

- [inShare](#)

- **Share this Page:**



Inter-Faith Ministries

829 N. Market

Wichita, KS 67214

(316)264-9303

[www.interfaithwichita.org](http://www.interfaithwichita.org)

September/October 2016

#### AT A GLANCE

[Warming Souls  
Winter Shelter](#)

[From the President](#)

[Operation Holiday](#)

[VISTA Suzy Abdelfarag](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

Inter-Faith Ministries builds a strong community by facilitating interreligious collaboration, encouraging understanding, and providing basic human needs.

#### Memorial and Honor Gifts

In memory of  
Brenda Mikulait  
Elaine Lynch  
Dale Powell

In honor of  
Drs. Sharon and  
Evies Cranford  
David and Sally Dewey

#### FEATURED



#### We're kickin' it for Operation Holiday

Kick around some ideas and kick start your Operation Holiday collection drives October 4 and 5. Operation Holiday gets its official start then, when we host individuals, businesses and organizations interested in conducting collection drives.

"This is the perfect chance to pick up your collection boxes and start planning drives," said Operation Holiday Director Ashley Davis. Ashley first started working with Operation Holiday more than 15 years ago. She served as Director for five years, then continued to volunteer in the intervening years before joining the staff again this year.

Three kick off events are scheduled. Choose among breakfast on October 4 and lunches on October 4 and 5. [Sign up here.](#)

#### Operation Holiday Important Dates

Rev. Sally Fahrenthold  
Anne Corrison  
Bonnie Thompson



Did you know monthly gifts are the easiest way to support an organization? By joining the InnKeepers Club you can help us ensure that people continue to get the support they need to rebuild their lives. Just \$10 or \$20 a month can make a big difference. Network for Good is our online donation partner. You can [make your secure pledge here](#), or contact our office for more information.

### Operation Holiday



Don't miss Operation Holiday Kick Off meetings October 4 and October 5.

Application training for volunteers is October 24, 25 and 26.

Applications accepted started November 7 at

**October 4-5** - Kick off for collection drives

**October 24, 25, 26** - Application site training for volunteers, case managers and site leaders

**November 7 through November 22** - Applications accepted

**November 7 through December 2** - Applications accepted at IFM sites

**November 7 through December 14** - Set up at distribution center

**December 15, 16 and 17** - Distribution

Volunteers are needed to manage collection drives, take applications, input application data, work at the distribution center through November and December and to work at distribution itself.

Call or email [Suzy Abdelfarag](#) or [Sherry Roberts](#), 264-9303. They can sign you up or give you more information about volunteering.

## Changes at Inter-Faith Ministries

From Bonnie Toombs, President of Inter-Faith Ministries

For most of us, fall's arrival brings an increased number of commitments and activities—some done out of passion and excitement, and others out of sheer obligation. Here at Inter-Faith Ministries we are excited and passionate to be busy with preparations for Operation Holiday. We are also preparing for the Warming Souls Winter Shelter. At this time of year I am reminded of a favorite quote- "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." Mother Teresa. We hope you will find it in your heart to reach out and help others this holiday season.

We have been busy like the leaves that fall throughout the autumn; there is change all around. You may have heard by now of several changes occurring within Inter-Faith Ministries to better position the organization to serve the homeless and poor in Wichita. As the President of the Inter-Faith Ministries Board of Directors I'd like to make sure everyone is aware of both the changes and the renewed vigor and dedication we have asked of each Board member and staff person.

We have increased the size of the Board of Directors to 19 members. By doing so we have a broader representation of faith based organizations, businesses and experiences. Working to strengthen a community is not only a matter of addressing existing needs, but of improving infrastructure and relationships throughout the community. Inter-Faith Ministries has a strong history of working with and for the

various locations in Wichita.

Visit our website for more information about Operation Holiday dates and events.



**Final Fridays**  
5:30-8:30 pm,  
Art of Faith Gallery at  
Inter-Faith Ministries

**Friday, September 30**  
Artists from University Congregational Church will be featured. A variety of media, including needlework, sculpture, painting and more are represented. Please join us.

**Friday, October 28**  
"His Reflections" by the Kansas Association of Christian Artists, featuring Naomi Ullum, Kelsey Vine, Dr. Alisha Prince, and Mayuko Shono

**Tuesday, December 6**  
An un-Final un-Friday!  
"A Place for All People: Introducing the National Museum of African American History and Culture." A commemorative poster

community and the Board hopes to continue to strengthen these relationships.

I'm also very pleased to announce that Garland Egerton has joined the staff as Interim Executive Director. His previous business experience combined with a strong interest in Inter-Faith Ministries' mission makes him ideally suited to lead the organization as we work through some important changes. Garland has hit the ground running. We're grateful to Anne Corriston for her work with Inter-Faith over the past few years and equally grateful to Garland for stepping in to move the organization forward.



In the coming weeks and months the Board and staff will be focusing on what makes IFM unique in serving the community. We house more homeless people than any other organization in Wichita. We are the only organization that shelters single women who are not victims of domestic violence. We operate one of only a handful of shelters in the United States that serves chronically homeless people with mental illnesses. We operate low-income apartments, giving people with previous rental difficulties a place to live and rebuild credit and lives.

That part of our mission is accomplished only by continuing to focus on another part of it - bringing together people of different faiths to communicate with one another, to work together to make Wichita a stronger community.

I join Garland and my fellow Board members in encouraging each of you to communicate with us. Garland can be contacted at the Inter-Faith office, 264-9303. My office number is 269-3935. Your input is vital to the health and work of Inter-Faith Ministries.

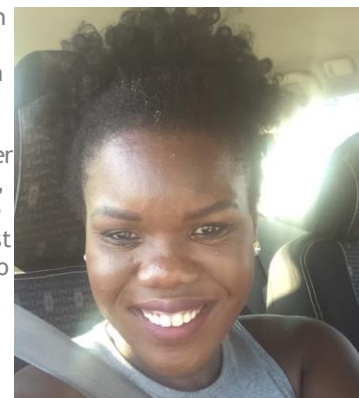
### Meet Suzy Abdelfarag

Suzy Abdelfarag joined the Inter-Faith Ministries staff in July as an AmeriCorps VISTA worker, and the place hasn't been the same since!

Suzy's enthusiasm is contagious. She grew up in the Sudan, emigrated with her family to Nashville, TN when she was 12, and attended college in Nashville before heading here to the "Wild West." Her first requests upon arriving in Wichita were to see Indians and bison.

Suzy's main focus in the coming months will be with Operation Holiday, working to schedule volunteers, and in communications and programs for our partner congregations.

"I'm having a good time meeting people from the different faith groups and congregations in Wichita," said Suzy. "Inter-Faith Ministries is working to connect with all our partners and really promote some activities and



exhibition celebrating the opening of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

#### Dillons Community Rewards



You can help Inter-Faith Ministries simply by shopping for groceries, prescriptions and other items at your Dillon's store. [Register your Dillon's card here](#) (IFM's number is 83262).



events that will bring diverse people together. As an immigrant I have a special interest in making sure everyone feels welcome in our community."

Suzy will also be organizing the Doorhanger Collection Drives for Operation Holiday. They're designed especially for young people and are a great way to get youth groups involved in volunteering. Contact Suzy at the Inter-Faith office, 264-9303, or [vista@interfaithwichita.org](mailto:vista@interfaithwichita.org).

## Warming Souls Winter Shelter

After a long, hot, humid summer most of us are happy to see cooler days finally arrive. For many of the people Inter-Faith Ministries helps, however, the cooler days herald a time when sleeping outside is dangerous.

Warming Souls Winter Shelter provides shelter during the five coldest months of the year. As many as 130 men and 35 women seek shelter each night from November 1 to March 31.

"Our year round shelters don't have enough beds to take care of everyone in need," said Interim Director Garland Egerton. "Warming Souls used to be called the Overflow because it fills that gap - making sure we take care of everyone who needs a place to sleep during the winter. It's also a shelter with fewer regulations than a full time shelter, so it serves a broader population."

Guadalupe Clinic will once again provide medical care, including flu shots, tuberculosis tests, smoking and alcohol counseling, and basic first aid at Warming Souls. The goal is to improve the health of the homeless, which will increase their ability to change their lives. It also cuts down on visits to the emergency room.

Advocates to End Chronic Homelessness (AECH) is conducting a fundraising campaign specifically for the Winter Shelter. [Click here to donate.](#)

Each evening for the five months Warming Souls operates, volunteers provide meals. If you have a group interested in helping, please contact Bonnie Toombs, 316-269-3935.

## Calendar of Events

Friday, September 30

5:30 - 8:30 pm

Final Friday

Art of Faith Gallery

829 N. Market, Wichita

Artists from University Congregational Church present work in a variety of media. Free, all ages welcome

Tuesday, October 4 and Wednesday, October 5

7:30 on Oct. 4, 12:00 on Oct. 4 and 5

Operation Holiday Kick Off

Art of Faith Gallery

829 N. Market, Wichita

Kick off your collection drive by attending one of the three meetings.

Call Sherry at 264-9303.

**Saturday, October 8**

**10:00 - 4:00**

**EcoFest Wichita**

First Unitarian Universalist Church

7202 E. 21st, Wichita

Earth-friendly information, activities for children, "green" vendors, homemade soups and desserts and more. Contact Marcia Ellsworth at 316-208-3083 or First Unitarian Universalist Church, 684-3481

**Saturday, October 15**

**2:30 pm**

**Peace Weekend**

Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church

655 S. Lorraine, Wichita

Aziza Hassan is the founder of A New Ground: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change. She is a graduate of Bethel University. A Faspa (low-German for small afternoon meal) follows the presentation. RSVP to [secretary@lorraineavenue.org](mailto:secretary@lorraineavenue.org)

**Friday, October 28**

**5:30 - 8:30 pm**

**Final Friday**

Art of Faith Gallery

829 N. Market, Wichita

"His Reflections" by the Kansas Association of Christian Artists. This show includes artwork with a wide variety of styles, media, and subject matter including contemporary and traditional paintings & drawings all inspired by and reflecting the creative nature of the Lord Jesus Christ.