



BECAUSE TOGETHER, WE CAN

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Courtney Hall

As we began our holiday fundraising campaign, we are reminded of the deep trust you have placed in us and the generosity you have shown to our neighbors in need.

It is through your volunteer efforts and donations that we are able to deliver personalized, integrated, responsive, and inclusive services to more than 35,000 clients each year.

The impact you provide is lasting.

It gives thousands of our neighbors faith that they are not alone. When they needed us, we were present to

HIGHLIGHTS

IW Voices

In the Spotlight:
Maggie Guzman

November News

Upcoming Events

Impact by the Numbers
(as of Fiscal Year 2022)

extend a hand, help them regain their voice, and see them for who they are: parents, children, siblings, and friends.

As demonstrated through the stories of Maggie Guzman, Risa Dalos, and many others, **the power of your support has not only helped our clients rebuild their lives; it has given them resolve that they, too, can make a difference for their families and our community.**



IW VOICES

"Many will need our support from employment, food and energy security, to housing. The way forward is to continue working together with IW and to invite others to join." – Hettie Fleming, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of Rockville member

"IW helped me pick up the pieces, so I can start making myself whole again." – An IW Vocational Services Program Client

"MOSS Building & Design partners with organizations to create positive change in communities. Through IW, we provide welcome kits, support volunteers, donate clothing, or help with sponsorships because our long-term collaboration is beneficial to our mission, and more importantly, to those who benefit from the great work that IW does." – Jenn Zschunke, Director, Customer Experience and Community Relations, MOSS Building & Design

Words cannot adequately describe how grateful we are for your enduring support of our mission---to provide vital services and a pathway to greater stability.

Our holiday campaign, "Because Together, We Can" will continue through December 31, 2022. We ask that you support our work with a financial gift and spread the word by encouraging others to do the same.

Together, we can make a difference for thousands in Montgomery County.

To know more about the life-changing impacts of your donations, **[see here](#)**.

To donate, **[click here](#)**.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

As we roll out our “Because Together, We Can” campaign, we are highlighting the transformative impact of your donations through the years. Maggie Guzman,¹ is one of thousands who rebuilt her life because of your open and generous hearts. Read how she is now paying forward the kindness she received from her Montgomery County neighbors.

GIVING BACK, AFTER BEING GIVEN²

“I did not know anything about homelessness until I became homeless myself.”

So begins the story of Maggie Guzman, a first-generation immigrant who arrived in the United States with her mother and three siblings. Bright, witty, and full of dreams, she worked hard to carve out a career in the IT and pharmaceutical industries, as well as start a fitness and coaching business.

To anyone who knew her, she exemplified the American dream until her world fell apart in 2020.

Following a lapse in judgment, Maggie found herself—for the first time—unemployed, with a criminal record, and without proof of her legal status in a country that had been her home for 46 years. With nothing left to her name other than a bag of clothes, Maggie entered the



doors of Interfaith Works’ (IW) Women’s Center.

“It was a very dark time. I was mentally drained. Physically exhausted. Financially destroyed.”

In the midst of her suffering, Ruth Vargas, an IW case manager, was assigned to her case.

Ruth helped Maggie access counseling care and government resources to secure proof of her green card status. Ruth also connected her to a vocational counselor from IW's Vocational Services Program, while other IW staff provided additional support.



“IW walked the journey with me,” Maggie relayed. “Case workers gave me career advice and helped me through the re-application of my green card. Supriya Pandit prayed with me through my worst moments and Samantha Cheakalos was my biggest cheerleader. She always had a ready smile and encouraged me not to not give up.”

Maggie's road was not easy. The pandemic delayed the processing of her green card and her job applications were rejected. The few companies that offered employment were interim options at best. These left Maggie with not enough means to resume an independent life.

Throughout all of these challenges, the IW team continued to work alongside Maggie.

As she grew stronger, she made it her mission to give back. Maggie helped keep the IW Women's Center clean, volunteered for group activities, and buoyed the spirits of those who were living with depression and drug addiction, while working on herself to get her life on track.

And with perseverance, it came. In March 2022, Maggie got a job with a commercial real estate company, where she was promoted to a full-time position in three months. She now rents a small bedroom decorated with photos of people she holds dear to her heart. In time—after saving enough—she plans to purchase a second-hand vehicle to make her commute more accessible.

“Each day, I keep working to be a better person, worker, and member of society. I am giving back in any way I can because at one point in my life, I was blessed by others.” ■

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- 1 IW protects and respects the privacy of its clients. Maggie Guzman is a pseudonym.
 - 2 The story was redacted for brevity. For the full feature, please [click here](#).

NOVEMBER NEWS

THANKS TO YOU,
WE DID IT!

Giving Tuesday



IAW
INTERFAITH WORKS
IVV
50 YEARS OF SERVICE

"Giving Tuesday" campaign raised \$31,672 from 97 donors. With support from family members, partners, and friends, IW reached its target at the close of November 29. The fundraising activity is considered IW's most successful "Giving Tuesday" campaign to date, in part due to the matched donation of \$15,000 by a generous IW donor. The proceeds will go to meet the emergency needs of IW clients across its 11 programs.

IW New Leaf Shelter opened on November 28. In partnership with the Montgomery County Government's Services to End and Prevent Homelessness, the low-barrier and 30-bed emergency shelter serving adults of all genders opened its doors on Monday. "We are dedicated to providing a place of safety and respect for everyone, so our clients can chart a path towards stability with dignity," Kathryn Guzzey, Program Director of IW New Leaf Shelter, said. Donations of essential items, meal program pledges, and volunteer opportunities continue to be welcomed. [See more.](#)



IW builds stronger partnerships. IW leaders warmly welcomed Bill Tompkins, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation of Maryland, on November 8 at the IW Essential Needs Center on Twinbrook Parkway.

In addition, members from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Montgomery County and the Hispanic Business Foundation of Maryland toured the same facility on November 18. The two visits included a discussion on IW's various programs. Such exchanges are regular activities at IW, so to be of better service to our 35,000 clients.



“Because Together, We Can” campaign starts. IW extends its deepest gratitude to supporters who have donated to the annual campaign, which will close on December 31. The initiative—which is also promoted through IW’s website and social media platforms—features donor, partner, and client stories and quotes to demonstrate the transformative impact of previous donations. Funds collected during the two-month period will be directed to IW’s programs and operations. **See more.**



IW, community and faith leaders reaffirm commitment to serve together. “IW has put faith into action to help most of our vulnerable community,” United States Senator Chris Van Hollen said at the IW Annual Faith Community Meeting. About 111 other community and faith leaders echoed the sentiment as they celebrated their partnership with IW and pledged continued partnership on November 1 at the Washington DC Temple Visitors’ Center in Kensington. **See more.**



Kaldi’s Social House joined the IW Restaurant Fundraiser series. Tsega Haile, owner of Kaldi’s Social House in Silver Spring, stated, “this is a great cause” in describing IW’s work in addressing homelessness and poverty. Funds raised on November 12 will support IW’s 11 programs. **See more.**



IW awarded \$10,000 by WLR Automotive Group. With over 63,000 votes from supporters, IW took home the first prize from the “Share Your Love” campaign. The initiative was launched to celebrate WLR Automotive Group’s 35th anniversary and recognize leading nonprofits in the area. The funds will go to IW’s programs. **See more.**



Passionate advocates of community empowerment join IW Board. Carla Merritt and Bobbi Montoya, leaders in the fields of real estate and financial management, respectively, recently joined the IW Board. As part of the 16-member body, Ms. Merritt and Ms. Montoya will serve as ambassadors to help bridge more partnerships and opportunities for the non-profit organization to push forward its mission of building pathways to stability. For the background of our IW leaders, [see here](#).



Annual IW "Holiday Giving" Campaign starts. Gift cards, food, winter clothing, and other essential items are accepted at IW facilities starting in November 2022. With this initiative, IW hopes to collect more donations to help make the holidays more meaningful and cheerful for our clients. [See more](#).

DONATE AND VOLUNTEER

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CONTACT US

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VISIT US

-  [interfaithworks](#)
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UPCOMING EVENT

DEC 3

IW Fundraiser: Holiday Boutique
 Hosted by the Woman's Club of Bethesda ([See here](#))

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

as of Fiscal Year 2022



35,000 MoCo residents served annually



1.85 million pounds of food distributed



1,116 people provided shelter and meals



101 people secured employment



7,582 people received clothing and other household items



469 households accessed emergency rental and utility support