

September, 2007



# 25th Anniversary



On October 9, Interfaith Outreach Association will be 25 years old! The beat goes on as we celebrate the faith of Interfaith Outreach. Join us at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church at 6:30 p.m. for dessert, coffee and a celebration of 25 years of service in our community!



RSVP to Marianne Daughtrey at 846.6098 or ioarecep@ntelos.net



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*Celebrating 25 years of "Uniting Faith in Service"*

## I See You (Sawubona)\*



Ms. Campbell is an elderly widow living on a fixed income that barely covers her expenses while caring for three of her *great-grandchildren*. But this is not so much a story about Ms. Campbell as it is about the way Interfaith Outreach Association (IOA) was able to help when we heard her story.

Ms. Campbell came to our office last fall seeking heating assistance. During the course of the interview, I asked how many lived in her household. She told me three great-grandchildren were living with her. Why would she take in three children when she is struggling to take care of herself, I wondered. As the interview continued, Ms. Campbell began to cry. "What in the world is wrong?" I asked.

The great-grandchildren are with her because their mom (a granddaughter of Ms. Campbell's) joined the Army the year before. "Oh, so you're getting assistance through the military?" I asked hoping the answer was yes. Unfortunately, it was not. The children were only getting medical benefits. Ms. Campbell could not be sure why they were not receiving assistance because her granddaughter had given her so many varying stories. She appeared distressed and embarrassed.

It appears the granddaughter failed to complete the necessary paperwork for her children to receive additional help through the military. While I cannot change this fact, I thought there certainly must be other ways I can help this great-grandmother. That was when I remembered the phone number. The night before while watching the local news, there was a Public Service Announcement (PSA) identifying the Virginia Military Family Support Center (VMFSC) in Roanoke that helped families of those serving in the military. I jotted down the number and brought it to work so we would have it as a reference should anyone ever need it. Little did I know someone would need it that very day.

I told Ms. Campbell about the PSA I had seen the night before and shared the number with her. I was not sure what type of assistance, if any, she would receive but felt it was worth a phone call. She left our office grateful for the information, the heating assistance we were able to provide and for listening to her story.

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*"South African greeting acknowledging the importance of the person you greet."*

Fast forward to February of this year when Ms. Campbell once again visited our office but this time she was all smiles. She wanted us to know that she had contacted the VMFSC as I suggested and the call led to a home visit by someone from the center to “see” what her needs were. Basically, the VMFSC provided an “extreme makeover” on her house. She received new kitchen cabinets, carpeting, windows, a much needed new furnace and a new computer for her great-grandchildren!

When we give our clients a word of encouragement, a smile or even a phone number, we do not know what impact it will have on them. But IOA is here for them and that is what we are all about—responding to the needs of the people who have no other place to go for help, to relieve their distress and improve the quality of their lives. It is our pleasure to serve on your behalf! Thank you!

Loretta Robinson  
Emergency Assistance Program Coordinator

### Let's Connect!

Interfaith Outreach Association (IOA)'s Progressive Release program provides life skills classes to men and women in jail. In response to a growing need to provide additional resources once inmates are released from jail, IOA is expanding this program to include after-care at the Connecting Point.

Located at 1216 Rivermont Avenue, the goal of after-care is to offer the people in attendance classes on subjects such as values, self-esteem, addictions, emotions, choices and goal setting. In addition, after-care offers encouragement, discussion and support regarding these issues and others people may be dealing with. It is an opportunity to develop healthy relationships with people to help them grow so they can make good choices and become empowered members of our community.

Phyllis Robinson, coordinator of the program, is seeking your help to bring together resources within our community to assist in teaching, mentoring and lending support for the people who are trying to make good choices in their lives.

**Each Monday from 9 – 10 a.m. at the Connecting Point, Phyllis will host orientation and training sessions for anyone interested in helping. Please let Phyllis know if you are interested and which Monday you would like to attend orientation.**

If you can assist Phyllis at the Connecting Point or donate items such as snacks, coffee, hair and nail care products, exercise mats, etc., you can reach Phyllis at 846.6098 or email her at [ioaphyllis@ntelos.net](mailto:ioaphyllis@ntelos.net). Providing some of the supplies needed for this program is a great opportunity for Sunday School classes and/or youth groups to get involved.

So **Let's Connect** and support the people who are developing healthy relationships!

### Help *Heat* a Home!

The Emergency Heating Assistance Program for the Elderly (EHAPE) is gearing up for another winter season which begins October 15, 2007 and runs through April 15, 2008. This program assists the elderly in our community who struggle to survive on often stretched and exhausted incomes. Please consider joining us in this mission by helping to heat a home this season. Make your checks payable to IOA EHAPE.

We are grateful to The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust (GLCT), the Lynchburg Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Sunday Schools, congregations and our individual donors for their part in allowing us to heat the homes of 75 of our elderly clients last winter, providing an average of \$300 per person for their heating assistance. This financial assistance allowed us to fill some oil tanks more than once for extreme cases.



“Thank you for not judging me, thank you for helping me to help myself. Thank you for believing me and believing in me. I know you have heard every hard-luck story under the sun. Thank you for understanding. I appreciate the assistance.”

*Thank you note received from a client assisted by IOA, with your help!*

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## VOLUNTEERS—Who Needs Them?!

WE DO! And we were happy to cook for them and serve them lunch at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. This was one way we could express our gratitude for ALL they do for IOA!



As we gathered together for our meal, we read an excerpt from Henry J. M. Nouwen's book "Bread for the Journey", a daybook of wisdom and faith.

Nouwen writes "Having a meal is more than eating and drinking. It is celebrating the gifts of life we share...Around the table we become family, friends, community...That is why it is so important to "set" the table. Flowers, candles, colorful napkins all help us to say to one another, "This is a very special time for us, let's enjoy it!"

It was a very special time with very special people!

**The "Mexican" theme was a huge hit—everyone was asking for our Enchilada recipe so we promised to put it in our newsletter. Enjoy!**

- 6 cups cooked chicken breasts, shredded
- 10/12 flour tortillas (burrito size)
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 tsp. chile powder
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 cup salsa – mild
- 1 lb cheddar, Monterey mix or Mexican blend, shredded
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 large cans enchilada sauce (one red, one green)
- salt/pepper (to taste)

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare large baking dish (spray with PAM or lightly oil)

Spread ½ cup enchilada sauce on bottom of dish.

In large skillet, place olive oil, cooked chicken, cream cheese, chile powder, garlic powder, salt, pepper and cumin. Heat slowly, stirring constantly till cheese melts and mixture starts to bubble. Add salsa and mix well. Stir until mixture begins to bubble again. Remove from heat.

Spread above mixture in center of flour tortillas then sprinkle with shredded cheese. Fold opposite sides of tortillas in about 1 inch then roll them up and place in baking dish (only one layer). Cover enchiladas with enchilada sauce. Sprinkle cheddar cheese all over the top. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes or until hot and cheese is bubbly.

## Interfaith Outreach Association's First Annual Charity Tennis Event and Pro Exhibition Saturday, June 23

Smile for the camera!



Your serve!

Tracking the scores!



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**Mark your calendar for next year's tennis event on June 21, 2008  
at Boonsboro Country Club and help support IOA's programs!**