

# Newsletter

Fall 2025



## Did you know...

- IOA is the **most referred service provider** through 211 in Central VA.
- Housing is the **#1** expense for households in Central VA.
- **61%** of households in Central VA live below poverty line or paycheck to paycheck with little or no reserves.

## IOA Impact by the Numbers

- **3,943** neighbors served in Interfaith programs.
- **96%** success rate in Homeless Prevention Program.
- **3,341** letters of hope distributed.
- **78%** of our households receiving housing assistance have children or elderly family members.
- **912** pieces of furniture & furnishings given to neighbors starting over.
- **68** homes of elderly and disabled neighbors received simple home repairs and ramps.
- **35,343** referrals for additional wrap around services.

Scan here to make a difference!



[InterfaithOutreach.org](https://www.interfaithoutreach.org)

## “Please Don’t Forget About Me...”

Those were the quiet, heartfelt words Jay shared with us—a plea that guided every step of his journey home.

After losing his housing, Jay spent nearly a year sleeping outdoors. Despite the challenges, he continued to work part-time, determined to regain stability. Without reliable transportation, he could not reach local shelters and was forced to stay near his job. His circumstances were difficult, but his hope never wavered.

That hope found a home in Interfaith Outreach’s new **Home Again Program**, launched in June 2025. Though barriers such as an eviction record and limited income made finding housing nearly impossible, our team refused to give up. When one application was denied, Jay asked softly, “Please don’t forget about me.” We didn’t.

Jay’s application was finally approved. Within a week, our **Furniture and Furnishings Program** helped transform an empty apartment into his home.

Today, Jay is rebuilding his life. He is connecting with neighbors, pursuing more consistent employment, and enjoying the simple things many of us take for granted—a good night’s sleep, a warm meal, and a place to call home.

Your generosity makes stories like Jay’s possible. **When you give, you help ensure that no one is forgotten—and everyone has the chance to be safe at home.**



## Make a Difference in Central Virginia

Call (434) 846-6098  
interfaithoutreach.org



### Volunteer & Serve Together

Calling all groups, faith communities, and businesses!

You can change lives right here at home. Join our team to:

- Build wheelchair ramps and complete simple home repairs
- Help with furniture pick-ups
- Organize and sort donations at our Furniture Warehouse

Your time and teamwork make a difference.

Call us today to schedule a volunteer day!



### Home Sweet Home for the Holidays

#### Host a Team or Workplace Supply Drive

Your generosity can transform a house into a home. Help families in crisis this holiday season by collecting any of these much-needed items:

**Paper Products:** Trash bags, paper towels, toilet paper

**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, brushes, lotion

**Kitchen Essentials:** Pots, pans, skillets, cooking utensils, eating utensils

**Furniture:** Mattresses, box springs, coffee tables, end tables, small kitchen tables with chairs, dressers

Every item you give brings comfort, dignity, and hope to a family rebuilding their life.



### Thank You to Our Business Partners!

Your partnership fuels transformation.

Interested in becoming a community partner?

Reach out to explore how your business can sponsor, volunteer, or provide in-kind support.

#### Our Valued Supporters

Academy of Fine Arts • The Al Stroobants Foundation • Bank of the James • BWXT • Centra • Community Mountain • Dodson Pest Control • Findings Art Store • Flint Property Group • Foster Fuels • Genworth Foundation • The Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation • Moore's Country Store • Mustaches 4 Kids Lynchburg • NB Handy • Plymale Foundation • Schewel Family Foundation • Select Bank • Virginia Housing



## A Thank You From the Heart

Stories like this remind us *why* we do what we do. One of our neighbors recently shared how Interfaith Outreach changed their life:

*"I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for everything you and Interfaith Outreach Association have done for me. Your kindness, compassion, and unwavering support have truly changed my life. During my time of incarceration and throughout my recovery, your guidance, encouragement, and faith have been a steady source of hope and strength. The rent assistance gave me stability when I needed it most. That support made a world of difference and allowed me to continue moving forward with confidence and peace of mind."*

### Seeds of Hope 2026

#### Our 60th Birthday Celebration

Thursday, April 30, 2026 | 11:30 AM

Academy Center of the Arts – Warehouse Theatre

Join us as we celebrate 60 years of service to our community!

We'll honor Libby & Paul Fitzgerald and Michelline & Jawansa Hall, whose compassion continues to plant seeds of hope for generations to come. Mark your calendars and celebrate with us!

### Together, We're Rebuilding Hope

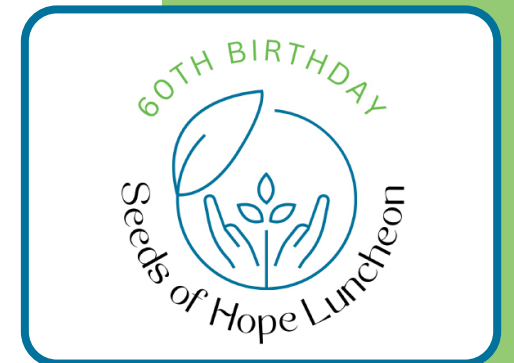
Interfaith Rebuilds partners with faith communities, schools, and local businesses to make vital home repairs for our elderly and disabled neighbors. This fall, we're honored to team up with **Purple Heart Homes** to serve Veterans in need—ensuring their homes are safe, accessible, and filled with dignity.

### Walk a Mile in My Shoes

Imagine waking up one morning with no running water, no electricity, no heat — and no place to call home. How would you cook a meal, get ready for work, or care for your family?

Every day, our neighbors face these unimaginable challenges. Walk a Mile in My Shoes invites you to pause, reflect, and experience just a glimpse of what life is like without the basic comforts we often take for granted.

Visit our website to take the journey — and see how even small acts of compassion can make a world of difference for someone struggling to get back on their feet.



# Celebrate the Spirit of the Season in Historic Downtown Lynchburg

Are you looking for a joyful way to embrace the holiday season? Join us for the **Interfaith Outreach Association's Annual Downtown Historic Church Open House on Saturday, December 14, from 9:15 AM to 1:30 PM** — a cherished Lynchburg tradition filled with music, community, and the joy of the holidays. Step inside some of downtown's most beautiful historic churches and experience the wonder of the season through a series of uplifting **15-minute holiday concerts**. From stirring choirs to peaceful candlelit sanctuaries, each stop offers a glimpse of our city's faith, history, and hope — all within just five blocks of downtown.

## Concert Schedule

- 5th Street Baptist Church – 9:15 AM
- Diamond Hill Baptist Church – 10:00 AM
- Jackson Street United Methodist Church – 10:45 AM
- Holy Cross Catholic Church – 11:30 AM
- Court Street Baptist Church – 12:00 PM
- First Unitarian Universalist Congregation – 12:30 PM
- Church of the Good Shepherd with special guest Agudath Sholom Synagogue – 1:00 PM



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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