



News from InterFaith Ministries and Our Member Congregations

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FEATURED STORY

Operation Holiday kicks off with new sponsors, lots of enthusiasm



ACCIDENT RECOVERY TEAM

KING, BRENNAN & ALBIN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

The Accident Recovery Team of King Brennan & Albin has partnered with Inter-Faith Ministries for Operation Holiday. They join other first time sponsors Q-92 Radio and Skaer Veterinary Clinic, as well as our many returning sponsors.

"We had been trying to find just the right project and organization with which to get involved," said managing partner Todd King. "Inter-Faith Ministries' Operation Holiday is a program that will serve around 14,000 Wichitans this year, many of them children. Everyone should have some joy during the holidays. Inter-Faith Ministries and the hundreds of volunteers who help with Operation Holiday make sure that happens."

Operation Holiday had its fall kick-off in September when IFM hosted a series of sessions for people organizing collection drives. Food, coats and cash are all needed to make Operation Holiday a success. This year's cash goal is \$350,000. The majority of that money is used to purchase Dillon's gift cards for Operation Holiday recipients.

"The gift cards supplement the food boxes people receive," said Operation Holiday Manager Cheryl Laird. "Our program is unique in that people get to select their own non-perishable food at distribution, and then they get a gift card for perishable items."

The US Marine Reserve's Toys for Tots provide gifts for children up to age 14, and IFM's Teen 2 Teen program is for people through age 17.

Skaer Veterinary Clinic is organizing a pet food drive. "Just because people don't have a lot of money doesn't mean they don't love their pets and want the best for them," said Christen Skaer, DVM. "We also work with Project Care to provide free veterinary care for low-income people, so I see first hand how much love is lavished on animals no matter what the income level of their owners."

Between now and the end of December more than 3000 volunteer hours will be needed to make Operation Holiday a success.

"This is one of IFM's major programs," said Todd King. "It reaches a huge number of people, both as recipients and as volunteers. We have people of all ages - from young children to senior citizens - who can help and have fun doing it."



WHAT'S NEW



Warming Souls Winter Shelter opens November 1

There's good news! Workers are starting on the repairs to the Winter Shelter, and the amount we need to complete the repairs is now less than \$20,000.

"It's important to get this money raised now," said Executive Director Anne Corrison. "[Share our crowdfunding campaign](#) with your social media networks and help us reach our goal."

In addition to masonry repairs, we're also thrilled to be getting a new furnace and air conditioning system.

"One HVAC expert who looked at our furnace remarked that he'd been in business 50 years and had never seen an older furnace in his life," said Anne. "We took that as an indication it needed to be replaced. Getting air conditioning installed will mean the building will be available for use year round."

ASHRAE's (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers - whew, that's a mouthful!, that's why they use the acronym!) Wichita chapter is donating installation and equipment for the heating and a/c improvements.

PROVIDE DINNER FOR SHELTER RESIDENTS

When November 1 rolls around it means that for the next five months we need volunteer groups to come in to provide dinner and breakfast for the Warming Souls residents. As many as 130 men will be in the shelter nightly.

"Churches, study groups, businesses and organizations are all welcome to provide a meal," said IFM Board President Bonnie Toombs, who also schedules two months of the dinner preparations. "We've even had the WSU Shocker baseball team volunteer."

To volunteer in November contact **Jay Schaper**, 634-1449.

To volunteer in December/January contact **Bonnie Laycock**, 209-3509 or 267-6244, or **Frances Rathbun**, 208-9284.

To volunteer in February/March contact **Bonnie Toombs**, 269-3935 or email toombsb@catholicdioceseofwichita.org



Operation Holiday Collection Drives will start soon

Creativity increases both fun and results. That's why so many of our corporate partners who have collection drives do it in ways that make it fun for the entire office. High Touch has a contest to see which floor in the building can make the most elaborate display out of their donated food. Envision has a Karaoke Challenge.

Some other collection ideas:

- Set a goal for how much food and how many dollars you want to collect, track the progress and announce final results.
- Create challenges between departments, classes, etc. A winning classroom could get a free pizza party.
- Use the list of food items Operation Holiday provides to a family of four and have a competition to see who can make the most creative meal using those ingredients.
- Schedule a fun kick-off event to create interest in the food drive. For example, hold an office party in which admission is a food or cash donation to the drive.
- Hold a raffle in which a food or cash donation to the drive buys a raffle ticket. Give away a creative incentive, like a paid day off work.
- Pick one food item and collect, collect, collect. Example: peanut butter or canned fruit.
- Have an ethnic day: Mexican one day, Italian another, Asian the next.
- "Guess what's in the food box contest": A box of groceries placed in a convenient location. Folks are able to guess what's in the box. Whoever guesses the most items wins. You could also expand this by added a "Guess how much it cost" category.

BEST TIME FOR YOUR DRIVE?

When you do your drive is up to you. Some people start in October, others wait until November or after Thanksgiving. Whatever works best for your church, business, organization works best for us, too.

You might consider incorporating **Giving Tuesday** as part of your collection drive.

We have a day for giving thanks, followed by Black Friday and Cyber Monday for getting good deals. Now, we have #Giving Tuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On Tuesday, December 1 charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give.

It's a simple idea. Just find a way for your family, your community, your company, church or organization to come together to give something more. Then tell everyone you can about how you are giving, using the #UNSelfie hashtag on social media. Join us and be a part of a global celebration of a new tradition of generosity.

If you're planning a collection drive at your company or school, Giving Tuesday is a great time to make a big push. Likewise, if you're planning to make a financial systems donation to IFM's Operation Holiday, several online payment systems such as PayPal and



Joy in spite of sorrow From Anne Corrison

I have never experienced being homeless. I can't imagine what it would be like to carry a few belongings around in a backpack or sleep in a room with strangers. Even worse, I can't imagine the uncertainty that goes with it - not knowing where I'll live or what I'll be doing.

That's what our shelter residents experience - uncertainty, fear, loss. But there is also joy.

A young woman came to the Inter-Faith Inn recently. When I met her she was just weeks away from having a baby. I was surprised because we don't often have expectant mothers staying with us. She was friendly and very excited about the baby boy she would soon deliver.

Residents and staff got together to have a baby shower for her. I was privileged to be invited to the party. It touched my heart to see shelter residents, who often have very little money of their own, pool their resources to purchase some gifts and a card. While we shared cake together I looked around the room at the other guests. Despite the sorrows in their lives, they were joyful, celebrating the life of a child about to enter the world.

I experienced sharing joy with people who could have focused on their losses. They chose to be happy instead and in doing so, inspired me.

People came together to give this little one a good start in life. And two days later, a beautiful, healthy baby boy was born. Welcome to the world, little one. Know that you are much loved, by family and strangers alike.

Network For Good donate an extra percentage to charities if you give on that day.



AECH Garage Sale

What has four beds, six dressers, two entertainment cabinets, one dining table and more kitchen items than a restaurant supply store?

The answer is the Garage Sale at Inter-Faith Ministries this Saturday, October 10. The sale is sponsored by Advocates to End Chronic Homelessness; all proceeds benefit the women's Warming Souls Winter Shelter.

In addition to huge amounts of clothing, kitchen items, books, toys and electronics, the sale features some really wonderful furniture - some of it brand new, including everything you see here. A new flat screen TV is the star of the electronics department. Use it to watch some of the DVDS and blu-rays for sale.

Quite literally as I am writing this another moving truck pulled up with a brand new bed and some other items. The Spiritual Center is full of items. The sale begins at 8 am in the Spiritual Center at 841 N. Market and in the parking lot to the north of the IFM administrative office.

Large items will have bid sheets. Bids will be accepted in \$20 increments.

In Honor of

In Memory of
Marcella and Leonard Wortz
Joe and Eleanor (Jean) Mackey
Eddie G Bonds

November 8

11 am - 6 pm

Deli Day: A Taste of New York

Wichita's Congregation Emanu-El's annual "Deli Day: A Taste of New York" features a variety of traditional Jewish foods made entirely by congregation members, many based on passed-down family recipes. Full meals for dine-in or to-go are \$15/person and a la carte snacks, soups, and baked goods are available for pre-order or in-person purchase.

You can download a pre-order form at <https://goo.gl/bUVX6j>. Meal tickets can be purchased from congregation members or the temple office, (316) 684-5148.

Volunteers Needed - We don't pay, but we have fun!

- Anyone who can help with mailings is encouraged to call Linda Wren, 264-9303. We have a couple large mailings coming up.
- With the Warming Souls Winter Shelter and Operation Holiday gearing up, the phones at our offices will be very busy. There are still a few weekly time slots available for any volunteers who can work as receptionist. Please contact Linda Wren, 264-9303 or lwren@interfaithwichita.org if you have a few hours a week to help.
- Operation Holiday volunteers do a variety of things. Sign up to help with intakes in November (one hour training session required), arrange a collection drive, work at the warehouse sorting and organizing, help with distribution. This is a great way to involve youth groups and classrooms in volunteering. Our doorhanger campaign, new this year, makes a good afternoon or early evening activity for people of all ages. Contact Kyle Gibson, 264-9303 or vista@interfaithwichita.org.

Dine Out Help Out - can't wait til next year!

Great food, great fun and great fundraising with Dine Out Help Out: An event to shelter the homeless. Thanks to all the diners, our participating restaurants and everyone who helped with this successful event. The number of people we had liking and sharing the event on social media was wonderful, and restaurants reported a busier than normal Tuesday thanks to our diners. We're already looking forward to next year!



The Inn Crowd

This column is going to be a hodgepodge of things, because it's just been one of those months; a lot of different things going on, and I want space to talk about all of them. This is one of the perks of being the newsletter editor - if my column runs long I can let it do so!

First, the Inter-Faith Inn has benefited from IFM's new partnership with Bountiful Baskets.

Bountiful Baskets (bountifulbaskets.org) is a not-for-profit food co-op for people who want to have more fresh produce for less money. Inter-Faith's Villa Central apartments are now a distribution point for the produce. Because of this we get a free basket of produce every two weeks. In addition, I usually bring some of the produce from my own basket to use while cooking on the weekends.

We've been indulging in wonderful fruit salads, vegetable stir frys, and a truly delicious zucchini/tomato salad.

One quickly realizes that good, fresh food is something lots of people appreciate, no matter one's circumstances. We often have people drop by to donate extra produce from their gardens, and one of my long term goals is to create a garden where residents can grow produce for the shelters. The experience with Bountiful Baskets assures me that fresh produce will be eaten and enjoyed.

After this weekend I'll only be working one day a week at the Inn. I have mixed feelings. I love helping with the marketing for IFM, and there's so much to do that I need to work more during the weekdays. However, I think I'll miss that extra day with the residents. I enjoy the time I spend with them. Hearing their stories and sharing their successes and discouragement reminds me every week of the importance of what we do.

It also has brought me into contact with a lot of people I probably would not have met, particularly donors and volunteers. Grishma Ajmera and her group, Pathway Church volunteers, Jenna and Ranya Farhat, Teresa Dippolito and Terra Reusser are just a few of the people I've met because of my weekends at the Inn.

I'll still be there Saturdays, and I'll still enjoy sharing some of their stories. I just hope one day is enough time to get caught up with our residents every week.

Finally, although there is no charge for staying at our shelters, residents often try to find ways to give back. Sometimes people want to purchase food to prepare a meal for all the residents, sometimes they ask if there is some maintenance beyond the daily chores they can.

One way residents give back is to help staff the Warming Souls Winter Shelter. Every night four men from the Inn work at the Winter Shelter with the staff to help check in, keep order and keep the place clean. We simply could not have the Winter Shelter without all the volunteer help.

Residents also will help to clean out after this weekend's garage sale, help with the HVAC installation, and volunteer to help with other events, like Souper Bowl and Operation Holiday.

Having been a very poor person myself, I know one of the things I missed most was being able to give back to others. The best feeling in the world was reinstating my public radio pledge. Inn residents continually remind me that we can always give, and that our time and talents are always welcome.

*Marketing Coordinator Carolyn Kell
works at Inter-Faith Inn on Saturdays
and doesn't plan to stop.*

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!



Community Rewards

Faithlines is a publication of Inter-Faith Ministries, 829 N. Market, Wichita, KS 67214. For information contact ckell@interfaithwichita.org or call (316)264-9303.