



FAITHLINES

People of Faith Uniting to Meet Human Needs

July 2011

Inter-Faith Ministries brings people of all faiths together to build inter-religious understanding, promote justice, relieve misery, and reconcile the estranged. *Learn more... visit IFMnet.org*

Believe in the work of Inter-Faith Ministries? *Share FaithLines with a friend!*

There's something new outside the Inter-Faith Inn shelter. It's a garden of Snapdragons, Petunias, Cannas and Corydalis, and there are plans to add a bird bath soon.

The flowers were recently planted by David who is staying at the Inn. David was laid off after 25 years in warehousing and after his savings were gone he had no place to turn. David came to the shelter after meeting Sandy Swank, Director of Housing and Homeless Services at Inter-Faith Ministries, while staying at the winter overflow shelter. Sandy encouraged him to go to the Inter-Faith Inn where he could receive help to get himself back on his feet.

Since being at the Inn, David, an Air Force veteran, has been receiving help from the VA and will begin classes in Computer Numeric Control in September.

Being at the shelter has enabled David to continue to see his two sons William (10) and Zachary (13), something he could not have done without support from IFM staff. He hopes soon to be able to move into an apartment at Villa Central.

David has enjoyed working on the flower bed so much that he plans to volunteer to do it again next year and is already thinking of what he would like to plant and where.



Inter-Faith Inn Shelter 320 E Central, Wichita

Brodie Espinoza, Asst. Director Homeless Services (left) and David pictured with the new flower bed in front of the Inter-Faith Inn. David saw Brodie preparing the flower bed for the new plants, jumped in to help and Brodie got out of his way.

Thank you David, it looks great!

Main Street, Wichita KS - 1885

How Time Flies - Can You Believe
it has been 125 Years?

We Want You
to Help Us Celebrate

August 25, 2011



*For the Common Good
Recognition & Celebratory Dinner*

August 25, 2011

Botanica Gardens, 6:00 p.m.

Tickets \$50. Reserved table for 8 \$500.

call 316-264-2303 or email kwebb@IFMnet.org

Guest Speaker

Bill Grace, leadership educator and social justice activist, founded the Center for Ethical Leadership in Seattle in 1991. During his fourteen year tenure as executive director, he earned a national reputation for innovative leadership development programs. Bill currently directs Common Good Works, speaks and leads seminars around the world.



"In a time when our nation seems more self-focused than ever, Bill Grace presents a compelling case for a type of leadership that benefits all."

— Steve Cozz,
President and CEO, Kansas Health Foundation



sharing *the* rock

Shaping Our Future
through Leadership for
the Common Good

Bill's recent book, *Sharing the Rock*, recasts leadership by introducing seven practices focused on advancing the common good through business, politics, government, education, health care, and community service organizations. The goal is always to create a just society in which all voices are heard and all life prospers.



Guest Speaker sponsored by
Kansas Health Foundation



Inter-Faith Ministries
829 North Market
Wichita, KS 67214-3518
316-264-9200, www.IFMnet.org

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Thank you for your support

[View Our Donor Appreciation Wall at IFMnet.org](http://IFMnet.org)

About IFM

Serving Wichita for 125 Years

Inter-Faith Ministries began as the Wichita Ministerial Alliance in 1885, when the leaders of several Protestant churches band together as people of faith, working to address basic human needs in the young settlement town of Wichita. During our 125 years, the coalition of religions has grown to reflect the increasing diversity of spirituality, welcoming all faiths to work together toward common goals.

· By the 1920s, the group found itself at a crossroads - ready to take on more mission work but sorely in need of money to do so. At that time, the organization consisted of 50 Protestant churches working together to promote social justice in the civic arena by advocating for voting rights for women, restrictions on child labor, social services for Mexican rail workers, and the addition of a YMCA branch to serve black citizens.

· In the 1930s, the Wichita Council of Churches extended partnerships to Jewish, Catholic and Eastern Orthodox congregations, publicly taking a stand against the Nazis years before America's entry into the World War II.

· In the 1940s, the Council led a local "Wheat for Relief" program to prevent famine in post-war Europe, sending thousands of pounds of grain and clothing to relieve our suffering allies.

· In the 1950s and '60s, the Council continued international relief efforts, helping to settle refugees from the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 and the Cuban Revolution of 1959 in Wichita, and providing relief to victims of earthquakes and floods in Chile following the Valdivia earthquake in 1960. At home, the council advocated for civil rights for Black Americans and worked on behalf of Native Americans to establish the Indian Services Center.

· In 1960, the first Operation Holiday was held. During the 70s full responsibility for Operation Holiday was assumed, a tradition that IFM continues today, providing food, clothes, and toys to thousands of Wichita families at Christmas.

· In the 1970s, relationships were established with Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim congregations, prompting the

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name change to Inter-Faith Ministries of Wichita. The '70s is also the decade groundwork is laid to provide housing to the homeless, a problem that emerged in the wake of the Vietnam War and a national trend toward deinstitutionalizing the mentally ill.

· The Inter-Faith Inn for the homeless opened in 1985. The Inn has capacity to provide 50 men, women, and children meals and shelter 24 hours a day seven days a week.

· Ti'Wiconi Safe Haven, a shelter for the mentally disabled and chronically homeless, is opened in 1997.

· The Inter-Faith Villa (North) opened in 2002 and Inter-Faith Villa Courts in 2008, both providing low-cost housing and wrap-around support services to the homeless.

· Today these shelters serve thousands of people every year.

Visit IFMnet.org to learn more about our programs

View IFM's [2010 Annual Report](#)

[2011-2012 Board of Directors](#)

[Inter-Faith Ministries Staff](#)

Serving Wichita



Save the Date
August 25, 2011

For more information contact
Kathleen Webb, 316-264-9303 or
kwebb@ifmnet.org

News You Can Use

Information on Upcoming Events

We are happy to include upcoming cultural or faith events in our calendar. Send information to sharrison@ifmnet.org

July 7-9 Martyrdom of the Bab- Baha'i

In remembrance of Ali Mohammed who was executed in 1850 by Persian political and religious powers. Observed by abstaining from commerce and work.

June 14-15 Shab-e-Barat- Islamic

Islamic celebration of the night when Allah the Almighty arranges the affairs of the following year. It is a night of worship and prayers for all Muslims. On Shab-e-Barat god writes the destinies of all men for the coming year by taking into account the deeds committed by them in the past.

July 15 Asala (Asalha puja)- Buddhist

Observance of the day when Gautama Buddha made his first public proclamation to five ascetics at Deer Park, Banares. He taught the middle way, the noble eight-fold path, and the four noble truths.

July 24 Pioneer Day- Latter-Day Saints

Mormon observation of arrival of first settlers at Great Salt Lake, USA in 1847.

July 31 - Aug. 1 Ramadan- Islamic

Ninth month on Islamic calendar, devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur'an. The event begins when authorities in Saudi Arabia sight the new moon of the 9th month. It is the holiest period of the Islamic Year. There is strict fasting from sunrise to sunset.

