

## Direct from the Director

October 11, 2007 will be the date of our nineteenth annual meeting. Many of us who were involved from day one are still here (like yours truly). What an incredible ride it has been. We estimate that we have given rental assistance to approximately 2,500 families, representing over 7,500 individuals (mostly children)!

Our senior “meals on wheels” program has prepared, served and/or delivered approximately 5,000,000 meals to the elderly and disabled. The Affordable Housing Division has completed seventeen houses and has number eighteen under construction in Long Branch. Our Youth Corps program is taking shape and already we have heard some heartwarming stories. We are excited that one of our members who could not read or write will read some short stories he wrote at our annual meeting (don’t miss it!).

Our latest endeavor is of monumental proportions. We intend to be the key catalyst in revitalizing the west side of Asbury Park. Our plan has been accepted by the State of New Jersey for the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit

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### Have You Thought of Donating Stock?

If you wish to donate stock, we have the mechanism in place to accommodate your donation with relative ease. If you have appreciated stock, you can claim a tax deduction at the appreciated amount and avoid paying capital gains tax.

Call our director, Joe Marmora, at 732-775-0525 for details.

### Direct from the Director continued

(NRTC) program which makes our west side projects eligible for 100% tax credits, and permits us to secure corporate investors. To date, our investors include the New Jersey Natural Gas Company (\$500,000), Jersey Central Power and Light Company (\$200,000), PNC Bank (\$100,000) and Selective Insurance Company (\$119,000). We have purchased five parcels of land and will build three single-family and two two-family houses. We will provide money to restore the pool at the Boys’ and Girls’ Club, install lights at the Little League field, build space for the Police Athletic League (PAL) boxing program and assist the police department by providing street cameras to help fight crime.

Our plan has a ten-year life and with our corporate sponsors on board there is no doubt in my mind that the west side will have not only a new and refreshed look, but it will be bustling with activity and an array of new affordable housing units.

In the early days of 1988 we thought it would be a wonderful achievement if we could help a few struggling families. God works in mysterious ways, something we all have heard many times. I do believe He worked overtime in developing Interfaith Neighbors. We now have forty-five people on our staff, over six hundred volunteers, a \$3,000,000 annual budget, and we feel like we’re just getting started!

*Joseph J. Marmora  
Executive Director*

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### **Interfaith Neighbors, Inc.**

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## The First United Methodist Church: Oakhurst



*First United Methodist Church: Oakhurst*

The First United Methodist Church: Oakhurst, led by Pastor Brian Eble, has been selected by Interfaith Neighbors’ Board of Directors as the outstanding congregation of the year.

On April 24, 1988, the First United Methodist Church made its first commitment to Interfaith Neighbors in the amount of \$3,000. Our organization was just getting started and it wasn’t until May 20, 1988 that it officially became a New Jersey corporation. Rev. Jack Johnson, who was pastor, was one of the leaders in organizing Interfaith Neighbors. “Even Jack didn’t envision the growth

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of the company,” says Joe Marmora, Executive Director.

As Interfaith Neighbors has grown over the years, so has the commitment of the First United Methodist Church and its members. Rev. Johnson served as the first president of the Board of Directors, and church member Pam Saunders served as the Board’s secretary for many years. She remains a member of the Board of Directors to this day. Her husband, Dave, has been responsible for the organization’s newsletter and provides ongoing public relations support.

Additionally, member Patti Lombardi has worked in Interfaith Neighbors’ rental assistance program for the past seven years, devoting her considerable talents and heartfelt assistance to our most needy neighbors. “Working with the poor and their many problems can wear you down,” says Rental Assistance Director Nancy Flanigan, “Knowing that there are faith communities continuing to support us is most uplifting and it is wonderful having Patti Lombardi to help share the workload.”

Patti was recently joined by another church member, Barbara Skarbowski, who joined the Youth Corps staff. You can read more about her work with Interfaith Neighbors in this newsletter.

Supporting congregations are the lifeblood of Interfaith Neighbors. Whether raising funds through a youth group event, helping to landscape one of our most recently built homes, or providing supplies to our Youth Corps program, the First United Methodist Church: Oakhurst has been supporting Interfaith Neighbors since the beginning. “I cannot tell you how meaningful that is,” says Joe Marmora. It is for the unwavering commitment of its members, its contributions, and its faith in our work that Interfaith Neighbors has chosen the First United Methodist Church: Oakhurst as our outstanding congregation of the year.

## We Get Letters. . .

“Thank you for all your help and kindness. You have helped me with a huge burden and I feel now there is hope for my son and I to gain our financial independence and start a new path. You have truly helped someone in need.”

“Someone once told me to count my blessings. . . I counted you twice.”

“A warm note of thanks to say that people like you help make the world brighter by the nice things you do.”

“Thank you all so much for the help you have given to me and my family. God bless you all!”

“Just a little note to thank you for all the help you gave us when we needed it most. I thank God for you and the service you give to people in need. May God bless you for the work you do.”

### 19th ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 7:30 PM

#### First United Methodist Church

103 Monmouth Road  
Oakhurst, New Jersey

#### Join us as we honor

First United Methodist Church: Oakhurst  
as the outstanding congregation of the year,  
and

recognize our dedicated volunteers and  
Hazel Samuels, Director of Housing and  
Community Development of Asbury Park,  
New Jersey.

## New Employee Barbara Skarbowski



*Barbara Skarbowski*

Barbara became Interfaith Neighbors’ newest employee on April 30, 2007. She has joined our Youth Corps staff as a youth counselor. She graduated summa cum laude from Rutgers University and is a member of the First United Methodist Church: Oakhurst, one of Interfaith Neighbors’ founding congregations. She has been a church administrative assistant, substitute teacher in the school district of the Township of Ocean and residential program worker for ARC of Monmouth.

Barbara works closely with each Youth Corps member, helping them to secure employment. She continues to follow each student after they leave the program, especially to help them adjust to their new employee obligations.

“I am truly amazed at the quality of people that have joined our staff,” says Paul McEvily, Interfaith Neighbors’ Associate Executive Director. “Barbara is truly a unique, caring and extremely competent individual who has fit into our program like a hand in a glove,” says Meg Flores, the Youth Corps program coordinator, “Our students bond with her immediately.”