

## Covenant Housing: There's No Place Like Home

When Dorothy clicked her heels three times and uttered the words, "There's no place like home," she had traversed a yellow brick road fraught with hazards. But that doesn't compare with the road traveled by Janice Legette-Edwards, a Syracuse city resident who realized her life-long dream of home ownership.

When she turned the key in her own home in July, it was the result of over two years of constant support from InterFaith Works' Covenant Housing Program (CHP).

The homebuyers served by CHP have very low incomes and live with disabilities and special needs. They are likely to be among the hardest hit by the mortgage crisis due to lack of income or credit histories. Janice met these criteria after a brain injury left her with chronic pain and depression. Following her injury, her marriage ended in divorce and she found herself raising her two children alone. Despite frequent efforts to re-enter the workforce, a second injury left her permanently disabled.

Regardless of overwhelming odds, neither Janice nor the CHP gave up. According to Woyciesjes, "Home buyers want to relocate from substandard, unsafe housing that does not meet their specialized needs. When we enable them to meet their needs with safe, decent and affordable housing, they're not the only ones who win. We all win because these home owners have overcome such tremendous odds and are ready to invest their whole heart in their community. And the neighborhoods where they are buying homes are stabilized by the increased presence of owner-occupied dwellings."

Janice is one of nearly thirty very-low income home owners that have been served by Covenant Housing and their community partners, including the City of Syracuse, Home HeadQuarters, Inc., the Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union, the Syracuse Housing Au-



Janice Legette-Edwards (far right) and her family in the new home she purchased with help from InterFaith Works' Covenant Housing Program

thority, and United Way of Central New York, all of whom recognize the value of empowering disabled low-income homeowners.

For the complete story of Janice's extraordinary journey, follow this link to the InterFaith Works website: <http://interfaithworkscny.org/blog/programs/covenant-housing/janices-story/>

*"...these home owners have overcome such tremendous odds and are ready to invest their whole heart in their community."*

"Covenant Housing is all about inclusion," says Program Director Marilyn Woyciesjes. "We work with those who have been excluded from community life due to disability and very low incomes, and provide individualized support so they can become active members of a neighborhood of their choice. For Janice, the program was not only a means to an end, it was a constant source of encouragement and guidance during a rigorous process of credit counseling, mortgage application assistance, frequent setbacks, and ultimately, successful acquisition of her own home.

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Beth A. Broadway

## Help Us Build Bridges of Understanding



Millicent Davis

*Pity may represent little more than the impersonal concern which prompts the mailing of a check, but true sympathy is the personal concern which demands the giving of one's soul.*

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dear Friends,

Dr. King's words are as true today as when he first uttered them more than 50 years ago. Yes, we are asking you to write a check, but not out of pity. We are asking you to support our Building Bridges Campaign because of your personal concern for the people we serve. What better investment can any of us make, particularly in these days when hate, poverty and violence threaten the most basic principles of peace and justice?

The overarching principle of this organization is to affirm the dignity of all by building bridges of understanding and service. By making the world a better, safer, more promising place for those who need us most, we make the world better for everyone. These are the things that happen because of your help:

- Refugee families who have already faced great global challenges settle here with strength and determination for their family's future.
- Disabled people can finally move into homes that meet their most fundamental needs.
- Senior citizens open their doors to fellow seniors who help them to live independently.
- Prisoners find encouragement to change their lives because of the caring presence of chaplains of their own faith.
- Urban and suburban high school students break down stereotypes and misconceptions, paving the way for deeper understanding and cooperation that will impact their lifelong decision making.

InterFaith Works cannot exist without the generous support of people who care. Four times a year, this newsletter arrives in your mailbox because we know you care. That's why we are asking you to support us in our mission to build bridges of understanding. Please use the enclosed envelope to make an investment in InterFaith Works, and join us in affirming dignity today.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Broadway  
Executive Director

Millicent Davis, FLMI, ACS  
Board President

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 Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is of Syracuse  
 Syracuse Friends Meeting  
 Syracuse Jewish Federation  
 The Salvation Army  
 United Church of Christ  
 United Methodist Church  
 Zen Center of Syracuse, Inc.

# 20th Annual Spiritual Care Day Welcomes Dr. Pat Fosarelli

## Thank you to the Spiritual Care Day sponsors

### Partners

The Dr. Lee R. Stoner &  
Ruth H. Stoner, RN Fund at the  
Crouse Health Foundation

Loretto Health and  
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### Sponsor

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of Syracuse

On October 21st, Patricia Fosarelli, M.D., D. Min., theologian, physician, and lay minister, delivered the keynote address to approximately 125 caregivers at InterFaith Works' 20th Annual Spiritual Care Day, at The Crouse Hospital-Marley Education Center. Dr. Fosarelli teaches spirituality and practical theology at the Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St. Mary's Seminary, and is a faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Dr. Fosarelli's keynote address explored how to be a healing presence no matter one's faith. Her address was followed by a panel discussion with local faith leaders. According to Dr. Fosarelli's book, *Prayers and Rituals at a Time of Illness and Dying*, "Being in communication with those from various faith traditions not our own also encourages ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and respect, activities that we desperately need in large measure in our often troubled world, a world that seems more often to be divided because of religion rather than united." The panel's collective sharing on the subject of ministering to those of diverse faiths in times of crisis achieved the level of communication called for in Dr. Fosarelli's book.

Spiritual Care Day is an annual educational event presented by InterFaith Works' Spiritual Care Program, under the direction of Rev. Roberta Yackel, in conjunction with The Dr. Lee R. Stoner and Ruth H. Stoner, RN Fund at the Crouse Health Foundation. Special thanks go to Rev. Katherine Day, managing chaplain at Crouse Hospital, who was instrumental in planning this event.

The InterFaith Works Spiritual Care Program is dedicated to serving the spiritual needs of those confined to hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons by providing them with the caring presence of chaplains. This annual event brings together individuals from a variety of professions including social workers, medical professionals, counselors, clergy, chaplains, pastoral care visitors and caregivers.

Follow this link to visit the Spiritual Care page on the InterFaith Works website: <http://interfaithworkscny.org/blog/programs/spiritual-care/>



Upper Photo - Dr. Pat Fosarelli

Lower Photo - Spiritual Care Day discussion panel (left to right) Rev. Virginia Lawson - Zen Center of Syracuse, Dr. Bala K. Murthy - Syracuse Gita Study Group, Imam Yaser Alkhooly - Islamic Society of Syracuse, Rabbi Daniel Fellman - Temple Concord, Rev. Kevin Agee - Hopps Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and Mr. Narinder S. Bains - Sikh Foundation of Syracuse.

## Senior Companion Program Fosters Friendship and More

By Helena Jaramillo



Anna Sobatka (right) and Pauline Baker share a special bond through the Senior Companion Program

For more than 20 years the Senior Companion Program has been helping seniors across Central New York live more independent and healthier lives. The program currently pairs over 200 seniors with a Companion to accompany them in their day to day tasks. These Companions provide a combined 65,000 hours of service annually. In many cases, the Companions and their clients form a deep friendship, as Anna Sobatka and her client Pauline Baker have.

"I don't know what I would do without her," says Baker about Sobatka. The two have been paired together for two years, and would consider each other more than just "companions," as they are good friends who share stories and advice.

Sobatka, 78, has been a Companion for twelve years and loves the program, "I think it's one of the best things they have for the elderly because they need a lot of help." Before working as a Companion, Sobatka worked for Catholic Charities, but when she retired she wanted to try something new where she would be a good fit, "We are seniors ourselves," she explains. "So we know what those seniors are going through, we know how to act with them."

Baker and Sobatka currently reside in the same building and spend a lot of time together enjoying different activities, such as eating meals together and exchanging Christmas and birthday gifts. Baker's favorite thing to do with Sobatka is to go shopping, specifically for painting tools. Sobatka and Baker are a prime example of what makes the Senior Companion Program so special. "We'll be fine as long as I sit here and she sits there and we make each other laugh," says Sobatka with her characteristic grin. And Baker agrees.

To read an extended interview with Anna and Pauline on the InterFaith Works website, follow this link: <http://interfaithworkscny.org/blog/programs/senior-companion/our-work/the-anna-sobatka-and-pauline-baker-story/>

## Sixth Annual Women's Forum Explores InterFaith/ InterCultural Marriage



The Women's Forum discussion panel shares stories of love and courage

Nearly 100 people gathered to honor the memory of the founding Executive Director of the InterReligious Council, (now InterFaith Works) at the 6th Annual Dorothy F. Rose Women's Forum on September 28th. The Forum, hosted by Holy Cross Church in Dewitt, was entitled, "Challenges, Triumphs and Strategies of InterFaith /InterCultural Marriage." The panel discussion featured three couples of diverse backgrounds who shared their personal stories of love and courage.

The Forum included (left to right in the panel photo) Sophary (a Muslim from Cambodia) and El Java Abdul-Quadir, an African American/Puerto Rican Muslim; Julia and Sam Gordon, whose father is Jewish, while his mother raised him as Unitarian Universalist. He now practices Zen Buddhism, and also attends St. Lucy's Catholic Church with his Catholic wife and three children; Cathy Dutch, who is Jewish, and her husband, the Rev. William C. Redfield of Trinity Episcopal Church.

The couples explored such issues as: interfaith/ intercultural marriage as a generational issue; reactions from each spouse's faith community; navigating marriage from the context of "the other"; challenges and communication strategies; and raising children.

### Thank you to the Women's Forum sponsors

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**Tea Rose**  
Rev. Karen Budney  
Ahmad & Elizabeth El-Hindi  
Foundation  
Jewish Community Center

**Rosebud**  
Ellen Taylor Bacon, in honor of  
University United Methodist Church  
Gail and Dennis Baldwin  
Shirley A. Chauvin  
Beth A. Broadway and Philip Rose  
Gloria and Jim Heffernan  
Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority - Xi Chapter  
Marilyn Pinsky  
Rev. Howard Rose  
Lois Stuber Spitzer  
Reverends Marilyn N. and  
Thomas V. Wolfe, Ph.D.

**Rose Petal**  
Rabbi Rachel Ain  
Judy Antione  
Marcy Bowles  
Dr. and Mrs. David G. Doane  
Marilyn Higgins  
Charlotte "Chuckie" Holstein  
Molly G. King  
Rev. Dr. Jon and Joyce Regier  
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Syracuse University Chancellor's Office  
University United Methodist Church  
Chris Welch  
Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood

# Prayer Service for the Gulf Coast Honors the Waters That Connect Us All

## InterFaith Works would like to thank those who spoke at the Prayer Service for the Gulf Coast

Imam Yasar Alkhoody  
Islamic Society of Central New York

Mr. Norm Anzdrzejewski  
Operation Southern Comfort

Mr. Narinder S. Bains, CRPC  
The Sikh Foundation of Syracuse

Rabbi Daniel Fellman  
Temple Concord

The Syracuse Community Choir  
Ensemble, under the direction of  
Ms. Karen Mihalyi

Rev. Dr. Tiffany Steinwert,  
Dean of Hendricks Chapel at  
Syracuse University

Dr. Bill Cross  
Zen Center of Syracuse

Fr. Jon Werner  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse

Rev. Craig Schaub  
Plymouth Congregational United  
Church of Christ

Rev. Kevin Agee  
Hopps Memorial C.M.E. Church

On October 7th, InterFaith Works hosted a Prayer Service for the Gulf Coast at Onondaga Lake Park. Clergy from Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh traditions expressed their concern, solidarity and hope for the people, animals and plants of the Gulf Coast, where people continue to struggle in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill.



Norm Anzdrzejewski (far left) speaks at the Gulf Prayer Service

The Prayer Service, organized by the InterFaith Works Round Table of Faith Leaders, sought to remind people that even now that the well is capped and the leak has been stopped, our neighbors in the Gulf Coast will continue to endure the effects of this disaster for many years to come. They need to know that we care about their struggles and continue to hold them in our hearts and in our prayers.

Special thanks to Rev. William C. Redfield, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Fayetteville, and Convener of the Round Table of Faith Leaders, for assembling this inspiring group of community leaders.



Teddy Sanders participates in the Gulf Coast card project at Hopps Memorial CME Church in Syracuse

A highlight of the event was the blessing of more than 225 cards made by local children and volunteers. The cards were presented by Beth A. Broadway, Executive Director of InterFaith Works, to Norm Anzdrzejewski, founder of Operation Southern Comfort, a local volunteer organization that has sent over 1,400 volunteers to the Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina. Anzdrzejewski personally delivered the cards to Dr. Hugh Craft, President of the St. Bernard Parish School District, who will distribute them to children and families impacted by the spill.

## Giving to the United Way



United Way is the leading funder of human services in Onondaga County. They work with businesses, non-profits, higher education institutions and government agencies to make real change in our community. InterFaith Works is proud to be one of the 102 local agencies that receives support from the United Way. This year, we are not only the grateful recipients of United Way funding, we are also proud supporters. Over 90% of InterFaith Works employees donate, and we encourage everyone to support the United Way campaign.

Follow this link to visit the United Way website: <http://www.unitedway-cny.org/>

## Key Bank Awards Grant Supporting Courageous Conversations About Race

Key Bank representative Jeff Eades, Vice President and Senior Relationship Manager for Business Banking, presented the InterFaith Works' Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism (CWD) with a \$12,500 grant to support the Courageous Conversations about Race Initiative (CCRI) that CWD is implementing in partnership with the Syracuse City School District (SCSD).

Cited by the SCSD as a critical tool in reducing the achievement gap, CCRI engages administrators, teachers and parents in dialogue about race to arrive at a deeper understanding of the effects of racism on student achievement. By engaging the education community in dialogue about race, CCRI provides a forum for educators to begin a deep and thorough examination of their beliefs and practices in order to re-create schools in such a way that they become places where all children succeed.



Jeff Eades (far left) presents a grant donation to Community Wide Dialogue program representatives (left to right) Derrick Dorsey, Christi Jureller and Janet Dodd

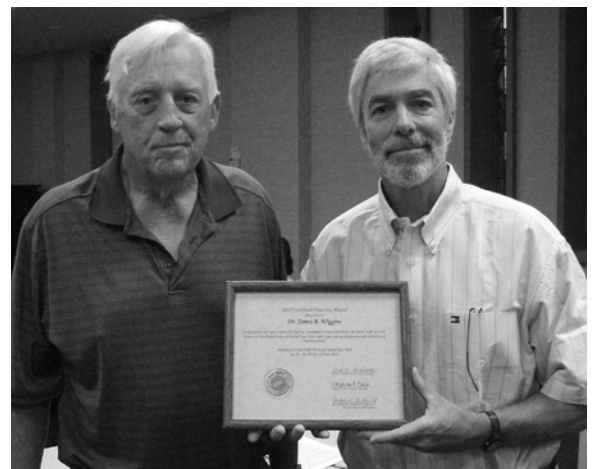
The purpose of CCRI is to close the racial achievement gap by eliminating racism in the SCSD. The project will ensure that all students experience a school environment that values and supports diversity, recognizes the innate intelligence, curiosity and creativity of all students, and holds high expectations of all students. The project goal is to develop and implement strategies and educational models that will transform the current school environment into one that is characterized by warm and caring relationships between educators and students increased parent involvement, and a democratic voice in education policy.

For information on the Courageous Conversations About Race Initiative, and the Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism Program, contact the program administration staff at (315) 449-3552, ext. 119, or email [cwd1@interfaithworkscny.org](mailto:cwd1@interfaithworkscny.org).

## Dr. James Wiggins Awarded Round Table Emeritus Status

Dr. James B. Wiggins, Executive Director of InterFaith Works from 2002-2009, has been awarded Emeritus Status by the InterFaith Works Round Table of Faith Leaders. He is only the second person to receive this honor in the Round Table's thirty-four year history.

A scholar, professor, and author on religious diversity, Dr. Wiggins joined the faculty of Syracuse University in 1963, and served as Chair of the Department of Religion from 1980 until his retirement in 2000.



Dr. James Wiggins (left) and Convener of Round Table of Faith Leaders, Rev. William Redfield

As Executive Director, Dr. Wiggins exercised scholarly insight in leading the agency through a challenging period of rebuilding and growth. As a member emeritus, he will continue to serve as an invaluable member of the Round Table with guidance in its mission to "affirm the dignity of all people of all faith traditions," a phrase promoted by Dr. Wiggins during his tenure as Executive Director.

## InterFaith Works Intern Curates Religious Freedom Exhibit at The Gage Home

Helena Jaramillo, a freshman at Onondaga Community College, is completing an internship at InterFaith Works. Under the direction of Rev. Dr. Tiffany Steinwert, Dean of Hendricks Chapel, and member of the InterFaith Works Round Table of Faith Leaders, Helena recently served as curator for the Religious Freedom Room exhibit at The Gage Home in Fayetteville.



Dr. Susan Goodier (left), Assistant Director of The Gage Home museum, and InterFaith Works Intern Helena Jaramillo, in the Religious Freedom Room

Gage was a 19th Century abolitionist and women's rights activist who was deeply committed to religious freedom. The Gage Home also serves as the "home" of The Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation. According to Helena, "Gage's notions of justice were much like those of InterFaith Works today. We are trying to continue with that same spirit of social justice and equality by 'affirming dignity' for many different groups, including the elderly, refugees, and the disabled."

The Gage Home is located at 210 East Genesee Street in Fayetteville. For additional information call (315) 637-9511, or visit their website at [www.matildajoslyngage.org](http://www.matildajoslyngage.org). To learn more about Helena's experience, visit the InterFaith Works website: <http://interfaithworkscny.org/blog/news-events/the-religious-freedom-room-at-the-gage-home/>

## Marcy Bowles Celebrates 30 Years at InterFaith Works

*"Hello, InterFaith Works."*

If you've ever called InterFaith Works, it's likely you've heard these words delivered by the lilting voice of Marcy Bowles, who celebrated 30 years at InterFaith Works in August. Marcy, who started out as a secretary, is now the Human Resources Administrator and Executive Assistant. But she is much more than that. After three decades at this organization, she is also a friend, confidante, goodwill ambassador, and welcoming presence to all who cross our threshold.



Marcy Bowles (left) receives congratulations from Executive Director Beth A. Broadway

According to Reverend Dr. Thomas V. Wolfe, Senior Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs at Syracuse University, and former Board President of InterFaith Works, "Marcy's presence has become synonymous with the organization. Through all of her good work, she has seen the agency through name and identity changes, times of leanness and times of plenty. When I served as president of the board, I could always count on her being there."

Those who work with Marcy on a day-to-day basis eagerly concur. And no one is better qualified to attest to Marcy's intelligence, commitment, and kindness than Office Manager Dorine Deapo, who has shared the front office with Marcy for twenty-nine of those thirty years. "We have been best buddies and colleagues working together as the agency kept growing. The technology has changed from the mimeograph to the laser printer. The many volunteers, chaplains and interns that have passed through the office are numbered in the thousands, and she has always greeted them with a smile."

According to Executive Director Beth A. Broadway, "Marcy has been the steady rock upon which every executive, myself included, has stood. She has grown up in the job, grown the job, and watched this InterFaith movement grow. We would not be where we are without her careful tending, and we thank her from the deepest part of our hearts."

If you would like to celebrate Marcy's 30th Anniversary, we invite you to do so by using the enclosed envelope to make a donation in her honor.

# The Center For New Americans Acquires A New Warehouse Space

The InterFaith Works Center for New Americans provides clothes, blankets, furniture, and so much more for refugees starting a new life here in Syracuse. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of this community, we receive thousands of donations every year. This summer, after outgrowing the church basement that previously served as a storage facility, the Center opened a new warehouse at 1914 Teall Avenue, Syracuse. The new building will be arranged like a department store where refugees can “shop” for all of their household needs at no cost. The new building also features space for meetings and programs. The Center accepts donations all year, and can provide timely pick-up service.

Needed items include:

- Boots
- Kitchen tables and chairs
- Pots and pans
- Twin mattresses and box springs
- Silverware
- Infant playpen
- Washable winter clothing

For information contact Josh Eberle at [jeberle@interfaithworkscny.org](mailto:jeberle@interfaithworkscny.org).



Volunteers Maren Berendonck, Lois Schroeder and Center for New Americans Program Director Helen Malina helping to organize the new warehouse

## THE PROGRAMS OF INTERFAITH WORKS

**OUR MISSION:** InterFaith Works, through education, service, and dialogue, affirms the dignity of each person and every faith community and works to create relationships and understanding among us.

**Center for New Americans**—Assisting refugee individuals and families in beginning new lives in America and serving as a resource and cultural center.

**Community-Wide Dialogue to End Racism**—Stimulating dialogue on racism to bring about racial justice and healing.

**Covenant Housing Program**—Developing housing that is both physically and financially accessible to people with special needs.

**Interfaith Education & Engagement Program**—Linking city and suburban congregations to promote interfaith relationships and citizen participation.

**Senior Companion Program**—Providing friendship and compassionate care to the home-bound elderly.

**Spiritual Care Program**—Offering spiritual care for hospital patients, nursing home residents, inmates, and troubled youth.

If you would like to get involved in any of these programs, visit [www.interfaithworkscny.org](http://www.interfaithworkscny.org) for more information.

Sunday January 30, 2011  
World Sabbath of Religious Reconciliation  
4:00 p.m.

Tuesday March 22, 2011  
InterFaith Works Dinner Dialogues  
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday February 22, 2011  
Racial Justice Award/Syracuse Stage Event  
Featuring August Wilson's *Radio Golf*  
6:00 p.m. Award, 7:00 p.m. Show

InterFaith Leadership Award Dinner  
Date TBA

Saturday June 11, 2011  
Duck Race to End Racism  
Syracuse Inner Harbor  
12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

LOOKING AHEAD

A United Way Agency



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