



Log

April 2015 

Love is what remains

When a prominent politician's term comes to a close the media often discuss the legacy that this person will leave behind. "Legacy" in this example means the programs, innovations, and edifices that were created under this person's watch.

But all those things eventually fade away. What remains, however, is the love we show for our fellow human beings, as demonstrated through sacrifice and acts of kindness.

I think of this whenever I see a parent caring for a child with disabilities. When I see that mom or dad embracing their child, showing tenderness and patience, I know that although their legacy isn't tangible the way a building or bridge is, it will endure much longer, perhaps eternally.

In the same way, when I see a volunteer reach out to shake the hand of a man or woman whose appearance is somewhat shabby, indicating they might have slept outdoors for the night, I realize that the legacy of caring for those who are less fortunate than ourselves is the legacy that matters. It is what remains after buildings are torn down, programs end, and innovations become old news.

A few weeks ago a group of young ladies spent a day volunteering at IFM. They cleaned the mats the men slept on during the five months of the Winter Shelter. They sorted clothing donations, tidied a room, and then dyed Easter eggs with residents of the Inter-Faith Inn. I watched and listened as these young women extended courtesies, friendship, caring, and laughter.

Will an afternoon of dying Easter eggs with shelter guests change the world? Yes, in unseen ways. These young women had an unforgettable experience and are likely to continue to reach out with compassion to people in need. Our guests had fun being kids again. And I am more convinced than ever that what remains most important is the love we show to each other – our families, friends, co-workers, and strangers.



The Inn Crowd

There are days at Inter-Faith Inn when everything seems to go perfectly. Saturday, April 4 was one of those days.

For starters the weather was beautiful with all the trees lining the street in full bloom. First Presbyterian Church, just across the street from the Inn, was serving breakfast, and many of our residents attended.

The week before I had told residents I wanted to decorate Easter eggs on Saturday. In one of those moments of serendipity, a group of young women from Blessed Sacrament Church were cleaning up the Winter Shelter that day and were willing to come over to the Inn afterwards to help with the eggs.

I'm not sure who enjoyed it most, which is the best way for an event to go. We only had one child at the Inn that weekend, but for a couple hours I think we were all reliving our childhoods as we decorated eggs together.

Saturday ended with Pathway Church-Goddard members coming to prepare dinner as they do the first Saturday of every month. One of the regular volunteer couples had been on "maternity leave" from the Inn, so it was wonderful to see pictures of their new family member, Emma. I was surprised to see the new daddy return after they had all left. He had stopped at McDonalds to get a meal for one of our residents who arrived after all the food was gone. When I told the resident he had food waiting for him downstairs, he was equally astonished and grateful.

IFM needs money; there's no




Anne Corrison
Executive
Director

*Inn residents and Blessed Sacrament volunteers
decorate eggs at Inter-Faith Inn.*

Prayer Walk Teams Needed

Inter-Faith Ministries hosts the first Wichita Prayer Walk Saturday, April 25 on the Newman University campus. Registration begins at 9:00 am, with the Walk from 10 am until noon.

“Prayer Walks are a time of reflection, a time to offer up prayers for specific people or concerns, a way to learn more about other faiths and, in this instance, a way to raise money for Inter-Faith’s homeless shelters,” said Executive Director Anne Corriston.

Team leaders – and you can sign up to be one now – recruit friends, family, a youth group, Sunday School class, etc. to participate in the walk. Both prior to and on the day of the Prayer Walk groups are encouraged to raise money through a variety of events or simply by soliciting team members and others for pledges. All money raised will support IFM’s two permanent homeless shelters, Inter-Faith Inn and Ti’Wiconi/Safe Haven.

Prayers for peace, those in poverty, children, gratitude will be offered. Individuals and teams may also have specific prayers they want to use.

“While many of us incorporate prayer into our daily lives sometimes it’s good to expand that, to carve out a time for more concentrated reflection and prayer” explained Anne. “Combining that with the opportunity to learn more about both the similarities and differences in various religious traditions is a perfect fit for Inter-Faith Ministries. And if we can raise some much needed support for our homeless services at the same time it’s a win win win.”

To learn more about volunteering as a team leader please contact Anne Corriston or Kathleen Webb at IFM, 264-9303. We hope to see you there!



getting around that. All our programs cost money. But nothing beats volunteering; interacting with those we try to help is the best way to realize the value of what we do.

If you have a small group who would like to provide a meal or arrange an activity on a monthly or weekly basis at the Inn or Safe Haven, please call or email.

Marketing Coordinator Carolyn Kell works at Inter-Faith Inn on the weekends, partly to remind herself of the value of what we do.

Honor and Memorial Gifts
In Memory
of June Webb
In Honor
of Vic Bieberle
In Memory
of Morris James

► Events and Highlights

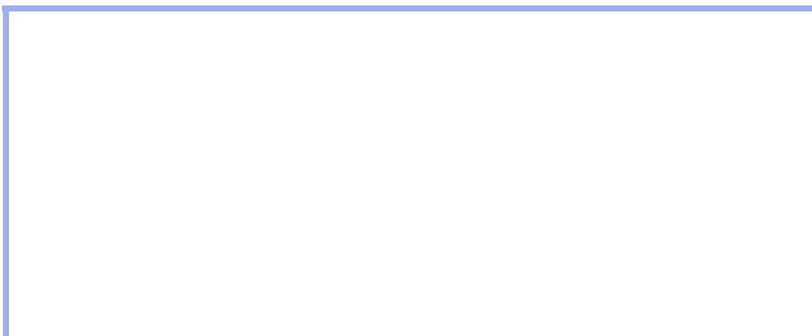
Humanitarian Award Recipients



Humanitarian Award recipients will be announced April 30 at a news conference at the Art of Faith Gallery at Inter-Faith Ministries. They will receive their awards at the Dinner, Thursday, August 20 at the Beech Activity Center.

Chairperson for this year’s dinner is Chris Goebel, Chairman and CEO of Star Lumber and Supply. Star received the Golden Rule Award in 2013 for their financial and volunteer help on many Wichita charitable projects.

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations, and to everyone who participates in making our community a better place.



April 24: "Three's Company" Final Friday at IFM's Art of Faith Gallery will feature acrylics, oils and watercolors by Jim Crawford, Sr., Bob Neace and Paul Cavanaugh. Join us 5:30-8:30 pm for art, music, food and friendship. For more information call 264-9303.

April 25: Prayer Walk Newman University hosts IFM's first Prayer Walk. See newsletter for more information.

April 25: Love Wichita Clean, paint, renew and repair Wichita. More than 40 churches and other volunteers will tackle 100s of projects.

You Can Help

Final Friday

Inter-Faith Ministries

April 24, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Three's Company

Oil, acrylic and watercolor paintings of life by James L. Crawford, Bob Neace, and Paul Caranough will be on display and for sale.



829 N Market, Wichita, KS 67214 | www.interfaithwchita.org | 316.264.9303

Great company, music, food and the artwork of three longtime Wichitans, including our own Art of Faith Gallery Director Bob Neace.

Have you redecorated your bathroom lately? Changed color schemes? Is your linen closet too full? Bath towels are in great demand at Inter-Faith Inn! Several of our residents have to use the "drip dry" system right now. Bring your unneeded bath towels to the Inn or the main office and help our residents keep dry.

Staff Notes:

Cheryl Laird, familiar to many of our volunteers and member churches as Operation Holiday's Director, is also now Case Manager for Inter-Faith Inn, assisting residents in developing and achieving goals in employment, housing, addiction, and other issues.

VISTA volunteer Kyle Gibson is contacting faith groups to introduce himself and gather information about how IFM can improve services to congregations and further our mission. We hope everyone has some time to visit with him and complete the survey [located here](#).

Get your "Love One Another" bumper sticker now for only a \$1 donation to IFM!



829 N Market - Wichita, KS 67214-3519 - 316.264.9303

[Visit IFM's Website](#)