

Kula Urban Farm Expansion

Interfaith Neighbors knows that access to nutritious food is a basic human right; but many people living in Monmouth County struggle with hunger. Our experiences during the pandemic brought many of these issues to the forefront. Every day, children go to school hungry; families are unsure where their next meal will come from; seniors have to choose between food or medicine; and families are unaware of nutrition and its importance for better health.

Building a just and equitable community demands action to improve access to healthy food, eradicate food deserts, and create educational programs that promote nutrition and healthy living. More than three-quarters of food insecure families in New Jersey are forced to choose between paying for food or housing, heat & utilities or medical care.

The Meeting the Moment Campaign will fund the

expansion of the Kula Urban Farm. Interfaith Neighbors is working with our next door neighbors, Bethel AME Church to allow the Farm to expand onto the adjacent lot. Currently, Interfaith Neighbors farms this lot with the Bethel AME youth program, with all harvest going to Bethel AME Church's food pantry. The campaign will allow Interfaith Neighbors to construct a three-season pavilion to host our educational and community workshops and Farm to Table Dinner series. The expansion will also add a catering kitchen to support the dinner series, as well as the ability to add cooking workshops to our line up. Lastly the expansion will add badly needed restroom facilities to the Farm.

The Kula Urban Farm workshops have expanded tremendously, including STEM learning programs for several area school systems and area home-school groups. Weekend and evening workshops, on a broad array of topics, draw community residents and people from across Monmouth County to the Farm to learn about healthy

living and eating, stress management, and topics such as bee keeping, making healthy foods and beverages from your garden harvests, and more. The Kula Farm continues to provide local employment opportunities and donates over 3,000 pounds of fresh produce to area feeding programs each year.



The Kula Farm Expansion will add a three-season pavilion, catering kitchen and restrooms, while continuing to farm the front of the adjacent property in partnership with Bethel AME Church.

Gannett Foundation Challenge



community food connection

Each year, Interfaith Neighbors participates in the Gannett Foundation's A Community Thrives Challenge. Nationwide, non-profits are challenged to raise funds for a project or program over a one-month period. If the minimum goal of \$6,000 is achieved, the project will move on to compete for up to a \$100,000 grant. You may recall in 2021, Interfaith Neighbors' Kula Farm Expansion project (part of the Meeting the Moment Campaign) won a \$100,000 grant!


This year, we are raising funds for the Community Food Connection. Through a collaboration of 12 area food pantries and non-profits, Interfaith Neighbors is sponsoring the purchase of fresh produce from local, family-owned NJ farmers, for 300 families weekly for a six month period.

The challenge runs from July 18th through August 12th. During that time, visit www.interfaithneighbors.org/community-food-connection/ to learn more and give!

Want to get involved at Interfaith Neighbors?
There are lots of ways you can help!

GIVE • LEARN • VOLUNTEER

To learn more about the community issues we address or for more information about volunteering, joining our team, or ways to give, visit: www.interfaithneighbors.org or call 732.775.0525.



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Interfaith Neighbors
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
July 2022

Meeting the Moment: The Campaign for Interfaith Neighbors

On May 12, 2022, Interfaith Neighbors publicly launched the *Meeting the Moment Campaign for Interfaith Neighbors*. In its 34 year history, this is the first capital campaign undertaken by Interfaith Neighbors. The campaign represents Interfaith Neighbors' bold vision to bring systemic change and investment to the underserved West Side community of Asbury Park, while strengthening our foundational programming that serves all of Monmouth County.



MEETING THE MOMENT
The Campaign for Interfaith Neighbors

The *Meeting the Moment Campaign* has an overall fundraising goal of \$18 million, which will be invested in three capital improvement projects. This campaign and the improvement projects funded are the culmination of years of strategic planning, community engagement and needs assessments. The campaign officially began raising funds in the fall of 2021. During this early "quiet phase", a Campaign Leadership Committee was established, led by Campaign Chair, Peter Cancro, founder and CEO of Jersey Mikes, and Co-Chair, Kathleen Ellis, member of Interfaith Neighbors Board of Trustees. Interfaith Neighbors engaged its Board of Trustees, the

Meeting the Moment... (continued)

Campaign Committee, long-time supporters and local philanthropic organizations to secure early, leadership gifts to the campaign.

We are pleased to share that in May, as we publicly announced the campaign to the broader community, we had secured 74% of the campaign goal or \$13.3 million in gifts and pledges. But we still have a ways to go to reach our goal. Over the next ten months, we will be reaching out to our friends and supporters inviting their participation in the campaign so we can *Meet the Moment* and contribute to positive change, focused investment and enduring improvement in the quality of life of those we serve.

Visit our website at www.interfaithneighbors.org to learn more or call 732-775-0525 ext. 220 to schedule a visit.

Marmora Family Community & Education Center

The Springwood Avenue corridor, the heart of Asbury Park’s West Side neighborhood, will be home to this innovative, state-of-the-art mixed use facility. At approximately 35,000 square feet, the Marmora Center will be a welcoming place that addresses problems, provides solutions, and helps realize the potential of all who come through its doors.

Named for Joseph J. Marmora, our founder, \$14,000,000 of the funds raised are designated to support the construction, furnishing and long-term building maintenance through an endowment for this facility. An additional \$1 million is committed to an endowment fund to support educational expenses for Interfaith Neighbors’ Launch Center program participants.

The revitalization of the Springwood Avenue corridor is one of the main elements of the West Side Neighborhood plan. Decimated during the civil

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Marmora Center... (continued)

unrest in 1970, the corridor remained a barren landscape for decades until Interfaith Neighbors built the Springwood Center in 2007, bringing the first commercial investment to the corridor in over 35 years. The Marmora Center will continue this investment with the goal of attracting private sector commercial development in the future, while centering our programming within the West Side neighborhood.



The Marmora Family & Community Center to be located at the corner of Springwood & Atkins Avenues across the street from the existing Springwood Center.

- With community in its name, the Marmora Center will serve as a resource center with:
- add 10-12 affordable rental housing units;
 - expand Interfaith Neighbors’ innovative Launch Center;
 - create a space for an affordable Early Childhood Care and Education for children 3-5 years old to help close the educational achievement gap,;
 - help strengthen financial independence with Interfaith Neighbors’ Rental & Mortgage Assistance program;
 - invest in solutions to address food insecurity with a commercial kitchen and delivery center for Meals on Wheels; and
 - relocate Interfaith Neighbors Administrative offices to the West Side neighborhood.

Early Childhood Learning Center

Every child needs and deserves a caring, nurturing start to life, with education and enrichment that form a lifelong foundation. Quality early childhood care and education benefit our children, our families - for generations - and entire communities.

Interfaith Neighbors is committed to expanding affordable, accessible early childhood education programs that further the mission of academic justice and equity, and set the stage for long-term achievement.

The Meeting the Moment Campaign will make it possible for Interfaith Neighbors to add two new Early Childhood Learning Centers to the West Side neighborhood. One, a stand-alone, newly constructed facility will serve the community’s youngest learners, serving children from the ages of three months to three years. The second center will be housed in the Marmora Center, serving children aged three years to five years. Tuition for both Centers will be based on a family’s ability to pay.



The Early Childhood Learning Center to be located on Atkins Avenue.

The Meeting the Moment Campaign goal includes \$3 million in funding for the construction and initial operations of the stand-alone Early Childhood

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Early Childhood Learning...(continued)

Learning Center, to be located on Atkins Avenue in the heart of the West Side neighborhood.

Campaign Chair, Peter Cancro, has a passion for early childhood education and challenged Interfaith Neighbors to explore and take on this important project. “We’ve got to activate learning with kids at the start, from the very beginning, before kindergarten,” said Peter Cancro, the lead funder of the new learning center at its groundbreaking in May 2022.



Chip Craig, Associate Executive Director, Paul McEvily, Executive Director, Linda Eno, Education Consultant, Tatiana Cancro, Peter Cancro, Campaign Chair, and Kerwin Webb, Education Specialist at the Groundbreaking for the Early Childhood Learning Center.

Construction on the Early Childhood Learning Center began this June and is expected to be completed in January 2023, with enrollment beginning that winter. Eventually, the school will serve up to 30 children. The educational curriculum will be based on the Montessori education model. The Center will engage parents in their child’s education and connect them to other Interfaith Neighbors programs and services.

Save the Date for the Joseph J. Marmora Golf Outing



Please save the date of Monday, September 19, 2022 and join us for Interfaith Neighbors’ annual Golf Outing at Deal Golf & Country Club. Sponsorships and foursomes are available

now! Visit www.interfaithneighbors.org/golf