



2018

We're Better Together

IFC ANNUAL REPORT



Letter from the President

Hi Members and Friends of the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council,

What a year it has been! I keep looking back at all that has happened and double checking dates, sure that we couldn't have accomplished so much. But that's the truth of who you are: a diligent and dedicated network of volunteers who consistently make Fort Collins more open, more welcoming and more accessible to all who come in contact with our City. Here are some highlights from the last year.

- Adopting a new mission statement! Thank you to Secretary Michael Leonard for the great language. Interfaith Council is facilitating interfaith understanding, cooperation and action towards the greater good in our community.
- The over 200 of you who joined us at Interfaith Friendsgiving, nearly exceeding the capacity of Everyday Joes! It was a festive night with participants learning from each other about their faith and spiritual traditions.
- Accomplishing the necessary but certainly not flashy work of a by-laws revision, that better reflect our practices now and support us in being both flexible and accountable to each other.
- The 300 of you present to honor and bless our diverse community in the face of hate on CSU campus last February.
- A second round of powerful conversations led by Program Chair Elizabeth Sink at our Better Together Dinner in April. And the giving of our first Better Together Award to Neighbor 2 Neighbor, whose eagerness to creatively collaborate better serve those facing poverty in our community.
- The hundreds of you who came to grieve together and say No More after the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting late October.

There are so many more stories, that could highlight why I so love working with all of you. Instead of taking up more space with them, I encourage you all to get more involved and have your own stories to add to these. 2019 is a great year to do that! It is our 40th anniversary. So, are the faith communities and nonprofits you love members? Invite them to join. Are you on a team, helping to keep our meetings going or our memberships up to date? Join us! Have an idea of a project that Interfaith Council could start or support? We're a great incubator! Grab some friends and talk with us. I hope to see more of you all in 2019!

Thank you!
peace and blessings
Laura Nelson



Grants Team Report

During the summer of 2018, a grand total of \$9,500 was awarded in grants to the following 15 organizations:

- The Arc of Larimer County – promoting and protecting the civil rights and overall wellbeing of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Larimer County – enabling all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential.
- Catholic Charities, Larimer County – extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to the poor and those in need; serving people of all faiths, backgrounds and cultures.
- Center for Family Outreach – helping local youth and their families achieve and sustain long-term positive changes and healthy relationships.
- Crossroads Safehouse – a domestic violence services agency for victims of intimate partner abuse and their children.
- Elderhaus Adult Day Program – providing holistic and therapeutic daytime care for seniors and adults with disabilities.
- Faith Family Hospitality of Fort Collins – supporting families experiencing homelessness, with emergency and stabilizing services.
- The Family Center/La Familia – providing accessible, quality childcare, early education, support and therapeutic services for families.
- Food Bank for Larimer County – feeding all in need through community partnerships and hunger-relief programs.
- The Growing Project – promoting the value of a strong, diverse, and just local food system to all residents of Northern Colorado, through agricultural experiences, education and advocacy.
- (Fort Collins) Habitat for Humanity – bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope.
- Homeless Gear, Inc. – helping individuals and families experiencing or in jeopardy of homelessness to survive, move forward and thrive.
- Kids at Heart – supporting foster and adoptive children, establishing positive networks of support for our children and families.
- Murphy Center for Hope – a one-stop resource center providing services to individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- Northern Colorado AIDS Project (Colorado Health Network) – meeting the needs of people affected by HIV and other diseases through prevention, care and advocacy.

A special “thank you!!” goes to IFC’s member faith communities and individual members for their voluntary donations that made these grants possible. Together: Wow!

Sincerely,
Lynnette Thayer and the IFC Grants Team



Program Team Report

2018 held a great diversity of programs for the IFC. Our theme this year continued to be “We are Better Together,” and our programs reached for that ideal though exposing our membership to interfaith literacy as well as social issues that prepared us to be advocates for those underserved in our communities. This spring the IFC also was fortunate to have its first CSU intern, Mahalia Henshel, who helped us transition our membership roster to a new platform and streamline many online technical procedures.

We began our year with a panel of Buddhist practitioners at Har Shalom Temple, who offered us a variety of entry points into one of the oldest religious traditions on our planet. In February, after rescheduling due to a blizzard, our Annual potluck breakfast was hosted by 1st Presbyterian Church, in February, where we learned about the McBackpack program and set our theme for the year. In March of 2017, we learned about Foothills Gateway program, while being hosted at Plymouth Congregational Church. In April, Community of Christ hosted our annual dinner (for the second year in a row), where we all pitched, pot-luck style, cracked open some “spiritual play-doh,” and spent some time in dialogue with one another. The event continued to be quite a success, and was attended by over 100 people.

In May, we were hosted by the city and learned important information from both the City of Fort Collins Sustainability Services - Climate Action and the Fort Collins Utilities Payment Assistance Fund. In June, our LDS friends hosted us as we learned about the Baha'I tradition, from an impressive intergenerational panel. In July, 1st United Methodist hosted our Annual Business meeting, where the programming team (of 15 members) began to populate the 2019 program calendar. Great collaborative brainstorming took place during that meeting, which resulted in a fabulous schedule for the coming year.

In September, our membership received a presentation for the Suicide Prevention and Awareness Team at SummitStone Health Partners, hosted by The Heart of the Rockies. October brought us back to the City building to learn about the Restorative Justice program. The team even brought in volunteers who had been with the program for over 15 years, to talk about the program's impact on them, the youth it serves, and our greater community.

In November, we celebrated the 501st Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation at Trinity Lutheran Church, as we marked a very special occasion: the Interfaith partnership of Trinity Lutheran, Mary of Magdala Catholic Community, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, under one roof for 1 year. We heard from a panel of faith and lay leaders who spoke to the experience of sharing space. We also participated in our annual Blood Bonds blood drive.

In December, we came back to the LDS Church and joined in an inspiring Panel and Discussion with a religious/nonreligiously diverse group of college-age practitioners who spoke about everyday practice of their beliefs. We also received an update about the Launching Leaders Organization, and were excited to hear about a local chapter beginning in Fort Collins.



Treasurer's Report

ADMINISTRATIVE: 2018 began with a balance of \$751. Income was \$1,685 from Faith Communities / individuals (dues and contributions). This amounted to \$2,436 Administrative assets for 2018.

Annual expenses were \$1,055. \$1,382 is being carried over to 2019 Administration.

GRANTS: The year began with \$1,075 carry over from 2017. Donations from Free Will Offerings and Faith Communities amounted to \$9,494. Donations of \$620 at the Annual Recognition Dinner were applied to Grants. The total amount available for disbursement to Service Organizations was \$11,189. In July, a total of \$9,500 was disbursed to 15 Service Organizations.

\$1,689 is being carried over to 2019 Grants.

Respectfully submitted, Keith Black Treasurer

Communications Team Report

I attended my first Interfaith Council meeting in August of 2013, and on the same day was nominated to be the Communications Chair. In years that I have been here, I have been honored to have incredibly talented, committed individuals serve IFC by managing the E-Bulletin (Gordon Thayer, previously Gloria Kat), as well as the Roster (Dale Grit.) We were also tasked with updating the look and feel of the Interfaith Council website, as well as providing new print materials and brochures, Annual Reports, and more for the membership. I am proud to say that we have done so, and created some dynamic electronic resources that allow us to better communicate the mission of IFC, as well as to promote the great work that we do in the community.

With the website updated and the Facebook page properly moderated, we felt it made sense to roll up the Communications Team into a dual-purpose, outward-facing committee that partners with the Programs Team. In 2019, we will make that transition and I will pass the communications "baton" to the next leader. I appreciate the opportunity to serve and I'm excited to see what is accomplished by this new wave of leadership!

Respectfully,
Alex Statham-Lardner (Communications Chair)