

September 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...](#)

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

### Join us in welcoming Deborah Donaldson!

The Inter-Faith Ministries Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Deborah Donaldson as Interim Executive Director of Inter-Faith Ministries. Ms. Donaldson is the Director of the Sedgwick County Division of Human Services, which includes COMCARE, Sedgwick County Developmental Disability Organization, and the Sedgwick County Department on Aging/Central Plains Area Agency on Aging. She will split her time between these two positions for the next few months.

Ms. Donaldson is an excellent fit for the interim position. She has been involved in a number of programs regarding the homeless population, including support for the Oversight Committee tasked with implementing the plan to end chronic homelessness, administrative management of funding for the Housing First Program, and oversight of a mental health program for individuals with serious mental illness that are homeless.

She holds a masters degree in business administration. She is a licensed clinical psychotherapist and earned her master's degree in psychology from Wichita State University. The Board of Directors and Staff are very thankful to Ms. Donaldson for accepting this position and to the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners for allowing her to serve our community in this capacity.

Another thank you to Dr. Michael Gardner, who served as acting executive director, has resumed his service on the Board of Directors. A search for the new Executive Director is progressing and will name the person during the fourth quarter of this year.

We appreciate your support,  
IFM Board of Directors and Staff



**Inter-Faith Inn Shelter  
320 E Central, Wichita**

This is a photo of the newly redecorated common room at the shelter provided through donations from those listed below. The colors are fun and cheerful for the children and the shelves provide storage for books and games. If you have the opportunity, please let these people/businesses know how great they are.

Paint: Sherwin Williams, Lenexa, KS  
 Carpet: Lees Carpets, Kansas City, KS  
 Installation: Total Installation, Wichita, KS  
 Cove base: ISC Surfaces, Tulsa, OK  
 Idea Paint: MDC Wallcoverings, Olathe, KS  
 Electrical: Tracy Electric, Haysville, KS  
 Interior Design & Coordination: GLMV Architecture, Wichita, KS  
 Shelving supplies: Society of Marketing Professional Services, Wichita, KS  
 Shelving installation: Andrew Stover

***Doesn't it look great!***

Thank You

***The Dinner was a Great Success!***  
*218 people attended IFM's 125th Anniversary Celebration*

*Celebrating*  
  
*For The Common Good*

See Photos on Facebook



## Recognition

### Outstanding Leadership For the Common Good

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

Don & Lora Barry

Cessna Aircraft Company

Spirit AeroSystems Employee's Good Neighbor Fund

### Dinner Sponsors

#### My Brother's Keeper

Kansas Health Foundation

### Bridge Builder Benefactor

John & Dorothy McKay

Casado-McKay, Inc.

### Goodwill Patron

Dr. Don & Penny Olsen

Plymouth Congregational Church

### Helping Hand Supporter

Cessna Aircraft Company

Dr. Michael & Ann Gardner

First United Methodist Church

Spirit AeroSystems Employee's Good Neighbor Fund

### Common Good Advocate

Adorers of the Blood of Christ

Patty Dengler

Sally & Dave Dewey

First Presbyterian Church

Friends & Family of Sue Castile

Hiebert & Decker, CPAs

Douglas & Diana Kidd

Peterson, Peterson, & Goss

Wichita State University Foundation

Check out the Events Calendar *"News You Can Use"* (bottom of letter)

## We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Thank you for your support

### 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 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.

(continued)

- 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](http://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 Since 1960**



**Accepting Volunteer Applications**

For more information contact  
Sandi Harrison, 316-264-9303 or  
[sharrison@ifmnet.org](mailto:sharrison@ifmnet.org)

### With the Help of Many Hands

*We Can Carry the Weight*

Donate Online

or

Mail to: Inter-Faith Ministries  
829 N Market St.  
Wichita, KS 67214

Phone: 316-264-9303, 316-264-2233 fax

Email: [@FaithLines Newsletter](#)

Website: [www.IFMnet.org](http://www.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 [FaithLines Calendar](#)

### September 1 **Ganesha Chaturthi- Hindu**

Hindu festival honoring the god of prosperity, prudence, and success.

### September 11 **Remembrance, Struggle and Hope- 911 Unity Gathering**

Highlights are the "Singing Quakers" of Friends University, the "Bel Canto Choir" from Hesston College, and the "Troubadours" of Newman University. Internationally acclaimed Baritone Soloist Anthony Brown, Jakub Omsky, Principal Cellist of the Wichita Symphony and Wichita State University Hindu Dancers will help us remember through their performances how our nation and world has struggled to find meaning and hope. The event will conclude with over 100 voices singing "A Song of Peace" arranged by Johnnie Carl. St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church, 3 p.m. at 123 N. Andover Rd., Andover.

### September 18 **American Guild of Organists- Sunflower Organ Initiative**

Opening event for the State-wide Sunflower Organ Initiative sponsored by the Wichita Chapter AGO. Tour of three pipe organs beginning at St. James Episcopal Church at 2 p.m. (park on east and enter through red doors), the tour will move on by car to Grace Presbyterian Church, and finally to East Heights United Methodist. Around 4:00 p.m., participants will be treated to an ice cream social.

### September 21 **International Day of Prayer for Peace- Program of the United Nations & World Council of Churches**

Chanting Songs of the Spirit. Experience peace while singing prayers of peace. Join us for an evening of chants and spiritual songs from world traditions. Sponsored by First Church of the Brethren, 7:30 p.m. at 1103 Jefferson, Wichita, 316-263-0274.

### September 28-29 **Rosh Hashanah- Jewish**

Jewish New Year. A time of introspection, abstinence, prayer, and penitence. The story of Abraham is read, the ram's horn is sounded, and special foods are prepared and shared.

