



Interfaith Ministries, Inc.

The RESPONSE

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IMI Welcomes New Volunteer Coordinator

Interfaith staff and volunteers were very sad to say goodbye to Margaret Scales, who resigned as Volunteer Coordinator in March, due to health issues. Margaret held the position for nine years, and was a tremendous asset to the organization. Her creativity and willingness to explore new ways of doing things helped Interfaith keep a fresh approach to "doing business". We know that God will continue to use her for His pur-

poses, and pray for His leading for the next phase in her life.

Here's an introduction to our new Volunteer Coordinator, in her own words: "I would like to take this time to introduce myself. I am Tanika Lewis. I am a member of Eastside Baptist Church, where Rev. Larry Lewis is my pastor (my father). I am a youth teacher and a youth department sponsor. I also will be attending Midwestern State University to finish

my Bachelors Degree in Business Administration/Management. I was in the Army Reserves in Fort Sill, OK, for almost 6 years. I was mobilized in 2003 for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle for 10 months. I was a Human Resources Specialist 42A/75H. I am looking forward to meeting and working with the IMI volunteers." If you have questions about volunteering at IMI, please contact Tanika at 322-1365, or email her at tlewis@wf.net.

Challenge Grant Offered to Help Flood Victims

The Wichita Falls Area Disaster Recovery Committee is excited to announce a challenge grant from the Perkins-Prothro Foundation to assist flood victims in Wichita and Archer counties. The foundation will match, dollar for dollar, every donation received from May 15, 2008 through May 31, 2009, up to a total of \$250,000! This means that in order to take advantage of the grant, donations from the community are needed to match the funds offered. This money will be used for

construction repairs and home replacement for those families who are still displaced since last July's flood.

Disaster Recovery Committee volunteers have been busy in the past several months, working with flood victims to identify needs and to replace furniture, appliances and household items. Nineteen cases have been closed for people whose needs have been met. Now the volunteers will concentrate on homes that need repair. Up to

forty homes may need construction assistance, according to statistics from the city, and as many as ten homes may need to be relocated and/or replaced. The total estimated cost for repairs and replacement is over \$1 million, so this challenge grant is very timely and greatly needed. The committee is grateful to the Perkins-Prothro Foundation for providing the incentive to keep the community involved in this relief effort. We hope to maximize the opportunity

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Coleman Foundation Grants \$5,000

Interfaith Ministries received a grant of \$5,000 in May from the Coleman Charitable Foundation, to be used for short-term financial assistance to families in Wichita Falls and Iowa Park. The funds will be used to help families struggling to pay bills, keep food on the table, and meet their basic financial obligations. We're grateful to the foundation trustees for their concern for those in need in our communities.

Volunteer Perspective

Interfaith Ministries was established after the terrible tornado of 1979, which devastated large areas of our city. Many of our citizens suffered loss of their homes, cars, clothing and other personal effects, which caused serious hardship, especially to underprivileged people. Naturally, many local churches stepped forward to render much-needed aid, primarily to those with lower incomes.

It soon became apparent that coordination of their work was needed, and Interfaith Ministries was born. The system worked so well in the aftermath of the tornado that it was decided to continue it after the damage caused by the tornado had been repaired. Its goal was to assist underprivileged families and individuals on a one-time basis, who were needing financial help to meet a situation which was brought on by other than their own actions.

I think that this is a worthy goal, which motivated me to volunteer my time to assist Interfaith Ministries. Consequently, I have worked there as an Intake Volunteer for over a year and a half. It has been a challenge, but also very rewarding at the same time. I have been very impressed with the staff and the other volunteers. Everyone has one goal, to help those in need. Every client that comes through the door is treated with utmost respect and concern. Each of them has different needs and problems, so there is no way the work can be routine.

Working at Interfaith Ministries makes me feel very humble, and thankful that there is a kind and caring place in our community that is ministering to so many people. I am very proud to be able, in some way, to help an individual or family get through a difficult time in their life.

Today, Interfaith Ministries is still vigorously pursuing the goal for which it was established almost thirty years ago.

Joanne Hodge,
Intake Volunteer

Pantry Donations Urgently Needed

Interfaith's pantry is nearly bare! We feel like Old Mother Hubbard, and need your help to restock so we can provide food to cash-strapped families in our community. In the first four months of 2008, Interfaith fed 256 families, 65 more than this time period in 2007. At the same time, we received 4,380 fewer pounds of donated food, so the shelves are being rapidly depleted. It's very evident that the rising cost of food and gasoline is affecting both clients and donors alike. If you can feed your family, keep your utilities on, and have a little left over each month, please remember those who can't, and bring something to help replenish the pantry.

Anything you feed your family is needed, such as canned fruits, meats and vegetables, peanut butter and jelly, beans and rice, powdered milk, breakfast food, cleaning supplies and hygiene items. We have freezer and refrigerator space available, so fresh items are especially welcome. Thanks for your response to this great need.

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to gain the entire amount of \$250,000, and encourage your participation in this challenge. The Disaster Recovery Committee assists families who do not have the resources to repair or replace their homes and furnishings, many of whom are elderly people living on fixed incomes.

The Disaster Recovery Committee has received several grants in the past few months. These include \$25,000 (in addition to the challenge grant of \$250,00) from the Perkins-Prothro Foundation; \$500 from the Kadane Foundation; \$12,500 from the James N. McCoy Foundation; \$4,000 from the Wichita Falls Area Community Foundation Unrestricted Grants Fund; \$260,000 committed from The Priddy Foundation, and \$50,000 from the City of Wichita Falls.

In addition, several denominations have assisted with funds since last summer. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) gave \$10,000; the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) gave \$17,665; the Christian Church General Assembly gave \$3,000; and Episcopal Relief and Development gave \$10,000.

Locally, First Christian Church, Floral Heights United Methodist Church, University United Methodist Church, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Church Women United and St. John the Divine Episcopal Church in Burkburnett have all made contributions.

Businesses and other groups are also committed to helping: the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas local office, the Unity III Study Club and University Kiwanis Club have made donations. Kirby Junior High students held a play day in May and raised \$2,345. Over thirty individuals have given funds to assist families who were flooded.

As of the end of May, \$167,518.88 has been donated toward the budget of \$1,666,028. Many items have been donated, such as furniture, appliances and household items. Several churches have "adopted" families and have paid for repairs on those homes, as well as provided the labor, all of which reduces the cash outlay needed to help restore homes to pre-flood conditions.

Commemorative Giving, February—May, 2008

In Honor of:

Val Hubbard's birthday, from Rev. John and Kay Payne
Sharon Hartman, from Col. (Ret'd) Doris E. Brandon
Bob and Diana Hrabovsky, from Mr. & Mrs. Rubin Covington
Sandy Thurmer and Stephanie Mudge, from Mike and Susan Spiller

In Memory of:

Bill Sehnert, from	Aulton Sosebee, from
Dr. Charles B. Dryden, Jr.	Mrs. Carolyn Morath
Cindy Ann and Wanda Sehnert	Gayle Staats, from
Marvin Brown, from	Bob and Diana Hrabovsky
David and Peggy Kimbell	O.W. Loveless and Steve Loveless,
Mrs. A. L. Sauder and	from Mr. and Mrs. Harry
Suzanne Winston	Patterson
Toni Belvedere, from	From Dr. Charles B. Dryden, Jr.:
Mrs. Lucille Choens	Katherine "Tatty" Edwards
Nina Carroll, from Ms. Sandra Blair	Arwood Stowe
Walter Couser, from Millie Couser	
Martin and Juanita Nelson, from	
Phyllis and G. J. Bell	
Roberta Pitts, from	
David and Peggy Kimbell	

Volunteer Perspective

We were recently contacted by the Adult Protective Services office regarding a client who was in need of dentures. The client is a 68 year old widow who is a resident in a local nursing home. Because of her lack of proper dental hygiene her health has steadily declined over the past 2 months. After speaking with the only member of her family it was determined that they could not assist in the purchase of new dentures for the client. Although the client receives SSI, 97% of that goes directly to the nursing home. The client's family member came in to Interfaith Ministries and spoke with an Intake Volunteer, and we were able to get Times Charities to partner with us. With their support and our funds we were able to make the purchase for the client and allow her to do the basic things necessary for her health. Without your generous support financially as well as your continued prayers, we would not be able to make these needs become a reality. On behalf of the staff and volunteers, we want to say thank you for everything you provide to us at Interfaith Ministries.

Byron Francois,
Director of Services

For Your Information

Donations to Interfaith Ministries are acknowledged on a monthly basis. New donors are added to the mailing list and receive this newsletter, The Response, every other month. Memorial and honor gifts are acknowledged promptly with a letter to the honoree or the family of the deceased.

Iowa Park Added to Service Area

The Interfaith Ministries Board of Directors voted in April to include residents of Iowa Park when considering requests for assistance. As our economy is slowing and basics such as food, gasoline and utilities become more expensive, people find it more difficult to juggle the bills and make ends meet. The IMI Board is taking this step to respond to the increasing need for basic necessities, and hopes to coordinate with the Iowa Park Ministerial Alliance as we do with agencies in Wichita Falls. It is hoped that in the future, other Wichita County communities can be included in the Interfaith service area.

The same guidelines for assistance will apply that are in effect for Wichita Falls residents. Individuals or families may receive help with utility bills, rent, deposits, prescriptions, food, and other basic needs. For information on guidelines or assistance criteria, please call Byron Francois, Director of Services, at 322-1365, or email him at bfrancois@wf.net.

Financial support would be very welcome from individuals and groups in Iowa Park that are not currently supporting the Iowa Park Ministerial Alliance in their efforts to assist families. Interfaith Ministries is and has always been locally funded, not requesting government funds or support outside the community we serve.



Interfaith Ministries, Inc.

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Honor Your Friends Who Are Volunteers

Listed below are Interfaith Ministries volunteers who have birthdays coming up. We want to wish them all a very happy birthday, with many more to come, and would invite you to honor those you know through a gift to Interfaith, or with a birthday greeting. They're all very special people!

June

Rita Galvez	4
Mike Lechuga	10
Janet Rainey	16
Joyce Lo	16
Ann Funston	17
Connie Johnson	19
Lois McCulley	23
Mildred Jaedicke	26
Doris Madera	26
Joe Belvedere	27
Jane Wolf	30

July

Linh Tu	7
Roberta Sund	13
Ed Downing	15
Gene Gwin	31
Richard Ramirez	31

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Visit our **NEW** website: www.interfaithwf.org