

IFC Annual Report

2022-2023

The Inter-Faith Council for Social Services celebrates its 60th Anniversary in 2023. A brief summary of the institutions the IFC either founded, helped develop, or spun off includes: PTA Thrift Shop, School lunch program, pre-kindergarten childhood development, Shelter and Housing for the Homeless, The Furniture Program, Community Program for Aging, refugee resettlement, Friends of Nursing Home Patients, uniform housing code, AIDS Service Agency, and Freedom House. It is a rich history.

In 2022-23, the IFC continues to meet the needs of low-income and vulnerable members of our community for housing, food, emergency financial support and social connection as the pandemic wanes.

The IFC provided \$175,299 in emergency funds for utility bills, rent and other essential support services. 48,754 hot meals were served as take-out, and more recently, in-person dining once The Commons opened after the pandemic. 11,790 bags of groceries were provided at the Community Market, and within the last few months members have been able to select their own food items. 29,877 nights of shelter were provided, and 57 people were moved into permanent housing. 14 local landlords partnered with the IFC to offer lower than market rate rent for permanent supportive housing.

Innovative programs are an important aspect of IFC's work this year as it further expands its mission to confront the causes and respond to the effects of poverty in our community. In an average week, 58 households accessed the new Community Navigation Program which offers members showers, lockers for storage, and connection to community resources. Another new program, Activate! IFC reached 203 people through workshops focused on the Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) experience. 60 community members were engaged through "why voting matters" conversations. 6 Safety Vanguard Cyphers were held to discuss how to keep the community safe. These programs specifically address issues of race, as required by CHFM's benevolences document. We were grateful as CEO Jackie Jenks presented an ARE forum with Ronald Carnes for our

Meeting on April 30, a recommendation stipulated in our benevolences document. Further required information is the number of IFC employees: 44, including PT and FT. Additional required financial information: "IFC's annual budget totals almost \$2.9 million, of which 10 percent comes from local governments. We work to raise the majority of our funds from private donors, and we also leverage significant in-kind support to meet people's basic needs and keep our expenses as low as possible. Unexpected one-time gifts and bequests have covered additional expenses to date. Currently, we are working to close about a \$300,000 funding gap. As we did last year, IFC is requesting local governments to significantly increase their allocation of public resources to build an equitable community by making sure people can meet their most basic needs for food and shelter."

Currently, the IFC is recruiting additional volunteers now that the pandemic is waning. Kitchen volunteers are especially needed. CHFMM prepares two meals a month and we're looking for additional helpers! The paid positions in the kitchen are vacant, as is the manager of the Community Market. IFC especially appreciated Carolyn Stuart's volunteer help in recruiting restaurants for the annual RSVVP campaign since the stalwart volunteer who had managed this program has retired.

The following Friends served on the Meeting's IFC committee during the past year: Ronald Carnes, Emilie Condon, Ann Drake, Max Drake, Dottie Heninger. Carolyn Stuart, Tori Toles and Carolyn White shared clerking. We meet quarterly. Tori attends bimonthly meetings of the IFC liaison committee, comprised of members of local congregations supporting the work of IFC so that we know what other churches are doing. She is also leading our Meeting's CROP Walk fund raising event on June 4. We are grateful for the long service of Carolyn Stuart, Dottie Heninger and Emilie Congdon who are leaving the IFC Committee this June. We are eager for new members, so please contact Nominations and join us!

Ours is a small committee, but we work for an astonishingly effective and important institution as its 60-year history attests and its new programs evolve.