



INTERFAITH WORKS OF CNY



IMPACT REPORT

2025



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A YEAR OF CHANGE FOR INTERFAITH WORKS

Federal policy halted new refugee arrivals, disrupting a core part of our work and affecting the wider communities we serve. But that shift was only part of a larger reality. Across the sector, costs once absorbed by government are increasingly falling to nonprofits and community organizations. Competition for resources is growing more intense even as need rises and funding contracts.

At the same time, InterFaith Works experienced important leadership transitions. In June, we welcomed a new Vice President and Chief Development Officer, and in November, Chris stepped into the role of President & CEO, following Beth's years of dedicated leadership. By any measure, it was a year of transition.

And yet, the work did not stop. It deepened. It found new expression.

InterFaith Works has long been known for refugee resettlement, but our mission has always reached more broadly: to build bridges across difference — across faith, culture, background, and experience. That mission did not pause when policy shifted. We continued serving the refugees and newcomers already here, walking alongside families building their lives in Central New York. We also continued convening faith leaders, facilitating dialogue, and doing the steady, often unseen work of helping this community hold together across its differences.

What this moment clarified, perhaps most of all, is that the strengths this organization has built over time can meet more needs than we sometimes imagine. Our Community Well-Being Program, launched this year in direct response to that disruption, draws on capabilities developed through decades of refugee service, helping people secure stable housing, access food, and navigate transportation barriers, and applies them to a wider circle of neighbors, including Medicare members navigating the social factors that shape health and stability.

Resilience is not only about enduring change. It is also about responding to it with purpose.

At the heart of all of it is a conviction we do not set aside in difficult times: that every person in this community deserves to be treated with dignity. Last year, that conviction took four distinct but connected forms

The most immediate was securing basic stability. We supported 66 food pantry partners to distribute 86,405 bags of food, and provided 131,635 diapers to families who needed them. These are not small

gestures. They are the difference between a family that can focus on the future and one that cannot.

We also worked to expand opportunity. 284 individuals secured employment with our support, and we resettled 430 New Americans who had arrived before new federal policies took effect, people who came here seeking a better life and found a community ready to help them build one.

Advancing health and wellbeing remained central to our mission. 13,616 chaplain visits reached individuals in hospitals and institutions. We connected over 1,000 older adults to services that support their independence, and nearly 60,000 volunteer hours went directly to neighbors aging in place, hours that represent not just care, but presence.

And through it all, we worked to build and sustain community trust. More than 1,400 individuals engaged in our dialogue programming, choosing, in a difficult year, to sit across differences and remain in conversation. That choice does not happen by accident. It is what fifty years of this work makes possible.

None of this happened because of any one decision or any one leader. It happened because people continued to invest in this work and in the kind of community it makes possible. Your trust, generosity, and commitment are what made everything in this report possible. We are deeply grateful, and we do not take that support lightly.

The year ahead will bring its own uncertainties. We enter it grounded in fifty years of community trust, guided by a clear mission, and with the same conviction we have always carried: that dignity is not a value we hold in reserve for easier times. It is the work itself.

With gratitude,



Deborah H. Welch
Deborah Welch
Chair, Board of Directors



Chris Foley
Chris Foley
President & CEO

WHAT'S NEW IN 2025?

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

The Welcome Home

On a beautiful autumn day in October 2025, several IFW staff, donors, supporters, and community partners gathered to officially break ground and begin work on The Welcome Home. The historic home is located at 527 Oak Street on the North Side of Syracuse. The project will provide affordable, accessible, and dignified housing for refugees as they begin rebuilding their lives in Central New York.



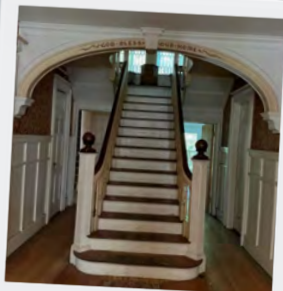
Breaking Ground at
The Welcome Home



Staff at Welcome Home
Groundbreaking



The Welcome Home
527 Oak Street



Grand Staircase
in the Entryway

Community Well-Being Program

InterFaith Works is pleased to present our newest program — The Community Well-Being (CWB) Program, which serves as a Health-Related Social Needs provider, working as part of the Healthy Alliance Social Care Network. It supports Medicaid members who would benefit from extra help with food, housing, or transportation.



RSVP Program

In 2025, with help from AmeriCorps Seniors, IFW established the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). This program connects older adults with community organizations in need of volunteer support. RSVP helps IFW expand and enhance our mission — to build a community where aging is met with dignity, care, and a deep sense of belonging.



WELCOMING NEW LEADERSHIP



CHRIS FOLEY **PRESIDENT & CEO**

In November 2025, Chris Foley began his tenure as President/CEO of InterFaith Works. Chris brings impressive experience to the job, having dedicated more than 20 years to advancing community well-being through international development, higher education, and grassroots services.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Chris spent 17 years working for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) before the agency closed in July 2025. He's served in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Washington D.C. for the Power Africa program, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Pacific Islands, Mongolia, Zambia, Afghanistan, and Brazil. Before USAID, Chris served as a Career Field Consultant and Assistant Director of Career Services for James Madison College at Michigan State University, as well as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay and Dominican Republic.

Chris holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Richmond and a Master of Science in Resource Development from Michigan State University. Chris is committed to investing his energy into strengthening equity, dialogue, and community resilience in Central New York as he steps into this new role.



MARWAH ALOBAIDI **VP & CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

Marwah Alobaidi was appointed Vice President and Chief Development Officer of InterFaith Works of Central New York in June 2025. In this role, she leads the organization's fundraising, philanthropy, communications, and community engagement efforts.

Marwah earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering from Syracuse University and a Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

She began her journey with InterFaith Works as a volunteer in 2011 and joined the staff in 2014, working in the Refugee Resettlement Program. In 2020, she became Director of Resettlement Services and joined the organization's leadership team.

Originally from Baghdad, Iraq, Marwah brings both professional expertise and lived experience to her work. She is committed to building strategic partnerships and philanthropic investments that strengthen InterFaith Works' mission and expand its impact across Central New York.

CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF SERVICE

RENEWED PURPOSE



Genevieve Marshall
Senior Director
Center for New Americans

In 2025, the Center for New Americans faced one of the most challenging periods in its 45-year history. Federal funding reductions and changes in refugee admissions required difficult decisions and tested our resilience. Despite challenges, our team adapted, strengthened partnerships, restored critical programming, and remained committed to the New American families who continue to call Central New York home.

New opportunities emerged through the restoration of Intensive Case Management, expanded Cultural Orientation services, 'Know Your Rights' clinics, homeownership education, small business training, and digital literacy initiatives.

Forty-five years later, our mission remains unchanged: our doors stay open, our work continues, and we remain ready to welcome New American families home.

Securing Basic Stability



430 New Americans Resettled



250 Winter Coats Distributed



1,251 New Americans Received Case Management



131,635 Diapers Distributed

Expanding Access and Opportunity



531 Received Immigration Services



96 Received Citizenship Education Services



20 Received Citizenship



64 Served Through Intensive Case Management



156 Clients Served Through Supplemental Programming Including Afghan, Ukrainian, Refugee Entrant Assistance, and Housing Supplement



450 Participated in Know Your Rights Training and Document Clinics

CNA

PROVIDING PATHWAYS FOR NEW AMERICANS FROM INITIAL ARRIVAL TO COMMUNITY BELONGING

SUPPORTING NEW AMERICANS THROUGH HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH & WELLNESS, IMMIGRATION, AND COMMUNITY INTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

ENSURING FAMILIES HAVE ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS DURING TIMES OF CRISIS

BUILDING RESILIENCE & HEALING THROUGH EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, AND CULTURAL CONNECTION

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD SELF SUFFICIENCY

KEEPING THE DOORS OPEN EVEN WHEN NEW ARRIVALS ARE PAUSED

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Intensive Case Management restored through Community Sponsorship Hub
- ✓ Continued NYSESRP funding through successful advocacy
- ✓ Established and expanded 'Know Your Rights' Clinics
- ✓ Launched homeownership education
- ✓ Revived digital literacy training
- ✓ Expanded small business education

MORE THAN A TEST: THE CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM AT THE CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS

For many who come to the United States, the hope is simple: greater opportunities and a better future. This was true for Kim Hoa Nguyen and Khanh Phan when they left Vietnam in 2007.

In pursuit of that future, they made an unimaginable sacrifice. Although they left behind stable careers and familiar surroundings, the hardest part was leaving behind their oldest son. Not only did they leave behind stable careers and familiar surroundings to pursue that future, but their oldest son, Trinh—who is deaf and was unable to travel with them due to age restrictions. Carrying the pain of that separation, they immigrated with their younger son while holding onto the hope that one day their family would be reunited.

Upon arriving, Kim Hoa and Khanh faced the uncertainty common to many newcomers. They worked tirelessly to rebuild their lives, yet a sense of incompleteness remained. Though they were building a future, they did not yet feel fully secure in it. Finally, in 2015, Kim Hoa and Khanh were able to welcome their oldest son, Trinh, after an eight-year sponsorship process.

A new chapter began when Kim Hoa and Khanh enrolled in InterFaith Works' citizenship classes. Recognizing that some applicants are eligible to take the U.S. citizenship civics test in their native language, this specialized class was offered in Vietnamese to help a number of participants prepare for the naturalization process with greater ease. What started with hesitation quickly became a source of confidence and support. Beyond preparing for the citizenship exam, the classes provided guidance, structure, and encouragement that made a complicated process feel possible. Over 20 weeks, the program broke down challenging material into manageable steps, building both knowledge and confidence. Just as meaningful were the relationships formed along the way. Studying alongside others with shared goals, participants built lasting connections

and a sense of community that extended beyond the classroom.

When Kim Hoa and Khanh were sworn in as U.S. citizens, the milestone brought more than legal recognition. It brought peace of mind, stability, and the ability to more fully participate in the life of the country they had worked so hard to call home. For their family, it marked another step toward the future they had imagined years earlier when they first left Vietnam.

InterFaith Works' citizenship classes are about more than passing a test. They are about helping individuals and families build security, find belonging, and fulfill the promise that brought them here.

"Even if you are unsure, just come and see," they shared. "You will find support, and you will not be alone."



Khanh Phan and Kim Hoa Nguyen with their son Quoc Phan, IFW's Health and Wellness Coordinator

DID YOU KNOW?

131,635

distributed diapers equals

\$60,981

in savings for families



233

Individuals received grocery gift cards from IFW totaling

\$9,840

Strengthening Economic Mobility



284

New Americans Secured Employment



61

New Americans Trained on Small Business Start Up



13

New Americans Trained on Digital Literacy



16

New Americans Trained on the Path to Home Ownership

Advancing Health and Wellbeing



39

Health and Wellness events for New American Families



440

New Americans Engaged in Wellness Programming

CENTER FOR HEALTHY AGING

CELEBRATING **40** YEARS OF SERVICE

AGE WITH DIGNITY



Lori Klivak, Ph.D.
Senior Director
Center for Healthy Aging

The Center for Healthy Aging helps older adults stay socially connected so they can age with dignity. Our mission is more critical than ever. Every day in the US, 7,000 people turn 55 years old. Life expectancy is increasing, and for the first time in our history, there are more older people than younger people. InterFaith Works is committed to meeting this historic moment, ensuring that the older adults who built our neighborhoods and nurtured our communities have just and equitable access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive in their later years.

Securing Basic Stability



3,745

Extra days older adults spent living at home – and out of costly institutional care – because they received companionship services

Expanding Access and Opportunity



122

Older Adults Received Information and Referrals that Support Their Ability to Live at Home for as Long as Possible

Advancing Health and Wellbeing



120

Older Adults Received In-Home Companionship, Helping Them Stay Socially Connected and Living at Home Safely



91

Nursing home residents were connected with Friendly Visitors, sparking joy and social connection



1,006

Older adults connected to services to age with dignity



156

Volunteers provided companionship, friendly visits, respite care, and group activities

CHA

BUILDS BRIDGES ACROSS
GENERATIONS AND
CULTIVATES BELONGING

ENSURES OLDER ADULTS
WHO BUILT OUR
NEIGHBORHOODS AND
NURTURED OUR COMMUNITIES
HAVE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO
RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

BUILDS CAPACITY WITHIN A LARGER
AGING SERVICES NETWORK

MATCHES ELDERS AND
CAREGIVERS WITH
COMPANIONS AND
FRIENDLY VISITORS

SPARKS JOY AND CONNECTION

EDUCATES COMMUNITY
MEMBERS ABOUT
RESOURCES, SERVICES, AND
OPPORTUNITIES

IDENTIFIES COMMON BARRIERS
TO HEALTHY AGING AND
PROBLEM-SOLVING

MORE THAN AN ACTIVITY: AGE WELL DAYS AT THE CENTER FOR HEALTHY AGING

On any given day, an Age Well Day may look simple: a group of older adults gathering for light exercise, easy conversation, or a chance to try something new. But for participants like Peter Polikarpenko, these moments have become so much more. They are his lifeline to connection, purpose, and belonging.

In 2025, IFW held nine Age Well Day programs. Designed by the Aging Services Coalition of Greater Syracuse, a project of InterFaith Works, Age Well Days are mobile, pop-up experiences that meet older adults where they are. By bringing programming into familiar community spaces, Age-Well Days remove barriers that often keep older adults isolated. That’s when the magic happens: environments feel inviting, participation feels easy, and connection feels possible. For Peter, accessibility makes all the difference. Reflecting on the variety of Age Well Day gatherings, Peter shares, “it gives people a reason to get out, to move, and to connect,” which reflects the program’s guiding motto: Keep Learning. Have Fun. Get Connected.

Beyond the activities themselves, it is the atmosphere that leaves a lasting impression. Age Well Days intentionally foster openness, encouragement, and comfort, allowing participants to engage at their own pace. Whether joining a wellness activity, learning something new, or simply sharing conversations and laughter with others, the events welcome individuals exactly as they are.

Over time, the impact grows. Familiar faces return, conversations deepen, and meaningful connections take root, building trusted

relationships. What begins as a small step toward engagement transforms into something more: reduced isolation, increased confidence, and a renewed sense of belonging.

For Peter, that transformation is clear. The sense of community is just as meaningful as the physical benefits. “It’s not just about staying active,” he reflected. “It’s about being part of something.”

By combining accessibility, intentional design, and opportunities for connection, InterFaith Works has established more than just a program with Age Well Days. It has built a pathway for older adults to remain engaged, supported, and connected, strengthening both individuals and the community as a whole.



Peter Polikarpenko with Jessica Luis, IFW's Assistant Manager of the Aging Services Coalition

DID YOU KNOW?

The Center for Healthy Aging has a

MEDICAL SUPPLY CLOSET



to help older adults access the medical equipment they need to support their independence goals

Building Community Trust



59,275

Volunteer Hours Supporting Older Adults Equivalent to the Work of 28.5 Full-Time Employees



91%

of Older Adult Clients Reported Feeling Less Lonely



97%

of Older Adults Reported Satisfaction with Services

EL-HINDI CENTER FOR DIALOGUE & ACTION

CELEBRATING **30** YEARS OF SERVICE

BUILDING BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING



Bishop Colette Matthews-Carter
Director
El-Hindi Center for Dialogue & Action

The El-Hindi Center for Dialogue & Action is a regional hub for social justice and ending racism work. For thirty years, CDA has helped improve the climate within organizations (municipalities, law enforcement, colleges, universities, school districts, faith communities, workplaces) through a dialogic model that culminates with an action plan. Annually, CDA’s programming engages diverse populations throughout the region. The impact is significant through the Food Justice, Chaplaincy, Youth Leadership, and Social Impact programs that meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

Securing Basic Stability



36,400 Pantry Clients Served



86,405 Bags of Food Distributed Through 66 Partners

Advancing Health and Wellbeing



13,616 Chaplain Visits Across Hutchings, Hillbrook, Crouse, Jamesville, and Justice Center

Building Community Trust



1,464 Community Members Participated in Dialogue Initiatives



1,204 Youth Served Through the Youth Leadership Institute, Summer program, School Exchanges, and Year-Round Youth Fellows Program

CDA

PROVIDING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING TO PARTICIPANTS WITH DEEPER INSIGHTS INTO SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION, BIAS, AND LIVED EXPERIENCES OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS

FOSTERING EMPATHY AND CONNECTION IN SAFE SPACES THROUGH SHARING STORIES AND ACTIVELY LISTENING

SHIFTING ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS FOR ADVOCACY, ALLYSHIP, AND EQUITABLE DECISION MAKING

ENGAGING COMMUNITY IN ONGOING CONVERSATIONS AND ACTIVISM

LEADING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TOWARD SOCIAL JUSTICE

EMPOWERING AND MOTIVATING PARTICIPANTS TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST INJUSTICE

TRANSFORMING DIALOGUE INTO MEANINGFUL CHANGE FOR PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY/SOCIETAL GROWTH

MORE THAN A MEAL: THE FOOD JUSTICE PROGRAM AT THE EL-HINDI CENTER FOR DIALOGUE & ACTION



Pastor Nola Anderson, Brown Memorial Church Food Pantry

Once a month, a group gathers on the lower level of the InterFaith Works building. They come together to learn from food justice experts and from one another, exploring policy changes, sharing resources, and uncovering new ways to better serve their communities. They are the Pantry Partners Network and represent 66 pantries and partners brought together by the El-Hindi Center for Dialogue & Action. These small, but mighty grassroots partners operate in the more impoverished areas of the city, mainly serving Black and Brown communities.

Through the partnership, pantries stretch resources, strengthen food literacy, and create a ripple effect across the community. A single grant from IFW can restock empty shelves at a critical moment. A phone call between partners can turn surplus into shared abundance. A simple conversation can save hundreds of pounds of food from going to waste. Information about community meals, holiday distributions, and fresh produce travels quickly, ensuring more families are served.

This network has become something powerful: a safety net woven from relationships. By reducing the burden of hunger, IFW supports pantries to better serve families facing eviction, job loss, or other moments of crisis — helping them find stability.

On Syracuse's west and south sides, food pantries do far more than fill shelves. They restore dignity, build connections, and remind people they are not alone.

At Brown Memorial, Pastor Nola Anderson sees up to 160 families each week. She has witnessed how access to food can transform a community. "When you don't know where your next meal is coming from, that's a heavy burden," she says. "Food takes one worry away."

That relief creates space for something deeper. Clients who once arrived anxious or guarded now come earlier, greet volunteers with a smile, and choose healthier options for their families. They walk through the door with less shame and leave with hope.

Less than a mile and a half away, Pam Alderman and her team serve more than 350 individuals each month. For many, especially seniors and families on tight budgets, the pantry is essential. "We want to make sure no one goes without a meal," she says.

"For us, it means a stronger, more connected community," Pam adds. "By collaborating with IFW, we're stronger."

Because when we work together, food becomes more than a meal. It becomes dignity. It becomes care. It becomes a path forward for every family served.



Pam Alderman, The Salvation Army Food Pantry

PANTRY PARTNERS NETWORK

Alliance for a Hunger Free New York
Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ
Applesseed Outreach
Atonement Lutheran
Bellegrove
Bethany Baptist Church
Bread of Life COGIC
Brotherly Love Church
Brown Memorial
Christ Cultivating Community Church (C4)
Christ Church
Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter Day Saints
CNY Blessing Box
Congregation Beth Shalom-Chevra Shas

Destiny African Church
Episcopal Diocese of CNY
Faith Lutheran
Feeding NYS
Food Access Health
Neighborhoods Now
Food Bank of CNY
Gethsemane UMC
Great Grace Church
Greater Evangelical COGIC
Greater Syracuse Food Pantry
Greater Syracuse
Southside Neighborhood
Hopps Memorial CME Church
Interfaith Community Garden

InterFaith Works
Interreligious Food Consortium
Mission Hope Community
Molina Health Care
Neighborhood Solutions:
Syracuse Housing Authority
Northside Learning Center
Nourish Syracuse
OCC Food Pantry
Onondaga Food Rescue Network
Open Arms International Ministries
Pentecost Evangelical MBC
People's AME Zion
Plymouth Congregational Church
Promise Land CME Church

Sacred Heart Pantry
Salt City Harvest Farm
Salvation Army Food Pantry
Southern Missionary Baptist Church
Southside Community Food Pantry
St. Alban's Episcopal Church
St. Anthony's of Padua
St. David Episcopal Church
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
SUNY Oswego Food Pantry
Syracuse Alliance Church
Syracuse-Onondaga Food Systems Alliance
Syracuse Urban Food Forest Project

Syracuse Salt of the Earth Ministries
Syracuse University Institute
for Sustainability Engagement
The Promise Land / Purpose Church
The Purpose Church
Trenton Betts
Trinity Fellowship Church
True Vine Missionary Church
Tucker Missionary Baptist Church
United Church of Christ in Bayberry
Unity of Syracuse
University United Methodist Church
Victory Temple Fellowship Church
Wesley Rohadfox

**339,006
ACTS OF
COMMUNITY
IMPACT**

Expanding Access and Opportunity

1,317

Opportunity Services Delivered

- Information & Resources to Older Adults
- Immigration Services
- Citizenship Education Services
- Intensive Case Management
- Know Your Rights & Document Clinics



Building Community Trust

63,019

Acts of Service

- Volunteer Hours



2,668

Community Members Engaged

- Volunteers
- Dialogue Participation
- Youth Dialogue & Leadership Participation



Securing Basic Stability

38,081

Neighbors Supported to Secure Basic Stability

- Older Adults to Age in Place
- New Americans Resettled
- Pantry Clients Served



218,290

Essential Items Distributed

- Bags of Food
- Diapers
- Winter Coats

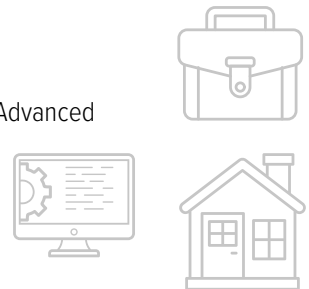


Strengthening Economic Mobility

374

Economic Mobility Pathways Advanced

- Employment Services
- Small Business Training
- Digital Literacy Training
- Home Ownership Training



Advancing Health and Wellbeing

14,622

Moments of Care

- Volunteer Activities and Respite Care
- Health & Wellness Events
- Chaplain visits



635

Moments of Connection

- In-Home Companionship
- Nursing Home Visits



THE IMPACT OF VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS

VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED

**63,019 HOURS,
EQUATING TO
30.3 YEARS**

OF ONE FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEE'S WORK HOURS



INTERNS CONTRIBUTED

**2,984 HOURS,
EQUATING TO
1.46 YEARS**

OF ONE FULL-TIME
EMPLOYEE'S WORK HOURS

AGENCY ADVANCEMENT

CAPACITY GROWTH CAMPAIGN

The Capacity Growth Campaign is a \$10M campaign, and to date has raised \$10.35M

InterFaith Works is at a pivotal moment. Demand for our services continues to grow. To respond to current and future needs, we are investing in our programs, shoring up our facilities, and growing our endowment to provide long-term sustainability for decades to come.

PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS



FACILITIES AND FLEET



ENDOWMENT



GOAL	\$2.5M	\$2.5M	\$5M
CONFIRMED	\$2.7M	\$3.2M	\$4.45M
PERCENTAGE RECEIVED	108%	128%	89%
GAP TO GOAL	EXCEEDED GOAL	EXCEEDED GOAL	\$550,000



ELAINE & STEVEN JACOBS

A SIMPLE INVITATION, A LASTING IMPACT

For Elaine and Steve Jacobs, getting involved with InterFaith Works did not begin with a grand plan. It began with a relationship, a conversation, and a simple invitation to learn more. They were looking for a way to give back together, something that reflected both of their strengths and shared values. Elaine is drawn to hands-on service. Steve brings a strategic perspective and a deep belief in thoughtful philanthropy. They wanted something meaningful. Something real. Then they walked through the doors of InterFaith Works. “It just felt like where I belonged,” Elaine says. That moment became the beginning of a lasting connection.

Elaine found her place in the warehouse, where volunteers prepare items to set up apartments for newly arrived refugee families. What might seem like routine work quickly revealed itself to be something more. Each assignment began with a story: a family’s size, where they were coming from, the ages of their children. Every detail mattered. “You weren’t just packing a kitchen or setting up a bedroom,” Elaine explains. “You were preparing a home.” She chose toys with care, making sure they were right for each child. She checked dishes to ensure they were clean, unchipped, and complete. She helped create spaces that felt welcoming and safe. Sometimes, that meant placing a stuffed animal on a child’s bed—a small gesture to ease a very big transition. “This was done with love,” she says. For Elaine, the work was never just about the task. It was about dignity.

While Elaine worked on the front lines, Steve experienced the impact through her stories and his own visits. Together, they saw a place where people from different backgrounds and beliefs came together with a shared purpose. “We’re all the same,” Steve says. “We all want a safe place to live. We want our children to be cared for. We want opportunity.” That belief shaped their commitment.

They began by supporting initiatives like the Path to Citizenship program and expanded their giving over time—not because of a single program, but because of trust in the organization as a whole. “If we give, we know it will be used where it’s needed most,” Steve says. “It all helps.” They also recognized something else that stood out. “This isn’t just a job for people here,” he says. “It’s a mission they live every day.”

With the recent pause in refugee arrivals, the warehouse, once full of energy and purpose, grew quiet. For Elaine, the shift was deeply felt. “I couldn’t wait to get there every day,” she says. “And then suddenly, there was nowhere to go. No families coming. It was a real sense of loss.” The absence was not just about routine. It was about connection and purpose. And yet, even in that stillness, something became clear. “InterFaith didn’t stop,” Elaine says. “It kept going. You found ways to keep helping people.” Programs adapted. Needs shifted. The mission continued. For Elaine and Steve, that resilience

reaffirmed their commitment. “It reminded us that this work is bigger than any one moment,” Steve says. “There are always people who need support.”

Today, their connection to InterFaith Works remains strong. They continue to give, stay engaged, and believe in what is possible. Elaine describes InterFaith Works simply: “It’s home.” It is a place where people are welcomed and valued, and where compassion becomes action. That sense of belonging is what keeps them connected, even during times of uncertainty. “I knew I didn’t want to go somewhere else,” Elaine says. “This is where my heart is.”

For Elaine and Steve, supporting InterFaith Works goes beyond meeting immediate needs. It is an investment in a community where every person is welcomed, valued, and given the opportunity to thrive.

They have also found meaningful ways to extend their impact by introducing others to InterFaith Works. They invite friends and fellow donors to visit, learn, and experience the mission firsthand. Often, it begins the same way their own journey did, with a conversation and a tour. “That’s all it takes,” Elaine says.

For those considering getting involved, their message is simple. “Be part of it,” Steve says. “You can see the difference. You can feel it.” They were drawn to InterFaith Works for the work itself, and for the way it brings people together across differences with dignity and purpose. For Elaine and Steve, supporting InterFaith Works goes beyond meeting immediate needs. It is an investment in a community where every person is welcomed, valued, and given the opportunity to thrive. They believe in what InterFaith Works makes possible: not just housing, but belonging; not just services, but dignity; not just support, but hope.

And they remain confident that, as needs evolve, the organization will continue to meet the moment—just as it always has.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The following donations were received between
January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025

\$250,000+

The Dorothy and Marshall M.
Reisman Foundation

\$100,000 - \$249,999

Maureen and James Bowers
Nike, Inc
Rev. John Rose

\$50,000 - \$99,999

National Grid
Mark and Kathy Parker
Eileen and James Clinton
Nancy and Bill Byrne
Sisters of St. Francis of
the Neumann Communities

\$10,000 - \$49,999

Aminy Audi
Joyce and Rev. James Bresnahan
Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc.
The Howard Drescher Foundation
The Ahmad and Elizabeth
El-Hindi Foundation
Elaine and Steven Jacobs
Family to Family, Inc.
Syracuse University
Central New York Community Foundation
Barbara Maguire
Estate of Rosemarie Pagano Bundy
Charles Reller
David A.A. Ridings
Barbara and Edward Shapiro
Shapiro Foundation
Alden Street Foundation, Inc.

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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CNY RISE Center	Hopps Memorial CME Church	Rapha Community	Temple Concord
Destiny Christian Center, African Nation Church	Immaculate Conception Parish	Reformed Church of Syracuse	The Thrift Shop at St. James Church
DeWitt Community Church	Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church	Rescue Mission Alliance	Trekchen Choling Buddhist Temple
Eastern Hills Bible Church	Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance	Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse	Trinity Episcopal Church
Eastwood Baptist Church	Islamic Cultural Society of Bosniaks	The Ruth Colvin Bible & Book Club	Tucker Missionary Baptist Church
The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York	Islamic Society of Central New York	Sacred Heart Basilica	Tully United Community Church
The Epstein School	Jewish Community Center	St. Alban's Episcopal Church	United Church of Christ
Erwin First United Methodist Church	Jewish Federation of Central New York	St. Ann's Church of Manlius	United Church of Fayetteville
Evangelical Lutheran Church – Upstate New York Synod	King of Kings Lutheran Church	St. David's Episcopal Church	United Methodist Church - Upper New York Conference
Faith Journey United Methodist Church	Liverpool First Presbyterian Church	St. James' Episcopal Church	The United Presbyterian Church of Sackets Harbor
Faith Lutheran Church	Liverpool First United Methodist Church	St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity Church	Unity of Syracuse
Fayetteville United Methodist Church		St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church	University United Methodist Church
		St. Joseph the Worker Church	The Vineyard Church
		St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center Foundation	Well of Hope Church
		St. Lucy's Church	Westminster Presbyterian Church (Auburn)
		St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Women Transcending Boundaries
		St. Mark the Evangelist Episcopal Church	Zen Center of Syracuse Hoen-ji
			Zion Hill World Harvest Baptist Church

ROUND TABLE OF FAITH LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. Peter Shidemantle, *Convener*
 The Rev. Tim Hannon, *Community Builder*
 Mary Beth DiMarco, *Community Builder*
 The Rev. Dr. Bruce Burns, *Secretary*
 Pastor Alberta Abrams
 The Rev. Devon Bartholomew
 Magda Bayoumi
 Sharif Bey

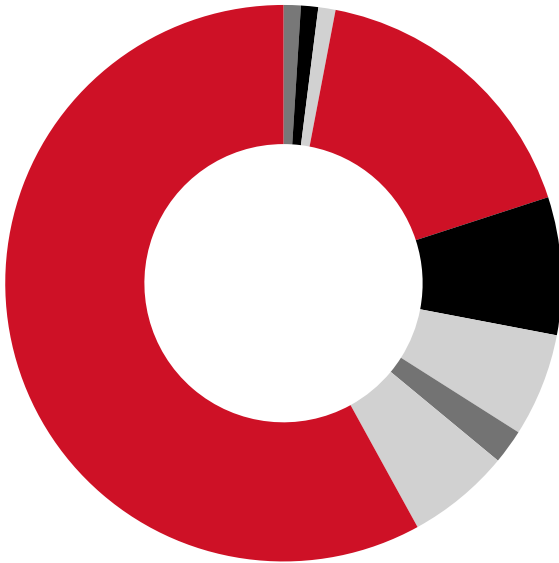
Pastor David Buzard
 Mark Cass
 Chaplain JoAnn Cooke
 Rabbi Ilan Emanuel
 The Rev. Suzi Harriff
 Rabbi Daniel Jezer
 Kelley Rowley
 Natasha Schmidt

Mark Segel
 Dr. Baljinder Singh and Gurvinder Kaur
 Madalyn Smith
 The Rev. Rebecca Truland
 Diana Wellmon
 The Rev. Jon Werner
 Dr. Rachna Zirath



2025 AUDITED FINANCIALS

SUPPORT & REVENUE



Rental Income (1%)
Special Event Revenue (1%)
United Way (1%)
Contributions (17%)
Charges for Services (8%)
Changes in Investments Held by the Community Foundation (6%)
Donated Goods (2%)
Net Assets Released from Donor Restrictions (6%)
Grants and Contract Revenue (58%)
Miscellaneous (0%)

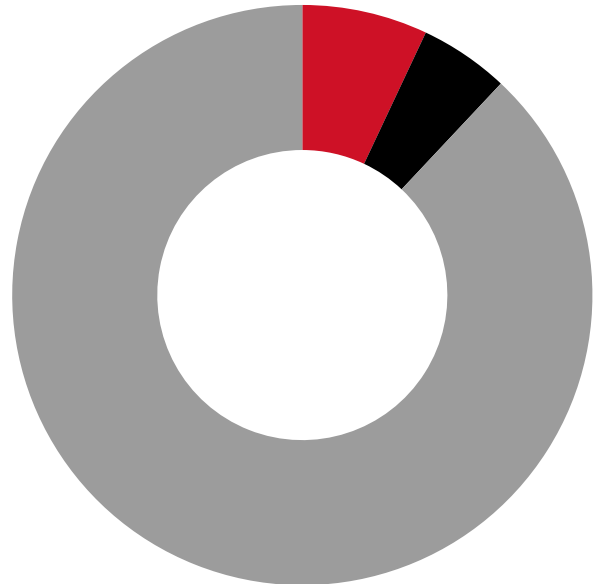
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS

SUPPORT AND REVENUES:

Grants and Contract Revenue	\$5,050,691
Charges for services	\$687,656
Contributions	\$1,527,284
United Way allocations	\$113,150
Special event revenue	\$117,706
Rental income	\$77,159
Interest income	\$1,437
Changes in Investments	\$488,427
Held by the Community Foundation	
Donated Goods	\$165,526
Miscellaneous	\$12,319
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	\$(787)
Net assets released from donor restrictions	\$529,311

Total Support and Revenues **\$8,769,879**

EXPENSES



Advancement (Fundraising) (7%)
Management & General (5%)
Program Services (88%)

EXPENSES:

Program Services	\$5,768,860
Management & General	\$287,515
Advancement (Fundraising)	\$476,728

Total Expenses **\$6,533,103**

Increase in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions **\$2,236,776**

NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Grants and contract revenue	\$246,494
Contributions	\$91,074
Change in beneficial interest in assets held by others	\$10,296
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	\$(529,311)

Change in Net Assets With Donor Restrictions **\$(181,447)**

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS **\$ 2,055,329**

NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR **\$8,584,900**

NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR **\$10,640,229**



Planned Giving to InterFaith Works of CNY

Recognizing 50 Years of Service. Building the Next 50 Years of Impact.

**In honor of our 50th Anniversary,
IFW is looking to secure 50 Legacy Gifts.**

**Join the people who are leaving a legacy
with InterFaith Works of Central New York.**



“Think about the causes that have shaped your life and the values you want to carry forward. A planned gift is a meaningful way to ensure those values continue to make a difference.”

- Denny Baldwin, with his wife Gail,
Members of the IFW Legacy Society

To learn more, please contact Marwah Alobaidi, VP and Chief Development Officer at malobaidi@ifwcny.org or at 315-449-3552 x219.



We are celebrating 50 years of service and affirming dignity.

Your contributions help resettle refugees, distribute food to underserved communities, provide companionship to older adults, and build bridges of understanding through dialogue and action.

Your Support. Our Mission. Lasting Impact.



To make a gift payment online, please scan the QR code or visit www.interfaithworkscny.org/donate. To make a gift by phone, please call the Development Department at 315.449.3552.

Please contact Marwah Alobaidi, Vice President and Chief Development Officer, at malobaidi@ifwcny.org or 315.449.3552 x219 to learn more about ways to make a gift to InterFaith Works of CNY.



INTERFAITH WORKS STAFF

Our diverse staff provides culturally sensitive services. Diversity in faith traditions, languages, and ethnicity enriches our workplace and client experiences. Our staff is as diverse as those we serve. Many of our staff members are immigrants or former refugees.

Leadership

Chris Foley
President/CEO

The Rev. Dr. Melissa Morral
Vice President/Chief Administrative Officer

Patricia Radell
Vice President/Chief Financial Officer

Olive Sephuma
Vice President/Chief Operations Officer

Marwah Alobaidi
Vice President/Chief Development Officer

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Director of Operations

Mohammad Jawad
Director of Information Technology

Rick Lee
Director of Human Resources

Mansour Alshayea
Building & Grounds Coordinator

Matin Aziz
Operations Coordinator

Lisette Brann
Accounting Manager

Daryl Files
Front Office Coordinator

Wahid Mujaddidi
Senior Financial Coordinator

Marcial Reyes-Ruiz
Building & Grounds Custodian

Center for New Americans

Genevieve Marshall
Senior Director, Center for New Americans

Pie Manirarora
Director of Resettlement Services

Jihad Al Jiboury
Asst. Director, Health & Integration Services

Harith Alnoamy
Employment Specialist

Nawal Al Sayed Noor
Senior Cultural Education Coordinator

Adnan Aswad
Community Integration Specialist

Khin Aung
Senior Intensive Case Coordinator

Justin Deyo
Intensive Case Coordinator

Sediqullah Elham
Afghan Health Coordinator

Sean Ferguson
Employment Specialist

Hermira Garic
Immigration Services Specialist

Jennifer Lawrence
Employment Services Senior Manager

Kevin Lucas
Senior Citizenship Educational Coordinator

Kristine Martin
Maternal Health Coordinator

Oo Meh
ONA Job Coach

Soultane Moujabber
Youth Mentor Coordinator

Nissrine Nassereddine
Community Integration Manager

Quoc Phan
Health and Wellness Manager

Si Po Ra
Intensive Case Coordinator

Douglas Randall
Citizenship & ESL Instructor

Omar Rodriguez
Immigration Services Coordinator

Sadeq Shihman
Transportation & Warehouse Coordinator

Alla Wescott
Assistant Manager, Employment Services

Bethany Wicks
Immigration Services Manager

El-Hindi Center for Dialogue & Action

Kionna Garner
Program Manager, School-Based Programs

Hanan Muse
Youth Dialogue Coordinator

Chiagoziem Offor
Youth Dialogue Coordinator

The Rev. Sharon M. Perry
InterFaith Equity Coordinator

Peter Willner
Strategic Partnerships & Dialogues Manager

Center for Healthy Aging

Lori Klivak, PhD
Senior Director, Center for Healthy Aging

Cynthia Barnaby
Benefits Enrollment Coordinator

Emily Grant
Senior Companion Program Manager

Byron Hill
Digital Navigator, AmeriCorps VISTA

Betsy Lang
Program Coordinator

Jessica Luis
Asst. Manager, Aging Services Coalition

Tristan McPartland
Community Organizer, AmeriCorps VISTA

Joseph Ndagijimana
Neighborhood Advisor

Cathie Slabaugh
Project Manager - RSVP

Hannah Smithgall
Senior Coordinator, Volunteer Recruitment

Community Well-Being Program

Heather Hafler
Senior Manager

Kalthom Aljiboury
Social Care Navigator

Development

Sonali McIntyre
Communications Manager

Mohamad Nassereddine
Senior Manager of Development Strategy

Jennie Prouty
Community Engagement Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kristin Thompson Henry, *Vice Chair*

Tara Slater, *Secretary*

Vincent Love, *Treasurer*

The Rev. Dr. Peter Shidemantle,
Convener of the Round Table of Faith Leaders

Linda R. Ervin, *Immediate Past Chair*

Ynesse Abdul-Malak, RN, MPH, PhD

Hassina Adams

James A. Bowers, CPA

Tosca Bruno-van Vijfeijken

Shiu-Kai Chin, Ph.D.

Jodi DeAugustine

Imam Amir Duric

Amelia El-Hindi Trail, Ph.D.

Nicholas J. Fiorenza, Esq.

Catherine Gerard

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Myrna Koldin, MSW

The Rev. George Maxwell Jones

James Leska

The Hon. Ann Magnarelli

Joseph Nehme

Rebecca Reed Kantrowitz

Montanette Rocker

Benjamin Sio

The Rev. Phillip Turner

MISSION STATEMENT

InterFaith Works affirms the dignity of each person and every faith tradition, builds racial and religious equity, and creates bridges of understanding among us.

