

Please Welcome Our Newest Employee!



*Maura Comer
Program Representative
Rental and Mortgage Assistance Program*

Interfaith Neighbors welcomes our newest employee, Maura Comer! Maura started working with our Rental and Mortgage Assistance program as a Program Representative in late 2010. Maura is a native of Monmouth County, and has returned to her hometown after moving from Virginia with her family.

Maura works with Monmouth County residents who work full-time and have dependent children living in their household who apply for rental or mortgage assistance based on economic need. Support ranges from one-time rental payments to ongoing monthly subsidies paid directly to landlords. In recent years, Interfaith Neighbors has seen a dramatic increase in the number of individuals requesting assistance and in the level of assistance required to keep families in their homes.

Maura has been a wonderful addition to our staff as the needs in our area continue to rise. Her compassionate and understanding nature helps to calm the fears and worries of the many clients she assists each and every day. We are thrilled to welcome her to our staff!

Donate your Vehicle and Help Interfaith Neighbors!

You can turn your unwanted vehicle, running or not, into a tax-deductible contribution to Interfaith Neighbors through our Car Donation Program. Just follow these simple steps to donate your vehicle:

1. Have your vehicle title handy.
2. Call 1-877-CARS-4-US
3. Request extension #2479
4. Provide your name, address, phone # and vehicle information from the title.
5. You will be contacted by a tow company within two business days to arrange pickup.
6. Interfaith Neighbors will mail a donation acknowledgement letter for your tax deduction in 6-8 weeks.

You can also donate online at:
www.donationline.com.

There is no charge for towing your vehicle. Towing is available nationwide. In addition to cars and trucks, we accept boats, RVs, motorcycles, jet skis, snowmobiles and even airplanes!

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

Our 2010 annual report has been completed. It was no surprise to me that it verified a banner year for us. The depressed economy brought many more people to our door. God has blessed us with a caring staff that just rose to the occasion, did what had to be done and never complained about the extra work.

Our rental and mortgage assistance program was hit the hardest. When the year ended, 250 working poor families had received a total of \$360,000 in assistance! In addition, our holiday program distributed a record number of gift baskets and hundreds of toys!

Our meals on wheels program was inundated with requests for meals, and that, along with a rise in food costs, forced us to put a freeze on accepting new meal participants. Thanks to a year-end grant from the Merck Foundation, we were able to lift the freeze.

Our affordable housing division completed three new houses for first-time home buyers. The Springwood Center got underway—this will be a 27,500 sq. ft. three-story building. The top floor will have eight affordable rental units, the second floor will be owned by the City of Asbury Park for its senior center, the first floor will have four commercial spaces, one of which will be occupied by the Asbury Park Police Department.

Our Youth Corps program is in its fourth year. This program assists high school dropouts by helping them academically and with job training.

All of the above has been made possible by you, our donors. Because you care, we care. Because you help us, we help others. On behalf of all those we serve, we say a heartfelt “thank you.”

*Joe Marmora,
Executive Director*

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Need to Feed



The Need to Feed program has been operating since mid-December in Asbury Park's West Side community two nights a week—Mondays and Thursdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The Need to Feed program serves community members soup, coffee, bread and bagels, and more recently has begun offering fruit and vitamin C packets to customers. Despite serving less than 25 community members on its first night in the field, the Need to Feed program now serves anywhere from 60 to 100 community members each night.

The Need to Feed program was an idea conceived of and implemented by two Youth Corps graduates, Quahmel McMillian and Karim Berry, both of whom continue to display their commitment each week through donated time, energy, and demonstrated enthusiasm. The program was awarded a competitive Emerging Community Leader grant by the Wells Fargo Regional Foundation for implementation.

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Need to Feed (from front)

The community has favorably embraced the Need to Feed program, contributing numerous in-kind donations including baked goods from Frank's Deli, lighting fixtures and electricity from the Benjamin Harvey Company, and time, energy and training from restaurant owner Marilyn Schlossbach. These donations are allowing for the extension of the life of the program into the summer of 2011. In addition, after hearing of the extreme cold endured by the volunteers working the Need to Feed tables, the New Jersey Natural Gas Company donated new coats for the volunteers to use. And, in response to a perceived need in the community being served, the Need to Feed program has begun serving fruit and vitamin C packets as well as hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for children and adults.

Given the feedback and thanks from the community and the success of the Need to Feed program, volunteers will continue the program into the summer months. During this time, we hope to expand our offerings to include sandwiches, fruit and drinks to community members in need.



Save the Date!

Interfaith Neighbors Annual Golf Classic

Deal Country Club
Monday, September 26, 2011.

NRTC Program Initiatives

Interfaith Neighbors has been operating the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program in Asbury Park's West Side since 2007. This program has injected millions of dollars in corporate investments into this neighborhood, providing seed money to attract other funds for special initiatives and much-needed development in this part of the city.

Security

In response to a spate of shootings that took place in the West Side during the fall of 2007, Interfaith Neighbors proposed a pilot program to install cameras at two of the "hot spots" for crime in this neighborhood. At that time, the use of cameras by police departments as a tool to fight crime was relatively new but was beginning to gain acceptance as more police departments in various cities used the technology and began to compile statistics to demonstrate their effectiveness. We proposed using NRTC dollars to install two cameras in Asbury Park with the thought that if they proved to be effective in reducing violent crime on the streets, more cameras could later be installed to expand the system.

PAL Boxing and Fitness Center



The PAL Boxing and Fitness Center has been several years in the making. With the NRTC program committing \$96,000 in funding to the project, and with the collaboration of the City of Asbury Park, we were able to identify space on the second floor of the City's Department of Public Works building. The City committed \$170,000 in City funds to complete the buildout of this facility. This project has an additional benefit beyond just the improved physical fitness of the youth participants in that it creates an opportunity for West Side kids to have positive interaction with the police officers who volunteer in the PAL program.

Homeownership Opportunities

The West Side neighborhood in Asbury Park has suffered from many of the maladies that plague distressed neighborhoods—crime, drugs, gang activity, high unemployment, etc. Among the factors that contribute to

many of these problems is the low rate of owner-occupied housing in the neighborhood—less than 12% owner-occupancy when Interfaith Neighbors launched the NRTC program. The funding provided by both the NRTC program and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) has allowed Interfaith Neighbors and our collaborative partners to produce quality affordable housing, often selling for under \$100,000 per unit. To date, a total of 13 units of housing have been produced with an addition 27 units in development. For the West Side neighborhood, an additional 40 units of quality, affordable home

ownership opportunities will have a significant impact on the community.

Construction of Springwood Center is underway!!



In late 2010, Interfaith Neighbors broke ground on construction of the Springwood Center building, our cornerstone project under the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit program. This project—the construction of a 27,000 square foot, three story mixed-use building at the corner of Springwood Avenue and Atkins Avenue—is the most ambitious construction project Interfaith Neighbors has taken on. When finished, the building will have four commercial units at grade. One of these units will be a permanent work location for two units of the Asbury Park Police Department. The second floor will be the permanent home for the Asbury Park Senior Center and the third floor will consist of eight units of affordable rental housing. The first steel columns were set on March 8th. The project is scheduled to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2011.