

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the Date

Our annual congregation meeting will be Tuesday, May 8 at noon in the Undercroft of St. Paul's Church, 7th St. entrance.



Interfaith Outreach Association strives to relieve distress and improve the quality of life for our neighbors in need by providing programs that offer education, guidance, and support. IOA serves as a vehicle for interfaith cooperation in Central Virginia whereby congregations become members of IOA and enter into partnerships with each other, their respective denominations, and community agencies to accomplish its mission. IOA serves the city of Lynchburg and the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell.



Spring, 2018

Restoring Hope

Every year, Interfaith Outreach sends out thousands of letters to men and women incarcerated in Virginia jails and prisons to provide hope and inspiration for those who have nowhere else to turn. Most of the ex-offenders in our program admit they have hit rock bottom and desperately want to change to become better family members and working citizens of our community. The challenge for them is that they have burned all of their bridges and lack the support they need to be successful. With your continued support, Interfaith Outreach is able to restore hope and provide support for those willing and able to turn their lives around through our letters of encouragement, life skills classes, job readiness workshops, mentoring program, aftercare support, and referral system. Together, we are making a difference!

P.S. The work you do is greatly appreciated, your letters provide hope to a lot of people and I often let others read and they appreciate them also. You deserve much praise and respect for providing people of this struggle with hope, and most importantly, ways to better themselves and seek better environments, situations and lives. Without people like you 99% of us would be lost causes. So I speak for myself and others, Thank you.

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Interfaith Outreach Association

cordially invites you to attend our

10th Annual Seeds of Hope Luncheon

*Special Honorees—Dr. Vivian Camm
and Rev. Herb Moore*

a free fundraising event

Thursday, April 28th, 2018

12:00-1:00 pm

Holiday Inn Select

601 Main Street, Lynchburg

RSVP by Friday, April 15th to ioasha@interfaithoutreach.org or 434-846-6098

Get INVOLVED with Interfaith Outreach!

2017 Statistics

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

2,008 People served
2,030 Referrals made for additional assistance

PROGRESSIVE RELEASE

245 Life skills participants
377 Job assistance
376 Aftercare visits
4,454 Letters to incarcerated individuals

VISION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

64 Rides given
114 Support group attendees
67 Home improved through Interfaith ReBuilds

**TOTAL
VOLUNTEER HOURS**
7,219 hours

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Rebuilding Independence

Interfaith Rebuilds volunteer Dr. Bill Hobbs and his ramp building crew made the 60 mile journey to install a much needed ramp for one of our neighbors in need. The crew brought with them the ramp sections they had built in our Lynchburg warehouse. This



ramp was for a man in a wheelchair and for his wife who was unable to see. After successfully installing the ramp and talking with the family about their vision challenges, Dr. Hobbs, a retired ophthalmologist who recognized the vision condition, made some calls and was able to find a physician who operated on the woman for free, restoring sight to one eye. The grateful homeowner was elated and said, "I am finally able to get in and out of my house and my wife can now see. THANK YOU!



Next time you see Dr. Hobbs, give him a big hug!" Thank you to Dr. Hobbs and all of our volunteers who make such a difference!

Mentoring for Change

For the past year, Progressive Release has been piloting a mentoring program for ex-offenders based on a successful model used in Richmond and Norfolk. After a successful start, we have modified



Bridges Out of Poverty Getting Ahead program that will be facilitated this spring. This one on one support makes such a difference!

VIP Tech Training

Hope Snell, IOA's VIP Facilitator, will soon be conducting assistive technology workshops for our vision support group participants. Participants will learn how to use Voice Assistants, such as Amazon's Echo, to answer questions and help with calendars, to do lists, alarms, and timers. These Voice Assistants can also send messages as well as share books, magazines, weather and news. Check out our website late spring for more details about the debut of this helpful program!

