



November-December 2017

Interfaith CONNECTION

Social justice and peace through interfaith understanding and cooperation.

The 34th ANNUAL

COMMUNITY INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ THANKSGIVING
- ◆ COMMUNITY CARE CENTER
- ◆ HOME FUND UPDATE
- ◆ MOMENTS OF BLESSING
- ◆ FIRST FRIDAYS AT THE MOSQUE
- ◆ LEARNING RIGHT RELATIONS
- ◆ SHELTER ANNIVERSARY
- ◆ MULTIFAITH CALENDARS
- ◆ HOLD THE DATE:
2018 EYE-2-EYE DINNER
- ◆ AND MORE...

Gratitude



*in the face of
Challenge*

THANK YOU STATE EMPLOYEES!
 WASHINGTON STATE
**COMBINED
 FUND DRIVE**
 CFD CODE: 0316251

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**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2017 — 2 P.M.
 THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE
 GOOD SHEPHERD**

1601 North Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

A Community Tradition!

Interfaith readings featuring words of gratitude • Solo vocal and choral music including the Olympia Peace Choir • Refreshments

<http://interfaith-works.org/about-iw/programs-projects/interfaith-thanksgiving-celebration/>

Community Care Center Opens

The Community Care Center (CCC) opened for business on September 13 as a unique resource never before seen in our community: providing a single point of access for street-dependent individuals needing access to basic hygiene and day respite, behavioral health, substance abuse, housing, and other services.

As the first weeks have unfolded, most things are working smoothly as planned or anticipated. We are seeing large numbers of guests using the Center, located at State & Franklin in downtown Olympia.

The average daily number of sign-ins is 205. Folks have used the showers over 1,200 times, with over 300 loads of laundry. Many services -- mental health, medical care, housing and more -- are being accessed from partner agencies at the Center. Our hard-working Interfaith Works staff are managing the busy day room, hygiene facilities and outdoor area.

Not surprisingly, there are challenges meeting all the needs of people who are houseless/homeless. While the CCC serves many essential functions, it cannot be a daily warming center. As partners alongside Providence and other agencies providing services there, we are focused on managing the site positively, and helping the CCC succeed at what it's designed for: as a service hub open to all.

As temperatures drop and winter approaches, local government and providers are working on meeting safety net needs around cold weather. This includes finding safe places where people can go both during the day and overnight., especially those who are most at risk of dying from exposure on the streets.

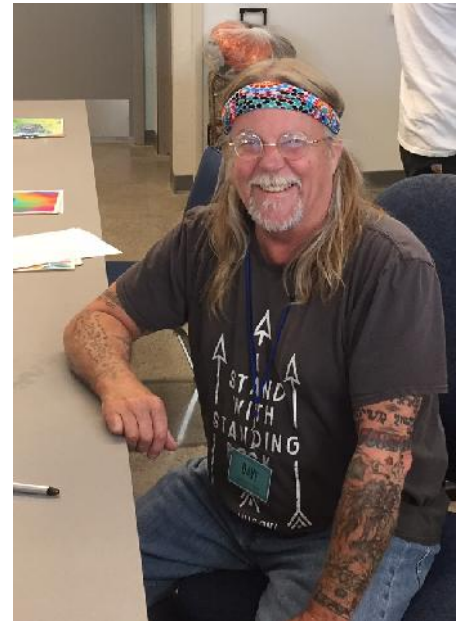
The CCC has a [Wish List](#) on Amazon.

Your donation makes it possible to provide consistent resources and high quality care. Click on the link above to see supplies we need on a daily basis to serve our guests.

Read more about the CCC in recent local news coverage:

[Thurston Talk 10/12/17](#)

[The Olympian 10/7/17](#)



IW staff David Wade, manning the front desk of the Center.

Home Fund Update

On October 24 the Olympia City Council voted unanimously to authorize the Home Fund measure to be placed on the City of Olympia ballot in a special February 13, 2018 election. The Home Fund will be a cost effective and compassionate solution to housing vulnerable members of our community. Funds raised through a modest 0.1% sales tax will build 350 safe and affordable homes for our most vulnerable neighbors in the next 10 years.

In the coming months help will be needed to achieve victory in February. There will be doorbelling and volunteer opportunities.

Visit www.olyhomefund.org for more details.

The Home Fund will allow us to focus our resources on providing homes to our most vulnerable community members, including additional support services to those in need. It will help put an end to the constant struggle our unhoused community members every day. It will give us the opportunity to address the actual problem head on instead of reacting to the symptoms of not having a home.

Please help celebrate the achievement of the Home Fund being placed on the ballot by attending the official campaign kick-off on 11/12 3-5pm at Ramblin Jacks! Special guest speaker is Congressman Denny Heck. Light appetizers will be provided and a cash bar available. Please RSVP by email to olyhomefund@gmail.com



<http://www.olyhomefund.org/>

First Friday at the Mosque

Visiting & Supporting the Muslim Community in Thurston County

Visitors are welcome to attend



activities at the Islamic Center of Olympia any time, but the Mosque has made a schedule for every first Friday of the month for a visitor circle time which allows for questions and mingling.

The address is (follow link for location): [4324 20th Way NE, Olympia, WA 98516](#)

WINTER tentative schedule

- 12:00 PM Meet at the west parking lot for a welcome briefing
- 12:10 PM Enter the community center to hear the call to prayer at 12:15 sharp.
- 12:15-12:45 Sermon (English and Arabic)
- 12:45-1:00 Observe (or join if you like) the prayer
- 1:00-1:15 Mix and mingle with community members
- 1:15-2:00 Q&A circle time in the community hall (basement)

If you are bringing a group, it would be helpful to have an approximate head count for planning. RSVP email: info@islamiccenterofolympia.org.

For more information and resources, click [here](#) to visit an information page on the IW website. (PDF format)

Clergy in the Middle

Over the next year we will continue hosting quarterly “Clergy Breakfasts” to encourage strengthening relations across faiths and denominations, coordinate actions on common interests, and provide resources for clergy and congregational leaders as they engage on broader community concerns.

This work is critical and timely for our community, which has seen the arrival of quite a few new or interim clergy leaders in the past year. It also recognizes the long-standing role of clergy leadership in advising and shaping the priorities and direction of Interfaith Works. Historically, IW (founded in 1974 as “Associated Ministries”) by a minister-led group, depended on clergy early on to do the nuts-and-bolts program work. The days of plentiful discretionary time for clergy are long past (just ask them!), but their wisdom and leadership are an indispensable part of Interfaith Works going forward.

Recently, clergy affiliated with Interfaith Works have established more effective ways to “rapidly respond” to urgent events and crises. By strengthening their own personal and professional relationships, they are showing all of us the way to build lasting interfaith relations.

Welcome to Rev. Eric Posa, new interim Minister at Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Congratulations to Father Ed Lovelady, who has been called as permanent Vicar of St. Benedict Episcopal Church.

Moments of Blessing Hit a Chord

In 2017 Interfaith Works has responded to a higher than usual number of homicides in our community. While murder continues to be a rare occurrence in Thurston County, there have been a series of tragedies prompting a Moment of Blessing to be organized at or near the site of killings. Five such events have taken place since May alone. The circumstances of each killing and its impact on family, friends, colleagues and neighborhoods is unique. Each victim is a precious life.

Interfaith Works will continue to organize these ceremonies, which help reclaim the place of violence as a place of live peace.

If you wish to be notified of future Moments of Blessing (usually on short notice), visit our webpage :

<http://interfaith-works.org/about-iw/programs-projects/moments-of-blessing/>



Neighbors and friends of a homicide victim gathered at a Moment of Blessing southeast of Lacey in September 2017.

Learning Right Relations

On October 1, the Fall 2017 series of classes for Learning Right Relations kicked off at First United Methodist Church with about 40 community members in attendance.

Learning Right Relations (LRR) is a series of classes, auxiliary meetings and visits to Tribal sites aimed at addressing the historic marginalization and ongoing inequities of our Coast Salish neighbors. This work was co-founded in the autumn of 2015 by Douglas Mackey and Pat Rasmussen--each with more than 30 years of collaborative work with several Tribes--as classes offered by the Adult Ed Committee of the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Interfaith Works is a proud co-sponsor of this important inter-cultural initiative.

The class meets again on Sunday, November 5, with a special field trip scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, November 7 to the Squaxin Island Museum.

Details and more resources available at the Learning Right Relations website:

www.oly-wa.us/learningrightrelations/

A flyer detailing the Fall 2017 classes can be downloaded:

<http://interfaith-works.org/wp-content/uploads/Learning-Right-Relations-2017-Fall.pdf>



On October 1, Puyallup tribe members Robert and Elizabeth Satiacum conducted a ritual cleansing of the church building and the smudging of class participants as they entered the church to begin working together.

**Thanks to state
employees who
donate through
the Washington
State Combined
Fund Drive!**



CFD CHARITY CODE **316251**

**All contributions to Interfaith Works
support local programs.**

IW Overnight Shelter at 3 Years *by Danny Kadden, Executive Director*

November 2, 2017 marks the three-year anniversary of the opening of the IW “Emergency Overnight Shelter” at First Christian Church. Emerging from “The People’s House” organizing project, Meg Martin and her team, hand in hand with Interfaith Works, did some incredible heavy lifting, raised the level of awareness and understanding of downtown street homelessness, built deep partnerships across downtown and the wider community, and earned the trust of local government funders. The result was Thurston County’s first low-barrier, year-round shelter that focused on the needs of the most vulnerable.

It was an historic turning point in the development of homeless services in our community, but there was precious little time to dwell on the Big Picture –the everyday needs of the shelter and guests demanded tremendous energy and flexibility from our managers, support staff, volunteers, and the guests too. The creativity and resilience of our shelter staff is the big untold story of this project, and this community owes them more than can ever be paid.



The original staff that opened the Overnight Shelter in November 2014

Check out the newly-designed Overnight Shelter program website for news, volunteer opportunities and other resources

www.iwshelter.org

Through many high points and low points, the shelter has done its work of meeting

people where they are, making meaningful connections and saving lives. We dove headlong into the effort to open a downtown Warming Center and then the Community Care Center in partnership with Providence Health & Services and other local service providers (which became a reality on September 13).

The whole tone and direction of our civic conversation around homelessness and affordable housing has changed in large part due to this shelter program. Compassion is alive and well, a real force shaping our public policies around homelessness and the social safety net. That alone is worth appreciating and celebrating. But there is so much more work ahead. The shelter will open at 5:00 today, as always. Our funding gap is big enough to drive a truck through. Winter is approaching. The unmet need for shelter and permanent supportive housing is daunting. Rental costs in Thurston County are rising at alarming rates, sending more people over the edge into homelessness.

We see the challenges and know they will be hard to surmount. But we also know we are on the right track, thanks to the success we’ve seen and the great community support we’ve enjoyed.

From The Olympian

Editorial, Sept 7, 2017

A decision this week by Interfaith Works to jettison its plan for a winter warming center for Olympia-area homeless people was a tough decision, and a disappointment. But it was a pragmatic call by a group that has truly been stepping up to face and solve South Sound’s homelessness troubles when others have not... Even so, our community still needs a permanent, around-the-clock shelter. Leaders across our county need to re-group and look carefully at how to support 24-hour shelter options advocated by Interfaith Works, including a warming center for Thurston County.

Sept 30, 2017

[Olympia police chief Ronnie] Roberts said, “We can’t turn our back on that.” ... When [Chief Roberts] drives through Olympia on his way to work and sees people on the streets, he doesn’t view it as a police problem. “We have a community in need,” Roberts said. “We’re not going to arrest our way out of the problem. It’s going to take far more than law enforcement. It’s going to take the business community, the city, the county, the state and social service providers.

Editorial, November 10, 2015 — Two Years Ago

Homeless shelter shows progress :Two years ago, there was a roaring controversy about locating a shelter for homeless adults in downtown Olympia. A year ago, the shelter finally opened in First Christian Church at Seventh and Franklin. To the surprise of some of its opponents, nothing bad has happened; to the great relief of its guests, a great deal of good has.



PO Box 1221
 Olympia WA 98507
www.interfaith-works.org

◆ IW COMMUNITY CALENDAR ◆

Visit <http://interfaith-works.org/selections-community-calendar/> for a one page PDF file of selected postings of events, celebrations and gatherings of interfaith interest. Also see the regularly updated calendar on our website: <http://interfaith-works.org/events/>



The 2018 Multifaith Calendar is here!

It is a great holiday gift and supports the work of IW.

A source of accurate dates and descriptions of approximately 430 events, including observances from 14 world religions.

For more info and to order:

<http://interfaith-works.org/multifaith-calendar/>

Hold the Date

Eye-2-Eye



THREE YEAR CELEBRATION
 NIGHTLY SHELTER FOR OUR
 MOST VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS

Hear Stories, Meet our Guests, Share a Meal with Us

Friday, February 2, 2018 @ 5:00 pm

Saint Michael Catholic Parish
 1021 Boundary St NE, Olympia

Details Coming!

Balancing the Scales

a fundraiser for

Community-Assisted Resources for Equity (CARE)
 hosted by Thurston County Public Defense (TCPD)

Wednesday, November 15 — 5:30 - 7:00pm

Woman's Club of Olympia

1002 Washington St. SE, Olympia

Presenters:

Patrick O'Connor, Director, TCPD
 Tammy Shuffield, Attorney - misdemeanors, TCPD
 Special guests (a beneficiary of the fund will speak)

Poverty is a common denominator among the accused in our local criminal justice system, and CARE assists by eliminating small financial barriers to managing/closing one's court case.

Appetizers and Wine Bar

Info: 707-696-3691 Marie
communitycarefund@gmail.com
thurstoncountyfund.wordpress.com

Interfaith Works proudly serves as fiscal agent of the CARE Fund.

