

Filling in the Gaps

Meet Jason, a 56 year old man who cares for his son, a 19 year old attending college. He recently underwent emergency open-heart surgery, which caused him to fall behind on his bills.

With limited income from his job as a taxi driver and unexpected medical expenses, he was facing financial stress. Assisting Jason with two months of rent alleviated this burden, allowing him to support his son's college tuition and remain in his home.

"In many cases, elderly receiving Social Security or those ill receiving disability payments are not receiving enough to cover their bills, especially when you account for unexpected, but not uncommon, medical costs. That's where we can fill in the gaps"

*-Joan Donahue,
Program Assistant*



As rents rise, more people require assistance to remain housed, and the amount requested has increased dramatically.

Support from our friends and donors has never been so important. We thank you sincerely for your loyalty to our mission.

Holiday Gift Program

There's still time to assist families in need this Holiday Season!



Contact us to Adopt-A-Family or donate gifts, wrapping paper, or gift cards.

"We are helping real families with real stories, hopes, and challenges. Let's show compassion and create a Holiday season for them we can all be joyful about."

-Olivia Hayes, Program Assistant



Donate



Follow Us



We appreciate your continued support and welcome you to get involved!

Visit our website interfaithneighbors.org

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In 1988, seven area faith-based congregations joined together with the intent to address the growing problem of homelessness in Monmouth County, creating **Interfaith Neighbors**.



**Our late Founder,
Joe Marmorra.**

Thirty seven years later, Interfaith Neighbors continues to operate as a community-based non-profit, serving Monmouth County through a wide range of programs.

The need for Interfaith Neighbors' legacy program, **Homeless Prevention through Rental and Mortgage Assistance**, persists - in fact, the need keeps growing. Too many families, some profiled here, face the threat of eviction every day and struggle to find housing that is both safe and affordable.

Rising Rents & Need

In NJ, the **Fair Market Rent** for a **two-bedroom** apartment is **\$2,079**.



A household must earn an annual salary of **\$83,173**, which translates to an **hourly wage of \$39.99** at 40 hrs./week to afford this.



The **average hourly wage** for renters in NJ is **\$23.97**.

And this is before a family encounters financial road blocks such as car repairs, sickness, or job loss.

Before "life happens."

How We Help

"The Homeless Prevention Program has become a true beacon of hope- a place where people can turn when they have no where else to go. It was important to me when I stepped into this role to treat our clients with dignity and respect, as our neighbors."



-Natalie Jean-Baptiste, Senior Program Representative

Statistics from **Housing and Community Development Network of NJ**, 2025.

Direct from the Director

Dear Friends,

I'm a pretty positive guy, the one who tries to convince you that the glass is really half full. Maintaining that positivity has been a challenge this year as we dealt with rising inflation, headlines announcing cuts in social programs, the longest government shutdown in our nation's history, unprecedented increases in housing costs, and lingering post-pandemic fatigue.

Dark times for sure- certainly darker than any of us would like. Quite by accident, I found some much-needed perspective on hard times in a memo our Founder, Joe Marmorra, sent to staff back in September, 2001, two days after 9/11, arguably the darkest time in our nation's history. Joe's memo reads in part, "This is a time for each of us to put life in its proper perspective, to understand what is important, to remember that goodness in the world exists... In the midst of this horrific darkness, there are people like us doing unbelievable acts to help neighbors in need."

Joe's words ring true to me to this day. Many of our neighbors struggle daily to meet life's basic necessities. You'll meet a couple of them in this newsletter and hear from some of our colleagues who are "doing unbelievable acts" on behalf of their neighbors.

If you are an IFN supporter, you too are "doing unbelievable acts" to help your neighbors, and we thank you for it. If you're not yet a supporter, please consider joining us- you'll never regret it!

Wishing you a bright Holiday Season!
Paul L. McEvily
Executive Director

Real People with Real Stories

Meet Victoria and Cameron, who live together with their three children, ages 7, 7, and 11. Victoria has health problems, limiting her to part-time work as a school lunch aide. Her husband works two full-time jobs, one for over 21 years in building maintenance and the other as a year-round landscaper.

Even with their multiple jobs, the rising cost of living, combined with Victoria's health problems, makes it harder and harder for them to stay afloat.



The Homeless Prevention Program assisted this family with three months of rent over the past year to keep them in their home while they struggled to pay their monthly bills.

"My favorite part of this work is knowing I'm keeping children and families housed. These kids are our future and we need to do the best we can for them."
-Shaquela Brodie,
Program Representative

