



# FAITHLINES

People of Faith Uniting to Meet Human Needs

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July 2015

## Happy New Year!

Like many not-for-profits, Inter-Faith Ministries actually begins a new year on July 1. It's the start of a new *fiscal* year, the time when our annual cycle for accounting purposes begins. It also marks the time when we welcome new board members and officers to guide our organization's policies and strategies for the coming year.

This month I'd like to introduce our new board president, Bonnie Toombs. I met Bonnie shortly after I came to work for IFM in late 2011. As a volunteer she impressed me with her passion for treating homeless men and women with the recognition that they are God's children. She sees that as people of faith we are called to treat the poor, the lonely, and the homeless with dignity, doing what we can to provide shelter, food, and other needed ministries. During the Warming Souls Winter Shelter season Bonnie organizes hundreds of kitchen volunteers during February and March. During the off-season she helps mobilize volunteers to repair and improve the buildings that house the Winter Shelter.

Like many who are drawn to serve IFM both as volunteers and board members, Bonnie sees that faith and service go hand in hand. She has introduced hundreds of new, committed volunteers to the work of Inter-Faith Ministries and has helped this organization form important partnerships with churches and service organizations. She has also quietly prayed with me at times when I have felt overwhelmed by the financial issues that plague nearly all of us who work in this field.

I also want to thank Rev. Cindy Watson, who has served this organization so faithfully in the role of board president for the past two years. I have appreciated Cindy's enthusiasm, her capable management of board meetings, and her guidance to me in my role as executive director. We are blessed as an organization to have leadership that is both capable and compassionate. I see this new year with fresh eyes of faith and hope as we work together to find housing stability for men, women, and children experiencing homelessness.

Anne Corrison  
Executive Director



## The Inn Crowd

When my father had a difficult day at the office he would come home and announce "it was a day fraught with opportunity."

I'm not nearly as gentle, diplomatic or optimistic as Dad was, but I still can't go through a rough day without echoing his words. Of course, it helped when I got old enough to realize that it was "fraught," not "fought!"

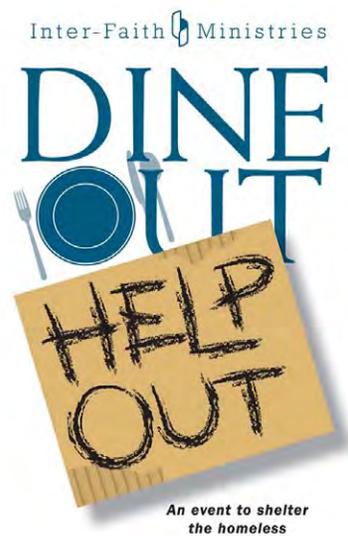
Last weekend Inter-Faith Inn was definitely fraught with opportunity. 100 degree temperatures are not easy for any of us, but for the homeless it can be particularly hard, especially since most don't have cars.. Looking for work, getting to and from work, even getting to a computer to do an on-line application is difficult when you start sweating the minute you walk out the door.

A lot of residents decided to stay in over the weekend. While I genuinely enjoy talking to our residents, I was trying to juggle that with very busy phones (a *lot* of people were looking for shelter) and quite a bit of office work I'd hoped to complete.

When I got home Sunday evening I sat down and initially thought "well, I accomplished *nothing* this weekend!"

As I unwound I revised my opinion. I didn't accomplish what I had planned, but what I ended up doing was more important. I listened to one of my favorite residents talk enthusiastically about his new job and how he feels for the first time in several years that his life is on the right track. A young woman asked if she could help me in the kitchen, and she enthused about feeling

## Dine Out Help Out: An event to shelter the homeless



Every time any of us talk to a restaurant, media person or potential Ambassador about Dine Out Help Out the response is enthusiastic. We hope the response from diners September 15 will be equally overwhelming.

Dine Out Help Out: An event to shelter the homeless is a simple concept. Just dine at one of the participating restaurants Tuesday, September 15, and the restaurant will donate a portion of their profits to Inter-Faith's homeless shelters.

Ambassadors will help encourage people to dine out. Each Ambassador will be assigned a participating restaurant to promote - see if you can be the one to fill up YOUR restaurant with the most people. Ambassadors

will urge friends, family, coworkers, churches, social media followers - anyone you know - to eat at your restaurant that Tuesday.

"Every restaurant and media outlet we've contacted so far are very excited about this event," said IFM Executive Director Anne Corrison. "The consensus is that it's a perfect way to raise funds and have fun. Our message is that if you plan to dine out at all in September, make it September 15."

We need about 200 Ambassadors to be able to assign at least one person for each participating restaurant. If you are interested in being an Ambassador please [fill out the form here](#) and return by July 31.

Participating restaurants will be listed at [www.dineouthelp.org](http://www.dineouthelp.org). Our thanks to the enthusiastic media people who will also be supporting this event.

### IFM wants to hear from you

An important part of Inter-Faith's mission is bringing together diverse religions and cultures to work together and find commonalities. One way to facilitate this will be through guest columns in the newsletter, which we will also add to our [blog page](#) in our website.

If you or someone you know is interested in writing a column please contact Carolyn at (316)264-9303 or email her at [ckell@interfaithwichita.org](mailto:ckell@interfaithwichita.org).

### Humanitarian Awards honor service to others

What do a dentist, a nun, two homemakers, a recovering alcoholic and a couple who mentor young people have in common? They're all recipients of Inter-Faith Ministries Humanitarian Awards this year.

More importantly, they all have a deep faith and a lifelong commitment to improving the lives of others. The ways they accomplish this are very diverse, from endowing scholarships and providing education opportunities to helping people maintain sobriety, to distributing hygiene items or rent assistance to those who need it.

Humanitarian Awards were first presented in Wichita in 1951. Inter-Faith Ministries has been sponsoring the awards since 2012. Chris Goebel, Chairman of Star Lumber and Supply, is this year's chairperson.

The dinner will begin at 6:00 pm, Thursday, August 20 at the Beech Activity Center. In addition to honoring these people, the dinner is a

busy and worthwhile again. I talked to a mother and daughter who brought in some donations and discovered the daughter is majoring in journalism and would like to write about the Inn.

I'm starting to like this whole "fraught with opportunity" thing...

*Marketing Coordinator Carolyn Kell works at Inter-Faith Inn on weekends, when things never go as planned.*



Join Inter-Faith Ministries for Final Friday.

Artwork from the Wichita Presbyterian Manor's "Art is Ageless" competition will be displayed. Various mediums represented in this unique and interesting exhibit.

5:30-8:30 pm, Friday, July 31  
Art of Faith Gallery  
829 N. Market  
Plan to be here!

### ► Events and Highlights

If your organization has a special event to include in our calendar please send to: [ckell@interfaithwichita.org](mailto:ckell@interfaithwichita.org).

July 17: Rising for Charleston  
6 pm, Warren Plaza, 2nd & Mead. Part of a nationwide commemoration of the one month anniversary of the slayings at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

July 18:  
International Rescue Committee  
10:00 am -2:00 pm, Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview.  
Learn about resettlement, education, employment and

fundraiser for IFM's programs. If you would like to attend to help congratulate some of the region's finest citizens, please contact Linda Wren in the Inter-Faith office, 264-9303 or email her at [lwren.interfaithwichita.org](mailto:lwren.interfaithwichita.org).

### Inter-Faith Summit July 21

The next Inter-Faith Summit will be Tuesday, July 21 at 10 am. Summits are an opportunity for faith leaders, local mission chairpeople and other interested people to gather to share congregational events and to find out what's happening with IFM. Local, national and international issues may also be discussed.

Join other faith leaders in the Art of Faith Gallery for the discussion.

It's never been easier to help IFM! All you need to do is register your Dillons card here: <https://www.dillons.com/communityrewards>, (IFM's number is 83262), use your card when shopping, and our programs benefit. What better way to help the homeless and hungry than when you're buying food!



immigration and community integration services in Wichita. Lunch is provided.

### July 21: Inter-Faith Summit

10:00-11:30 am, Art of Faith Gallery. Faith community representatives are invited to discuss IFM activities, congregational events, and faith leadership and cooperation.

### July 31: Final Friday

5:30-8:30 pm, Art of Faith Gallery. "Art is Ageless" the artwork from Wichita Presbyterian Manor's entries into this regional contest.

August 20: Humanitarian Awards Dinner  
Join IFM in recognizing local citizens for their volunteer efforts. Call Linda Wren at 264-9303 for more information.

### You Can Help



[help IFM by clicking here](#)

Current needs (aside, of course, from money, which is *always* a current need!): bath towels, eggs, butter, and toiletry items, especially shampoo, conditioner and razors.

### Memorial Gifts

In Memory Of  
Dorothy Bonds

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](#)

