



Good Afternoon!

Interfaith Outreach is making a TREMENDOUS difference as we keep families safe in their homes with a roof over their heads with hot running water and electricity which is critical to being safe during the pandemic. Our mission has never been more relevant than now. Our team is doing an amazing job during these unprecedented times of need! As people of faith, we knew we had to do whatever we needed to do to take care of our neighbors in need in Central Virginia with so many people hurting. So, here at Interfaith Outreach, we increased our staff numbers in emergency assistance from two people to nine people and purchased seven cell phones to be able to handle the drastic increase in demand for financial assistance for rent and utility bills.

The trauma that our neighbors in need have experienced this year has been devastating for hard-working individuals in our community whose hours were cut only to later have their jobs disappear, especially for people in retail, food service, or in home services. Large numbers of people were also unable to work because they must stay home with their children. As people became infected with the virus, they had to isolate while those around them had to quarantine, missing work as well. We have listened to our neighbors and comforted them with words of hope and positive support. **By joining together, our community has been able to provide much needed funds that kept families safe in their homes with electricity and running water. We have experienced their gratitude and tears of joy when they learn of the assistance they will receive. This is on a scale we could have never imagined; like nothing we have seen.**

But because of you and the community's continued support, we made a huge difference! Since July we offered 450 households rental assistance and 385 households utility assistance, keeping them safe at home!

- The homeless rate in our community has not increased at all during the pandemic!
- The number of individuals who are in our life skills classes has soared with our new correspondence classes in the jails.
- After the shut down in the spring, Stacy* returned to work with reduced hours. She also had to quarantine on multiple occasions without pay due to exposure to the virus and was so grateful for our help.
- We corresponded with Adam, a US Veteran, while he was incarcerated and once he was released this spring helped him with work tasks such as taking him to a DMV out of town to get his ID!
- Our Rebuilds program fixed water problems and electrical problems for people like George* and Sarah as well as continued to install ramps for people who want to stay safe in their own homes.

But we need your help to be able to take care of our neighbors and keep them safe in their homes as most of our funding streams expire in December. Our neighbors need us during this crisis. Only dollars pay rent, electric and water bills and your donations are vital now more than ever to keep our neighbors safe. Please help us continue to help families stay together in their safe, warm and dry homes as we all work through this crisis together.

Thank you for all you do for Interfaith Outreach and the rest of our community. Happy Thanksgiving!

With gratitude,

Shawne Farmer
Executive Director
Interfaith Outreach Association