

Leave A Legacy of Faith

A Case for Support

Interfaith Community Council Foundation, Inc.

Interfaith Community Council, Inc. (ICC) began in 1964 as the Downtown Neighborhood Council. The goal was to provide after school activities for youth in the center city of New Albany. Four churches shared in that vision and collaborated together to make this goal a reality. Through the years, depending on the existing needs in the community, programs were added, programs were changed and some programs were discontinued. Today, ICC continues to meet the needs of residents in southern Indiana through a variety of programs and services, building bridges between our churches and the community.

ICC's mission is to "partner with the faith based community to best utilize the diverse resources of the whole community to provide a vast array of excellent services and opportunities, promote social justice and enhance community development." This mission is carried out through an array of services including;

- Family Services of Interfaith – Through this program ICC offers emergency financial assistance for housing, utilities and medical needs for residents in Floyd County. ICC operates a food pantry assisting individuals and families in need with an emergency supply of food. In addition, ICC coordinates the delivery of seasonal and holiday programs like Clothe-A-Teen that offers new clothes for teens as they start school, Operation Santa Claus that offers new toys to children at Christmas, Adopt-A-Family that connects families in need with individuals and groups want to adopt a family for the holidays and our ASAP program that offers air conditioners, fans, and heaters to families with medical need. Family Services also administers four Individual Development Accounts, a savings plan for home

ownership, in conjunction with the state of Indiana. The State matches savings so families in the Own-A-Home program can save monies toward the purchase of their home.

- Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) – RSVP offers retired and senior adults an opportunity to volunteer in a variety of not-for-profit and health care settings. Many organizations and service providers need support staff but cannot add paid staff. The RSVP program takes the experience and expertise of retired and senior adults and matches it with organizations that need the same. RSVP offers retired and senior adults the opportunity to be meaningfully involved and productive contributors to organizations and services providers that desperately need their assistance. The RSVP program serves Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Jefferson and Scott counties in southern Indiana.

- Dial-A-Care – The Dial-A-Care program is a telephone reassurance program for people who are homebound or have a disability. Many of these individuals live alone and have minimal contact with others. Through Dial-A-Care, volunteers telephone these individuals on a daily basis to check on their well-being and safety. In addition, the telephone contact is a friendly voice to share a few minutes of the day with. When a volunteer cannot reach someone, he/she contacts ICC and an emergency plan of action is activated. ICC contacts the extended family and works with the family until it is ascertained that the person is well and safe. The Dial-A-Care program services Clark and Floyd counties.

- Youth Development Services – ICC is coordinating community initiatives that focus on positive youth development and asset building. Healthy youth development believes that every young person has positive traits that can be nurtured through intentional caring relationships. Churches, schools, businesses, neighborhoods, clubs, parents and others play an important role in helping young people develop. Positive development leads to a greater degree of success and

lowers the degree of probability that a young person will engage in high-risk behaviors. ICC is taking a lead role in bringing community groups together to promote positive youth development, train youth professionals and help organize programs that directly impact youth.

- Kids Café Partnership – Sunnyside Kids Café is a partnership between ICC, the New Albany Housing Authority, the New Albany Floyd County Parks and Recreation Department and Dare to Care. Children living in or around the four public housing areas in New Albany are offered a hot nutritious meal three days a week after school. Children also have the opportunity to attend the Parks and Recreation after school activities.

In providing these services, ICC is meeting the needs of children, youth and adults of all ages through a variety of services and opportunities. In addition, ICC is working with the community through collaboration and partnerships to best utilize the resources in the community to address the needs of people and provide opportunities for service. It is a core value of ICC to work with all entities and persons of good will within the community. ICC is committed to treating people with grace, compassion and dignity while addressing their needs and assisting them in reaching their highest level of self-sufficiency.

A volunteer board of Directors governs ICC. Of the fifty-two churches that support ICC, twenty-two are “member” churches. A member church designates a line item in their budget for the work of ICC. Those churches may appoint or elect a member of their church to serve on the ICC Board of Directors. In addition, the board elects up to ten at large members representing the community and often with specific expertise needed by the board. At its bi-monthly meetings, the board reviews financials, hears programs reports, approves policy and program changes and evaluates the overall progress of the agency.

Various committees assist the board of directors. These committees are comprised of board members, other volunteers and staff. The committees hone in on special tasks and projects as well as serve in an advisory capacity for their specific area of responsibility. Committees include, Executive, Finance, Board and Staff Development, Strategic Planning and Resource Development, and Facilities. In addition to standing committees, we appoint “Gorilla Group” Task Force committees to work on special events and projects.

ICC is blessed with a competent and enthusiastic staff. Working in tandem with the board of directors, full-time and part-time staff, under the direction of a full-time Executive Director, manage the services of ICC. Each program area has specific staff that are well-trained and specialized. Each of ICC’s staff has education and/or experience in their respective areas giving ICC a professional and skilled work team. Collectively, the staff has the expertise to effectively manage programs and assist clients.

ICC is located in the Holy Trinity Social Ministries building at 702 E. Market Street in historic New Albany, Indiana. This facility is the former rectory for Holy Trinity Catholic Church. In 1975, the church burned and the parish was re-located. The rectory was later dedicated for social ministries. In 1978 ICC leased the building and has remained there since.

The Holy Trinity Social Ministries building houses many of the programs and services of ICC including the administrative offices. Many groups use the facility for meetings and projects. Currently, you will find a work group of seniors sewing lap ropes and walker bags every Wednesday. The facility has undergone some renovation with the hope of doing more as funds allow. The building is assessable for people with disability.

The future of ICC is a shared vision unveiled in the Working Strategic Plan. A standing committee works diligently to ensure the Strategic Plan is relevant and being adhered to. The vision of the agency is to bridge the faith congregations with the

community to maximize resources in making the community better for all its residents. It is the intent of ICC to be proactive in assessing and addressing the community's needs.

In an effort to provide ongoing evaluation and assessment each program reports to the board of directors at its regular meetings and to the community via an Annual Report. To assist the board of directors, ICC currently has three Advisory Councils. Family Services and RSVP each have a committee of community volunteers that serves in an advisory capacity. These councils assist with planning, programming, evaluation and resource development. A representative from each of these councils serves on ICC's Board of Directors.

ICC is fortunate to have a wide variety of financial support. Many churches sponsor ICC financially with budgeted line items and/or special offerings. Metro United Way supports several of ICC's programs with funds raised from their annual campaign. The RSVP program receives a federal grant every year for continued operations. Those working with resource development continuously look for local, state, corporate and foundation grants and contracts that will assist ICC in meeting people's needs. In addition, ICC is thankful for the generous financial support of many individuals. Many, both those that believe in the mission as well as some, who have been assisted, donate to ICC for the on-going work of the agency.

Our Resource Management office manages the monies with exact detail, utilizing professional software. The board of directors has built "firewalls" and safeguards into the operations to ensure that designated funds are utilized for their intended purposes. An independent audit is conducted annually. The board of directors reviews the finances at every board meeting and works with the finance committee to ensure the best practices of financial management are adhered to. Our board treasurer is a CPA with a local firm.

Through the years, ICC has been instrumental in the development of many community initiatives and agencies. An early program of ICC, Deaf Relay, was taken over by the telephone company as a part of their service. Organized not-for-profits came

into existence with the assistance and support of ICC. Some local agencies serving people today that started with ICC assistance include Hospice of Southern Indiana, the Neighborhood Public Service Center Development Corporation (DBA: Brown Starks Neighborhood Place) and the New Albany Floyd County Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO). In addition to these agencies, several partnerships have evolved that reflect a true spirit of community collaboration. Two of these include, Hedden House (a transitional living program for women with substance abuse) and the Sunnyside Kids Café program

ICC has become has become a Rock of Gibraltar for southern Indiana. Since 1964, tens of thousands of people have been touched in one way or another. For some it is financial assistance to meet a critical need in the family or food to keep someone from going hungry. For some it is case management services linking him/her to other resources or helping to prevent homelessness. For many senior and retired adults it is an opportunity to volunteer and make a meaningful contribution to the community. For the homebound, both the frail elderly and people with disability, it is a telephone call of reassurance. To a hungry child, it is serving that child have a hot nutritious meal after school. For youth, it is leading community initiatives that promote healthy youth development and asset building. Through a cadre of programs and methods, ICC is a key part of the human service delivery system in southern Indiana.

ICC is a 501c3 not-for-profit agency, incorporated in the State of Indiana. While it has the support of fifty-two local churches of various faith traditions, ICC is an independent agency not connected to any church or denomination. ICC is committed to being an agency that exemplifies integrity. There is a strong commitment to do everything ethically, with honesty and in harmony with the agency's core values. There is a high degree of accountability in everything.

What makes ICC distinct is its connectivity to the churches and the community. ICC serves as a bridge between the two bringing together resources, both human and fiscal, to address the needs of the community and make people's lives better. ICC serves

the community and all its residents without discrimination. ICC is a model for faith-based community ministry.

In an effort to provide for the ongoing work of the agency and develop more sustainability, ICC created the Interfaith Community Council Foundation, Inc. (Foundation.) Like ICC, the Foundation is a separate independent 501c3 not-for-profit organization. The Foundation solely exists to raise and invest funds for the future ongoing work of ICC and its programs.

A separate volunteer board of directors governs the Foundation. This board governs the work of the Foundation, sets policy, conducts business related to the Foundation and disperses revenue. This board is composed of community professionals who bring expertise to the mission and work of the Foundation.

The Foundation envisions building a strong investment portfolio that will forever support ICC with a portion of the dividends. ICC currently relies on the generous donations of all its funders and donors. While the financial status of ICC is stable, the agency must confront possible change annually. Events and circumstances beyond control often impact the agency in an adverse way. Example: A downturn in the economy equates into less organizational funding available and less private donations coming in. A strong Foundation would provide a certain amount of stability and would allow the agency to strategically plan for program growth.

Donations to the ICC Foundation will be invested to receive the maximum growth while being conservative to protect the investment. The goal of the Foundation is to build a financial corpus that will generate dividends to be used for the future sustainability of the agency. The Foundation is a way for individuals, families, corporations, foundations and others to leave a legacy of faith. This kind of legacy will ensure that the work of ICC will continue for generations to come.