

InterFaith Works Receives Gifford Foundation's ADVANS III Grant To Build Capacity

InterFaith Works has received a great honor from The Gifford Foundation. We are one of five non-profit agencies selected to participate in ADVANS III, a three year initiative to build the capacity of our agency to better serve our community. We were chosen because of the dynamic leadership of our organization and our potential for growth.

This is the third time that the Gifford Foundation has offered ADVANS to non-profits. ADVANS stands for Advancing and Developing the Value of Assets of Nonprofits in Syracuse. It is based on the work of Susan Kenny Stevens, a Minneapolis-based author, consultant, and non-profit expert whose latest book, *Life Cycles of Non-Profit Organizations* serves as text and content for the program.

InterFaith Works is at an important point in its organizational life with several significant opportunities for growth, a new senior staff leadership team in place, and seven new board members joining seventeen veteran board members in the agency's leadership.

Through the ADVANS program, our agency will receive technical consulting skills, working with Katie Ducette, a local consultant trained by Dr. Kenny Stevens, who will work closely with us throughout the coming three years in the development of a strategic business plan. A \$100,000 grant to begin implementing the plan accompanies the program.

"This opportunity comes to us at just the right moment," says Beth Broadway, Executive Director. "The gift of a consistent, three-year consultant to help us develop the business plan would be significant in and of itself. But coupled with the financial resources to begin to carry out that plan, it is a dream-come-true opportunity."

Some of our key issues: How do we hold true to our founding premise, while expanding our programs?

How do we create stronger "connective tissue" between all of our programs and the overall agency's purpose?

How do we find adequate funding for the overall work of the agency and its programs, especially in a subdued economy?

How do we more effectively settle refugees in a way that both integrates the many cultures and simultaneously enlivens the community?

How do we maintain our commitment



The InterFaith Works' ADVANS III Leadership Team
(Clockwise from top left): John Ashby, Charles W. Beach, Millicent Davis, Beth A. Broadway, Deraux Branch

to working within the schools to end racism while balancing our commitment to the wider community?

What is the role of the larger faith community in building the many bridges that are needed in our community, and how do we more effectively engage them?

The Gifford Foundation requires a full board commitment to the project, and a Leadership Team made up of board and staff who will see the project through the full three years. We are grateful for this opportunity!

InterFaith Works Honors OCC President



InterFaith Works of Central New York honored Onondaga Community College President Dr. Debbie L. Sydow with the 29th Annual InterFaith Leadership Award at a dinner on May 10th at the OnCenter. Pictured left to right are InterFaith Works Board President-Elect Charles W. Beach; Current Board President Millicent Davis, displaying a collage painting by local artist Juan Cruz presented as a gift to Dr. Sydow; Dr. Sydow; and InterFaith Works Executive Director Beth Broadway, holding the award which honors Sydow's "Devotion to Faith, Distinction in Career, and Dedication to Community." See page three for event details.



Beth A. Broadway

Partnering in Stewardship

Dear Friends,

The envelope was hand delivered on April 29th. We had been waiting for the news since we submitted our application in early December. Given the economic climate, we knew that a lot was riding on this letter which would announce our United Way funding for the next three years. We opened the envelope. The news was good. In fact, it was great.

The news was great because this very important funding came not only from the United Way, but also through the United Way, from you. Thousands of Central New Yorkers said, "yes, together we can make a difference in our community." Just as the United Way supporters have come together to do their part both individually and collectively, we too, as agencies committed to changing lives and affirming the dignity of all people, also work together because no one agency can do it all alone.

We have seen first-hand the harsh realities of a suffering economy. Inter-Faith Works and our dedicated colleagues in non-profits are working collectively to ameliorate that suffering. As dollars become more limited the very words "united way" compel us to work together as colleagues rather than competitors. Our Center for New Americans partners with Catholic Charities to meet the needs of our refugee community. Our Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism partners with the Syracuse City School District and Say Yes to Education to educate and empower young people to overcome racism. Our Senior Companion program partners with the Salvation Army to provide companionship and independence to frail and homebound seniors. We all recognize that the United Way isn't just the name of a vitally important funding source. A united way is the only way to heal the wounds of a suffering world.

Those of you who give to the United Way may wonder if your five or ten dollars a week really makes a difference. As an agency that benefits from your generosity, I can assure you that it does make a difference because it reminds us in a very tangible way that we can only serve our community by working together as a community.

We thank the United Way and all of you who have entrusted us with your resources.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Broadway

Executive Director

PS: Three years ago, the United Way of America launched its "Live United" campaign, a call for "each of us to step forward to engage one another and to do our best to repair breaches in our lives and in society." Rich Harwood, a colleague from my career in deliberative democracy, has worked closely with the United Way to carry out this vision. Visit our website at www.interfaithworkscny.org to read the ten principles of "Live United" and join with InterFaith Works to do just that.

President: Ms. Millicent Davis, FLMI, ACS
 President Elect: Mr. Charles Beach
 Vice President: Rev. James C. Bresnahan
 Secretary: Ms. Sara L. Farchione, M.D.
 Treasurer: Ms. Marci Erlebacher
 Convener of Round Table of Faith Leaders:
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 Rev. Kevin Agee
 Ms. Laila Kobrossy Audi, Ph.D.
 Mr. Shawky Badawy, M.D.
 Mr. Deraux Branch
 Mr. James A. Bowers, CPA
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 Mr. Michael Slade
 Rev. Louis Sogliuzzo, S.J.
 Mr. Robert Sykes
 Ms. Louise Thurlow, Esq.
 Ms. Maryam Wasmund
 Ms. Carolyn (Chris) Welch

INTERFAITH WORKS ROUND TABLE OF FAITH LEADERS

American Baptist Churches in New York State
 Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
 Christian Science Reading Room
 Church of Latter Day Saints
 Episcopal Church in the Diocese of CNY
 Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
 Franciscan Ministries
 Gobind Sadan USA
 Hendricks Chapel, Syracuse University
 Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
 Islamic Society of Central New York
 Northeastern District Baptist Association
 Presbyterian Church (USA)
 Rabbinical Council
 Rangrig Yeshe, Dzochgen Ali Ling Center
 Rescue Mission of Syracuse
 Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse
 Sikh Foundation
 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.

InterFaith Leadership Award Dinner Honors OCC's Sydow

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A special thank you to media partner
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Over 400 people gathered to honor Onondaga Community College President Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D., at the 29th Annual InterFaith Leadership Award Dinner on Tuesday, May 10th at the OnCenter. The annual dinner honors a community leader on the basis of "Devotion to Faith, Dedication to Community and Distinction in Career." In addition to honoring Sydow, the event was a celebration of the College and a benefit to support the programs of InterFaith Works.

Event Co-Chairs Aminy Audi, President and CEO of L. & J.G. Stickley, Inc., and Allen J. Naples, Regional President of M&T Bank, spoke of Sydow's extraordinary leadership and commitment to transforming lives through higher education.

When Dr. Sydow was selected to receive the InterFaith Leadership Award, she accepted with the proviso that the honor must also include the College. "It can't just be about me," she said. The evening was very much a celebration of OCC's students featuring performances by the OCC Jazz Ensemble, a video of photos by OCC photography students documenting the programs of InterFaith Works (see the photo spread on pages 4-5), and parting gifts of handcrafted chocolate truffles made by students in the OCC Hospitality Management Program. The evening also included a silent auction that raised \$4,500 to benefit the Onondaga Community College Presidential Scholars Program.

Media Partner News Channel 9 produced a tribute video telling the story of Sydow's humble beginnings in an Appalachian town where her father worked as a coal miner, to her first-hand experience as someone whose life was dramatically changed by higher education, fueling her passion for access to community colleges.

The annual dinner also focused on the programs of InterFaith Works and raised over \$85,000 to support the Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism, Center for New Americans, Interfaith Education and Engagement, Senior Companion Program, and Spiritual Care Program.

The Duck Race to End Racism is Coming!

On Saturday, June 11, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., the Community Wide Dialogue program, and co-presenters National Grid and Syracuse University, will host the 9th Annual Duck Race to End Racism at the Syracuse Inner Harbor.

"The Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism has been creating opportunities for our community to openly discuss racism for the last 13 years, and over 7,500 people have participated in this important conversation," said Beth Broadway, Executive Director of InterFaith Works. "The Duck Race to End Racism helps us bring this work into the spotlight of our community, and this year's race will showcase some of the corporations that have joined with us in this courageous work."

The Duck Race to End Racism, a free family event to be held at the Syracuse Inner Harbor, draws a diverse audience of 3,500 individuals in the community, including corporate leaders, third grade teachers and students from city and county schools, nonprofit organizations and community members.

The event features an exciting line-up of children's entertainment, cooperative games, face painting, community information booths, and free Byrne Dairy Ice Cream. Proceeds benefit Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism, a program of InterFaith Works of CNY.



Building Bridges Through Photography

In celebration of Dr. Debbie Sydow's InterFaith Leadership Award, we partnered with students enrolled in the Onondaga Community College photography program to tell the story of InterFaith Works' programs through the eyes of some of OCC's gifted students. Here is a small sampling of the exceptional images provided by: Deohna Evans, Ryan MacCammon, Diane Parr, Russell Warner, and Christina Zingale. A slide presentation featuring more of their work is available on our website at interfaithworkscny.org/blog/

Center for New Americans



Photo: Diane Parr

The Center for New Americans partners with Women Transcending Boundaries to provide sewing classes for refugee women to help prepare them for jobs and financial independence.

Spiritual Care Program



Photo: Russell Warner

The Spiritual Care Program provides compassion and support for those in hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, and mental institutions. Program Director Roberta Yackel visits a resident of the Van Duyn Nursing Home after Sunday services.

Center for New Americans - Jump Start



Photo: Diane Parr

The Center for New Americans received a Literacy Champions Grant from the Onondaga County Literacy Coalition to launch Jump Start Reading Circles for Burmese refugee parents and children at the White Branch Library. Learning is fun for the children and empowering for their parents.

Spiritual Care Program



Photo: Russell Warner

Rev. Jane Luck serves as a chaplain with the Spiritual Care Program, providing a listening ear and spiritual support to a patient at Van Duyn.

Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism

Photo: Christina Zingale



The Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism brings the Starting Small Program to local elementary schools. Dialogue facilitator Lauren Ulyette shares a story with 3rd graders at Bellevue Elementary School before engaging them in a discussion about racism.



Photo: Christina Zingale

Children participating in the Starting Small Program work together on a paper patchwork quilt celebrating diversity as they take a stand against racism.

Senior Companion Program

Photo: Deohna Evans



The Senior Companion Program provides services to over 200 local seniors who are able to live independently because of the caring presence of trained peers who provide friendship and support.



Photo: Deohna Evans

Laughter is the best medicine as this photo demonstrates as a Senior Companion and client share a cup of coffee and reminisce over a photo album. Last year, Senior Companions provided over 200,000 hours of service to local homebound seniors.

Center for New Americans

Photo: Ryan MacCammon



The Say family arrived from Burma in 2008. Many refugees are eager to embrace life in America while still remembering friends and families in their native countries. Photo albums are among the few personal treasures refugees bring when traveling to America with only those things that fit into a single suitcase.



Photo: Ryan MacCammon

With the help of the Center for New Americans, Hser Khpaw Say and her family look forward to a life full of promise and possibility in their new home in Syracuse.

21st Annual InterFaith Works Spiritual Care Day Hosts The Reverend Bruce G. Epperly, Ph.D.

The Reverend Bruce Epperly, Ph.D., theologian, pastor, spiritual guide and author will be the keynote speaker at the 21st Annual Spiritual Care Day event on Thursday, October 27, 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Crouse Hospital Marley Education Center in Syracuse. Spiritual Care Day is coordinated by a team of local clergy and chaplains led by The Reverend Roberta Yackel, Spiritual Care Program Director at InterFaith Works of CNY. The annual event commemorates "National Spiritual Care Week," October 23-29. The 2011 theme is "Shared Voice."

The 2011 Spiritual Care Day keynote address is titled "Pastoral Spirituality in the Global Community: A presentation of creative theological vision and spiritual practices for personal and community transformation." Participants will reflect on their own spiritual adventure as well as on ways they can creatively respond to those who describe themselves as "spiritual but not religious."

Dr. Epperly served as director of continuing education and professor of practical theology at Lancaster Theological Seminary until 2010. Prior to his position at Lancaster, he served as associate dean and professor at Wesley Theological Seminary and director of Protestant ministry and professor of theology, spirituality, and medicine at Georgetown University and Medical School. Dr. Epperly has also served as pastor of Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ congregations and has authored numerous books including *Mending the World: Spiritual Hope for Ourselves and Our Planet* and *Tending to the Holy: The Practice of the Presence of God in Ministry*, which was selected as the 2009 Book of the Year by the Academy of Parish Clergy.



Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly

To register for Spiritual Care Day 2011, contact Rev. Roberta Yackel at (315) 449-3552, ext. 111, or ryackel@interfaithworkscny.org. Advance registration is required; cost is \$30 per person (\$25 age 62 and above); includes full breakfast and free parking at the Crouse Hospital Parking Garage.

Refugee Success Story: Hem Sharma's Journey to Chase Bank



Hem Sharma arrived in Syracuse from Nepal on June 22, 2010. Eager to use his extensive professional skills and training to benefit his new community, he began job preparation sessions in early July. His English and professional demeanor were both remarkable, and reflected his education and work history in the financial area.

From the beginning, Hem articulated a strong desire to work, especially in his chosen field of finance. Through the month of August, Hem and his wife, Nirmala participated in job prep sessions; kept all appointments and arrived on time and prepared. Hem asked many questions about the interview process to ensure that he would make a good impression and succeed in his job search. The Center for New Americans staff assisted in the completion of his resume and began sending out applications to various banks and credit unions in the area. Hem also researched jobs on his own in the newspaper.

During his job search, Hem also served as a clerical case work volunteer at InterFaith Works' Center for New Americans during August and September, typing notes and providing other support services.

In December, Hem interviewed several times at Chase Bank. After several call backs, and much background checking, he was offered a position at Chase Bank at James and Lodi. He is now off to a successful career as a Personal Banker, and is the proud father of a beautiful American born baby girl.

InterFaith Works In The News:

CWD Honored by the Syracuse City School District

The staff of Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism (CWD), a program of InterFaith Works, was among those awarded Certificates of Recognition by the Syracuse Superintendent of Schools and Commissioners of Education on March 24, 2011, for work supporting and reflecting educational excellence in the Syracuse City School District (SCSD). Certificates of Recognition were awarded to educators, including students, staff, and community partners, involved in a number of activities organized to enhance the quality of education in the Syracuse community.

CWD Director Derrick Dorsey, along with Janet Dodd, Program Associate; Karen Calenzo, Program Coordinator; and Gwen Sanders, Program Assistant, received recognition for their work collaborating with SCSD faculty, staff, and students in both the Starting Small and Courageous Conversations About Race Initiatives (CCRI).

Both CWD programs focus on teaching and using the tools of dialogue to address conflict, find common ground across social identities of difference, and develop and enact collaborative strategies of action focused on producing racial equity and social justice. The program goals are to begin by equipping elementary and high school students with these tools, with an overall objective of preparing through education extending across the Greater Syracuse community.

Rev. William C. Redfield Honored by YWCA

The YWCA Board of Directors and the Racial Justice Committee honored the Rev. William Redfield as a recipient of the YWCA Academy of Diversity Achievers Award. Rev. Redfield, who is the rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Fayetteville, is the Convener of the Round Table of Faith Leaders, and former President of the Board of InterFaith Works.

This prestigious award was an opportunity for the community to celebrate Rev. Redfield's commitment and activities promoting diversity and eliminating racism. The award was presented at the Day of Commitment to Eliminate Racism Luncheon on April 28, 2011, at the Electronics Parkway Holiday Inn in Liverpool, NY.



Rev. William C. Redfield

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

InterFaith Works is proud to partner with

The Post-Standard

on the InterFaith Voices column
which celebrates
the religious diversity
of our community

InterFaith Voices

appears daily in The

Post-Standard on page two of

the CNY Section. You can read

past columns at Syracuse.com or

on the InterFaith Works website

interfaithworkscny.org/blog/news-events/



Planned Giving Spotlight:

With Thanks to Horace Landry

Horace Landry was "a respected businessman, an inspiring teacher and a true humanitarian." So reads the program for the 1992 Interreligious Leadership Award Dinner at which Mr. Landry was honored by The InterReligious Council, now InterFaith Works of CNY.

Today, almost 20 years later, Professor Landry, who passed away in 2007, continues to touch the lives of people throughout Central New York. Earlier this year, InterFaith Works was notified that Mr. Landry had provided a generous bequest in his will to support our work as part of his planned giving strategy. Professor Landry served on the InterReligious Council Board of Directors from 1984-1987.

Through his bequest, he continues to make a difference in the community he loved.

To learn more about supporting InterFaith Works through planned giving, please contact Gloria Heffernan, Director of Development at 449-3552, ext.120.

World Refugee Day - Save the Date!

World Refugee Day is observed around the world annually on June 20, as designated by the United Nations. In Syracuse, the celebration event will be observed on Saturday, June 25, 2011. This event is organized by a coalition of agencies and groups, including InterFaith Works' Center for New Americans, Catholic Charities, the Syracuse City School District, White Branch Library and Leadership Greater Syracuse.

The event will begin with a parade from the North Side of Syracuse to City Hall, where a special flag-raising ceremony will be held. A celebration at Hanover Square will follow, featuring information, food and entertainment from many countries.

There are approximately 10 million refugees worldwide that are assisted by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Syracuse is home to former refugees from around the world, including those who fled from Bhutan, Bosnia, Burma, Burundi, Congo, Cuba, Eritrea, Iraq, Liberia, Somalia, Sudan and Vietnam. The purpose of World Refugee Day is twofold: to raise awareness of the difficulties faced by refugees throughout the world, and to celebrate the achievements of those who have settled in the United States.



2010 World Refugee Day Parade



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.

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 homebound 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.interfaithworksny.org for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

Saturday, June 25, 2011
 World Refugee Day
 Downtown Parade/Hanover Square Celebration
 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 22, 2011
 Senior Companion 25th Anniversary Luncheon
 Holiday Inn, Electronics Parkway, Liverpool
 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 27, 2011
 Spiritual Care Day
 Crouse Hospital - Marley Education Center
 8:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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