



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024

ELEVATING THE VOICES OF OUR NEIGHBORS A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Courtney Hall

Dear Friend,

Earlier this month, the Montgomery County Council held a hearing on the County's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. I had the privilege of testifying on behalf of the 35,000 people Interfaith Works serves annually about the growing needs our community faces and what we are doing to help.

During the public comment process, many people connected to the IW community also shared their insights and experiences. Employees, volunteers, Board members, and clients provided their thoughts about the challenges facing our neighbors. I am grateful to be part of a community that allows people to share openly their concerns and priorities. One of the Montgomery County residents expressing her truth was Sheena, who participates in the IW Vocational Services Program. She wrote of her experience as a single mom who, after losing her job, was forced to access the County's shelter system. She reflected on how difficult that time was for her family and how much she depended on programs like those provided by IW.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

Advocating for Our Neighbors

Harm Reduction Staff Training

Community Appreciation at the ENC

Impact By the Numbers

Upcoming Events!



IMPACT

ADVOCATING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

April is a crucial time for nonprofit organizations and service providers across the County. Members of the Interfaith Works staff, board, donors, and clients shared testimony with the County Council to encourage support for crucial programs in the FY25 budget. We are so grateful for everyone who took the time to speak on behalf of IW and our programs.

Many speakers shared trends in this community empowered by the experiences of our clients. Our programs are all seeing a surge in need of our neighbors seeking support in housing, emergency financial assistance, essential needs, and employment assistance. Thank you to everyone who took the time to highlight these needs and help to ensure the council understands the needs of this community. We can only achieve stability by working together.



HARM REDUCTION TRAINING

Earlier this month, staff from the Essential Needs Center and Rollins Ave. locations participated in a Harm Reduction training led by Kacy L. Barker, PhD.

This training allowed staff to learn about best practices in supporting our clients in vulnerable situations. This dynamic and thought-provoking training will be provided to all IW staff to ensure the entire organization is providing the most ethical and up-to-date care to our clients and neighbors.

BY THE NUMBERS

198
Households

FY24 data



In the past fiscal quarter, the IW Connections program assisted 198 households with emergency financial assistance.

GRATITUDE

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION EVENT



Our first community appreciation event at the IW Essential Needs Center was a success! The purpose of the event was to let our volunteers, clients, and donors as well as all other community members surrounding us know how appreciative we are of every way they contribute to making the ENC what it is. We provided tours of the center which included our Clothing Center, Food Pantry, and Connections program; we had breakfast; and other IW programs shared information about all that we do. We hope that this event allowed our community to better understand our services and also prompted folks to reach out to their own communities to encourage them to donate their time through volunteering or items that we can continue to provide to our clients!

JOIN US FOR DO MORE 24

Save the date! On May 15, 2024, IW is honored to participate in DO MORE 24. In partnership with the United Way of the National Capital Area we will be raising funds to support our programs!



GET INVOLVED



DONOR ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

We love all our donors at Interfaith Works, and we want to hear from you! Please complete this survey to tell us more about you, why you donate to Interfaith Works, and what kind of content you are looking for from us. This short survey will help us understand what we are doing right, and what we can improve on. Please respond by the end of April.

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY!](#)

EVENTS

HBCU Volunteer Day at the IW Essential Needs Center

Are you a student or alum of an HBCU? Join us on Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 10am-1pm at the IW Essential Needs Center.

No registration required.

Don't forget to represent your HBCU!

[LEARN MORE HERE!](#)



Join us for the IW Volunteer Resource Fair!

Learn about volunteer opportunities around the county and get involved!

[LEARN MORE HERE!](#)

Saturday May 18, 2024
10:00am-2:00pm
7600 Takoma Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912



Volunteer Resource Fair 2024

Join us for IW May Community Conversation: Mental Health, with premiere screening and discussion of documentary "Have You Seen Teri?" by filmmaker Dene Chinn.

[LEARN MORE HERE!](#)



Wednesday
May 29, 2024
7:00pm-10:00pm

CONTACT US

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[EVENTS CALENDAR](#)