Dear Friend,

The annual Point in Time (PIT) report was recently released, and the news is distressing for our community: 1,144 people in Montgomery County are living outside or in a shelter. This is a 28-percent increase over last year’s shocking number of 894 people. There are other concerning spikes, including a 47-percent increase in family households (269 in 2023 to 396 this year).

Sadly, those of us serving this community are not surprised.

Why? For the past two years, we have been observing and responding as a tragic confluence of factors pushes more people into economic instability. Pandemic assistance programs have gone away, against a backdrop of skyrocketing rents and food prices. The exorbitantly expensive housing market remains the most destabilizing factor to the individuals and families in our community. The PIT report, issued by the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, notes that renters have long faced affordability challenges, but current conditions are “the worst on record.”
REMEMBERING AND HONORING THOSE WE LOST

On June 13, Montgomery County and its partners honored the 62 people who passed away in the last year who were living in Montgomery County Continuum of Care programs. Of these individuals, 50 lived in housing, 12 were experiencing active homelessness, and 2 were unsheltered. Interfaith Works honored several individuals who lived and belonged in our neighborhoods. We are grateful to be in a community that cares so much about all of our neighbors, especially those who are experiencing vulnerability. Thank you to the many IW staff members who helped us remember these members of our community. We are grateful for those who trusted us to support them at the end of their lives.

May they all remain in our memories.

LET’S CELEBRATE PRIDE

This month and every month, we are working to create a more inclusive safety net for the entirety of our MoCo neighbors. Everyone deserves the safety and stability to be their most authentic selves, so we will continue to work on prioritizing the safety of all our clients, including our LGBTQ+ clients throughout our programs. From expanding our definition of family for Community Supportive Housing to encouraging pronoun usage in emails, we are embracing a more inclusive workplace for both our clients and staff. We wish everyone a happy PRIDE and promise to continue to challenge ourselves and our neighbors to make Montgomery County inclusive and welcoming.

BY THE NUMBERS

39,329

Bed Nights

FY23 data

In FY23, IW provided 39,329 bed nights across all IW shelters for our clients.
GRATITUDE

“HAVE YOU SEEN TERI?” DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE

IW was proud to host the May Community Conversation on Mental Health, with the premiere screening and discussion of the documentary “Have You Seen Teri?” by filmmaker Dene Chinn. The movie centers around the filmmaker’s search for her estranged aunt whose family has not seen or heard from in decades. The search evolves into robust and important discussions around the intersection of experiencing homelessness, race, mental health, and the experiences of women of color.

Thank you to everyone who came out to watch the film and engage in a lively and educational discussion. We hope to continue sharing the experiences of our neighbors and advocating for the betterment of all those in our community. To learn more about this moving film and where you can see a showing, follow the link below.

LEARN MORE HERE

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Juneteenth celebrates the date of June 19, 1865, when enslaved people of African descent in Galveston, TX, finally learned of their freedom from slavery in the US, over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed.

Interfaith Works closed our offices in honor of Juneteenth and this day to celebrate, reflect and learn. We must recognize how far we have come as a nation while acknowledging how much further we still need to go.

The Scotland Community - a historically Black community founded in the 1800s in Potomac, MD, hosted its Annual Scotland Community Juneteenth Heritage Festival. This event allowed us to come together with our community to learn and celebrate.

GREATER SILVER SPRING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

Interfaith Works was honored to be named the Silver Medalist Winner at the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit of the Year Award ceremony.

Thank you for this incredible recognition of the work we do to serve our neighbors at Progress Place!
UPCOMING EVENTS

PRIDE IN THE PLAZA

Join us for Pride in the Plaza in Silver Spring. We will be sharing information about our programs and ways to get involved in our work. We hope to see you there!

**Event Details:**
June 30, 2024 - 12pm to 8pm
Veterans Plaza
1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910

SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Join us for the September Community Conversation. IW will host the much-anticipated part 2 of our discussion on Affordable Housing in Montgomery County.

September 26, 2024 - 7:00pm-9:00pm
My MC Media Studios
7548 Standish Place Rockville, MD 20855

REGISTER HERE

Want to see what else IW is up to? Click below to see more!

EVENTS CALENDAR

BE ON THE LOOKOUT!
BACK TO SCHOOL 2024

It’s hard to believe, but we are already preparing to help our community during the back-to-school season!

Stay connected with us to learn ways you can support families later this summer. There will be plenty of opportunities to donate and volunteer.

Stay tuned!

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www.iworksmc.org

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