



More Than a Home – a Neighborhood

Interfaith's Neighborhood Program expanded to serve its 10th housing community this spring.

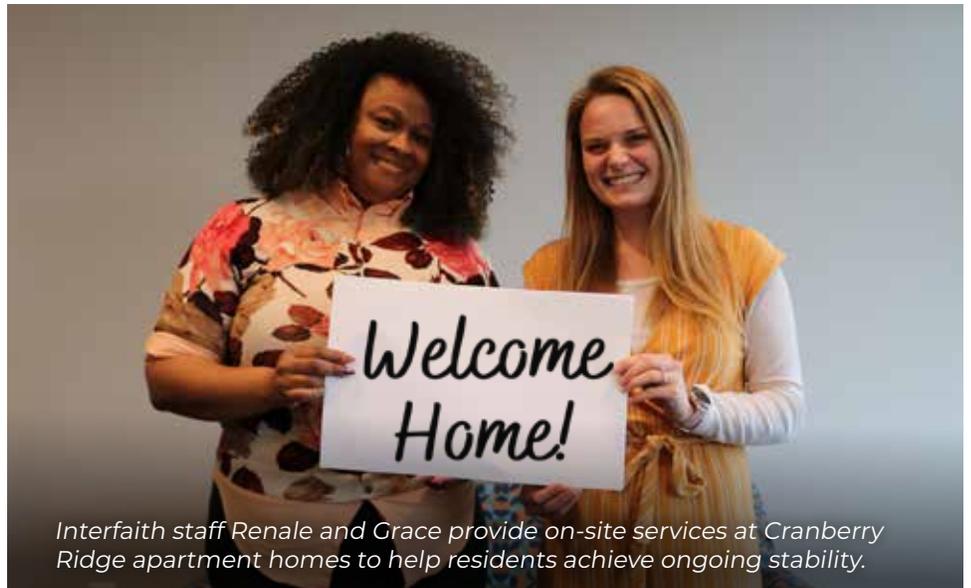
Services vary by site based on resident interests and needs.

Snacks and stacks of books and games draw kids to the Neighborhood Program space at Lakeview Commons. "The kids know my car. If they see it, they'll stop in," says program coordinator Fatuma Irshat.

At Plymouth Colony, residents of all ages were invited to receive swimming lessons at the outdoor pool through a partnership with Plymouth Parks & Recreation.

Cranberry Ridge, however, is a blank canvas. This 10th site opened to residents in May 2022 and offers 45 affordable housing units.

Renale Giles, program coordinator at Cranberry Ridge, has been busy ordering toys and games for the



Interfaith staff Renale and Grace provide on-site services at Cranberry Ridge apartment homes to help residents achieve ongoing stability.

playroom and equipment for the exercise room. "The little things are often actually the big things. To go from experiencing homelessness or housing instability to having a play space or area to move your body is life changing."

In addition to Renale's presence as program coordinator, Interfaith case manager Grace Johnson will be on

site to support families who have experienced homelessness and other barriers to housing stability.

Work Behind the Scenes

The goal of Neighborhood Program is to assist households with meeting basic needs – and also equip them for ongoing stability.

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With Your Support, Neighborhood Program:

- Is 27 years strong, now serving 907 households across 10 sites in Plymouth and Medina.
- Stops preventable evictions and connects residents with resources to help maintain stable housing.
- Provides activities and resources to reduce social isolation for older residents.
- Connects youth to development/enrichment opportunities such as sports and camps.
- Fosters a sense of community and belonging through community dinners and other events.
- Helps families with school-aged children navigate enrollment, connections with teachers, and access to technology.

A Long-Awaited Affordable Housing Win

Dear neighbors,

Interfaith Outreach's goal is to get those we serve what they need, when they need it.

It's simple. And complicated at the same time.

How do we know what our neighbors need? We ask.

Affordable housing continues to be a challenge especially as government rental assistance disappears. The recent opening of Cranberry Ridge is timely and critical – a long-awaited win for the 45 families who will call it “home.”

Cranberry Ridge – which entailed more than five years of persistence and community support to complete – is now our 10th neighborhood with on-site services across Plymouth and Medina. Interfaith's on-site staff help equip residents for ongoing stability. Our services focus on housing and family support, youth program access and community connections.

Whatever the barrier – underemployment, transportation, child care, food insecurity – we meet people where they are in their journey, right where they live.

When basic needs are met and individuals and families are equipped for ongoing stability, we are all



Celebrating together: Kevin Ward, Executive Director of Interfaith Outreach, and Lee Blons, CEO/President of Cranberry Ridge developer and service provider Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative.

strengthened. This place we call home is a little more vibrant. And we're one step closer to a community where all sectors and systems work together for the good of all.

This work is possible because of you, our amazing community.

Let's continue taking care of one another.

Your Executive Director,

Kevin Ward

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“There's a lot of work behind the scenes,” says Zach Bucheger, Neighborhood Program manager. “We are in many conversations with many residents...navigating complicated systems, finding resources, advocating for their needs and rights as renters, building relationships and exercising their voice within the school system and so on.”

The outcome is an established neighborhood at each site, where residents can create meaningful

“We are in many conversations with many residents...navigating complicated systems, finding resources, advocating for their needs and rights...”

connections with each other – and the broader community.

Through Interfaith and partner organization Outreach Development Corporation, public/private partnerships have added nearly

350 affordable rental units to our local housing market.

Additionally, Interfaith partners with residential developers to increase the number of affordable apartments in our community.

As we focus more than ever on providing clients with what they need, when they need it, the Neighborhood Program team is available: “Unique to our program is that we office within the neighborhood sites we serve. We are out in the community and here when needed,” Zach says.

Spread Your Wings: So Much to Celebrate



A live auction was one of the many memorable events at this year's Spread Your Wings Gala.

Two-hundred sixty guests gathered at Interfaith's Spread Your Wings Gala to celebrate our vibrant community. Presented by Polaris, the special evening took place on June 11 at University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center.

This was a true celebration of the thousands of friendships and partnerships that have shaped our work for more than four decades, which resulted in nearly \$500,000 raised.

Thank you to the staff, sponsors, committee members, talented, volunteers and guests who made this a memorable and impactful evening!

Seeing Your Generosity in Action

One of the best parts of my job as the new Director of Advancement at Interfaith is being able to spend my days seeing how philanthropy creates meaningful change in the lives of our clients.

As you've learned from this newsletter, great things are happening here at Interfaith and we're making a tangible difference in the community. But we wouldn't be able to do much, if any, of it without the help of our generous supporters.

I look forward to connecting with you, our philanthropic supporters and community partners, in the months ahead. In the meantime, you can reach me directly at afahrenkrug@iocp.org to learn more about what you can do to help Interfaith continue to get our clients what they need when they need it.

Sincerely,

Andrea Fahrenkrug



Andrea Fahrenkrug, Interfaith's Director of Advancement

Just for Fun: Three Ways to Support Interfaith This Summer

1. Volunteer! Our food shelf and Resale Select store need weekday, daytime volunteers. Email getinvolved@iocp.org today to schedule a New Volunteer Meeting.

2. Give Back with Your Garden. Summer garden staples are greatly needed and appreciated by guests of our food shelf. Learn more at iocp.org/giving-garden.

3. Shop at Resale Select's \$5 Fill-A-Bag Sales. The next sales are 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 16 and August 20.

Our Community: Compassion in Action

Some of the most inspiring stories and moments are YOURS! Thank you to the following supporters for letting us share how you live out the Interfaith Mission and Values.



Above: **Ramona and Frank Richter** showcase some of the 600+ bags of food and household goods collected during the Holy Name of Jesus spring food drive. Thank you for your continued leadership and support!



Above: Volunteer **Rick Graft** gives iFLY a try at a spring break event for school-aged kids were introduced to this STEM experienced by Wayzata Public Schools and Interfaith Neighborhood Program staff. Looking good, Rick!



Above: Interfaith's Director of Advancement Andrea Fahrenkrug accepts a check from Wayzata Masonic Lodge #205 members **Craig Kamman** and **Tim Jirak**. Thank you, Masons!

GRANTS Jan 1. - April 30, 2022

City of Plymouth

Hennepin County Housing,
Community Works & Transit

Hunger Solutions Minnesota

Huntington Foundation

Medica Foundation

Plymouth Covenant Church

Target Community Relations

Wright-Hennepin Electric Trust

MISSION – To strengthen our community by meeting basic needs and equipping individuals and families for ongoing stability.

VISION – To build a vibrant community where everyone counts and all sectors and systems work together for the good of all.



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Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners

1605 County Road 101 N, Plymouth, MN 55447 763-489-7500 iocp.org

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