

**FORT COLLINS AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL  
2007 ANNUAL REPORT**

**From the President:**

My most sincere compliments and thanks to the many organizations and individuals who contribute to the success of our Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council. To find their names and data, go to our web page [ftcollinsinterfaithcouncil.org](http://ftcollinsinterfaithcouncil.org). My deepest appreciation goes out to these amazing people.

Thanks also to the participants in our Programs and to the churches and affiliates who hosted our meetings during the year: St. Paul's Episcopal, Harmony Presbyterian, American Baptist, Catholic Charities Northern, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Food Bank for Larimer County, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Community of Christ, Foothills Unitarian, Larimer Center for Mental Health, Heart of the Rockies Church, and Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church.

Besides Programs and Reports, during the year 2007 we contributed numerous cash awards to vital needs and worthy causes in our Fort Collins, as the Team reports show.

Further, we consciously tried to REACH OUT to other activities and involvements:

- Became a Sponsor of Interfaith Dialogue, KRFC 88.9 radio discussion of faith-related issues, hosted on Thursdays at 6 p.m. by Richard Thompson of Plymouth Congregational Church.
- Studied and implemented on an exploratory basis a housing assistance mentoring-program.
- Co-sponsored, along with fourteen other religious/community organizations, the International Hour For Peace, held at 5 a.m. on December 31 at John XXIII University Center, simultaneously with world-wide participants meeting at precisely the same "Hour for Peace."
- Participated in the Humanitarian Canning program, as in the Food Team Report.
- Established and improved a systematic monthly Newsletter, available and sent to a large online mailing list and a printed version sent to some 70 addressees.
- Developed the website into a powerful tool for communicating and data storage

For next year we hope to focus on two things: (1) growth, of both membership and contributions available for distribution to the numerous needs of the community; and (2) efficiency in identifying causes and new members and in communicating with those who can participate in our ongoing work of elevating the Quality of Life in our City.

Garth McCann, President

## **Food Team**

The end of this year our Food Chair, Ed Haynes, resigned. Ed will be in Edmonton Canada for the next 18 months helping with their missionary program. Ed has promised to return in 2010. We are now at three active members.

Humanitarian canning trips totaled four in 2007 for a whopping 233 cases of Pizza Sauce and 45 cases of Pear Sauce. Funding grants this year went to: Catholic Charities, Food Bank for Larimer County and Steve and Shirley Bolton Outreach to Feed Needy Families. The money collected for The City Wide Fast has rolled over to the 2008 calendar year. The 2007 Summer Food Quest was not as successful as hoped with only one church participating. For 2008 we might look at supporting an already existing event.

The Food Committee hosted the September's program on September 6 presented by Bob Vangermeersch promoting the October 7 Crop Hunger Walk.

Sandy Pauer, Chair

## **Health Team**

This year the health committee had Dr. Oliver Pijoan and Dr. Michael Johnston from the Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic do a program on Acupuncture. We also had the team from the Larimer County Drug Court come to do a presentation on their program to assist at risk youth in our community.

We presented awards to Catholic Charities Northern Shelter and Emergency Services, Centennial High School's Health Office, Cross Roads Safehouse.

Our Team has been focusing on Health Care throughout Colorado and how we can become involved and making the public aware of issues that arise when our Health Care system is not working, as well as when something good happens in our community as well.

Kate Walker, Chair

## **Housing Team**

Topics of interest to the Housing Team were the Homeless Count in Larimer County held Jan. 29 and 30 and the one-woman dramatization held at St. Joseph's called "Conversations with Dorothy Day," who was a tireless advocate for the homeless and poor in the 1930s. The New Yorker magazine article, "Million Dollar Murray" was read and discussed. The concept of the linking of Old Town, the Poudre River and CSU, called "UniverCity" was introduced to the Housing Team and the Council.

The Team's May program about the Housing Day Service Center was presented by Kim Iwanski, who revealed that the center is to be called the Sister Mary Alice Center for Hope. The Team discussed the proposed music venue in the Buckingham/Andersonville neighborhoods as to how it will affect affordable housing. The Team heard reports on Neighbor to Neighbor's and Fort Collins Housing Authority's housing programs and Homelessness Prevention Initiative's pilot program to provide rental assistance and mentoring over a 3-month period. The Team's November program was based on the book, Bridges Out of Poverty. The Mentoring Families program paid the deposit and a partial payment of the first month's rent

for two single parent families who live together. Members of IFC or their contacts provided food, Christmas gifts, furniture, tires, and financial counseling to the families. An ending evaluation of the program by the Mentoring Group and the families will take place soon.

Grants were given to Homeless Prevention Initiative, Neighbor to Neighbor, Catholic Charities Northern for two different purposes, and Habitat for Humanity.

Anita Hildebrand, Team Member

### **Membership Team**

The Committee oriented about a dozen persons, from both faith communities and agencies, to the Council during 2007. The Committee was involved in two major mailings for the Council; over 100 invitations to the Appreciation Brunch were mailed, and about 65 faith communities and service agencies were sent letters with covenant forms for 2008.

The Council held 21 regular meetings during 2006. Twenty-one faith communities, twenty-six agencies, and two individual members were represented at least one meeting. Four members represented more than one entity.

Several communities who have been represented on the Council in past years currently have no representatives attending. Overtures to these communities during 2007 were met with some success and we look forward to re-establishing connections with them.

Faith community members of the council averaged over five and a half meetings in 2006, while agency members averaged four and a half meetings. It should be noted that there was a fair number of individuals who attended only one or the other of the two recognition events, which did tend to artificially lower the average attendance. The rate was quite a bit higher for members of the council who regularly attend meetings.

Nancy Mendenhall

### **Social Concerns Team**

The Social Concerns Team did programs in March, June & Nov. The Program in March concerned the Homeless and we had perspectives presented by a man who has been chronically homeless (who is now working and in an apartment) and Officer Bud Bredehof who has served as the FCPD Downtown Liaison Officer. In June Hal Mansfield of Rocky Mountain Resource Center did a program on hate groups and tracking them. In Nov. the Social Concerns Team did a program in cooperation with the Housing Team on The Culture of Poverty. Everyone took a test to see if they had the skills to survive poverty, middleclass, and wealthy. Agencies that helped assist those in poverty were discussed.

The Social Concerns Team gave grants to Rocky Mountain Resource Center, Elderhaus Recreation Center, Eracism Film Series, Partners Mentoring Youth, Grace Fellowship, Lambda Center, & Lutheran Family Services.

Cheryl Beckett, Chair