

# Newsletter

December 2024



Interfaith  
Outreach  
Association



## Fiscal Year 2024

### Emergency Assistance

People - 1,938

Children - 1,092

### Furniture

Families - 94

People - 233

Children - 136

Furniture pieces - 816

### Progressive Release

Life skills class

Participants - 388

Letter sent - 3,535

### Interfaith Rebuilds

Homes - 77

Volunteers - 328

Hours - 3,380

### Homeless Prevention

Total people helped - 701

Children helped - 267

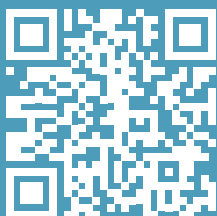
Success rate - 93%

### Wraparound Services

Referrals - 26,641

### Vision Program

Rides to medical  
appointments - 33



InterfaithOutreach.org

## Together, We Can Change Lives!

Introducing **Home Again** - Rent and Furniture Assistance for Homeless Neighbors

**Homelessness is at a crisis point in Central Virginia.** In the last year alone, homelessness has surged by 21%, with a heartbreaking 192% increase since 2017 in people living without shelter. These numbers represent our friends, neighbors, and community members who have nowhere to turn for stability and safety. But there is hope — and you can be part of it.

At Interfaith Outreach Association, we've always responded to our community's urgent needs. When times are tough, we answer the call. In response to this crisis, we're launching a **new program in 2025 - Home Again - a new rent and furniture program for our homeless neighbors.** This initiative will provide essential rental assistance and furnishings, giving people not only a home but the stability they need to rebuild their lives.

## A Legacy of Stepping Up for Our Community

When a local affordable housing complex closed, leaving many residents in search of new housing, we were there to offer support taking on financial responsibilities that assisted in making successful relocations possible. During the pandemic, we kept families safe from eviction and utility shut-offs. And in recent years, we've implemented a homeless prevention program to offer families ongoing stability.

Now, the need is greater than ever. The number of unsheltered individuals in Central Virginia has reached an all-time high, and with winter approaching, the risks are even more severe. Through our **Home Again** program, we are ready to make a profound impact once more — but we can't do it alone.

## How You Can Help Us Create a Future of Hope

This is where you come in. **Your support can provide the critical resources needed to secure safe, stable housing for our most vulnerable community members.** Imagine knowing that because of your generosity, a family has a warm place to sleep, or an individual has a foundation to rebuild their life. Together, we can give hope, one home at a time. **Together, we are stronger. Together, we can build a future where everyone has a place to call home.**

Please join us on this urgent mission.

## Help Us Meet the Need!

### Home Sweet Home Drive – Items Needed

Your generosity can transform lives! We're currently in need of the following items to support families in our community:

- **Furniture:** Mattresses, box springs, coffee tables, end tables, kitchen tables with chairs, dressers
- **Kitchen Essentials:** Pots, pans, skillets, utensils
- **Cleaning Supplies:** Brooms, mops, buckets, liquid cleaners, dish soap, laundry detergent, sponges, toilet brushes, plungers
- **Toiletries:** Washcloths, deodorant, razors, shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, lip balm, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, hairbrushes, lotion

Every item you donate brings comfort and stability to a household in need. Let's come together to meet these essential needs!



### Seeds of Hope 2025

Celebrate our 43rd Anniversary at the Seeds of Hope event on **Thursday, April 24, at 11:30 am at the Historic Academy Theatre in downtown Lynchburg.** Enjoy a beautiful gathering followed by lunch. Stay tuned for the honoree announcements in January 2025. Mark your calendar and join us in commemorating this milestone!



### Make a Financial Impact

Consider making a monetary donation to further our mission. Scan the QR code or mail a check to support our work and help us continue providing essential services to those in need.



### Business Partners – We Need You!

We are so grateful to our sponsors who help make all of this possible. If your business would like to be a supporting partner, reach out to us and see how you can make a lasting impact.

- |                                |  |                                     |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| • Academy of Fine Arts         | • Freedom First Credit Union                 | • Moore's Country Store             |
| • The Al Stroobants Foundation | • Genworth Foundation                        | • Moore's Electrical and Mechanical |
| • Bank of the James            | • The Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation | • Mustaches for Kids Lynchburg      |
| • Banker Steel                 | • Home Depot                                 | • NB Handy                          |
| • BWXT                         | • LG Flint Inc.                              | • Schewel Home                      |
| • Centra                       | • Lynchburg Association of Realtors          | • Select Bank                       |
| • Community Mountain           | • Lynchburg Morning Rotary                   | • Sonny Merryman                    |
| • Dodson Pest Control          | • Lynchburg Ready Mix Company                |                                     |
| • Findings Art Store           | • Master Engineers and Design                |                                     |
| • Flint Property Group         |  |                                     |
| • Foster Foundation            |  |                                     |



# Program Highlights - Making a Difference

## It Takes a Village

Our Rebuilds program recently took on a transformative community project for our neighbor, John. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of numerous community partners, together we were able to provide comprehensive support, including plumbing, electrical work, flooring, ceiling installation, drywall, lighting, and demolition. This experience truly exemplifies the power of community, and we are immensely grateful for everyone's contributions!



## Heart and Home Helpers Volunteer Program

Help us make a difference!

Our new Heart & Home Helpers Volunteer Program is launching in 2025 to support neighbors in need, and we're looking for dedicated volunteers. Join us as we train volunteers to assist with weekday morning furniture pickups at our warehouse. Be a part of a meaningful initiative—every piece of furniture helps create a home!



## Helping Hands for the Blind

We invite you to consider becoming a volunteer driver for our Vision program! Your involvement can help us expand our reach and support those in need more effectively.



## Walk a Mile in My Shoes

We are thankful for the many volunteers who have contributed to our programming in the jails! Students from the University of Lynchburg, Liberty University, and Christopher Newport University have joined us, bringing their enthusiasm and willingness to learn. Their support is invaluable, and together we are making a meaningful impact in our community.

Get Involved!



## Join Us for the Annual Downtown Lynchburg Historic Church Open House!

Are you looking for a festive way to celebrate the holiday season? We invite you to the Annual Downtown Lynchburg Historic Church Open House on **Saturday, December 14**, from **9:30 AM to 1:30 PM**. This year's event promises to be a joyous experience for everyone and is **FREE!** As a gesture of goodwill during this season of giving, we encourage donations to Interfaith Outreach Association to support our ongoing community efforts.

Explore the charm of our historic churches while enjoying a **series of 15-minute holiday concerts**. This event is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others, appreciate our local heritage, and embrace the joy of the holiday season.

### We look forward to celebrating with you!

*Diamond Hill Baptist Church 9:30 am*

*Jackson Street United, Methodist Church 10:15am*

*Holy Cross Catholic Church 11:00 am*

*St Paul's Episcopal Church 11:30 am*

*Court Street Baptist Church 12:00 Noon*

*Court Street United Methodist Church 12:30 pm*

*\*\*Special Guest Temple Agudath Sholom\*\**

*Unitarian Universalist Congregation 1:00 pm*

All seven churches are within a five-block area of downtown.  
Look for more details on our Facebook, Instagram, or website:  
**InterfaithOutreach.org**

### December 14 Save the date!



Interfaith Outreach Association (IOA) 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.

@interfaithoutreach



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SCAN TO DONATE

