



Interfaith
Outreach
Home

Hope · Haven · Healing

Empowering Families
Inspiring Children

Spotlight on Hope

Winter 2018

Dear Friends,

2018 has been a very productive year for Interfaith Outreach Home as we welcomed 14 new families throughout the year. Thanks to old and new community partners alike, 5 of our apartments were refurbished, making them warm and welcoming spaces for new families.

Four families graduated after two years in the program - Deborah and Krystal did so as first-time homeowners! Nine others are continuing on their path to sustained self-sufficiency.

Our annual fundraising dinner, A Harvest of Hope, was a huge success. Educator Celeste Clark, our keynote speaker, was joined by current and former IOH residents Lesley, Nysha, and 10-year-old Adji. Each of their testimonies emphasized how invaluable stability and access to education are to breaking the cycle of poverty. Lesley has recently been accepted to Georgia Tech University for Industrial Engineering. and her twin sister, Ashley, is a sophomore at Georgia State on the pre-med track. Nysha is also a student at Georgia Tech.

The push to purchase the land that IOH has rented for 26+ years grows stronger each day. If we are successful, our plan for expansion will include transitional, affordable, and market-rate housing. Though our plans remain in their early stages, we're deeply committed to the effort.

While we're proud of our accomplishments, they would not have been possible without you, our donors and supporters. As you gather with family and loved ones this holiday season, we hope that you will remember the families of Interfaith Outreach Home.

Share the good news of IOH!

With Gratitude,
Deborah Walker-Little
Executive Director, Interfaith Outreach Home



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Spreading the Word

In the 1980s, there was a TV commercial that began, "When I first tried Faberge shampoo, it was so good, I told 2 friends about it. And they told 2 friends. And so on and so on and so on." As the actress talks, the screen splits in 2, and then 4 and then the whole screen is covered with her face, showing how quickly news can spread from one person to many. After my first visit to IOH, I did the same thing.

The powerful stories Deborah shared with me of lives being transformed were so inspiring that I couldn't wait to start telling my friends. By the end of the day, at least 5 other people had heard about IOH and my excitement for this work of providing safe, affordable housing for families to build a stronger future. I called friends who I thought could offer financial support. I called others on the church staff to find out how we could support this ministry. I called people I knew would be excited as I was to know this kind of ministry exists.

We are approaching the time of year when, in the Christian tradition, we tell the story of shepherds who hear angels tell them "good news of great joy." In a world where bad news seems to occupy far too many of the headlines, we want to spread our own good news of great joy about the work of IOH. When we tell others about this ministry, and they tell 2 friends, and they tell 2 friends, we multiply what we can do and the resources from which we can draw. So, let this work of empowering families and inspiring children be some of the good news you spread at this time of year. . Tell everyone you know about it. Let your enthusiasm be contagious. This news is too good to keep to ourselves.

The Rev. Amy Dills-Moore
St Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church



Focus on: Brookhaven Christian Church



On Mother's Day 1948, 46 people gathered for a worship service. Also on that day, 19 people signed the opening charter as the first members of Brookhaven Christian Church (BCC) and its history officially began. Over the years, the church has continued to be a presence in the community. Through involvement with

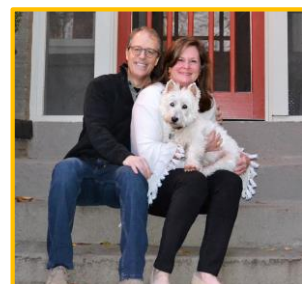
organizations like Interfaith Outreach Home the members of BCC continue to demonstrate their commitment to the community.

Brookhaven Christian Church was a founding member in supporting Interfaith Outreach Home and has provided support in a variety of ways. Over the course of just this year, BCC hosted its annual Halloween Party for both church and IOH families. They also provided hands-on labor for facilities clean-up and maintenance, provided Thanksgiving baskets for the residents and important, ongoing financial support. BCC continues to explore ways to support IOH in its mission of fostering families in pursuit of financial sustainability and strong foundations for the futures of their children.

One such opportunity was made possible by BCC members David and Mary Margaret Heaton. An important step in the success of any organization is AWARENESS. Outreach is more successful when its supporters fully understand and support those they are reaching out to!.

So, on Saturday, November 10th, David and Mary Margaret hosted a party in their home. In lieu of the Heaton's traditional Thanksgiving dinner, family, friends and other church members were invited to gather in support of Interfaith Outreach Home. Executive Director Deborah Walker-Little shared the story of IOH and its many success stories with a crowd of about 50 people. Guests were treated to wonderful food and conversation. David and his band, Old Men in the Basement, played for the enjoyment of all and \$3500 was raised for IOH!

As we focus on spreading the word this holiday season, consider the impact of telling your friends about IOH!



I'm so grateful to have this opportunity to serve on the board of IOH. My favorite part is being an advocate for IOH and the families it serves. My passion for IOH make it easy to talk about.

I have shared this passion with my friends who have in turn shown their support in a variety of ways. With creativity and giving spirits, they have planned events and volunteered their time, energy and money in support of IOH.

A group of neighbors were struck by the courage and strength of the mothers of IOH and joined me in creating Mothers Day baskets filled with special gifts. Another neighbor organized a jewelry trunk show and gave her entire profit to IOH! She went a step further and asked her husband's company to match this gift, doubling her support.

My church guild has, for many years, brought the gift of food and fellowship each December to the families of IOH. It's a cherished time of a community Christmas dinner and a gift card and gingerbread house kit for the family to enjoy in their own apartment. A happy family moment that could not have been imagined in the chaos of a shelter or a car. This same group of women also gathered their resources to furnish an apartment.

A dear friend volunteers her time weekly to IOH and has co-chaired the fall fundraising dinner the past two years. Many of those good friends mentioned above attended that dinner and gave yet again, knowing that the cost is high to keep our mission and vision alive for families in need of a safe place to get back on their feet and begin a new, more financially secure life.

These are just a few examples of those who took the time to listen, to open their hearts and to act. Many thanks to them and to each of our donors and volunteers!



Harvest of Hope

IOH held its 2nd annual celebration on October 17th at St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church. The theme of this year's celebration, A Harvest of Hope, was in thanksgiving for those that have supported IOH in its years of planting seeds for the future of families.

IOH Board Chairman John McNeil introduced our Keynote Speaker, his daughter Celeste McNeil Clark. Celeste, recipient of the AJC Celebrating Teachers Award, shared moving stories of her students and the impact of stability and security. The opportunity to directly impact a child's life, to plant seeds for their future, occurs when you support IOH.

Once those seeds are planted; however, they must be nurtured and allowed to grow. The importance of IOH was exemplified in the words of our 3 Harvest of Hope speakers. Adji, a 10-year old resident of IOH shared her happiness at being able to sing, dance and play with her little brother in a safe, loving home. Nysha and Lesley are graduates of IOH. They are both college students attending Georgia State and Georgia Tech, respectively. They both shared how important their time at IOH had been to their success as both students and as young women.

Our celebratory dinner was truly a Harvest of Hope for these young people as it has been for the more than 500 families that have graduated from Interfaith Outreach Home.

IOH is grateful for all those that contributed to the success of A Harvest of Hope, either by your prayers, attendance, financial donation or planning. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we work to fulfill the IOH mission of empowering families in crisis to achieve sustained self-sufficiency.

Positively Georgia

(CBS46) "Interfaith Outreach Home is a transitional program that's turning homeless families into homeowners – and that's what makes this story so *Positively Georgia*."

On November 16th, our own Deborah Walker-Little was a guest on *Positively Georgia* where she shared the story of IOH and its impact on families. She started with a very real truth – things happen to all of us. Unfortunately, not everyone has a support system and the result is often homelessness. You can see the full story on our Facebook page [Interfaith Outreach Home – IOH](#).



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THE CYCLE OF DEPENDENCE AND HOMELESSNESS:

Poverty → Marginal Living → Hardship → Eviction

IOH provides a long-term solution that breaks the cycle.

Interfaith Outreach Home does not receive government funds. IOH is a 501©(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

How Can You Help?

Donate: by mail or on-line at www.iohome.org

Matching Gifts : ask if your employer matches charitable gifts

Host an Event: big or small

SPREAD the WORD

PO Box 48075 – Doraville, GA 30362 – 770-457-3727 – www.iohome.org