

NUMBERS TELL THE STORY MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Courtney Hall

Dear Friend:

The surge in the number of neighbors in our region experiencing homelessness is deeply troubling. Results from the latest annual Point in Time census show a significant 53% increase in people experiencing homelessness in Montgomery County alone. We have been watching with concern as demand for our programs – beyond those responding directly to homelessness -- has grown.

The numbers tell the story.

Interfaith Works Shelter at Progress Place experienced a 140% increase in the number of people seeking emergency seasonal shelter in just the first three quarters of the current fiscal year compared to the previous year. And there is a bigger picture: **we are seeing a surge** in people seeking help from our programs offering emergency rental assistance, free clothing and food, and vocational services to achieve economic stability through better employment (see Lisa's story below).

This is a complex situation.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

Farewell to
Darren

Reaching Higher

New Leaf,
New Life

Impact By the
Numbers

Events



GRATITUDE

A Fond Farewell



Interfaith Works is saying a bittersweet goodbye to one of our dedicated volunteers! Darren began working as a volunteer at the Essential Needs Center in the fall of 2021. Darren was an incredible help to our staff and fellow volunteers during the pandemic and did his part to ensure that our clients and their families received access to free food and clothing.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Marriott Foundation Supports Our Work

Interfaith Works is honored to extend our relationship with The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation in support of our Montgomery County neighbors in need. Thanks to this partnership, IW be able to continue providing our clients with pathways that lead to greater stability, while expanding some of our current programs and developing strategies around new programs.

With the support of the Foundation, IW has been better positioned to respond to increasing community needs. We are serving over 35,000 neighbors annually. Thank you!

THE J. WILLARD AND ALICE S.
MARRIOTT FOUNDATION

Volunteers Upgrade Grounds at New Leaf

The grounds at IW's New Leaf shelter were the site of many improvements, thanks to a collaboration involving Rebuilding Together of Montgomery County, the Associated Builders and Contractors of Montgomery County, and the Women Building Washington as part of the annual "She Builds" event.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



IMPACT

Reaching Higher

Lisa (not her real name), an IW Vocational Services Program (VSP) client, enrolled in ESOL for Adults classes offered by Montgomery College. She attends class for four hours on Saturday mornings.

Because she also is enrolled in VSP's Paid Training Program, Lisa receives a stipend of \$15 for each completed class hour. With the support of grant funds, IW has instituted the Paid Training Program to provide incentives and support to VSP clients who want to expand their skills and education to help them find better jobs.



[READ MORE HERE](#)

New Leaf Leads to New Life



[READ FULL STORY HERE](#)

"For what it's worth: it's never too late or, in my case, too early to be whoever you want to be... You can make the best or the worst of it. I hope you make the best of it. And I hope you see things that startle you. I hope you feel things you never felt before. I hope you meet people with a different point of view. I hope you live a life you're proud of. If you find that you're not, I hope you have the courage to start all over again."

— F. Scott Fitzgerald

BY THE NUMBERS



140%

FY23 data

Interfaith Works Shelter at Progress Place experienced a 140% increase in the number of people seeking emergency seasonal shelter in just the first three quarters of the current fiscal year compared to the previous year.

EVENTS



JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY
CONVERSATION ON:
MENTAL HEALTH

&

ADDICTION AWARENESS

**THURSDAY, MAY 25
7 - 8 PM ON ZOOM**

**REGISTER HERE: bit.ly/IWCommConvoMay23
(registration required)**

In Case You Missed It



On May 6, the community joined Interfaith Works and over 30 local organizations that provide a range of services to our neighbors for a Faith Community Volunteer Resource Fair, in collaboration with the Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

Two normally friendly co-workers - Miranda Marks AKA The Canadian Menace and Andrés Gutierrez-Vidal AKA The Guy Nobody Knows -- faced off to see who will be crowned the Squat Challenge Champion.



[WATCH FULL VIDEO HERE](#)

CONTACT US

www.iworksmc.org

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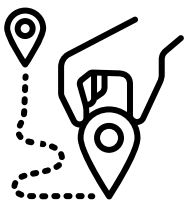
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Our Administrative Office has moved!
Beginning May 22, we will be at
**981 Rollins Ave., 2nd Floor,
Rockville, MD 20852**