

A large, abstract watercolor splash in shades of blue and purple, centered on the page. The splash has a soft, textured appearance with varying intensities of color, creating a sense of movement and depth. The text is overlaid on this splash.

better together.

2017 Annual Report
Fort Collins Interfaith Council

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www.fortcollinsinterfaith.org

letter from the president

Happy 2018 Friends and Members of the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council!

Once again, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your President for this second year of my term. And what a year it's been! I'll share some of my own highlights but please read through the rest of our annual report to see the fullness of our work together this year. In 2017 we took on the theme of being Better Together, something that I believe you all have truly embodied this year. Your work has made me so proud, and here are a few highlights:

- Your flexibility in our last minute meeting cancellation for January's meeting, and a great turnout nonetheless a week later.
- The powerful conversations that were had at table during our re-annual dinner. These deeper conversations about our own religious backgrounds, and how we can use them to build bridges not walls. We also got to see a great video about an imam and a rabbi who are bringing their young adults together for service trips. I always appreciate getting to see the larger network that our work fits into.
- The ring, over 1,000 strong, that we stood around the mosque the morning after they were vandalized; for the banners and the singing; for the commitment and joy with which you showed up for our friends and neighbors.
- The \$11,000 in grants that we got to share with 13 local organizations!
- Our December meeting, graciously hosted by the Fort Collins Stake of the LDS Church, and where we received an update of one of our projects that went live a few weeks ago! What better way to show our commitment to being Better Together than to open our houses, to build more connected and sustainable lives right now.
- And finally, with the welcome you show to my twin boys every time they join me at Interfaith Council. From playing pass-the-baby to chase-the-toddler, you all continue to demonstrate the Better Together is not just about our many faith traditions but about our ages and life situations as well. You are an organization that supports members during all walks of life. Thank you!

The energy continues in 2018, so I hope you will join us and get more involved. If you attend and do not yet sit on a team, join one. Do you have a friend who is part of a community that is not a member? Invite them! Do you have an idea that we might be able to help with? Talk to us. And, as we look out nationally and locally, let's make sure all parts of the Fort Collins Area hear this commitment from us. We are Better Together!

Blessings and Peace,

Laura

affordable housing/ joseph moore

I continue to be so very grateful for the work of the Ft. Collins Interfaith Council. You are an active bunch!

In late 2017 the Home Share Larimer County program officially launched its volunteer outreach. It was wonderful to see so many members of the IFC at the volunteer outreach training at the Harmony Library. As Neighbor-to-Neighbor launches the public component in early 2018 there will undoubtedly be opportunity to continue to get the word out about the program as we seek to help make Ft. Collins and Larimer County the safe and affordable place we all know it can be.

I am excited for the work the Executive Committee is doing to refine our by-laws and to re-examine our mission as, together, we work for a community in which we listen to and learn from one another. The IFC is on the move and I'm so grateful for the wonderful people who make all of this possible!

programs/ elizabeth sink

2017 held a great diversity of programs for the IFC. Our theme this year was "We are Better Together." We began our year with a presentation from "SAFY of Colorado," where we learned of foster homes in Northern Colorado. Our Annual potluck breakfast was hosted by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, in February, where (despite the blizzard) we polled the sizable membership to see what you all wanted to co-create in the coming year. The inspiration for our first ever pot-luck style annual dinner got under way.

In March of 2017, we learned about Project Self-Sufficiency, while being hosted at the Boys and Girls Club.

In April, Community of Christ hosted our annual dinner, where we all pitched in, pot-luck style, watched a brief interfaith documentary, and spent some time in dialogue with one another. The event was quite a success, and the executive team has decided to proceed in the same style for 2018.

In May, we put on our hard hats and joined forces to bless the land down at Habitat for Humanity's newest site, The Harmony Cottages. And in June, several of us were able to walk the labyrinth and learn more about Pathways Hospice.

In September, we got a lesson in regarding the current Interfaith Movement, and learned about how the Theologian in Residence Program has now evolved into the World Wisdoms Project. In October, we learned about the Fort Collins Police strategies as they work together with several local nonprofits to help those who are housing-insecure to find more stability. In November, we heard a presentation called "Working Together To Build a Sustainable, Renewable Future," from Dr. John Fitch. And we ended off our year hearing from Neighbor-to-Neighbor / HPI/ Partnership for Age-Friendly Communities, regarding the newest brainchild of the IFC, the Shared Housing Initiative.

Please join us this year, in 2018, as we begin to spend some programming efforts highlighting two belief traditions: Buddhism and Baha'i.

communications/ alex statham-lardner

The communications team often works in the background, but our goal is to keep our membership informed of upcoming meetings and community happenings. We are excited to work with an incoming intern for the spring semester and utilize her skills to create original interfaith content that will be available on the website! We look forward to the opportunity to contribute content that will increase interfaith understanding within our membership.

grants / lynette thayer

In July 2017 the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council gave a grand total of \$11,000 in grants to the following 501c3 organizations. IFC's grant money comes from its faith communities who generously give money to IFC. These donations are then distributed among non-profit (501c3) organizations in Fort Collins. Our collective \$11,000 went a long way to help many people in need in Fort Collins! Thank you for your generosity, Fort Collins faith communities!

IFC 2017 Grant Recipients:

Boys and Girls Clubs

ChildSafe

Crossroads Safehouse

Dance Express

Disabled Resource Services

Elderhaus Adult Day Program

The Family Center (La Familia)

Food Bank for Larimer County

Kids At Heart

Northern Colorado AIDS Project

Project Self-Sufficiency

Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center

Voices Carry Child Advocacy Center

treasurer's report / keith black

ADMINISTRATIVE:

2017 began with a balance of \$860. Income was \$1,410 from Faith Communities / individuals (dues and contributions). This amounted to \$2270 Administrative assets for 2017.

Annual expenses were \$1518.

\$752 is being carried over to 2018 Administration.

GRANTS:

The year began with \$3042 carry over from 2016. Donations from Faith Communities amounted to \$8669. Donations of \$364 at the Annual Recognition Dinner were applied to Grants. The total amount available for disbursement to Service Organizations was \$12075.

In July, a total of \$11000 was disbursed to 13 Service Organizations.

\$1075 is being carried over to 2018 Grants.