

January 2013

Inter-Faith Ministries brings people of all faiths together to build inter-religious understanding, promote justice, relieve misery, and reconcile the estranged. [Learn more...](#)

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Greetings!

During the last few weeks there have been so many news events and happenings that it's been hard to focus on one topic. Until last week.

The week between Christmas and New Year's I spent a few hours accompanying men riding to the Warming Souls Winter Shelter. It's a long walk from the Inter-Faith Inn, where they check-in every evening, to Grace United Methodist Church, who was the host in December. Sandy Swank, our Director of Homeless and Housing Services, was the driver.

We picked up five or six men at a time, men who were waiting eagerly outdoors in the cold for their turn. Most understand they have to wait until their number is called before they can get in the van. This keeps things peaceable. Sandy turned the heat in the van so high I thought it would melt the rubber soles of my shoes. She explained that the cold becomes so bone-chilling after standing outside for even a short time that the men truly appreciate the heat. Sure enough, several expressed their appreciation for the warmth.

I think a lot about the men and women we serve at the Winter Shelter during this time of year. I wonder about their stories and what broke down in their lives that led to their need for a cot in a church space. And, when I am most honest, I see myself. True, I am not homeless or jobless or friendless. Not now. But many of us are just one crisis away from that happening. I have known people who lost a job and with it, their home, their standard of living, their family. Sometimes the crisis is out of one's control, like a harsh economy, and sometimes it is the result of a string of bad decisions made over time.

Regardless, we are not in the business of condemning or judging those we serve. We never know when today might be the day one of our clients begins making changes for the better. We ask them to follow certain rules, to be accountable, and to commit to their own lives. And then we try to live the message that is the core of many faiths, something we call the Golden Rule. As expressed in the Christian faith, it is this: "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets." (Click [here](#) for a link to the Golden Rule as expressed by different faiths).

Looking our shelter guests in the eye and saying, "Hello, how are you?" when they approach; turning up the floor heat to warm their feet; offering them a meal or something to drink - these are small niceties. But they can have a big impact because in their essence, they are an acknowledgement that the person before us is a child of God, a child with weaknesses and frailties like all of us, but also like us, a child of God who was loved by Him before all time and forevermore.

Blessings to you all,



Anne Corriston, IFM Executive Director

We appreciate you!



Women in ASTEM Career, work toward higher paying jobs in **A**viation, **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, and **M**ath.

[JOIN OUR MAILING LIST](#)



Inter-Faith Ministries provides food to the hungry year-round.

You can help. Please donate now.

Check out the Events Calendar "News You Can Use"

Volunteer News



Hello!

On behalf of Inter-Faith Ministries and Catholic Charities, I want to extend an enormous thank you for all the time, love, and support volunteers gave to the 52nd Operation Holiday.

Souper Bowl is just around the corner. Join us Feb. 1st at First Presbyterian Church to combat hunger with the 13th annual Souper Bowl!

25 - 30 volunteers are needed Friday, Feb. 1st, from 9:00 - 3:00 (minimum of three hours will be fine) to serve soup, greet guests, take tickets, and more!

If you want to help or have questions let me know.

Read the latest [Volunteer newsletter](#).

-Kat

264-9303x111 or email kfranchino@interfaithwichita.org

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Thank you for your support

[Click here to view the Donor Appreciation Wall](#)

News You Can Use

Information on Upcoming Events

We are happy to include upcoming cultural or faith events in our calendar. Send information to [FaithLines Calendar](#)

January 12: A Special Briefing with Bob Feferman - Hosted by Mid Kansas Jewish Federation
Why should Americans be concerned about Iran's race to nuclear weapons? Bob Feferman is the Midwest Coordinator for the advocacy group United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI).
Saturday, January 12 | 7:00 p.m. | Congregation Emanu-El | 7011 E Central, Wichita | Open to the public

January 22 - March 5: 13th Annual Taste of Judaism - Hosted by Congregation Emanu-El
A seven week course about Judaism for Non-Jews. Taught by Rabbi Michael Davis, held Tuesday evenings, reservations requested. Contact the Temple office at 684-5148 or at office@emanuelict.org for your reservation.
Tuesdays January 22, January 29, February 5, February 12, February 19, February 26, March 5 | 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. | Congregation Emanu-El | 7011 E Central, Wichita | Reservations

January 25: Final Friday at IFM - Hosted by Woodland United Methodist
Featured artists are from the Woodland Quilters and Prayer Shawls. (link to biographies) Refreshments provided by members of Woodland United, and live entertainment.
Friday, January 25 | 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. | Inter-Faith Ministries CAFE Gallery | 829 N Market, Wichita | Open to the public

January 31: Bless this Building & Those Who Cross Its Threshold - Hosted by Catholic Diocese of Wichita
During February and March the Inter-Faith Spiritual Center will open its doors for the Warming Souls Winter Shelter. and meals will be hosted by parishioners of the Catholic Diocese of Wichita. An interfaith blessing will be given by Father John Lanzrath.
Thursday, January 31 | 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. | Inter-Faith Ministries Spiritual Center | 841 N Market, Wichita | Open to the public

February 1: 13th Annual Souper Bowl - Hosted by Inter-Faith Ministries Events Committee
Serving a bottomless bowl of soup prepared by Wichita's best chefs, warm bread and beverage. Souvenir bowl for first 200 guests, gift bowls by local artists for purchase, door prizes, and entertainment. To go orders available, expedite through advance order. Proceeds benefit the homeless and the hungry children in our community. Order tickets by calling 316-264-9303.

Friday, February 1 | 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. | First Presbyterian Church | 525 N Broadway, Wichita | Tickets are \$15 at the door, \$13.50 advance purchase, \$12 group purchase ten or more

About IFM

Serving Wichita for 125 Years

Inter-Faith Ministries began as the Wichita Ministerial Alliance in 1885, when the leaders of several Protestant churches banded together as people of faith, working to address basic human needs...

[\(more\)](#)

Visit InterFaithWichita.org to learn more about our programs, special events, and volunteer opportunities.

Check us out on Facebook, Twitter! & YouTube

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on  twitter

View our videos on  YouTube



13,500 People had a Brighter Holiday

4,330 households totaling 6,209 adults, 634 teens, and 6,625 children received food, coats, blankets, grocery cards for fresh food, and toys through the 2012 Operation Holiday!

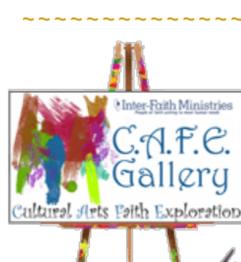
It Wouldn't be Possible Without YOU!

90,000 food items, 5,000 coats, 1000 blankets, and 4,000 scarves, hats and gloves plus \$250,000 were donated by this community.

20,000 much needed food items collected by St. Thomas Assisi students and parish were delivered just days before distribution began.

1,600 Volunteers donated 7,700 hours and 70 organizations sponsored donation drives.

Thank You Everyone For Your Donation of Time, Talent, and Dollars



The next Final Friday is January 25

Presented by Woodland United Methodist

[Details about featured art and artists](#)

Community Corner



Dave Coyle and In The Bag Cleaners have helped make holidays brighter for those in need by playing a large role in Operation Holiday during the past two years. Fourteen In The Bag Cleaner stores served as drop-off sites for Operation Holiday donations and provided complementary cleaning of donated blankets in preparation to hand them out.

This year, Dave Coyle and his team also helped with Operation Holiday by picking up donations from smaller organizations who sponsored donation drives at their place of business.

As if all this wasn't enough, for the past two years In The Bag Cleaners has also donated the cost of the utilities used during the time the distribution center was in use to process donations, take applications and distribute the items at Operation Holiday.

Please help us thank this great organization, generous business man, and wonderful team of employees. The next time you are in an In The Bag Cleaners thank them for their outstanding community spirit as demonstrated during Operation Holiday.

Souper Bowl

Friday, February 1, 2013



Join us for Souper Bowl 2013!
Friday, February 1
First Presbyterian Church
10:30-1:30
Call 316-264-9303 to pre-order tickets

Proceeds from Souper Bowl help feed the homeless and the hungry children in our community. Access to enough and the right kinds of food is a basic human need. Hunger can have a significant long-term effect on a child by causing anxiety, depression, poor health, obesity, and behavioral problems.

If you are not able to attend donate a ticket and help an IFM family have a hot meal. Click here for [more details and printable flyer](#)