



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

COLLABORATION THROUGH COMMUNITY

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Courtney Hall

In our current environment, the injustices that limit opportunities for our clients are coming clearly into focus. I am reminded of Dr. King's quote (emphasis mine): *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. **Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.**"*

We see the challenges facing our neighbors every day - homelessness, lack of access to basic needs, unfavorable employment outcomes, and a lack of affordable housing.

At Interfaith Works, in partnership with several organizations, we do our part to fill the gaps where possible. Yet more of our neighbors are experiencing poverty and homelessness because of the conditions they face.

The words of Dr. King urge us, as a community, to recognize our role as just that: a community.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

New Director of Essential Needs

Taking Steps Together Impact

MLK Week of Service 2024

Impact By the Numbers

Upcoming Events!



IMPACT

MEET THE NEW DIRECTOR OF ESSENTIAL NEEDS!



Supriya Mordecai, M.S.

Interfaith Works is proud to announce that Supriya Mordecai, M.S., is Interfaith Works' new Director of Essential Needs, which includes the Interfaith Works Clothing Center, Food Pantry and Connections Programs. The Essential Needs Center provides individuals and families with limited income access to clothing, home goods, food, other community resources and emergency rental and utility assistance at no charge to them.

Supriya joined Interfaith Works in 2021 and spent nearly two years as a Case Manager serving clients at the Interfaith Works Drop-In Center and Shelter at Progress Place in Silver Spring (formerly known as the Empowerment Center). Supriya assisted with Case Management at other IW locations before becoming the Program Director at Progress Place in January 2023.

[Read More Here!](#)

THANK YOU FOR TAKING STEPS TOGETHER WITH US!



As we rang in 2024, we ended the old year on a high thanks to you! To everyone who so graciously donated to our "Taking Steps Together Today" campaign, thank you. With your support we will be able to continue serving this community and providing pathways to stability for all our neighbors.

BY THE NUMBERS

**Over
7,800 Clients**

FY23 data



In 2023, over 7,800 clients and their families shopped for free clothing and housewares at the IW Clothing Center.

GRATITUDE

LIVING OUT THE LEGACY: MLK WEEK OF SERVICE 2024

Earlier this month, IW celebrated the legacy of Dr. King by bringing the community together for a Week of Service.

Members of the community joined us for big events like the Montgomery County Dr. MLK Day of Service celebration and brought toiletry donations for our clients to the MLK Celebration at the Strathmore.

Volunteers from Converted Heart C.M.E. Church provided free haircuts to clients at Progress Place. Clients in the IW Residences program participated in an art class provided by IW Residences Program Director Wendy Smith and enjoyed a delicious lunch with Congressman David Trone!

All week long, volunteers came to our sites to provide meals to clients, helped at the Essential Needs Center, and collected donations to support our clients.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in living out the legacy of service and community!



2023, A Year In Review

THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS LIKE YOU, IN THE PAST YEAR WE:

- Served more than **19,700 families** experiencing food insecurity with 676,000+ pounds of free food and 164,000+ diapers.
- Supported **7,800+ people** with free clothing and home goods.
- Prevented **358 households** from experiencing eviction and possible homelessness, and supported **229 households** with utility assistance.
- Helped **71 clients** find jobs at an average hourly wage of \$16.67, resulting in more than \$2.4 million in total annual salary.
- Provided emergency shelter and supportive housing to **1,200 neighbors**.



Thank You, Olney Theatre!

During the holiday season, our great partners at **Olney Theatre Center** hosted a coat drive encouraging patrons to bring gently used winter coats when attending a performance.

Thanks to their partnership and the generosity of so many of our neighbors, we collected hundreds of coats for our clients!

Thank you to everyone who donated a coat and helped to ensure all of our neighbors have access to warm clothing this winter.



EVENTS

JOIN US!

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

THURSDAY FEB. 1ST 7PM - 9PM

7548 STANDISH PLACE. ROCKVILLE, MD 20855

REGISTER HERE!



SAVE THE DATE! TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024

1st Annual
Faith & Community Partnerships
Awards
10 am - 2 pm
Followed by:
Faith & Philanthropy Forum

Save the Date!
More details
coming soon.

CONTACT US

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DONATE
AND VOLUNTEER

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One Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Invitation to follow.

Contact tsimpson@iworksmc.org for more information.



February is Black History Month!

Follow along on our social media as we share the work of our Black-led community partners, leaders and organizations dedicated to creating just and equitable spaces and opportunities.



Want to see what else IW is up to?
Click below to see more!

EVENTS CALENDAR

