



Interfaith Outreach Association

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(434) 846-6098

InterfaithOutreach.org

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Interfaith Outreach Celebrates 40 Years of Making a Difference in Central Virginia

How can we best serve those with critical needs in our community? In 1966, local ministers answered this question by forming Kum-Ba-Yah, a program of Lynchburg Covenant Fellowship where congregations pooled their resources together to better serve those with critical needs. By 1982, Kum-Ba-Yah transitioned to the independent nonprofit that would become known as Interfaith Outreach Association, continuing to provide programs for people who are blind, as well as furniture and financial assistance for families to avoid evictions and utility terminations. Throughout the years, IOA has served as a vehicle of interfaith cooperation and community engagement for individuals, congregations, businesses, schools, and other groups who have donated time, talent, and financial resources to best serve those in need.

With continued community support, Interfaith built capacity to assist more people while adding life skills classes for people who are incarcerated, job support, and simple home repairs for the elderly and disabled in our community, continuing to focus on the importance of uniting faith in service. With decades of experience, when the pandemic hit in 2020, Interfaith was there for the community keeping over 4000 people (including 2000 children) safe at home with shelter, electricity, and water.

As we celebrate our 40th Anniversary in 2022, Interfaith Outreach continues to empower our neighbors in need who face so many challenges with historic inflation affecting people with fixed incomes on top of the unexpected challenges such as deaths, accidents, layoffs, hospitalizations, car problems and accidents. We look to increase community engagement to help get this vital work done as we have seen that our community has always been better together! With your continued support, we will continue to build bridges for our neighbors in need in Central Virginia to get through whatever crisis they face. Thank you for living your faith and helping us plant Seeds of Hope! You make such a difference!



Newsletter

March. 2022

"Uniting Faith
In Service"



IOA Continuing to Plant Seeds of Hope in Our Community



Struggling to Make Ends Meet

Prices are through the roof! The cost of living has drastically increased with housing, utilities, gas, and groceries, just to name a few, then throw in an unexpected family emergency such as sickness, death, an accident or layoff—many who live paycheck to paycheck are on the brink of financial collapse. That is the plight of so many in our community lately as they do not have the funds they need to pay their rent or keep their heat and water on! Your gifts help bridge this financial gap for families as they work to stay together under one roof with heat and water!



Providing Basics for Families

Many families in our community are starting over for a variety of reasons and have needed help with utility deposits and first month's rent. We have also been able to provide furniture and furnishings. The winter has been busy with families in need of furniture as they start over due to unexpected circumstances such as fires. Beds, dressers, kitchen tables, chairs, sofas, coffee/end tables as well as kitchen and bath household items have been given to so many families! Your gifts have made such a difference!



Simple Things Make Such a Difference!

So many challenges for people who need help navigating in, out and around their homes as they age or develop mobility concerns! Did you know that we installed over a dozen ramps last year? We also fixed stairs, handrails, floors, walkways, and doors as well as simple plumbing, heating, bathroom, water and lighting problems. Volunteers are needed for our projects and your group would love the opportunity to serve! Give us a call at (434)846-6098.

Fresh Starts Matter

People starting over after incarceration often need help as they leave jail with a single plastic bag of their belongings they had when they were arrested. IOA's Steve Monetti steps in to make a difference and has been busy this year helping locate housing and providing work clothes, shoes and basics such as underclothes. He also has helped with job support in the form of resumes, transportation, ids, and mentorship. The basics are so important to be successful and the support empowers people to be all that they can be!



Thank You to Our Many Sponsors!

Automated Conveyor, Bank of the James, BWXT, Carrington Family Foundation, Centra, City of Lynchburg CDBG, Community Mountain, Dodson Pest Control, Flint Property Group, Genworth Foundation, The Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation, Joyner Engineer Trainers, KVA Foundation, LG Flint Inc., LSC Communications, Lynchburg Ready Mix, NB Handy, Old Dominion Box Company Foundation, Pacific Life Foundation, Presbytery of the Peaks, Thrivent Foundation, Watt Foster Family Foundation



Can You Help Us Celebrate **40** years of Serving our Neighbors?

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Things IOA Does For The Community

1. Prevent termination of electricity
2. Prevent termination of water
3. Prevent eviction
4. Assist with first month's rent
5. Assist with deposit on electricity
6. Assist with deposit on natural gas service
7. Assist with deposit on water
8. Assist with purchase of heating fuel
9. Create household financial budgets
10. Provide cleaning buckets
11. Provide toiletries
12. Help people get updated bills
13. Refer people to other agencies who can offer additional assistance
14. Give people with visual challenges rides to medical appointments
15. Give people cookware
16. Build ramps for people with mobility issues
17. Refer people to other agencies for additional help and wraparound services
18. Help people purchase their birth certificates and or picture IDs
19. Help people get tools for work
20. Help people get clothing for work
21. Repair simple leaks
22. Hold educational community meetings about topics that help people in need
23. Give people dishes
24. Give people bedroom furniture
25. Give people living room furniture
26. Give people dining sets
27. Give people towels and linens
28. Advise people about renting process
29. Repair simple hazardous floors, stairs, and walkways
30. Repair simple water, heating, and cooling hazards
31. Give people bus passes for work
32. Advise people about the eviction process
33. Teach Life Skills classes to men and women in the Amherst and Lynchburg jails
34. Write and send over 400 letters of hope every month to people who are incarcerated
35. Conduct aftercare assistance for people returning from incarceration
36. Refer people to employers who are hiring
37. Make simple modifications and repairs in homes of elderly and disabled
38. Advise people how to start utility service
39. Assist and advise Veterans in need with resources
40. Teach Life Skills classes in the Lynchburg Juvenile Detention Center

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Things You Can Do For IOA

1. Have a bake sale for IOA
2. Donate cleaning supplies
3. Donate shaving cream and razors
4. Donate toothpaste
5. Donate bus passes
6. Have a car wash for IOA
7. Work on a rebuilds group project
8. Become a member of our ramp building crew
9. Invite us to come speak to your group
10. Help us sell raffle tickets for the Washington/Dallas football game
11. Volunteer to help with the Downtown Historic Church Open House
12. Help with mailings
13. Donate boxes of copy paper
14. Help with our yard work
15. Volunteer in the furniture warehouse
16. Donate mattresses and boxsprings
17. Donate dressers
18. Donate dining table sets
19. Donate cutlery and large kitchen utensils
20. Volunteer in the jail
21. Have a raffle for IOA
22. Volunteer time to work in our furniture warehouse
23. Have a Facebook fundraiser for IOA
24. Become a volunteer driver for medical appts.
25. Become a weekly Rebuilds volunteer
26. Donate stamps
27. Donate file folders
28. Donate money
29. Donate pots and pans
30. Donate new towels and sheets sets
31. Volunteer your time to help in the office
32. Volunteer to help with toiletries
33. Volunteer to help with linens
34. Have a love offering collection for IOA during your service
35. Create a challenge gift
36. Check out our website
37. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
38. Invite your friends to follow us on social media
39. Host a gathering to tell your friends about IOA
40. Volunteer to help us with Our Seeds of Hope Event

Thank You For All Your Support!



**Interfaith Outreach Association
cordially invites you to attend our
40th Anniversary Seeds of Hope Event
a free Fundraiser**



**Special Honorees
Dr. George Hurt and Dr. Gus Petticolas**

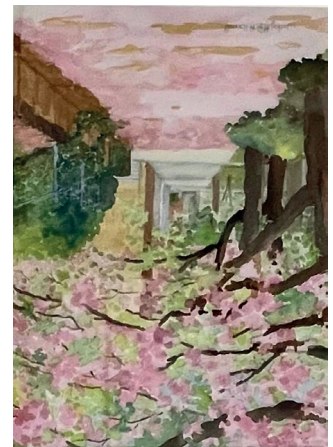
Thursday, April 28, 2022
11:30 AM to 12:15 PM
Historic Academy Theatre
Downtown Lynchburg
Boxed lunches to go will be provided

RSVP by April 13 to ioashawne@ntelos.net or call (434)846-6098



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.

**Attendees of our Seeds of
Hope Event will receive
complimentary small prints
from local artists!**



**Interfaith Outreach Association
PO Box 1125
Lynchburg, VA 24505-1125**

