



Interfaith Outreach Home (IOH)

FALL 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Letter from the Executive Director
- Special Needs
- An IOH Story
- Many Thanks

Interfaith Outreach Home

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A Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends:

I hope you had a restful summer with family and friends despite the record temperatures. The families of Interfaith Outreach Home were busy — adults worked and attended school while the children spent happy days in day care and summer camp programs, each submerged in their own recovery.

Recovery can be a slow and arduous process and each milestone deserves recognition and celebration. The families of Interfaith Outreach Home are committed to doing their first works over and in some cases, for the first time, to solidify the future for themselves and their children.

Although the experience of learning that the former executive director did not live up to his commitment and responsibility to the residents and to you, our supporters was disheartening, we as an agency are also committed to a full recovery. The governing board of directors has implemented new and restrictive financial controls, a full audit is in process and the case against the former director awaits indictment with the DeKalb County grand jury. We have willingly submitted to days of scrutiny by government funders and are in good standing with all of them.

Through your support, Interfaith Outreach Home remains a place where hundreds of families, for nearly two decades, have recovered, restored and rebuilt. It is through their strength and perseverance that we are inspired to forge ahead but we cannot do what we do without you.

Please, now more than ever, we need your prayers and your financial support.

Thank you in advance,
Deborah Walker-Little
Executive Director

Special Needs

The residents of IOH are able to access our on-site pantries to meet the needs for their families and to assist them with keeping in line with savings goals. Some of the most pressing needs are:

Toilet paper
Paper towels
Bath and facial soap
Liquid disinfectants
Laundry detergent
Kitchen garbage bags (13-gallon size)
Large garbage bags (33-gallon size)
Size 3, 4 & 5 diapers
Light bulbs (60w & 100w)

Cooking Oil (preferably olive, canola, or vegetable)
White Rice
Brown Rice
Canned / bottled non-refrigerated juice
Canned fruit
Canned tomatoes
Crackers (e.g. Saltines, Ritz crackers)
After-school snacks (low-sodium, nonperishable snacks suitable for children)

IOH Experience... Still Life Changing

“The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen.”

- Frank Lloyd Wright

When Maria came to IOH back in the summer of 2009, she had hopes of starting over and building a new life for herself and her twin girls. Maria believed that her daughters had seen too much in their short nine years and was determined to make things better if she could. She had been battered all of her married life and her girls were no strangers to all the terrors that accompany the life of the battered.

The night before, Maria’s husband drove her from their home slashing in the darkness with a machete and declaring that she would not live to see day break.

Maria huddled in the woods all night, naked and cold and too afraid to approach

the house where her girls cried, convinced that their mother was dead. When she finally heard the engine start in his truck the next morning, she went back to the house, gathered her girls and what their hands could hold and started looking for a way out of her situation. Her search, lead her to IOH.

During the assessment it was apparent that she was not working with much income – her net pay just \$850 per month. It was explained that the program fee (\$150) and mandatory savings (\$500) totaled \$650 each month leaving her just \$200 to provide for her family’s other needs. She pled for the opportunity and began the program. In a week’s time, Maria found a second job and eventually

a third. The close knit community at IOH rallied around the family, making them feel safe. Neighbors listened out for the girls when Maria was working at night and left a plate of food for her when she finally made it home weary.

Maria saved each month, first \$500, then a \$1000 and finally \$1200. A local legal support assisted her in divorcing her batterer. The family participated in mental health therapy. The girls went from elementary to middle school as straight A students.

This family graduated from the program in July with \$17,800 in savings, the keys to a new home, and the start to a new life.



Thanks...

The governing board of directors, staff and especially the families of IOH thank you for your prayers, financial and in-kind donations, days of service and all that you do in support of recovering families.