

2010 Annual Report: A Year of Building Bridges

As an organization committed to affirming the dignity of all people and every faith tradition, the bridges we build are different than those made of steel cables and concrete. The chasms and divisions that InterFaith Works' bridges span are often deep and hard to traverse.

Every day, we confront the chasms of religious hostility and misunderstanding that divide rather than unite people of faith. We work to eliminate the divisions created by racism that subjects people of color to economic and educational injustice. We build a bridge for people forced to flee their homelands around the globe due to political and religious oppression. We provide companionship to prevent loneliness and despair in our frail elderly; and we provide chaplains of numerous and diverse faiths to provide safe passage over the chasms of mental illness, incarceration, and hospitalization that afflict so many in our community. And now, in our newest endeavor, we work to span the growing chasms between urban and suburban congregations and communities to help foster relationships and overcome fear and distrust. For these reasons, we embrace a different definition of the word bridge. Our bridges are not so much a "thing" as an action, action which helps our community span its differences, join together, and make a way where once there seemed to be no way.



In 2010, over 750 donors supported us in our efforts to bridge the chasms of division that threaten our community. As we look back over the year, we have much to be grateful for, much to be proud of, and much more work to do as we strive to affirm the dignity of all people and every faith tradition.

Our Mission and Vision

Mission Statement:

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.

Vision Statement:

InterFaith Works wills and works to affirm the rich diversity of people who comprise the human family of Central New York. We aspire to create a community in which:

- The beliefs held by people of faith, traditional and non-traditional, are honestly and openly explored;
- Ample opportunities are provided to recognize, affirm, and honor the different life expressions, which, taken together, in their rich variety, unite human beings;
- Full and equal participation extends to the dispossessed, no less than the privileged, demonstrated through working with and serving diverse populations, including: people with disabilities, elderly people; the ill, the incarcerated, the institutionalized; strangers in our midst;
- Conflict leads to growth, not harm; but if harm occurs, our collective efforts are made to repair the breach through inter-religious and inter-racial dialogue, cooperation, and community building;
- By working together, fully respecting the honest differences within our diverse traditions, we speak to critical issues with common voice and moral authority, confident that we are stronger than when we work separately and alone.

Living Our Mission

Center for New Americans Refugee Resettlement Program: The InterFaith Works Center for New Americans is a safe and welcoming place for refugee and immigrant families whom we embrace as our neighbors and help to establish new lives in our community. In 2010, the Center for New Americans provided critical services including housing, job training, educational programs, crisis intervention, access to health care and social services, and cultural orientation to American life for 355 refugees from Burma, Bhutan, Somalia, Cuba, Iraq, Ethiopia and Eritrea, and Burundi.



Family fun with Quackers at the 2010 Duck Race

Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism: In 2010, over 600 students participated in dialogue circles on the elementary school, middle school, and high school level. The Courageous Conversations about Race Initiative entered its second year, with the intent of aiding our public schools in eliminating the achievement gap that plagues our graduation rates. New initiatives to bridge relationships between refugees and American-born neighbors have been started, and workplace programs at Green & Seifter Law Firm and Prevention Network engaged employees in challenging and thoughtful discussions that helped them to better understand each other and the clients they serve.

Covenant Housing Program: In 2010, CHP assisted three clients on the road to home ownership, and provided safe affordable housing for 88 tenants in 33 program-owned and managed housing units. In addition, CHP's Environmental Modification program coordinated the funding, design, and installation of assistive technology and accessibility remodeling for 18 clients.

InterFaith Education and Engagement: The newest of InterFaith Works' programs, the InterFaith Education and Engagement program was commissioned by County Executive Joanie Mahoney to build positive relationships across the city-suburban divide. In 2010, IEE attracted over 100 local faith leaders to begin developing programming and volunteer partnerships.



Spiritual Care Chaplain services provide comfort for those in hospitals and nursing homes

Senior Companion Program: For nearly 25 years, InterFaith Works' Senior Companion Program has been operating through the ongoing support of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Senior Companions working in Onondaga, Madison, and Cayuga counties, receive training and support from InterFaith Works to enable them to touch the lives of adults who need extra assistance to live independently in their own homes. In 2010, over 60 Senior Companions provided service to 200 frail elderly seniors in Central New York. Senior Companions serve a vital function by providing friendship, understanding, and daily assistance to older adults.

Spiritual Care Program: The Spiritual Care Program provides experienced interfaith chaplains to serve the spiritual needs of those confined to area healthcare and correctional facilities. In 2010, eighteen chaplains representing diverse faith traditions provided spiritual care to over 70,000 persons in acute and long-term care facilities as well as to correctional and psychiatric institutions. The Spiritual Care Program provides a listening presence and an expression of the faith community's care and concern for all individuals, including those who might otherwise be unable to participate in spiritual and religious practices.

The Year at a Glance: Building Bridges One Event at a Time

January: The year began with an exciting change in leadership at InterFaith Works as Dr. James Wiggins, Executive Director since 2002, retired and Beth Broadway, who had served as Program Director of the Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism for over a decade, was appointed Executive Director of the organization. Under Ms. Broadway's direction, the organization continues its mission to "affirm dignity" through dialogue, education and service.

In 2010, InterFaith Works sponsored numerous community wide events to bring together thousands of diverse members of our community through dialogue, education and service.

February: The Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism launched its **Courageous Conversations about Race Initiative (CCRI)**, engaging principals, vice-principals, and administrators from the district office in a six week dialogue addressing the racial achievement gap in the Syracuse City School District. This program continues to work with the SCSD through a grant from Key Bank. Community Wide Dialogue was honored for the CCRI at the 2011 SCSD Recognition Night.



Recipients Beth A. Broadway and Mark Cass at the 2010 Racial Justice Awards

March: As the InterFaith Works' chaplain at Onondaga Community College, Reverend Roberta Yackel, Director of Spiritual Care, organized and hosted a series of informative presentations designed to help students expand their knowledge of different faith traditions. Imam Yaser Alkhoody of the Islamic Society presented an overview of the Islamic faith at the Exploring Islam program. Dr. Bill Cross from Zen Center of Syracuse shared at the Exploring Buddhism event and Sheila Muters of the First Church of Christ Scientist shared the podium with Reverend Yackel, a Unity Minister, to explore non-traditional Christian religions. Participating students were encouraged to ask questions and express their views which culminated in lively and enlightening discussions.

April: InterFaith Works launched its new **InterFaith Education and Engagement Program** sponsored by Onondaga County to build partnerships between urban and suburban congregations as a means of fostering relationships, engaging in meaningful dialogue to overcome fear and mistrust.

May: The Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism held its annual **Racial Justice Awards at the Syracuse Stage**. Honorees Mark Cass of ProLiteracy and Beth Broadway of InterFaith Works received awards in recognition of the many years of dedication to the elimination of racism. Over 100 people attended the ceremony and reception which was followed by the final dress rehearsal of August Wilson's play *Fences*, directed by the Stage's Artistic Director Timothy Bond. We thank Syracuse Stage for their ongoing partnership in this important event.

May: The **28th Annual InterFaith Leadership Award Dinner** honored the leadership of the Near West Side Initiative: Kathy Goldfarb-Findling, then Executive Director of the Gifford Foundation; Marilyn Higgins, Vice President for Community Engagement and Economic Development at Syracuse University, community activist Taywana "Mother Earth" James, and union organizer Maria Revelles of SEIU 1199 and President of the Spanish Action League's Board of Directors.



2010 World Refugee Celebration Parade

June: The **8th Annual Community Wide Duck Race to End Racism**, held at the Syracuse Inner Harbor, attracted over 3,000 community members to celebrate racial harmony and imagine a world in which racism is eliminated. With sponsorship from over 25 local businesses, and the participation of over 60 third grade classes, the community turned out to cheer for their favorite ducks and collectively raised over \$70,000 to support the work of the Community Wide Dialogue.

June: Nearly 500 refugees from around the world participated in Syracuse's first annual **World Refugee Celebration** co-sponsored by the InterFaith Works Center for New Americans, the Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program and the SCSD Refugee Assistance Program (RAP). The event featured a parade from the city's North Side to City Hall followed by a block party with traditional music and food from many cultures at the Church of the Assumption on North Salina Street.

September: InterFaith Works participated in the first annual **A-OK Weekend** sponsored by Women Transcending Boundaries. IFW's project was "Cards for the Coast," an initiative that engaged school children in making over 200 hand-made greeting cards for families in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana who were struggling with the impact of the BP oil spill in the Gulf Coast.

September: The **9th Annual Dorothy F. Rose Women's Forum** explored "Challenges, Strategies, and Triumphs of InterFaith and InterCultural Marriage." The event, which featured three diverse couples, attracted nearly 100 participants who listened to the panel and shared their own stories and experiences during small group discussions afterward.

September: The Senior Companion Program celebrated the hard work and commitment over 100 seniors who serve as companions to homebound or frail elderly. Former Assembly Woman Joan Christiansen was recognized for her many years of support for the program and seniors with 15, 20, and 30 years of service were recognized.

October: The Round Table of Faith Leaders presented an **InterFaith Prayer Service for the Gulf Coast** on the shore of Onondaga Lake to remember those who, six months after the BP oil spill, were still suffering from its economic and environmental consequences. Twelve faith leaders of diverse backgrounds presented prayers and reflections for healing of the coast's waters, people, animals, and plants. InterFaith Works partnered with Operation Southern Comfort to deliver over 200 cards made by local volunteers to the St. Bernard Parish school district.

October: InterFaith Works' Spiritual Care Program welcomed theologian, physician and lay minister Patricia Fosarelli, M.D., to deliver the keynote address at the **20th Annual Spiritual Care Day** conference held at The Crouse Hospital-Marley Education Center. Over 125 clergy, chaplains, healthcare professionals, social workers, and caregivers attended the event which focused on the question of how to serve as a healing presence to faith traditions other than ones own. The keynote address was followed by a panel discussion comprised of local faith leaders from the Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and Buddhist faith communities.



Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney addresses constituents at the 2010 InterFaith Breakfast

November: Nearly 100 local faith leaders and county officials gathered at Tucker Missionary Baptist Church for an **InterFaith Breakfast** to launch the planning process for the InterFaith Education and Engagement

Program's partnership project. County Executive Joanie Mahoney provided a multi-year grant to launch this important new initiative which pairs city and suburban congregations in dialogue, service, and relationship building.

As the year drew to a close, our activities and services never slowed down. The new year brought new challenges and new opportunities to serve, to engage, and continue to build bridges throughout Central New York.

2010 Financial Report

Despite a challenging economy and a temporary decrease in refugee arrivals during 2010, we continue to strengthen our financial position with strict budget monitoring and controls. While program funding is an ongoing challenge, effective expense monitoring and management keep our budget balanced.

Our Resource Development campaigns and events help to generate funding and revenue streams for the agency, offsetting some of the program budgetary shortfalls. The 2010 Annual Campaign saw a 30% increase in dollars raised and more than 70% increase in donor participation. Thank you to all of our contributors for your support of these efforts and your commitment to building bridges that affirm dignity throughout our community.

As of December 31st,

	2010	2009
Operating Revenues	\$2,530,723	\$2,422,859
 Expenses by Program		
Center for New Americans	\$1,324,900	\$1,269,589
Community Wide Dialogue	\$232,834	\$217,864
Covenant Housing	\$147,709	\$129,739
FEMA Food Distribution	\$20,989	\$17,406
InterFaith Education & Engagement	\$52,052	\$ -
Senior Companion	\$309,869	\$308,858
Spiritual Care	\$246,132	\$204,369
Development	\$152,082	\$195,255
Administration	\$50,400	\$46,412
Total Expenses	\$2,536,967	\$2,389,492
Income before Depreciation	\$(6,244)	\$33,367
Depreciation Expense	\$26,023	\$27,895
Net Income before Depreciation	\$(32,267)	\$5,472