

Welcome Our Newest Board Member



Kathleen Ellis

On June 24, Interfaith Neighbors welcomed a new member to our Board of Trustees: Kathleen Ellis, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at New Jersey Natural Gas.

“Kathy Ellis is one of the premier women executives in New Jersey, and we are indeed fortunate to have her as a member of our Board of Directors,” Executive Director Joseph Marmora said. “She has always supported and praised our efforts, especially in our affordable homeownership program where she delights in seeing the joys of a first-time homebuyer.”

NJNG helped launch our homeownership program in 1996 and has been our partner ever since, renovating and constructing affordable homes in the Asbury Park-Neptune neighborhoods.

Kathleen has been with NJNG since December 2004 and previously served as communications director in the NJ Governor’s Office.

She lives in Belmar with her husband, Kenneth Pringle, an attorney and former Belmar mayor. They have four children—Brian, Erin, Emily and KJ, and five grandchildren—Maddy, Kate, Kevin, Declan and Nora.

Join us for Interfaith Neighbors’ 26th Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 22

6:30 PM

Cedar Village Clubhouse

14 Sequoia Pkwy,
Ocean Township, NJ 07712

Refreshments provided by Kula Café.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Golf Outing

Honoring the Memory of Jack Kay

Monday, September 22, 2014

Deal Golf and Country Club

11:30 AM Lunch

12:30 PM Shotgun Start

Reception to follow

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Contact Joseph Marmora
for more information at
732-775-0525

Kathleen also serves on the boards of 180 Turning Lives Around, the Meridian Hospitals Corporation, and New Jersey Future where she is secretary and an executive committee member. She is also a member of the New Jersey Climate Adaptation Alliance Advisory Committee at Rutgers’ Bloustein School.

“[New Jersey Natural Gas] has a long-standing partnership with Interfaith Neighbors through the affordable housing program which is how I became aware of the organization and the amazing work they do,” Kathleen said. “I had served on the Advisory Board for a number of years and was honored to be invited to serve on the Board of Trustees when the opportunity arose. There is no organization I know of that does more for our neighbors in need with such professionalism and heart.”

Check Out Our New Website!

www.interfaithneighbors.org



Direct from the Director

As summer ends, we reflect back and almost universally exclaim, “Where did it go?” The days and months just fly by, but not for all of us. When you live in misery the days drag on. Bills get higher and the hole you are in gets deeper.

Age does not bar one from hardship. We recently assisted an eighty-five year old widow who needed to move into an apartment suited for her handicap. She didn’t have \$1,100 for a security deposit. We provided her with the \$1,100 to enable her to move in. She was very grateful for our help.

Can you imagine being blind, wheelchair-bound and living on a small pension, and having to ask for rental assistance? We do our best to be understanding and compassionate.

A middle-aged single father is undergoing dialysis and facing other serious health issues. He is raising two daughters, one with a physical disability. He was unable to work for several weeks, and the lost pay put him behind in the rent. We stepped up and assisted him. Eviction and homelessness were avoided, and this most appreciative man was in disbelief and totally relieved that we were able to assist.

While many of us live very comfortable lives, we can forget about the struggles that others face. This is something I learned twenty-six years ago. I was so very unaware of the lack of basic needs of so many of my neighbors. That is why I have dedicated my second career to making life more meaningful for others, and giving them the same chance to succeed that I had (and took for granted).

If you would like to help a struggling family with the basic necessities of life please remember us, because ninety-seven percent of what you donate to us goes directly to help those in need!

Joe Marmora,
Executive Director

Interfaith Neighbors, Inc.

810 Fourth Avenue

Asbury Park, NJ 07712

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Women Power



Maria Amran and Miesha Murphy are our newest crew leaders chosen to lead the summer class of thirteen Monmouth County Youth Corps members.

Maria, 21, and Miesha, 24, were selected after completing their own 12-week Youth Corps program in late June. They receive a stipend and will be in their new jobs through September.

Interfaith Neighbors Youth Corps Director Meg Flores said the selection of the two young women as the newest crew leaders is noteworthy because Maria and Miesha each have a young child of their own, and have had to face the challenging task of taking care of their children while attending the program day in and day out.

“These two are powerhouses when it comes to work,” Meg said. “They moved along so fast and so well. They were so focused. There wasn’t anything

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Women Power (from front)

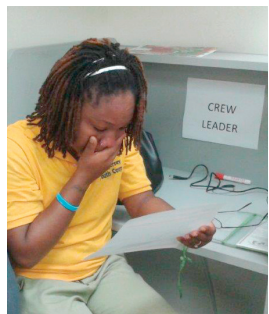
the staff gave them to do they didn't run with."

"A crew leader is someone the kids look up to as a good influence, a role model," Maria said.

During her 12-week Youth Corps program, Maria says she learned a lot academically—including life skills, job skills and resources. "And I learned a lot from the other kids," she said. "It wasn't just the staff."

Miesha said a crew leader's work involves office work, community service and carrying out scheduled work such as cleanups in the community.

"It gives the peers someone to look up to," she said. "They look up to the teachers but also have someone their age and can see they also can be a crew leader."



Miesha gets the results of her GED exam: She passed!

Both women took their GED test in July to get their high school diploma—a key but often challenging goal of the state-funded Youth Corps program.

Miesha said she had just moved to Asbury Park in January and was looking for a job, when she saw a flyer in the window of Interfaith Neighbors'

Kula Café saying that she could study for her GED.

"I've tried three times before to get my GED," Miesha said. "Now I'm more motivated and I think it was having my child that gave me that push."

"Also, when I started my program, I noticed the staff cared and that's what kept me sticking with the program. In earlier programs, I just felt they got young people in and got them out."

"I've had my trials, and every time I took two steps forward, there would be a step back, but that didn't stop me," Miesha said. "You have to stay focused and you have to do it yourself. You have to believe in yourself."

"And that's why we have to be out there to show the new members that they can do it," Maria said. "It doesn't hurt to try even when you think

you failed for so long and can't do it ever again. It doesn't hurt to try."

For more information about the Youth Corps program, call Meg Flores at 732-775-1035, ext. 231.

Pepsi Partners

Since the day Interfaith Neighbors opened our Kula Café to train young people for jobs in the hospitality industry, PepsiCo has been there for us, donating cases of beverages from Pepsi to Mug Root Beer to Sierra Mist to Brisk Ice Tea, boosting our profit to keep the program going.

The Kula Café opened in April 2013 and is now open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. With the help of PepsiCo and many others, our participants, usually in their late teens and 20s, are gaining work skills and experience in a 16-week program geared to overcome employment barriers of the past.

Today the partnership continues to grow and local company representatives plan to help our participants learn about union life and employment opportunities with the multinational conglomerate.

"We would be happy to lend any mentoring or corporate experiences to Interfaith that would help with "real life" work practices," said Roseann Isasi, unit sales manager for Pepsi Beverage Co. NorthEast Region with local offices here.

"We have been in touch with Kula on job openings and how to apply."

PepsiCo's participation has been a huge asset, said Roger Boyce, director of Interfaith Neighbors Business Development Center which operates the café. The beverages served in the café were already



profit makers at \$1.75 a piece, and the fact that Kula gets them free only means more profit to continue the training.

"Year to date, we have donated over \$25,000 worth of product and want to continue our commitment to contributing to Kula's profits," Isasi said.

It also helps the beverage company when restaurants and businesses Interfaith is working with see first hand PepsiCo's community involvement, Boyce said.

PepsiCo employees have been involved in a number of local efforts that include the SEARCH Day Program for children who have autism, ShopRite's annual *Stuff the Pepsi Truck*, Belmar's free beach day for active members of the military and their families, *Toys for Tots* in Asbury Park and Neptune, Neptune's *National Night Out*, Breast Cancer Awareness Pepsi Pink Sweatshirts, helping to finance the rebuilding of Asbury Park's boardwalk, and supporting both local school supplies and products for veterans.

A Time to Praise



Every week throughout Monmouth County, individual volunteers show up on their designated mornings to help prepare or deliver meals to seniors and the disabled.

On June 24, 270 of the 600 volunteers who help serve 350,000 meals each year attended a luncheon at the Sheraton Eatontown Hotel honoring their service.

And very soon, a spirit of unity took over. As Interfaith Neighbors Associate Director Paul

McEvily called out the volunteers—grouped at their tables by the towns of their Meals-on-Wheels routes—they were no longer individuals delivering 6 or 8 or 12 meals on their own but part of the whole—Interfaith's dedicated cadre of supporters that has made an essential senior nutrition program successful.

"You're the first line of defense in seeing our seniors and how they're doing," Mike Ruane, executive director of the Monmouth County Office on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans Services, told the volunteers.

Interfaith Neighbors operates the program with federal funds that come through the county Office on Aging and Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Our volunteers help deliver meals to seniors in their homes on 78 routes plus at the following seven congregate sites: Asbury Park Senior Center, Howell Senior Center, Bayshore Senior Day Center, Keyport Senior Center, Middletown Senior Center, Neptune Senior Center and Red Bank Senior Center.

Three additional sites: the Long Branch Senior Center, Bradley Beach Center and Asbury Towers, operate as auxiliaries to our headquarters kitchen on Fourth Avenue to send meals out to residents' homes.

McEvily placed one estimate of the number of hours the volunteers work a year at 61,000, and said if they were getting paid \$15 an hour for their work, that would add up to \$915,000 of service donated annually.

Special recognition was given to Interfaith Neighbors Nutrition Director Sandi Silber, Meals on Wheels coordinator Sally Maloney, Volunteer Coordinator Diane Madsen and Development Director Catherine Wieczorek. Also singled out was Margaret Frady who volunteers in the nutrition office.

Executive Director Joe Marmora thanked the volunteers for supporting the program, the seniors and Interfaith Neighbors staff, and commended the unified effort with the county. "It takes a lot of dedication," he said.