean Scotten Burwell
Mary Calhoun
Rev. Dr. Gary Cox
Tip Cox
Dennis Dumler
Don Funk
Harold & Elma Goering
Avenell Harms
James & Annabelle Haupt
Edna & Gordon Jones
Roger Keller
Ruth Meier
Dr. Aly H. Mohamed
Darryl Ogden
Frank Pedroja
Rita Roth
Francetta Stumblingbear Segovia
Judy Woods



The Kansas Benefit Bank

The Kansas Benefit Bank pairs web-based software with a network of congregations and charities to help low-wage working families stay in their homes, pay their bills, and feed their families. The Kansas Benefit Bank is an initiative of the Campaign to End Childhood Hunger.

In the 2005-2006 fiscal year, The Kansas Benefit Bank:

- Helped tax filers receive \$140,000 in tax credits and refunds.
- Successfully wrote and received grants to develop software for Medicaid and HealthWave applications.
- Secured support from the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to assist Solutions for Progress, the software developer, with technical information to develop software applications for SRS benefits.
- Met with representatives of agencies and congregations around the state who wanted to know more about the project and explore the opportunities in serving as sites for The Kansas Benefit Bank.

After three years laying the groundwork, the timing now seems right for realizing the full potential of The Kansas Benefit Bank for alleviating and ending hunger and poverty for Kansas children and their families.

Inter-Faith Ministries' Annual Fund

The Inter-Faith Ministries Annual Fund is an integral and critical part of our organization's sustainability. Even though we receive government and private grants throughout the year, most of these grants are restricted from being used for operational costs. Grant funding seldom increases and many times decreases while our operating costs continue to increase year after year. It is our duty and responsibility to ensure that the majority of our funding goes directly to the clients we serve, but our programs cannot sustain themselves without administrative staff or operational funds. Our clients need guidance and the expertise that only trained and experienced staff can provide. Our programs involve buildings that need heat, air conditioning, lighting and maintenance.

Why contribute?

Funds raised through the IFM Annual Fund have a direct impact on the everyday lives of those we serve. For example, contributions provide a portion of the salaries of staff dedicated to helping the homeless, training and coordinating volunteer services for our city's less fortunate elderly citizens, and educating and advocating for Kansas children suffering from malnutrition. Contributions also provide food to feed the hungry and transportation to get our clients to much needed services (doctor, dentist, SRS, VA hospital, etc.).

Who participates?

Annual Fund donors include friends and employees who feel strongly about the importance of IFM goals and objectives. Our supporters also include businesses, congregations and individuals who believe in our mission to "build interreligious understanding, promote justice, relieve misery and reconcile the estranged."

What can be contributed?

Contributions can include bequests, multi-year commitments, in-kind donations, stocks and cash.

We could all be one catastrophic event away from needing the services that Inter-Faith Ministries provides. With your help, we hope to continue providing the same kinds of services we have provided in this community for the past 121 years. Mother Teresa said, "To keep the lamp burning we must put oil in it." Thank you for putting oil in Inter-Faith Ministries' lamp so that we can keep our doors open to thousands of Wichita's less fortunate citizens!