

# Connections



Interfaith CarePartners®

Volume 29, December 2015

## ANNUAL REPORT

### *Reflecting on the Year*

**W**hat a year 2015 was! We are happy to stand on the tail of this year's calendar and look back with great gratitude for all that we have encountered over the previous 12 months. To be sure, there have been ups and downs, but we are entering into 2016 with energized spirits and great anticipation of all that is to come for Interfaith CarePartners. This year we have gained new staff members, added to our Board of Directors, been supported by new donors, and made new friends and partnerships in the community. We have held successful fundraising events, realized over 100,000 hours of service (for the 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row!), started new educational components to our service, and have begun working diligently on marketing and branding strategies for the coming year.

And as happens in our line of work, we have also said goodbye to some of our longtime friends whose journey on earth came to an end in 2015. We have held the hands of grieving families. We have cried with sons, daughters, husbands, wives, and friends. We have heard eulogies and sung songs of remembrance for our departed friends. But we have, at the same time, said prayers of gratitude. Gratitude for the honor of standing by families and individuals as they face some life's most difficult challenges brought on by disease, isolation, and memory loss. Gratitude for the privilege that family caregivers have extended to us by allowing us into their homes, their congregations, their lives. Gratitude for the glimpses of joy we see every day in the smiles of our friends whose burdens we help ease.

At the end of every year there are final reports to submit, meetings to attend, and evaluations to fill out. But we at Interfaith CarePartners are fueled more than anything by the gratitude we have to be where we are: standing on the frontlines of care as we seek to ease the burdens of thousands of people in Greater Houston and beyond. Thank you for your part in making that happen. We are wishing you all the best in the year to come.

*—John K. Burk, President*

## 2015 Care Team® Program

For 29 years Interfaith CarePartners has been dedicated to the mission of "creating caring communities." We got our start offering free care during the AIDS crisis of the 1980s. Since then our program has evolved to include care primarily to people with Alzheimer's or other forms of memory loss, as well as care for people across the age range with any kind of diagnosis.

How does it work? Congregations from various faith traditions will, with our guidance, recruit a core of volunteers who make up a "Care Team." One of our staff members is then assigned as a Care Team Coordinator to those volunteers. Staff includes licensed Master Social Workers, Geriatric Care Managers, trained chaplains, or those with degrees or experience in relevant fields. Staff members serve as the professional liaison between partner congregations and Interfaith CarePartners as we offer our service and expertise to Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Brazoria, and Galveston counties. In 2015, we will recognize another year of over 100,000 hours of volunteer service through our dedicated group of volunteers. We offer education, support, and continued guidance for all volunteers throughout the duration of their service. Care Team Coordinators are responsible for being the expert in all things related to care. We make initial home visits, act as liaisons between families and volunteers/congregations, are present every time the volunteers gather

to offer service and at monthly meetings, and are the "go-to" for all Care Team volunteers. Each Care Team Coordinator is responsible for anywhere from 13-16 teams, which are generally assigned geographically.

I'm pleased to report that the four models of the Care Team program are operating extremely well and continuing to serve Greater Houston with the kind of care that has become synonymous with our name. Learn more about these models below.

Alzheimer's Care Team® Gathering Place activity times are offered through a host congregation. This time is for individuals with a diagnosis of mild to moderate dementia to come and participate in 3.5 hours of socialization, arts and crafts, entertainment, exercise, and lots of fun with Care Team volunteers and their Care Team Coordinator. Family caregivers are offered the opportunity to use those hours as respite, or they are welcome to stay with their loved one and enjoy the festivities. Family caregivers can choose to attend as many of these free monthly offerings as they wish. Interfaith CarePartners presents 50+ Gathering Place times each month!

Second Family Care Team® offerings provide in-home support and care to people across the age range with any kind of limiting disability or diagnosis. Those with terminal

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**2015 Care Team® Program**

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or chronic conditions, those who are homebound because of age or infirmity, or those in need of basic companionship and support are offered that support and practical care by volunteers who donate their time to help with meal preparation, transportation, light housekeeping, or simply offering a listening ear and warm shoulder on which to lean during difficult times.

Kids’ Pals Care Team® volunteers provide a time, similar in design to a Gathering Place, in which families who are caring for impaired children are offered the chance for respite while their children participate in fun activities such as arts and crafts, games, and socialization with one

another. As with a Gathering Place, this 3.5 hour activity time is available to all families who are caring for an impaired child. Family caregivers may stay and participate with their children, or they may use the 3.5 hour time for respite from their caregiving duties. Though this is a smaller component to the overall program, families continue to benefit from the care offered to their children and the respite offered to parents.

Finally, the AIDS Care Team® offers practical support and companionship to those living with this diagnosis through in-home support and companionship. Even though we do not receive many calls for this service anymore, we have a commitment to continue offering it as long as the need persists.

All Care Team program offerings are provided free-of-charge to the public. We are able to provide these caregiving programs free-of-charge because of the generous financial support of individuals, companies, congregations, and foundations who recognize and understand the value of our work, the efficiency with which we accomplish it, and the burden we are helping to ease for so many individuals and families who are hurting in our community. We do not accept government assistance on either the state or federal level. In addition to grants and public solicitations for support, we also hold two annual fundraising events, Sweet Charity and a Kentucky Derby party.

## Additional Offerings

In addition to the Care Team program, we offer a host of additional educational and support services to families preparing for their role as caregivers to a friend or a loved one, or to those who are already in that role.

**Common Ground: Caregiver Conversations:** Common Ground offerings are support groups for those who wish to discuss their caregiving roles with others. We currently sponsor 16 of these groups throughout the Greater Houston area. Mental health professionals and a layperson with experience as a caregiver who is no longer in that role help facilitate these 1.5 hour monthly group times. Caregiver Conferences: In 2015 we helped provide 5 free educational and skill-building conferences for caregivers. These conferences each provide approximately 21 workshops suited to the interests of family caregivers. Workshop top-

ics range from “understanding Medicare and Medicate” to “knowing when to take the keys away” to “laughter yoga.” Area experts donate their time to offer these workshops to family caregivers.

We also added 1 “mini-conference” in May at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church. This conference offered expert presentations on “brain health” and “knowing the various kinds of living options.” We will offer this mini-conference again in 2016.

**Workshop Intensives:** Additionally, we offered 3 workshop intensives for caregivers in 2015. These free intensives provide a 2.5 hour time devoted to a topic, typically presented at a caregiver conference, that caregivers have indicated they would like to learn more about. Again, area experts donate their time and knowledge to help better equip and educate family caregivers. We are

grateful to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Clear Lake for donating the use of their facilities.

**Preparing and Sharing:** This monthly meeting is a brown-bag lunch for working caregivers who are given the opportunity for caregiver education from an Interfaith CarePartners representative or another area expert on caregiving. In 2015 we continued our partnership with Southwestern Energy to provide these workshops. Topics covered included “Understanding Personal Assistant Services,” “Managing the Emotions of Caregiving,” and “Understanding Medicare.” These are invaluable, free, workshops for working caregivers and we are excited about the possibility of expanding them even more in 2015.

**Interfaith CarePartners’ Expert Panel:** A few years ago, we introduced our expert panel as a new educational service to congregations or businesses who are interested in providing education on a particular topic to groups of caregivers. Interfaith CarePartners President, Dr. John Burk, has presented several times for this service, as do many of the Interfaith CarePartners’ staff. In the event that we feel a topic is best handled by someone outside of the agency, we will work with one of our many partners in the field of caregiving to find the appropriate fit.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about any of the above programs, please call (713) 682-5995.

## A Numerical Snapshot of 2015\*

Care Team Members	Teams	Members	Persons Served	Vol. Hours
Team	3	34	10	402
Alzheimer’s Care Team	52	1653	1011	62,474
Kids’ Pals Care Team	1	20	16	309
Second Family Care Team	30	608	396	20,255
Total	86	2,351	1,433	81,447

\*All data shown through 10/31/15

**Value of Donated Time:** The Independent Sector’s most recent estimate for the value of a volunteer’s time is \$24.66/volunteer hour in Texas. By the end 2015, we anticipate that Interfaith CarePartners will have provided another year of free caregiving service valued at over **\$2.4 million**.

**Annual Budget: \$915,035**  
**Estimated Return on Investment: 262%**



## 2015 Fundraising Events

In 2015, Interfaith CarePartners presented Memorial Hermann Hospital System and Schlumberger with the Sustaining Presence award for their charitable spirit and embodiment of the values we share. We also honored former dean of the University of Houston Law School and “the people’s lawyer,” Richard Alderman, for his immeasurable impact on Houston over the past several decades.

Austin-based piano man, Russell Boyd, offered the soundtrack for the evening, which included crowd pleasers, “Sweet Caroline” and “Brown-Eyed Girl.” Proceeds from this annual event go to underwrite between 25-40% of the operating budget for the programs of Interfaith CarePartners. Beth Statesir, one of our Care Team volunteer team leaders, was recognized for her service with the

annual Sunderland Award, which is given annually to a volunteer who exemplifies the values and caregiving spirit associated with Interfaith CarePartners. Mrs. Statesir was officially presented the award by John Burk at her home congregation, Kingwood United Methodist Church in March.

Finally, we hosted our second annual Kentucky Derby Party on May 2, 2015. Attendees gathered at Hughes Hangar and donned their finest derby attire from beautiful dresses and hats to seersucker suits. Our dedicated committee put together wonderful prizes, games, food, and a great atmosphere as we came together in support of Interfaith CarePartners. Attendance and gross revenue for this event nearly doubled in just one year!



**Top left: Dr. John K. Burk, President of Interfaith CarePartners presents awards to Richard Alderman, Chuck D. Stokes and Chris Barton at Sweet Charity.**  
**Above: Kentucky Derby Party**  
**Left: Beth Statesir**

## What is Happening in 2016?

As mentioned above, 2015 has brought with it both joys and challenges. The biggest challenge we face is the mounting need for the types of free care we provide to the community. We know that there is no other organization like ours that is easing burdens for free in so many ways, and we are making plans to equip ourselves to handle even more of those calls for service as they continue to roll in.

Below are some of the events planned for 2016 that will embolden our efforts to be beacons of care and comfort in the new year.

- Caregiver Conferences and intensives will continue to sustain their pace with 6 conferences or mini-conferences and workshop intensives throughout the Greater Houston area.
- Our major annual event, Sweet Charity, will be held on February 11, 2016 at The Westin in Memorial City. Sustaining Presence awards will be presented to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas and Enbridge.

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## Letter from Steve Hinchman, Chairman, Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to report that the programs and fiscal affairs of Interfaith CarePartners are strong and conducted with integrity. As we gratefully celebrate 29 years of caregiving and the local and national impact we have had, we are aware of people and needs that we have not been able to serve. The board and management are dedicated to developing additional resources in order to expand our services so that all who turn to Interfaith CarePartners for support have their needs met.



It remains a unique privilege for the Board, management, staff, volunteers, and donors to each do our part to comfort and assist people coping with illness and disabilities that lessen their self-sufficiency and threaten their dignity. We are deeply grateful to each Jewish and Christian congregation that allows us to equip their members to embrace and sustain people with special needs for home-based care and support for an extended time. Our deepest gratitude, however, is reserved for each volunteer and donor whose contribution gives life to our values and transforms our passions into extensive caregiving programs of excellence that bring joy and hope to people in despair.

While we consider what has been achieved through 2015, we look forward to even greater service in 2016. We hope you share our pride in what has been accomplished and will continue to be our partner in caregiving. We are sincerely grateful for your support. Together, we are making a gift of care that is a blessing to all!

# Thank You

There is never an adequate way to say thank you to the people, businesses, congregations, or foundations who find our program worthy of investment. We take our duty very seriously to be good stewards not only of the program, but of those who have invested time, money, or effort into it. Below is a snapshot of some of our donors in 2015 who have realized how valuable free care in the community is:

Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation  
Alexander Proudfoot Company

## What is Happening in 2016?

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Austin-based band, The Crush, will provide entertainment, and the night will be capped with our signature "Dessert Fair."

- We also anticipate an increase in the number of Care Team congregations with whom we partner, and are always looking to the horizon for opportunities of service. We expect new congregational partnerships in the Greater Houston area and in Waco over the coming year.
- We will be hosting our third annual Kentucky Derby party/fundraiser on May 7, 2016. This will be a time for people to come together and enjoy all the festivities a Kentucky Derby party features, but in Houston at Hughes Hangar.
- We look forward continuing our program offerings with integrity and the high standards that are associated with our work.

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Alvarez & Marsal Business Consulting  
Bank of America Merrill Lynch  
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Mr. and Mrs. Travis and Peggy Basham  
The Baxter Trust  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas  
Boardwalk Pipeline Partners, LP  
Robin Bruce Angel Foundation  
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Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Andrea White



**Interfaith CarePartners®**

***Our Mission: To care for weak and vulnerable people.***

***Our Vision: To create, equip, and sustain caring communities.***

*\*NB: Due to space constraints, listed donors contributed at the \$5,000 and above level. We are grateful for all of the support we receive.*

**Connections** is the newsletter of **Interfaith CarePartners®**

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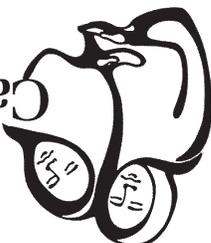
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