

Annual Run Thru Deal 5K

Presented by Deal Fire Company to benefit Interfaith Neighbors

On Sunday, October 11, the Deal Fire Co. #2 and the Jersey Shore Running Club held a 5k race “Run Thru Deal” for the benefit of Interfaith Neighbors. Nearly 300 runners and walkers, including parents and children, took part in the 5k and 1k Fun Run. The weather cooperated by providing a magnificent day.

The winner of the men’s division was Greg Kuczynski of Sayreville, and for the women’s it was Amber Hart of Belmar. Interfaith Neighbors’ very own Joe Marmora took part as a walker and was pleased that he didn’t finish last! A special thanks to Jersey Mike’s subs who supplied 100 subs for hungry runners. Other sponsors of the event included the Texas Pacific Land Trust; Smith, Gatta, Gelok, Inc.; Point Pleasant Distributors; Sonya Grill Real Estate, Inc.; Nelson, Fromer, Crocco Law Offices; The Law Firm: Campbell, Foley; Donato, Hayes & Co., CPA’s; Senator Sean Kean; Doctor T-Shirt; Congressman Frank Pallone; New Jersey Natural Gas; Ansell, Zarco, Grim & Aaron Law Offices; Assemblyman Rible & Assemblywoman Angelini; Investors Savings Bank; Community Bank of Asbury Park; Ocean First Bank; and Central Jersey Bank, N.A.

Thanks to James Carasia of Deal Fire Co. #2 and Steve Foley of the Jersey Shore Running Club, as well as Scott Lewis. The event raised nearly \$2,700 for Interfaith Neighbors. This contribution was most appreciated and we look forward to this event next year!

Direct from the Director (continued)

Lastly, the opportunity to resurrect the Monmouth County Youth Corps (a chapter of the New Jersey Youth Corps) came to our front door. The program is designed for high school dropouts and includes education to help some of these youngsters receive a GED and job training to help obtain employment. I didn’t think we could become educators and job trainers. But a determined and dedicated staff proved me wrong. These are youngsters who were left at the starting gate. For the first time, many are experiencing love, understanding and the belief that they can succeed.

Twenty-two years have flown by, yet we have just begun. I don’t know how many more years I have left, but I do know and have often said that there is a Higher Power looking after Interfaith Neighbors. I have no doubt that even in these dire economic days we will prevail.

We have all heard that, “God helps those who help themselves.” We cannot do this alone. Whether working with seniors in need of a nutritious meal, a family facing eviction, or a young person taking advantage of a second chance. I can tell you that every member of our staff of fifty-five has a difficult job day in and day out. They need your support. You, our donors, are their financial strength and an incredible source of encouragement. Your contribution will directly benefit all of those we serve because 96-97 cents of every dollar goes directly to their aid. There is no question that these are difficult days. If you are one of the fortunate ones, and want to help make a difference, consider us. As always, a visit to our office is encouraged.

*Joe Marmora
Executive Director*

Direct from the Director (from front)

totaling approximately 10,000 individuals! Through our help, these families were able to remain in their homes and avoid eviction and foreclosure.

As new opportunities presented themselves, we began to spread our wings. We took on the operation of the Monmouth County Meals on Wheels program and grew it to over 400,000 meals annually for approximately 2,000 seniors and disabled persons. We estimate that we have prepared, served and/or delivered approximately 6,000,000 meals!

Soon another opportunity presented itself—we began a home ownership program for low income, first time home buyers. The New Jersey Natural Gas Company became our partner and has remained so to this day, still offering financial help along with loads of encouragement. We now have our twenty-first and twenty-second houses under construction, and have several more on the drawing board.

This led to our being named as one of the first non-profits in New Jersey to have a ten-year plan approved under the state’s Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program (NRTC). Our plan is specifically to rejuvenate Asbury Park’s west side, an area long neglected. Aside from building five houses in year one, we helped the Little League to get lights, the PAL boxing program to get underway and the Boys and Girls Club to renovate their indoor pool.

We are now under way for year two, with the construction of a 27,000 sq. ft. three-story building that will include the Asbury Park senior center, eight affordable rental apartments on the third floor and commercial space on the first floor. Hopefully, this will jump-start more construction activity on Springwood Avenue and begin to bring life to a dormant, distressed area.

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Interfaith Neighbors, Inc.

810 Fourth Avenue
Asbury Park, NJ 07712
732-775-0525
website: www.interfaithneighbors.org
e-mail: info@interfaithneighbors.org



Direct from the Director



May 20, 2010 will mark the twenty-second anniversary of the incorporation of Interfaith Neighbors. What an incredible run those twenty-two years have been!

When we organized, we were a small group of diverse religious congregations who wanted to reach out to people in need. We learned that was a common thread that could bind us together. And indeed it did.

When I agreed to be the organization’s executive director it was only to be for a short time, just to get things started. None of us, certainly not me, realized the incredible number of families that were struggling with the bare necessities of life, especially among the working poor.

As more and more congregations started supporting us, we were able to help more and more families in need. Well, twenty-two years later, we estimate that we have assisted over 2,500 families,

➤ (on back)



Featured Program: Nutrition



Last year, our Nutrition staff began working with a client who suffers from bipolar disorder. He is physically unable to prepare his own meals, shop for groceries or cope for himself. Shortly after he enrolled in our Meals on Wheels program, his nurse called to tell us that his condition had improved dramatically. He loves receiving the meal and says it is the highlight of his day. He frequently calls us to double check that his meal is coming and is always grateful and joyous when it arrives.

For many, especially elderly or homebound individuals, ensuring a nutritious meal is not an easy task. Many of our meal recipients are socially isolated, with family members having long since left the nest, or spouses having passed. Many do not eat well because of limited income or physical limitations that inhibit their ability to go grocery shopping or to prepare meals. For many seniors, the choice is not what to eat, but whether to eat or buy medications or pay other bills.

Since 1991, Interfaith Neighbors has operated Monmouth County's Nutrition Program, annually preparing and delivering over 400,000 meals for senior citizens. The Nutrition Program provides hot, nutritious meals to the elderly and the economically and physically disadvantaged of Monmouth County. Meals are either offered in a congregate setting or are home-delivered. Interfaith Neighbors manages its own volunteer unit in support this program that coordinates the activities of over 600 dedicated volunteers working throughout Monmouth County, recording over 70,000 hours annually in volunteer service. We have a staff Registered Dietician who supervises to ensure that all meals meet a minimum of one-third Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA),

as established by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Research Council.

Interfaith Neighbors' Nutrition Program faces a hard road with the state of the economy. Costs continue to rise, and simultaneously we are facing the ever present threat of cuts to our funding. Despite these struggles, we are committed to helping any senior in need, no matter where they live in Monmouth County.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, please contact our Nutrition program at 732-775-0525.

NSP Groundbreaking

On March 11, Interfaith Neighbors joined the City of Asbury Park, Affordable Housing Alliance, and Coastal Habitat for Humanity to participate in a ground breaking ceremony commemorating the kick off of our STARS/ Springwood Neighborhood Stabilization Project. Throughout the neighborhood, positive change is already visible. Construction is moving forward, excavation is underway, and building materials are being assembled in locations throughout the area. The ground breaking celebrated the partnership that has made this redevelopment possible.



Program participants included The Honorable Ed Johnson, Mayor of the City of Asbury Park; The Reverend David J. Parreott, Jr.; Diane Kinnane, NSP, NJ DCA; Donna M. Blaze, CEO-Affordable Housing Alliance; Jay F. Patock, President-Board of Directors, Affordable Housing Alliance; Brian Church, President-Board of Directors, Coastal Habitat for Humanity; Maureen Mulligan, Executive Director-Coastal Habitat for Humanity; Paul McEvily, Associate Executive Director-Interfaith Neighbors; Patrick Durkin, Director-Real Estate Development, Interfaith Neighbors.

A reception was held following the ground breaking at 33 Atkins Avenue, a home currently under construction by Interfaith Neighbors.

E Corps

Interfaith Neighbors was recently selected by the New Jersey Youth Corps to operate a new program known as E Corps (Environmental Corps). Graduates of our Monmouth County Youth Corps Program who are interested in learning about the environment and tapping into "green collar" industries are eligible to participate. Interfaith Neighbors' Youth Corps program provides community service and educational activities to help youth who have dropped out of school to prepare for a better future. Participants in the E Corps program will be involved with the program for six-months, five days a week. In particular, youth are learning about energy, pollution and conservations, and are learning skills that can be applied to an exciting and growing career field. Youth are currently participating in energy audits of non-profit buildings and local churches, helping customers determine energy inefficiencies. Through these energy audits, E Corps will be able to determine areas of waste and make recommendations. If these customers purchase the materials to make the recommended upgrades, E Corps will install them at no cost. Some of these upgrades may include installing insulation, caulking windows and replacing light bulbs with energy efficient models. For larger upgrades such as roof or furnace repair, recommendations are made to contact a contractor. Any non-profit organization looking to have an energy audit performed on their building is encouraged to contact Ed Ferger at Interfaith Neighbors at (732) 775-0525 x218.

Benefit Concert for Interfaith Neighbors!

April 25th at 3 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church
503 Asbury Ave., Asbury Park, NJ

Concert will feature sacred, secular, inspirational and Broadway music.
Free will donations will be accepted.

If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact Richard Start at (732) 500-1392

In Memory of Max Singer

Long-time Board Member, Max Singer passed away on Friday, November 6. He served on the Board of Directors of Interfaith Neighbors since its inception, and had been a volunteer worker here. Joe Marmora, Executive Director had this to say, "When I think about Max



Singer the following words come to mind; gentle, kind, considerate, compassionate, a gentleman, a man of faith. I can truly say that I am privileged to have known him as a friend".

Born in Rzeszow, Poland, Max Singer came to the United States when he was four years old and grew up in the Bronx, New York. He received his Bachelor Degree in Chemical Engineering at City College, New York; a Masters Degree in Chemical Engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute; and a Masters in Electrical Engineering from Rutgers University.

He worked from 1940-1942 at Schenley Distilleries in the Empire State Building as a chemical engineer; from 1941-1942 at the Corps of Engineers on Wall Street as inspector of engineering materials; and from 1943-1980 at Fort Monmouth as a chemical engineer and later an electrical engineer as Chief of a Branch in Production Engineering, then on the staff of Research and Development Laboratories. Max served as president of Monmouth Reform Temple, Lunch Break, and Monmouth County Senior Citizens Council. He was a board member of Jewish Federation of Monmouth County and chair of their Soviet Jewry Task Force. He conducted religious services at four nursing homes and two assisted living facilities, and volunteered at Lunch Break for many years. He was a member of Monmouth Reform Temple, The League of Women Voters, Holocaust Genocide and Human Rights Education Center at Brookdale, and the National Association of Federal Employees.