

Interfaith Outreach Association
701 Clay Street
P.O. Box 1125
Lynchburg, VA 24505

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the Date!

Seeds of Hope Luncheon

Thursday, April 28th @ 12:00

Holiday Inn Select

Downtown Lynchburg

Special Honorees

The Honorable Elliot and Rosel Schewel



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.

Thank You to Our Many Member Congregations!

Agudath Sholom Synagogue

Altha Grove Baptist Church

Ascension Episcopal Church

Baha'i Faith

Believer's Fellowship

Berean Baptist Church

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Beulah Baptist Church

Boonsboro United Methodist Church

Calvary Baptist Church

Centenary United Methodist Church

Chestnut Grove Baptist Church

Chestnut Hill Baptist Church

Chestnut Hill United Methodist Church

Church of the Brethren

Church of the Covenant

College Hill Baptist Church

Court Street Baptist Church

Court Street United Methodist Church

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Crosspoint Wesleyan Church

Diamond Hill Baptist Church

Eighth Street Baptist Church

Elon Presbyterian Church

Euclid Christian Church

Fairview Christian Church

Fairview United Methodist Church

First Assembly of God

First Baptist Church

First Baptist Church—South Lynchburg

First Christian Church

First Presbyterian Church

First Unitarian Church

Forest Presbyterian Church

Forest Road United Methodist Church

Fort Avenue Church of Christ

Fort Hill United Methodist Church

Grace Evangelical Free Church

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Heritage Baptist Church

Heritage United Methodist Church

Hilifavrd Ministries

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Hyland Heights Baptist Church

Jackson Street United Methodist Church

Jericho Missionary Baptist Church

Lighthouse Foursquare Church

Marsh Memorial United Methodist Church

Mead Memorial United Methodist Church

Memorial Christian Church

New Hope Free Methodist Church

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Park View United Methodist Church

Peakland Baptist Church

Peakland United Methodist Church

Providence Transformation Church

Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church

Reality Ministries International

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

Redeeming Grace Baptist Church

Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church

Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Sandusky Baptist Church

Shiloh United Methodist Church

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

St. John's Episcopal Church

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

Temple Baptist Church

Thomas Road Baptist Church

Timberlake Christian Church

Timberlake United Methodist Church

Trinity Episcopal Church

Tyreeanna United Methodist Church

Unity in the Seven Hills

Westminster Presbyterian Church



Interfaith Outreach Association

Newsletter

Spring, 2016

Board of Directors

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St. John's Episcopal Church

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8th Annual Seeds of Hope Luncheon to Raise Much Needed Funds for IOA

Interfaith Outreach Association is hosting its 8th Annual Seeds of Hope Luncheon, a free fundraising event, in hopes of raising much needed funds to support their programs. Each year, we are happy to be able to share what we have done to help the community over the last year and exciting changes for the upcoming year with those in the community who have supported IOA and with new friends who are interested in learning more about what we are doing to help the needy in Central Virginia.

The luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 28th 2016 at 12:00 at the Holiday Inn Downtown, located at 601 Main St. Lynchburg, VA 24504.

Beginning a new tradition, Interfaith will be honoring someone in the community at our Seeds of Hope Luncheon who has made a big impact in the lives of those in need in the Lynchburg area.

This year, we are proud to announce that our special honorees are the Honorable Elliot and Rosel Schewel.

We still have open seating available for anyone who would like to learn more about the wonderful work of Interfaith Outreach and help us thank the Schewels for their dedication to serving the community. Please RSVP to ioashawne@ntelos.net or 434.846.6098 by Friday, April 15th to reserve your seat.



8th Annual Seeds of Hope Luncheon special honorees
The Honorable Elliot and Rosel Schewel.

Interfaith Keeping Families and the Elderly in Their Warm Homes This Winter

Lynchburg area residents have experienced one of the most diverse winters we have seen in years. From 80 degree weather in December to 10+ inches of snow in January, their heating and cooling needs have changed drastically and so have their thermostats. While those warm temperatures enabled people to postpone the need to turn on their heat, they also required people to run their AC longer than usual. We expect that in the next few weeks we will see a large increase in need for assistance with electric and gas bills after the havoc of winter storm Jonas.



Many older homes in Lynchburg use heating oil as their primary heat source.

At Interfaith Outreach Association, we take a more holistic approach to assisting those who come in our doors in need of assistance with a bill. We talk with each one of them about the circumstances that led to them being unable to pay their bill and make recommendations for other agencies that they may be able to work with to help them improve their current situation. We pay close attention to the other bills that they are responsible for paying to help them prioritize their expenses and to help them identify places where they may be overpaying to eliminate some expenses. In looking at those bills and receipts, we are able to confirm that each person who receives services from Interfaith is truly in financial need. We appreciate your continued support as we work with our neighbors in need to help them find comfort at home.



Mr. H was able to receive assistance with heating oil through our EHAPE Program and home repairs through Interfaith Rebuilds.

2015 Statistics

- 2,764 people, including 1,228 children, received emergency assistance with eviction notices, utility cutoffs, and fuel tank fill ups allowing families to stay together in their own home
- 4,619 letters of encouragement were sent to inmates
- 8,573 people learned more about IOA through outreach
- 249 individuals received free furniture
- 418 people benefited from our Vision Information Program Support Groups
- 54 houses were repaired to allow needy people to stay in their homes
- 218 inmates participated in the Life Skills Classes in the Blue Ridge Jail system
- 4,199 referrals were made to other agencies that can offer further assistance
- 219 needy individuals received necessities such as groceries and toiletries
- 7,196 hours of time were donated to IOA's programs by our dedicated volunteers
- 852 furniture items were given to clients in need which included beds, dressers, kitchen tables, and sofas
- 105 individuals participated in our *Return, Learn, and Earn* Class and another 147 received aftercare counseling



Volunteers from Thomas Road Baptist Church launder and organize the linens that are donated to IOA.

Corporate Sponsors

Interfaith Outreach Association appreciates the support we receive from the following companies and granting agencies:

Areva	Emergency Food & Shelter Program	Old Dominion Box Company Foundation	Stifel Nicolaus
Babcock's Auto Service	Estates and Consignments	Piedmont Eye Center	Tharp Funeral Home
Bank of the James	Fleet Laboratories	PIP Printing and Marketing	The Easley Foundation
Candler Oil Company	GE Foundation	Presbytery of the Peaks	The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust
Cecil B. Arthur Trucking	Genworth	Retail Merchants Association	The Plymale Foundation
Centra Foundation	Genworth Foundation	Riverside Runners	Wells Fargo
Columbia Gas	Holiday Inn Downtown	R.R. Donnelley	Whitehead Media Ventures
Dodson Pest Control	NB Handy	Schewel's Furniture	

Assisting the Elderly

At the core of what we do, Interfaith Outreach strives to help keep those who come to us in need in their homes. For the elderly, helping them to retain their independence does exactly that.

Through the Interfaith Rebuilds program, we are able to perform small home repairs that make a big difference. Whether we are building a ramp, putting in an accessible toilet, repairing broken floor boards, or patching a hole in the roof, these repairs mean the difference in someone being able to stay in the home they worked hard to purchase and being forced to move to an assisted living facility or nursing home. In 2015, we were able to work on 54 homes in the Central Virginia area, helping all of those residents to remain in their homes.

Participants in our Vision Transportation Program, many who are elderly, are able to receive much needed rides to their medical appointments. Whether they are in need of a weekly ride to physical therapy or chemo treatments or an occasional ride to another medical appointment, being able to get to their appointments allows them to stay in their homes and maintain their independence without having to pay for transportation.



Volunteers unload a delivery at our warehouse to begin building ramps.



Volunteers from St. John's Episcopal, Thomas Road Baptist, and Heritage United Methodist are ready to get to work.



Bill Hobbs, IOA Board Member, rolls up his sleeves to help build ramps for disabled homeowners.



IOA partners with Lynchburg Baptist Association's Kingdom Builders to install ramps for needy families.

Return, Learn, and Earn Job Skills Class Sees Increase in Employment Success for Participants

Interfaith Outreach Association's *Return, Learn, and Earn* class has moved to a new day. The class now meets every Monday at noon at the IOA office located at 701 Clay Street. This one hour class consists of a rotating five week schedule which can be started and finished at any time. Participants learn about conducting a proactive job search, interview skills, job retention, soft skills, and the "nitty gritty" of resumes and cover letters. Participants are also able to schedule appointments for additional resume assistance.



Lawrence participated in many of Interfaith's classes and now has a great job.

In 2015, *Return, Learn, and Earn* saw 105 participants come through the program. Using the skills that they learned during the class, most of these participants have been able to find and keep a job as a result of their participation in the *Return, Learn, and Earn* class.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the City of Lynchburg's unemployment rate came in at 4.9% in 2015, just above the national average. Following the U.S. Census, Lynchburg was reported to have roughly 37% of its employed citizens living below poverty level and the total poverty level was at 24%.

Through cooperation with many agencies in the Lynchburg area including Roads to Recovery and VADOC's Probation and Parole, Interfaith Outreach Association is actively working to combat the unemployment and poverty rates in the area. The Blue Ridge ReEntry Council, chaired by Progressive Release Director Steve Monetti, meets monthly to discuss barriers to employment, housing, and other factors affecting people reentering society to help bridge the gap between incarceration and successful reintegration.



Former Progressive Release participant Tony Markland of Roads to Recovery (right), Program Director Steve Monetti (middle), and Ben Morgan of VADOC (left) collaborate at the Blue Ridge ReEntry Council Meeting on 2/3/2016 on opportunities for ex-offenders.