

Working for over 123 years to build interreligious 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

“First Presbyterian Church was one of the founders of Inter-Faith Ministries years ago. I was called to serve as Pastor/Head of Staff of First just over two years ago, and so when I first came to town, stopping by IFM and meeting Sam Muyskens was high on my priority list. I quickly became involved with IFM and its work, especially around homeless issues, and I was honored to serve on the Board last year. I am even more honored to serve as the Board President this year for this organization that seeks to build inter-religious understanding, promote justice, relieve misery, and reconcile the estranged.”
Reverend Doctor Cathy Northrup



We're happy to announce **GoZones!** after school programs are in place M-F from 3:30-6:00 p.m. for K through 8th grade at: Colvin Rec. Ctr., Boston Rec. Ctr., McAdams Rec. Ctr., Orchard Park Rec. Ctr., Tri-Villa, and West Side Baptist Ch. (Drama Club). Fairmont UCC has a Sat. program from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Check www.ifmnet.org for more GoZones! sites and activities.

Operation Holiday application intake begins Nov. 3. Distribution will be Dec. 11-13. We plan to announce the warehouse location by Oct. 1, after which time donations of food and coats may be dropped off. Please refer to www.ifmnet.org for future updates.

Building Neighborhood Campaign

The board of directors, staff and clients of Inter-Faith Ministries want to thank all of our loyal supporters for helping make the Building Neighborhood Capital Campaign a success. We have exceeded our goal of \$6,400,000 and together we have completed *Building a Better Community!*

The Villa Courts Enrichment Center officially opened November 1, 2007. It is a comfortable space for community meetings and youth programs. The Enrichment Center is also homebase for the case managers of our Street Outreach Services that has already touched hundreds of people living on the streets.

The renovated historic apartment building at 938 N. Market is now occupied and the new units of affordable housing at 930 N. Market will be completed this month. At the hub of these units is the Melhorn Family Playground.

Another aspect of the Villa Courts vision, the Cessna Learning Center, will be open for client training in the near future.

The Gary Cox Endowment and other financial goals to help sustain Inter-Faith Ministries are secure.

Please attend the Dedication Ceremony at noon on Thurs., 9/25. Take a tour of the facilities and join us for lunch!

The Campaign To End Childhood Hunger's Kansas Benefit Bank

The Benefit Bank now has 33 sites and has a goal to grow to one or more in every county. Using a specialized computer program, trained counselors assist people not only with income taxes, but also how to access food stamps, a variety of medical benefits, voter registration, processing back taxes, etc. Economic impact of the Benefit Bank at this point is estimated at a million dollars.

Inter-Faith Ministries' CTECH is also involved in container garden projects to teach children about growing food, nutrition, and preparing meals.

ASAP Haiti

With the help of many individuals and congregations, the Wichita Downtown Rotary Club, and Rotary International, we have come a long way. We have helped the citizens of Lambert build a school system that includes kindergarten, elementary, secondary and vocational education. We have a successful sponsorship program in which a contribution of \$192 (\$16 a month) pays for one year of a student's education. We have helped develop nutrition programs, a microlending project for women, a medical clinic, a Sun Oven assembly plant, a solar-powered computer lab, and a solar-powered water system. We are presently embarking on an agriculture project.



NO ONE INJURED IN FIRE!

Ti'Wiconi, our Safe Haven for chronically disabled mentally ill homeless persons, was set on fire one night last April. The fire was started in the room of a resident who had only been at Ti'Wiconi for a few days. Thanks to the quick action of staff (Jim, Diane, and Dana) in evacuating the clients and a rapid response from the Wichita Fire Department, the fire was contained and there were no injuries or deaths. It is our hope that the person who set the fire is now receiving the help needed. We will continue with our efforts to address the needs of the chronically mentally ill homeless.

We are so grateful to those who responded to this year's unexpected appeal to help cover the large insurance deductible and other expenses not covered by insurance. You were there when we needed you!

Memorial Gifts April 2008 - August 2008

Jean Burwell
Sheila Cochran
Annabelle Haupt
Arnold McEachern
Leonard McGinty
Ruth Meier
Barbara Young



Volunteer Highlights

Inter-Faith Ministries greatly appreciates the GracePoint Church members that serve a meal once a week at the Ti'Wiconi Safe Haven. They also provide a brunch at the Inter-Faith Villa Community Center every second Saturday of the month.



The last Saturday of June, a group of 18 volunteers from Spirit AeroSystems worked very hard demolishing old living quarters in the basement of the historic apartment building at 9th & Market. The building is part of the new Inter-Faith Ministries permanent housing complex, the Villa Courts. The Spirit volunteers speeded things along and saved us several thousand dollars by removing old plumbing fixtures, trash, and walls.



Tonya VonFeldt has been volunteering at Inter-Faith Ministries for three years. She is an indefatigable Operation Holiday application input person. The rest of the year she is involved with Benefit Bank, putting in eight hour days at times. She guides clients through taxes, medical cards, food stamps, and other financial aid.



Inter-Faith Ministries is pleased to have José Luis Coca-Vargas work with us for one year. José is an exchange volunteer co-sponsored through the Mennonite Central Committee and has a degree in computer engineering. Spanish is his primary language, but he is learning English quickly. José is a native of Bolivia and his favorite sport is soccer.

The Israel and Jordan Experience

Three Jewish Rabbis (of three Jewish traditions), two Muslims (Shiite and Sunni), and six Christians (of varying Christian traditions), spent ten January days together in Israel and Jordan. This experience far exceeded our expectations. Together, our group was able to have dialogue with Israeli Jews, Palestinian Muslims and Christians. We visited the holy sights of all three religions and shared one another's Holy Scriptures.



We spent an evening with a Palestinian family in Jordan who became refugees in 1948. They still consider the home they once lived in as their property, but they have also moved forward with their lives. The family members have established successful careers in Jordan as well as in many countries throughout the world.

This trip was an experience that increased our deep respect for each other's faith traditions. Contact Sam Muyskens at 264-9303 if you would like to schedule a time for members of the group to share their experience with you.

Newly Elected 2008-2009 Board of Directors:

Rev. Dr. Cathy Northrup, Pres.	First Presbyterian
Rev. Mark A. Smith, Vice Pres.	St. Paul AME
William G. Watson, Treas.	UMB Bank
Victor Scott, Secretary	Westar Energy
Mert Buckley	Adams Jones Law Firm
Gregg Cox	KSN
Terrell Davis	New Hope Baptist, Stucky Mid. Sch..
Scott Eilert, Past Pres.	Cargill Meat Solutions
Rev. Dr. Michael Gardner	First United Methodist
John Goss	Peterson, Peterson, & Goss
Dr. Vimal Goyle	Physician
Sr. Margaret Knoeber	Adorers of the Blood of Christ
Angela Landwehr	Cessna
John McKay	Casado-McKay, Inc.
Louis Medvene	Wichita State University
Maher Musleh	Cessna
Stephanie Musleh	Annoor Islamic School
Ken Tedder	Wichita State University
Rabbi Nissim Wernick	Ahavath Achim Hebrew Cong.
Lavonta Williams	Wichita City Council
Rev. Lexie Williams	St. Mark United Methodist

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).