



FaithLines

A Publication of Inter-Faith Ministries

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Working for over 123 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



Note from the President of the Board of Directors

"I can honestly say that I have received more from IFM and the people that this organization serves than I have given. I still have more to learn, but they have taught me a great deal about compassion, understanding and respect for others. I am constantly humbled by the need in our community, and extremely thankful for the staff and volunteers of IFM who work tirelessly to meet those needs every day. It is an honor to work with this organization and the people that they serve." Scott J. Eilert, Ph.D.

Make a Difference Day

Inter-Faith Ministries' AmeriCorps GoZones! participated in a Martin Luther King Day project painting bookshelves. The shelves went to several local agencies that work with children. GoZones! collected donations of books to stock the shelves.



Cargill Enrichment Center

The first phase of our Building Neighborhood Capital Campaign was celebrated on November 1, 2007 in the Enrichment Center at 902 N. Market. Special guests included Phil Mangano, Executive Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness and Carl Brewer, Mayor of Wichita. The Center is now homebase for outreach case managers



to meet with people to discuss and map out plans that will help them on the path away from homelessness. It is a comfortable place to host small community events and to meet with other agencies to work together on strategies to provide access to supportive services.

The Enrichment Center, donated by Cargill, is beginning to hold life-enriching sessions that will help clients move towards a more healthy and improved standard of living. Clients will be offered life skills training in our Enrichment Center as well as the *Cessna Learning Center* (scheduled to be completed in early August). Life skills will include personal hygiene classes, domestic skills and cooking classes with emphasis on good nutrition and cooking on a fixed budget, household budgeting, resume preparation, interview skills, and how to dress for finding a job. Basic computer skills may also be learned at the Centers.

Operation Holiday

2007 was the 47th year that Inter-Faith Ministries' Operation Holiday offered holiday assistance to individuals and families in need. Since 1960, Inter-Faith Ministries' Operation Holiday has served over 100,000 people. Each year, hundreds of individuals, and many congregations and corporations all work together to gather adequate amounts of food, coats, blankets and cash donations for fresh food vouchers. For many, this is a great opportunity to express their true holiday spirit of giving to others. 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 2007, we served 13,792 people, including 7,356 children. This was an increase of 1,081 people that were served in 2006.



Client applications were taken during the month of November at various sites around the city. Distribution was on Dec. 13-15 at Eastgate Plaza and, for southcentral Wichita, at the former Longfellow School. We worked alongside the United States Marine Corp Reserves' Toys for Tots.

2007 Operation Holiday Major Sponsors:



Souper Bowl

On the Friday before Super Bowl, Inter-Faith Ministries' Campaign To End Childhood Hunger acknowledges hunger issues in Kansas with a fundraiser consisting of a simple meal of soup and bread, a silent auction, and a complimentary pottery bowl made by local students and artists. The "keepsake" bowls remind us of the many empty bowls in our community and of our power to help fill those bowls. Souper Bowl was held at First Presbyterian Church. Donations of non-perishable food items benefitted Inter-Faith Ministries Housing and Homeless Services.



The third annual Inter-Faith Ministries' "Let Justice Roll" celebration that was held Jan. 27th at First United Methodist Church was an experience in interreligious understanding. Religious traditions shared tenets of their faith through music, religious dance, chanting, Native American drumming, choirs, prayer and sacred writings.

Our keynote speaker was Shanta Premawardhana, Director of Interreligious Dialogue for the World Council of Churches. For years, he has been instrumental in facilitating exchange of ideas among the faith groups of

our world. Shanta's leadership skills have enabled him to organize communication with "heads of state," religious leaders, and grassroots organizations such as Inter-Faith Ministries. Shanta shared stories that helped all of us understand how important it is to live in respect of each others' religious faith traditions.

Memorial Gifts August 2007 - March 2008

Alice Dodd
Andrew Thomas Blaes
Betty Van Ness
Carol Ann Skaggs
John Robert Taylor
Keith Bishop
Keith Graham
Keith Kennedy
Larry Boehringer
Leonard McGinty
Paul Stephens
Rosaline Littlecrow
Ruth Meier



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Inter-Faith Villa Courts housing units scheduled for completion Aug. 2008. Watch for details of the Dedication Ceremony Sept. 2008!

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Inter-Faith Ministries' Building Neighborhood Campaign has made great progress! Individuals, corporations and foundations have provided trust and support during this one and a half year campaign. An unexpected additional gift from the K. T. Wiedemann Foundation of \$150,000 made a significant advance in our goal. A big **Thank You** to everyone that has contributed!

As a result of the campaign, the *Street Outreach Services* program has begun, using Inter-Faith Ministries' three step approach to provide a continuum of care for estranged homeless persons in our community. Case managers reach out to the homeless where they dwell to offer items of basic human care (clean water, snacks, minor first aid items, coats, and blankets), thereby building relationships of trust. Many homeless have had unpleasant experiences with institutional living and traditional therapies so are leery of assistance. A large percentage experience mental illness, substance abuse addiction, or other disabilities that interfere with their need for shelter. Our case managers work with them to assess needs and goals. Those who are able will stay a short time in an emergency shelter before transitioning to permanent supportive housing. Others will be connected to appropriate services. When a person/family is transitioned, supportive services are individually tailored to meet the needs of each resident.

Ways to Help

We invite you to be a part of our exciting programs!

- ***Send** a check to Inter-Faith Ministries with a notation of General Operating, Capital Campaign, Homeless & Housing Services, or other program.
- ***Call** us to make a one-time or monthly credit card charge.
- ***Consider** a planned gift. Individuals who are making estate plans can make a commitment to helping people beyond their lifetime.
- ***Include** IFM in a will or bequest. 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. All pledges are welcome over a three-year period. In-kind donations of personal hygiene items and food are happily accepted and your volunteer service contributions are always greatly appreciated! For more information, please call Karen Dobbin, Director of Development (264-9303).