

Nonprofit Chamber of Services
Nonprofit of the Week

This series has been established with the intent of increasing awareness of the many causes and efforts taken on by our nonprofit brethren. If your nonprofit has a particular event taking place during the course of a week, an anniversary for example, please make this known and we will do all possible to accommodate a spotlight that coincides. On behalf of our membership, we wish to say “thank you” for taking a few moments from your busy schedule to learn a bit more about our community of nonprofits.

“I want to provide a good Christmas dinner for my family and not macaroni and cheese.” These are the words of one of the mothers of the over 5,000 children Inter-Faith Ministries (IFM) anticipates serving this year. IFM’s holiday season assistance program, Operation Holiday will provide close to 3,500 families with food and vouchers, blankets, warm coats, and a Christmas tree this holiday season. Families assisted by Operation Holiday will also receive assistance from the United States Marine Corps’ *Toys For Tots* program.

Established in 1885 as a charitable coalition of local protestant churches, IFM has become a diverse faith-based organization that has over a century of experience in gathering congregations together in unified service for community change and understanding.

IFM’s mission is “...to build inter-religious understanding, promote justice, relieve misery and reconcile the estranged.” With the support of their Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, IFM currently supports an array of community-based, mission-driven programs, as well as an international program. On December 21st, IFM will be hosting its’ annual Memorial Service and Sleepout in an effort to raise awareness and funds to assist homeless individuals throughout Wichita. The event will include a memorial service for the homeless individuals who died during 2005. “Sleepouters” will spend the night armed only with their sleeping bags, hats, mittens and cardboard boxes – to experience what a night of homelessness truly feels like.

According the Sam Muyskens, Executive Director of IFM, there are important community values that the inter-religious community holds in common and it is these values that “drive people of faith into action.” During Sam’s thirteen years as Director, IFM has grown to include congregations from the Jewish, Bahi’, Buddhist, Muslim, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Christians.

For more information on Inter-Faith Ministries’ Operation Holiday or any of the other programs sponsored by IFM, please visit their website at www.ifmnet.org or give them a call at 316.264.9303.