

A Personalized Path to Success

INTERFAITH SERVICES GUIDE VOLUNTEER THROUGH CAREER TRANSITION

Plymouth resident Beth* has traveled a unique client journey: She first came to Interfaith as a volunteer.

"I was looking for a place to volunteer and I saw this whole wall (of flyers and brochures) filled with resources that were here. I saw a resource for the computers, and so I made an appointment to support me during a job transition."

Beth hoped to build computer skills to help her find a new job or start her own business – and a new chapter in life.

"One of the challenges was to find somebody that could work with me regarding Excel," she explains.

Interfaith's computer lab and skills training classes are available to clients through its Employment Services (ES), which also provides employment coaching,



Employment Services team member Tim Welshons works in the computer lab with volunteer/client Beth.

connections to local employment and training, resume/cover letter assistance and more.

The personalized assistance from ES staff member Tim Welshons turned out to be the type of support Beth needed: Together they discovered software and tools to maximize her skills.

Beth lauds the organization's ability to address a wide range of client needs, likening it to "a tree and all of its branches."

"If you go to just one place to get help, you will want to go to IOCP," Beth states, "In one place you have access to food, clothing, housing, resources for training, counseling services and so much more. It's really mind-boggling to me personally what all happens here," she says.

Since becoming a staff member in December 2022, Tim, who has been a resident of Plymouth for more than three decades, recognizes Interfaith's breadth of services and programs as well. "The tree of services is amazing. It's astounding."

Beth's adventure continues – as does her work with Tim, and her commitment to volunteering.

"It is a collaboration. It's a really powerful place," she says.

* Name has been changed to protect privacy



Resale Select's Tent Sale will be held June 16-18, rain or shine. Proceeds support Interfaith's programs and services.

Mark Your Calendars for Resale Select's Tent Sale

Resale Select's Tent Sale weekend kicks off Friday, June 16 with items and offers you won't want to miss:

- **Friday, June 16, 12-5 p.m.** Preview (no sales)
- **Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.** Tent Sale
- **Sunday, June 18, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.** Last-Chance Clearance

The store will be open for regular hours during the sale. Visit iocp.org/tentsale for full details. We hope to see you there!

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.



Sign up for emails at iocp.org/connect



Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners

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

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LOOKING BACK AT AN IMPACTFUL FISCAL YEAR



Kevin Ward
Executive Director

Interfaith's fiscal year ended March 31, and we are so grateful for what you helped us achieve. **Thanks to your generosity, we raised more than \$6 million and served approximately 1,550 households.**

Our Client Services team members also continued their dedication to helping Interfaith live out its mission. We asked them to share key accomplishments from FY23; here are just some of the life-changing outcomes YOU and your continued support made possible:

» FOOD DELIVERY FOR HOMEBOUND NEIGHBORS

"Community support made it possible for us to expand the Home Delivery Program to include more families and add shopping hours to accommodate more families' schedules."

- Patrick Felker, Food Shelf Manager

» EXPANDED HOUSING SUPPORT FOR CLIENTS

"We will be adding a Housing Resource Navigator in FY24 thanks to the support we received last year. This position will play a critical role in helping Interfaith clients find and maintain stable housing."

- Lindsey Mahrer, Casework Manager

» RESOURCES FOR PARENTS OF EARLY LEARNERS

"We renewed our commitment to parent gatherings, beginning with the Circle of Security Group. The group provides community meals to families, childcare and play time for children, and a psycho-educational support group for parents who want to strengthen their parenting skills."

- Sarah Johansen, Caring for Kids Manager

» ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

"We partnered with Plymouth Parks & Recreation to provide swimming lessons for youth and adults at one of the program's housing communities. This was our second year of doing it because the level of interest is so high!"

- Zach Bucheger, Neighborhood Program Manager

» TRANSPORTATION FOR FAMILIES ON THE GO

"The Emergency Financial Assistance program supported 12 households with car purchases. We were able to improve the quality of life for these families, enabling them to get to work, school, and medical appointments and eliminating worries about unreliable transportation."

- Rebecca Dickson, Financial Services Manager



Volunteer Doug Mandy loads his vehicle with food for Home Delivery Program participants. This program was able to serve more neighbors thanks to donors like you.

YOUR SUPPORT

Help us ensure Interfaith's current fiscal year is just as impactful by making a gift today.

Your support keeps critical services and programs running for our community. Scan the QR or visit bit.ly/IOCPFY24.



Building Community Connections

Hundreds of connections are created every year because of Interfaith's programs, services and staff. Much of the important work happens at the office on Hwy. 101 and Cty. Rd. 6 – but its Neighborhood Program also provides services at 10 housing communities in Plymouth and Medina.

There are two sides to Neighborhood Program work. Staff are meeting basic needs by helping prevent evictions and keep people in their homes, and they are providing community connections and access to resources that clients might otherwise not even know exist.

Program Coordinator Abdi Ali states, "I would say the most important part of my job is referring clients to our financial services team for rent or utilities assistance and my engagement with youth."

ADDRESSING CURRENT NEED

In this housing-with-services approach, staff adjust community programming based on the needs of the 900 residents they serve. Senior clients participate in group activities to prevent isolation; families attend community dinners where they meet other families and build an ecosystem of support; individuals access resources to help make their budget work; and kids pop in for an after-school snack and ask about local youth programs.

For youth programs, IOCP collaborates with organizations such as Three Rivers Park District, Wayzata Public Schools, the city of Plymouth, the Wayzata Sailing Club and private athletics programs.

In a two-hour summer program registration event this spring, 49



Neighborhood Program Coordinator Abdi Ali and Three Rivers Park District Recreation Program Specialist Heather Gordon

kids who live in affordable housing communities served by the Neighborhood Program registered for 67 summer programs.

Zach Bucheger, Neighborhood Program Manager, describes what he saw that day: "Parents made important connections. They met the executive director of a program or they talked to the swimming instructor or outdoor recreation leader who will teach their child. It's so important for the agencies – especially the leadership – to see what families are interested in and to understand what they need."

REMOVING BARRIERS AND STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS

Three Rivers Park District Recreation Program Specialist Heather Gordon works with kids in summer camps but also spends time onsite at Neighborhood Program locations.

"I do this work because I want kids to have their basic needs met and make connections that bring them joy in their community," Heather explains. "Bringing the activities to the neighborhoods is convenient for

the kids and sparks their curiosity to explore more outdoors."

"Heather is so amazing with the kids," Abdi Ali adds. "At one of her events, we had 30 kids show up. Our partnership with Three Rivers is a very special relationship where the kids learn more about Three Rivers and the opportunities they provide."

Thanks to the Neighborhood Program, positive outcomes continue. These ongoing efforts include building meaningful connections, coordinating community events, addressing housing risks, reducing social isolation, and ensuring youth can access the enrichment programs of their choice.

Abdi Ali concludes, "For Interfaith to be directly onsite in the neighborhoods where we can connect clients to resources, literally walking distance from their homes, is very important. It builds a long-lasting relationship between Interfaith and these neighbors, and it's very important work we're doing here."



Guests shop, snack and mingle at Girls, Glamour & Giving.

Taking Action: Girls, Glamour & Giving 2023

Interfaith held its biennial **Girls, Glamour & Giving (GGG)** fundraising event on Thursday, April 27, at The Metropolitan Ballroom & Clubroom in Golden Valley. The evening included program showcases, shopping, and other exciting experiences such as a Bags & Bling Raffle and live fashion-inspired illustrations by local artist Claire Ward.

Executive Director Kevin Ward spoke to the crowd about taking action and embracing the power of philanthropy: "Last year, 1,200 of our clients had a woman as head of household...Those women decided to take action to make sure their families had heat in their homes and had food on their tables," he shared.

Thank you to the GGG attendees, table hosts, sponsors, committee members, volunteers, and vendors who made this such a memorable evening!



Blair Vickerman and Kathy Schlichte display their Claire Ward illustrated portrait.

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» NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOBSEEKERS

"We helped a client assess and clarify their career goals and identify a new line of work to pursue. They got a position they enjoy in a company where there are clear opportunities to advance. The increased income has created stability in many ways, allowing them to obtain stable housing and get a car through our car purchase program."

- Natalie Bullinger, Employment Services Manager

» STABILITY FOR HOUSEHOLDS IN TRANSITION

"Our team provided case management and other supportive services for 20 families (12 new this fiscal

year) transitioning from homelessness to housing, with a focus on housing stability over time and pursuing individual goals. We love to see the growth that's possible when families build a solid housing foundation."

- Carly Fink, Permanent Supportive Housing Case Manager

Thank you for making our important work possible. We look forward to another fiscal year of strengthening – and celebrating – our community.

With gratitude,

Kevin Ward
Executive Director