



Fort Collins Interfaith Council

Annual Report

2016



President's Post:

2016 was a wild ride for the Fort Collins Area Intefaitth Council. It has been an honor to follow Rich Thompson after his amazing 6 years of leadership for our organization. And I am so grateful to you all for your support during my maternity leave, and how you have welcomed Micah and Morgan to our meetings as IFC's youngest members. I'm especially grateful for the eloquent and generous leadership of my Joseph Moore as he served as Acting President for much of the year.

2016 has had some great highlights, that are shared a little more fully in the rest of our report so please keep reading. Many thanks to Elizabeth Sink and the Program team for amazing programs, our April annual dinner, and especially the food insecurity panel in September. What a powerful conversation about both the challenges we face feeding our community and possible solutions. A great big thank you to Joyce Trujillo and the interfaith KEY students at CSU who helped the Museum of Discovery finish our Celebrations of light video exhibit displayed this year. Enduring gratitude to Keith Black who diligently provides us with the financial information we need to make prudent decisions. Enthusiastic thanks to Alex Statham and our Communications Team, who keep our online presence relevant and engaging, and help us stay connected with you. Abundant gratitude to Lynette Thayer and our Grants Team for their thoughtful review and selection of our grant recipients. And finally many tearful thanks to Olga Duvall whose meeting minutes have been thorough and a gift to any of us who missed meetings. We will miss you as our Secretary!

When I look at our leaders and members, I heartened and committed to the work we have in front of us. As an organization we have always known that we are better together, better organized, better aware of each other's needs, better able to face celebrations and challenges in Northern Colorado and around the world. I look forward to deepening that experience this year.

In peace and hope,

Laura Nelson



History Team:

In December 2015 the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, in partnership with the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council produced an exhibit/video which featured the diverse ways the winter holidays are celebrated in our community. The Celebration of Lights video and artifacts exhibit was completed in December 2016 and was featured in the FCMoD lobby through January 2017.

The video included the following events:

- Islamic Center of Fort Collins (Candlelight Vigil and Islamic Prayer)
- Northern Colorado Covenant of the River (Yule Celebration)
- Heart of the Rockies Christian Church (Beers and Hymns and Christmas Eve Service)
- Fort Collins Shambhala Meditation Center (Children's Celebration)
- Fort Collins Interfaith Council (Thanksgiving Dinner)
- Chabad of Northern Colorado (Menorah Lighting and Chanukah Celebration)



Treasurer's Report:

ADMINISTRATIVE:

2016 began with a balance of \$1,748. Income was \$1,650 from Faith Communities (dues) and a \$500 donation from Thrivent Financial to help fund the Annual Recognition Dinner. This amounted to \$3,898 Administrative assets for 2016.

Annual expenses were \$3038.

\$860 is being carried over to 2017 Administration.

GRANTS:

The year began with \$342 carry over from 2015. Donations from Faith Communities amounted to \$9280 plus \$50 from a private donor. Donations of \$1,100 at the Annual Recognition Dinner were applied to Grants. The total amount available for disbursement to Service Organizations was \$10,772. In July, a total of \$7,730 was disbursed to 17 Service Organizations.

\$3,042 is being carried over to 2017 Grants.



Program Team:

2016's theme = Finding Local Solutions to Food Insecurity

In 2016, we began our year by gathering at Unity church for a presentation on Climate change from Scott Denning and Interfaith Power and Light. Our potluck and annual meeting was hosted at Peak Community church, where we "sweatered" Rich Thompson and dubbed him with official Emeritus status. In March of 2016, we were updated on Faith Family Hospitality at Foothills Unitarian, and had a wonderful awards dinner at 1st Methodist, with Rabbi Shoshanna Leis as our keynote speaker. In May, our meeting concerned the ballot measure, "Colorado Care," hosted at the Islamic Center, and in June, we visited the LDS meeting house and learned more about that rich tradition. In July, we met at 1st Presbyterian for our business meeting. September held our "big event" for the year our Food Insecurity panel and resource fair, which was a huge success. We were hosted by Crossroads Safehouse in October, and gained a deeper understanding of food insecurity in Larimer county from the Food Banks reps at our meeting at Har Shalom in November. Our annual blood drive happened in December this year, and was hosted by Heart of the Rockies.



COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS TO FOOD INSECURITY

Community of Christ Church:
220 E. Oak St.
September 1st, 9am-12pm

PANELISTS AND RESOURCE FAIR INCLUDE:
Food Bank for Larimer County, Rams Organizing for Animal Rights,
CSU College of Agricultural Sciences, FoCo Cafe, Feeding the
Families, McBackpack, Murphy Center, and others.

Lunch provided by Kid's Cafe following the panel/resource fair.

Sponsored by the Ft. Collins Interfaith Council



Grants Team:

In 2016 the IFC Grants Team distributed a total of **\$7,730** to **17** non-profit entities. All funds were distributed in July. Funds for the grants came from money given to IFC by member faith communities. Non-profit agencies receiving grants in 2016 were:

- Boys and Girls Clubs of Larimer County
- The Center for Family Outreach
- ChildSafe Colorado, Inc.
- Crossroads Safehouse
- Elderhaus Adult Day Program, Inc.
- Faith Family Hospitality
- FoCo Café (Feeding Our Community Ourselves, Inc.)
- Food Bank for Larimer County
- Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity
- The Growing Project
- Homelessness Prevention Initiative (HPI)
- La Familia/The Family Center
- The Matthews House
- Murphy Center for Hope (Community Foundation of Northern Colorado to Benefit the)
- Project Self-Sufficiency
- SAINT (Senior Alternatives in Transportation)
- Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center



Communications Team:

The Communications Team continues to work behind the scenes (or screens —get it?) to keep members in the loop about upcoming events and meetings. We were very fortunate to recruit Gordon in 2016 as the new editor of our monthly e-bulletin! He has done a fantastic job. Between Facebook, the website, the e-bulletin, maintaining the roster and the IFC email account we have all stayed very busy and are grateful for the opportunity to serve. As a reminder, if you would like to have an event or item featured in our e-bulletin, please email all of the relevant content and images to fortcollinsinterfaith@gmail.com by the 10th of each month.



Affordable Housing Committee:

In late 2015 the IFC decided to narrow down our affordable housing focus to looking at a shared housing emphasis. IFC Vice President Joseph Moore joined a community task force working to launch a pilot trial for shared housing focused in seniors. The task force saw an opportunity to partner with Neighbor to Neighbor in launching a pilot. We anticipate that the pilot will launch sometime in late 2017, and we fully anticipate a significant role for the IFC in making the pilot a success. Housing isn't getting any cheaper or more plentiful in Ft. Collins, and we know our work is just beginning in helping to make this a community it's in which all of us have safe and affordable places to live.

