



FAITH LINES

People of Faith Uniting to Meet Human Needs

September 2015

News from Inter-Faith Ministries and its member congregations.

Below: The Catholic Heart Work Group produced a lot of hard work under sunny skies and hot temperatures, but there was also time for fellowship and laughter. More photos of the week's event are below. Thanks to Bonnie Toombs of the Catholic Diocese of Wichita for arranging everything, and thanks to IFM Property Manager Roxanne Moren and her crew for all their hard work.



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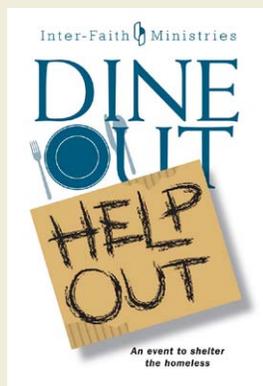
COLUMNS

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EMAIL THIS TO A FRIEND

What a sweet, sweet deal!

Below: Our illustrious crew of Celebrity Waiters served dinner at Inter-Faith Inn Tuesday, September 1 to kick off Dine Out Help Out. Left to right: Lily Wu, Mayor Jeff Longwell, Anne Corrison, Sierra Scott, Greg Fox, Tracy Cassidy, Denise Neil, Denise Hearson, Chris Arnold.



September 15 at great participating restaurants
Food tastes better when it's for a good cause

Dine Out Help Out: An event to shelter the homeless is September 15. Visit [the Dine Out Help Out webpage](#) for a list of participating restaurants. The list is growing daily - special thanks to Doug Brantner of Planet Sub for being the first to sign on!

The concept is simple. Participating restaurants will donate a portion of their proceeds from the day to IFM for our homeless shelters.

Several events the first of September helped kick off the public promotion of Dine Out Help Out. In the morning the Wichita City Council proclaimed September Homeless Shelter Awareness Month. In the afternoon several local celebrities served a meal at Inter-Faith Inn.

Media sponsors include KSN-TV and Power 93.5 Radio. We're getting lots of support from all our media friends, and we need support from diners too.

If you haven't yet told your friends and family about this event please do it today. Let's face it - most of us dine out at least once a week anyhow, so this is a completely pain-free way to support IFM's homeless shelters. All you need to do is dine out on



For the month of October SUBWAY® Restaurants will be donating a portion of cookie sales to IFM's homeless shelters. Head into your local Subway® and add a sweet treat to your meal.

In Honor of

In memory of

Gary Hamilton

In memory of

Marshall Williams

In memory of

Rev. Dr. William A. Boyle

In honor of

Chester Bupp

In honor of

Bob and Lois Neace

Office volunteers needed

If you have a day, morning or afternoon to volunteer as receptionist in our administrative offices please contact Linda Wren, 264-9303, or lwren@interfaithwichita.org.

With Operation Holiday, the Warming Souls Winter Shelter, Dine Out Help Out, as well as our regular events, we need people to help answer phones and do a little bit of computer or mailing work.

The pay is non-existent, but the appreciation is huge.

**Donate
Now!**

We always need money (who doesn't?) but other specific needs include:

- toiletries: shampoo & conditioner, deodorant, soap, toothbrush/paste, razors
- vacuum cleaner
- bath towels, gently used
- socks
- work boots

September 15 if you dine out at all.

If you know of a restaurant who might be interested in participating, let us know that too! We're also still looking for a few people to work as Ambassadors. This means you adopt one of the participating restaurants, encourage friends, family, co-workers, church groups to go there, post about it on social media and be there during the event to greet people and enjoy!



Left to right: Chris Goebel, Dinner Chairperson, Gene Camarena, Yolanda Camarena, Debbi Green, Kim Carraway, Madeline Akers, Sister Becky Balthazor, IFM Executive Director Anne Corrison, and John M. Lewis

Humanitarian Awards honor outstanding Wichitans

If there were a list of ways to feel humbled, attending one of Inter-Faith Ministries Humanitarian Awards Dinners would have to be near the top of that list.

For more than 60 years Humanitarian Awards have been presented to individuals, couples, businesses and organizations that help to better the lives of others. The variety of ways in which people can volunteer and help transform lives is manifest in the group of people honored Thursday, August 20.

Sister Becky Balthazor works as case manager at Center of Hope, an organization run by Adorers of the Blood of Christ to provide rent and utility assistance. Through her efforts people can stay in their homes rather than becoming homeless and dealing with the difficulties, stress and other problems that makes.

Kim Carraway and Debbi Green are the volunteer coordinators for Head To Toe Pantry. The pantry was started by University Congregational Church, where they are both members. UCC still supports the Pantry, but through Kim and Debbi other groups and congregations have become involved in this ministry that provides basic necessities for low income people.

John M. Lewis, DDS, is celebrated as a quiet leader. As Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Friends University John conducted a search for a new University president and recommitted Friends to the religious principles on which it was founded

Yolanda and Gene Camarena believe education is essential to success. They do their best to instill that belief in others, particularly within the Hispanic community and with students at Holy Savior Catholic Academy in northeast Wichita.

Madeline Akers is president of the Wichita Fellowship Club. Her story is an inspiration to countless others who struggle with addiction. She serves as mentor, advisor, cheerleader and 'tough love' leader.

Their stories are all different, and they took different paths to their dedication to others. They all have a deep faith and a strong sense of responsibility to serving others. Videos about each of the 2015 Humanitarian Award honorees are on youtube.com. Just search for the person's name.

From Anne Corrison ~ Why our shelters matter

On Tuesday Wichita Mayor Jeff Longwell proclaimed September "Homeless Shelter Awareness Month." It marks the beginning of our season for creating awareness of our shelters and their importance to this



The Inn Crowd

For this issue of *The Inn Crowd* I originally wrote a lovely, heartwarming story about the twins pictured above. They turned one year old while they and their mommy were staying at the Inn, and all the residents got together to have a birthday party. It was great to see everyone work together to make the birthday special for Nikki and Nicole's mother.

I got a phone call at the Inn that made me change my mind about what to write. As I was working on the newsletter this last Saturday, I answered what seemed to be the 1,200th call of the day. "Inter-Faith Inn," I said.

A very happy voice chirped, "Hello, this is Amy calling. We all know that home mortgage rates are at their lowest in years!"

At that point I interrupted her to say "you have reached a homeless shelter."

Undeterred, Amy cheerfully continued with her script: "Now is a great time to be thinking about refinancing your house!"

Again I said, "Amy. You have reached a homeless shelter. This is a place where people without homes stay."

She paused for a beat, then started to speak again. I interrupted. "A. Homeless. Shelter. Think about it for just a minute."

Poor Amy was so flustered she tried to start at the beginning of her pitch. Poor Carolyn was so perturbed she just hung up.

Marketing Coordinator Carolyn Kell works at Inter-Faith Inn on the weekends and is quite comfortable hanging up on telemarketers.



Above: Lyndsey Douglas, Director of Public Affairs for Kansas and Missouri, Union Pacific Railroad, presents a check to Executive Director Anne Corrison. The grant was used to install security cameras in our homeless shelters.

community. IFM operates three shelters: the Inter-Faith Inn, a year-round shelter for men, women and children; the Safe Haven, for chronically homeless adults with mental illness; and the Warming Souls Winter Shelter, a seasonal shelter for adults who might otherwise sleep on the streets during the coldest months of the year.

Homeless men and women are often stereotyped as being people who are lazy, don't want to work, and use the system to obtain things for free that the rest of us pay for. Although I have met some folks who fall into those categories, I have met many more who have experienced hardship, loss, and sorrow. They need a safe place to stay while they seek employment, go to counseling, or go to their job. Some are saving money so they'll have funds for a deposit and first month's rent on an apartment. Others are sorting through addiction and mental health issues. And yes, a few are looking for a handout. But they typically don't stay very long at our shelters because we have *expectations*.

Something else I'd like you to know about our shelters is this: there are not a lot of homeless shelters in this community. Some of them serve very specific clientele as part of their mission. The Inter-Faith Inn is the only area shelter that serves the following:

- Couples without children
- Families headed by a father, no mother present
- Women not fleeing domestic violence

Raising funds to serve people in our shelters is a year-round effort. This month we're trying to make it fun and easy for you to help. I hope you'll join me for Dine Out Help Out on September 15. My only problem is deciding which restaurants to visit that day!

Blessings,

Anne

New Officers, Board members installed

Bonnie Toombs was elected President of Inter-Faith Ministries' Board of Directors. Bonnie has been on the Board since 2013, and she has been instrumental in signing up volunteer groups to serve dinner at the Warming Souls Winter Shelter each year. In her job with the Catholic Diocese, she was also responsible for organizing the projects with the Catholic Heart Work Camp (see photos on the right). Other officers for the 2015-16 year are Larry Knott, treasurer, and Rev. Cindy Watson, Immediate Past President.

Five new Board members were also elected. James Clendenin, City Council member; Nile Dillmore, State Representative; Alicia Holloway, Right Recruiting; Rev. Dr. Robin McGonigle, University Congregational Church; and Bruce Schriefer, Bankers Bank were all elected to three year terms.



Oh, the weather outside is (going to be)

Upcoming Events

Please email ckell@interfaithwichita.org if you have events you would like to list in our newsletter

September 8 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am.
Faith Leaders Breakfast in the Art of Faith Gallery, Inter-Faith Ministries, 829 N. Market.

September 15 - Dine Out Help Out.
At participating restaurants all day!
Go to dineouthelpout.org for a list of restaurants and enjoy a great meal at one or more of the restaurants on that day.

September 18 - 7:00 pm. The Whirling Dervishes of RUMI - Live performance of whirling dervishes, traditional Sufi music, calligraphy demonstration and a presentation about Sufism by renowned scholar Dr. Ori Soltes. Mary Jane Teall Theater at Century II. Tickets: www.wichitatix.com.

September 22 and 23 - Operation Holiday Kick-off at the Art of Faith Gallery, Inter-Faith Ministries, 829 N. Market. Choose from breakfast or lunch times (see story in this newsletter for a link for reservations).

September 25 - Final Friday - Hope Community Church, the Southcentral Kansas Smorgaschorus and Smoky Hill Winery all participate for a very special Final Friday. 5:30-8:30 pm in the Art of Faith Gallery at Inter-Faith Ministries.

September 26 - Chili Cook-Off in Old Town. Public tasting starts at noon. Be sure to sample our Dumpster Dive Chili!

October 3 - EcoFest at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 10 am - 4 pm, 7202 E. 21st St. N. EcoFest offers activities and products designed to inspire and empower people to live green.

October 10 - AECH Garage sale to benefit IFM's Warming Souls Winter Shelter for Women. 9 am - 4 pm in the IFM parking lot, 829 N. Market. Huge array of items!

October 10 - Project Care Pet Clinic at the Safe Haven Gazebo. Call Carolyn at 648-3528 to schedule an appointment.

Catholic Heart Workcamp

Below are a few more of the people and projects from the Catholic Heart Workcamp.

frightful

We're all starting to look forward to autumn, enjoying the cool mornings and planning fall garden projects.

Sooner than we realize the fall weather will turn to winter. That means the Warming Souls Winter Shelter will open. Or that it needs to open - with help from you and a lot of other people.

This summer while replacing gutters on the building that houses the men's Winter Shelter we discovered structural problems. Our nice little gutter project turned into a \$92,000 project. In order to open November 1 we need to raise this money.

"There is simply nowhere else for these men to go," said Sandy Swank, Director of Homeless Services. "There isn't enough bedspace at our permanent shelters. If we cannot fix this building then we have nowhere for people to stay safe, warm and dry this winter."

To raise funds we've started a crowdfunding campaign on youcaring.com. Your help is needed in two very important ways.

1. Go to [our crowdfunding campaign](#) and make a contribution, large or small; everything is welcome.

2. Go to [our crowdfunding campaign](#) and share it on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Linked In and every other social media site. We need to get the word out to as many people as possible to garner support.



The other part of winter for Inter-Faith Ministries is, of course, Operation Holiday. One of our biggest events, Operation Holiday serves around 13,000 individuals each year. Volunteers help people register, collect food and clothing, organize drives, donate money and food and help with distribution.

Operation Holiday kicks off with one breakfast and two lunches for volunteers. You can choose among a September 22 breakfast and September 22 and 23 lunches to come to the Art of Faith Gallery at IFM to learn more about this year's dates and needs and get involved in this very vital mission.

[Pick your date and time here!](#)



Transitions

We have to say good bye to Chief Financial Officer Carol Houdyshell (above right). Carol has worked with IFM for the last four years, but will be leaving September 11 to go to the KU School of Medicine-Wichita as their CFO. While we wish Carol well with this new opportunity, the place won't be the same without her. Keeping in touch with Carol is yet another good reason to join the "Y" since we know we can find her there most every morning no matter where she works.

Roxanne Moren (above left), IFM's Property Manager, will be assuming duties as the Interim CFO. Before becoming Property Manager Roxanne worked as Finance Manager, so she is familiar with IFM, our cost centers, clients and programs.

"Having someone like Roxanne who is so familiar with IFM is truly a Godsend," said Executive Director Anne Corrison. "Carol and Roxanne are working to make sure this transition goes smoothly."

Join all of us in thanking Carol for all her hard work over the years and wish her the best of luck in her new endeavour.

Faith Group volunteer opportunities

We depend on churches, civic organizations, church school classes and other groups all the time, but in winter that dependency increases with Operation Holiday and the Warming Souls Winter Shelter.

Please be sure your congregation is represented at these upcoming events:

Faith Leaders Breakfast for the Warming Souls Winter Shelter, 9 am - 11 am, Tuesday, September 8 at the Art of Faith Gallery at Inter-Faith Ministries. This will be a great time to sign up for providing meals for the Winter Shelter and to learn more about our plans for repair and/or replacement of the Shelter. [Sign up here](#); registration is free, and if you can't attend please ask someone else from your congregation to be there.

Following the breakfast Anne Corrison, Sandy Swank and Kyle Gibson will be



From our member congregations and

available for anyone who would like to tour the Spiritual Center. This gives you the opportunity to see the kitchen/dining room set up, see where the men sleep and see some of the repairs that will be necessary before we can use the facility again.

Operation Holiday Kick Off - We've already talked about it in the newsletter, but this is worth mentioning again! A breakfast meeting on September 22 and lunch meetings on both September 22 and 23 will all provide information about this year's Operation Holiday.

Operation Holiday is one of IFM's biggest events. We expect to serve around 13,000 individuals this year. That means a lot of work from a lot of volunteers to make it happen.

[Register now](#) to attend one of the kick-off events. Breakfast begins at 7:30, and the lunches start at noon.

Angels in Faith make good things happen

Dr. Prem Bajaj is Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Wichita State University. He is an active member of the Hindu Temple of Greater Wichita and is a past member of the IFM Board of Directors. Dr. Bajaj has always been an advocate for IFM and for celebrating our similarities and common purpose. We are pleased to have him as our guest columnist this month.

James Henry Hunt names Abou Ben Adhem as the number one person whom God loves. Why? Abou loved His fellow men and it makes sense. Those who love and help your children get your respect. With the criterion used by Hunt, Inter-Faith Ministries (IFM) ranks as number one among those associations who are loved by God.

IFM runs three homeless shelters - The Inter-Faith Inn, Ti'Wiconi Safe Haven and Warming Souls Winter Shelter - and each has a mission of its own, under the guidelines of IFM. Together, these three shelters provide service to His children.

There are so many other organizations to help others, but what is so different about IFM is that it helps every person without consideration of recipient's faith.

IFM not only provides service to the needy, it offers opportunities for others. IFM is sponsoring an event, **Dine Out Help Out**, on September 15, 2015. For this event, a person encourages his/her friends to dine at the specified restaurant on September 15 and the restaurant gives a part of its income, earned on this day, to IFM.

It is a win-win situation for the business. Besides having a busy Tuesday, generally a slow day by restaurants, the business gets free publicity in the community which increases its status in Wichita. Moreover it costs nothing to a person who likes to do good deed.

September is Homeless Shelter Awareness Month. Moreover AARP has declared September 11 as National Day of Service. September 11 is, also, remembered for the tragedy in 2001. Thus the choice of the date, September 15, could not be better for **Dine Out Help Out**.

Sometimes, people focus more on small differences between two faiths rather than on their teachings and origins.

For example, each of Hinduism and Judaism has its origin in certain areas. Each of these faiths is quite old and there is no one person who directs the behavior of followers. Christianity stresses Love Thy Neighbor, without specifying the neighbor's credentials - how wonderful! Hinduism embraces not only those who worship God in one form or the other but, also, those - e.g., followers of Arya Samaj - who do not believe in the existence of God. Buddhism is known for compassion.

Respect for other faiths is essential for world peace.

Angels in Faiths, as described by former IFM Executive Director, Sue Castile, in her communication of December 2010, play an important role in major religions of the world. Luciano de Crescenzo sums up their role when he says:

We are, each of us, angels with only one wing. We can only fly by embracing one another.

Prem Bajaj

If you are interested in contributing to the IFM newsletter and blog please contact Carolyn Kell at 264-9303 or email her at ckell@interfaithwichita.org



All our Final Fridays are fun, but September 25 is a very special Final Friday. The Art of Faith Gallery will host the artwork of Hope Community Church, the music of the Southcentral SmorgasChorus, and winetasting from Smoky Hill Winery.

It all happens from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the Art of Faith Gallery at Inter-Faith Ministries, 829 N. Market. Hope Community Church has some very talented artists in several media. We became acquainted with and enamored of the SmorgasChorus when

friends

Below is a listing of events and programs sponsored by churches, faith groups and other not-for-profits serving the community. Please email ckell@interfaithwichita.org if you have an item you would like to include in our newsletter

Kinship Navigator Program assists grandparents or other relatives raising children in navigating and overcoming the issues and barriers they may face when parenting the second time around. Contact the Kansas Children's Service League at (316)942-42661.

Project Care is a not-for-profit group providing free veterinary care for the pets of low-income people. The next Project Care will be October 10 at the Safe Haven Gazebo, 841 N. Broadway. Call Carolyn at 648-3528 to schedule an appointment. Special thanks to Christen Skaer, DVM, not only for her work with Project Care but for donating her services for our new office cat, Hope. Hope adopted us August 31 and is now an integral part of our office.

they performed for the Humanitarian Awards Dinner. This a Capella men's group is ranked 22nd in the nation. Add Smoky Hill wines, and it promises to be a great evening.

Please join us September 25.

AECH Garage Sale



Give us your tired, your un-used, your "I'm redecorating" items, yearning to be loved again.

Advocates to End Chronic Homelessness (AECH) will have a garage sale from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Saturday (one day only!) October 10 in the IFM parking lot. The money raised will go to help the relocation of the Warming Souls Winter Shelter women's facility.

For several years the women were housed in Safe Haven, one of our permanent shelters. Because the last few years have seen a drastic increase in the number of women needing the temporary shelter Warming Souls provides, we can no longer have it there. That means we will incur additional costs to hire staff for the new location.

AECH has been instrumental in the operation of the Winter Shelter for several years, partnering with IFM, local churches and other organizations to be sure everyone has a warm, safe, dry place to sleep during the coldest months of the year.

If you have items to donate bring them to the Inter-Faith administrative office, 829 N. Market, between 9 am and 4 pm Monday-Friday. Please call ahead if you need assistance unloading items. If you need to arrange a delivery time or have someone to pick up large items call the IFM office, 264-9303, or Kathy Bowles, 644-4744.

Classified Advertising

This is not an every-month part of our newsletter, but we received notice of a church building for sale on West Maple between Wichita and Goddard. It's a quickly growing part of town and a great location for growth. Contact bob@quantumexpo.com or call him at (316)299-8272 for more information.



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