



2015-2016 Annual Report



Marsha Eichelberger
Executive Director



Ron Flaherty
Board President

From the Executive Director and the Board President

Dear Friends,

For almost 30 years, Inter-Faith has been serving vulnerable families in Montgomery County who are experiencing homelessness and food insecurity. This report captures our achievements in the past year.

Families come to Inter-Faith because they need shelter, but they receive so much more. We work with families during and after their stay to help them make real, life-altering changes.

We also understand the important role we play in promoting the civic engagement that encourages a community-wide response to homelessness and food insecurity. Last year almost 800 volunteers committed over 12,000 hours of their time to Inter-Faith. We are grateful for this incredible support.

Slated to launch this fall, our new Supportive Housing Program will offer two families an affordable housing option in the heart of Ambler. Through a gift from First Presbyterian Church of Ambler, Inter-Faith was able to purchase a two-family home to provide this new program. We are honored by the commitment and trust of First Presbyterian Church.

One of our dedicated long-time volunteers said it best:

From the ashes of a small committee working on a food cupboard to Inter-Faith Housing Alliance has been a long and beautiful trip. Catching a vision of what could be, housing the homeless became our passion. From church housing, to Hope Gardens apartments, and now our home on Forest Avenue, volunteers and staff have enriched our community by helping the homeless become home owners, solid renters, and a people who have a resource to encourage them on their way to self-respect and community involvement.

—Ron Lutz, retired pastor and former board member

We invite you to be a part of the solution, so that no family in our community needs to worry about where they are going to sleep tonight. Visit i-fha.org to make a donation, host a drive, or sign up to volunteer. With your support, we help families gain critical skills that will advance their potential for long-term stability. Inter-Faith Housing Alliance will continue this work until there is a home for everyone.

Marsha and Ron



I-FHA's mission is to serve God by providing charitable services to persons located in Montgomery County whose life situations have become unstable. These charitable services include homelessness prevention, temporary shelter, guidance in life skills and assistance in locating appropriate housing opportunities, thus enabling families at risk to remain in or return to independent living.

Why?

Deep pockets of poverty and a dearth of affordable housing options in Montgomery County leave some families unable to meet their most basic needs.

Who?

All the families we serve are low income according to HUD definitions; **10%** of our families are very low income, and **90%** are extremely low income.

How?

By stabilizing a family's housing situation and providing critical services that support movement towards self-sufficiency, I-FHA mitigates the effects of homelessness.

"Inter-Faith opened their hearts and gave my family the opportunity to get order in our lives when we had lost everything. They guided us each and every step of the way, with many kind volunteers. They will be forever in our hearts."

—a recent graduate



Emergency Shelter (Interfaith Hospitality Network)

Our network of 20 local host congregations shelters families up to 90 days. Congregation volunteers bring and share meals, provide overnight assistance, and help with transportation. Families work with our case manager to establish and work toward goals in pursuit of stable housing.

Transitional Shelter (Hope Gardens)

Families are housed for up to two years and receive comprehensive support services. They work toward identified goals for a successful transition to safe, affordable, decent housing.

Support Services

Intensive Case Management

Families meet weekly with our case manager and work toward goals that will allow them to transition to a permanent housing situation.

Educational Life Skills Training

Our education program includes key skill building areas like financial literacy, health care and access, parenting, stress management, and employment skills.

Basic Needs

We provide comprehensive support with basic supplies and temporary financial assistance to cover expenses that threaten to disrupt a family's progress toward stability.

Aftercare

We stay connected with families who have moved on to permanent housing by providing support and resources to help them keep on track.

Food Cupboard

Montgomery County families who are experiencing hunger can access our Abington-based Food Cupboard, which is open five days a week, year-round.



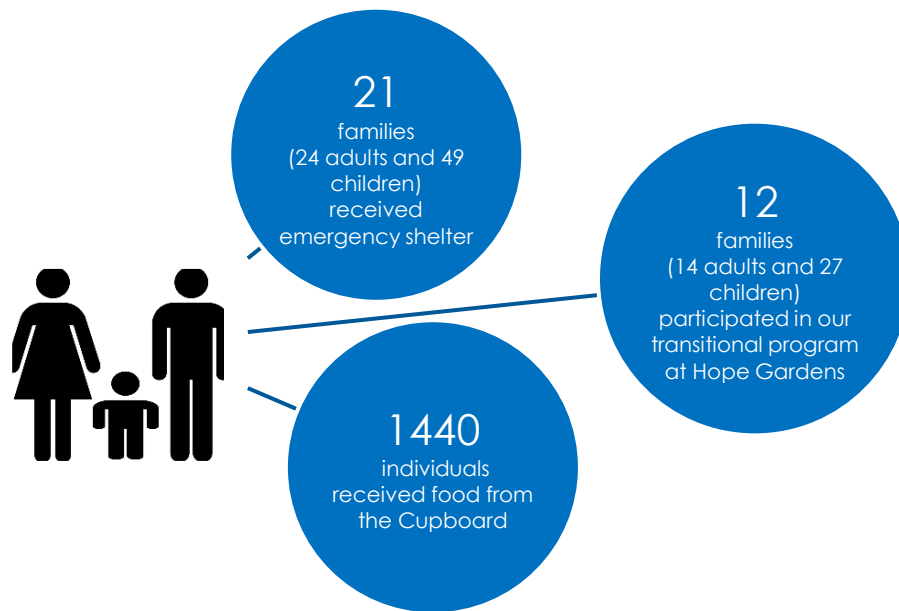
New in 2016: Supportive Housing at Hope Forest

Thanks to a generous gift from First Presbyterian Church of Ambler, I-FHA has purchased a local property, known as "Hope Forest." Two apartments in the house will provide two families with permanent housing starting this fall.

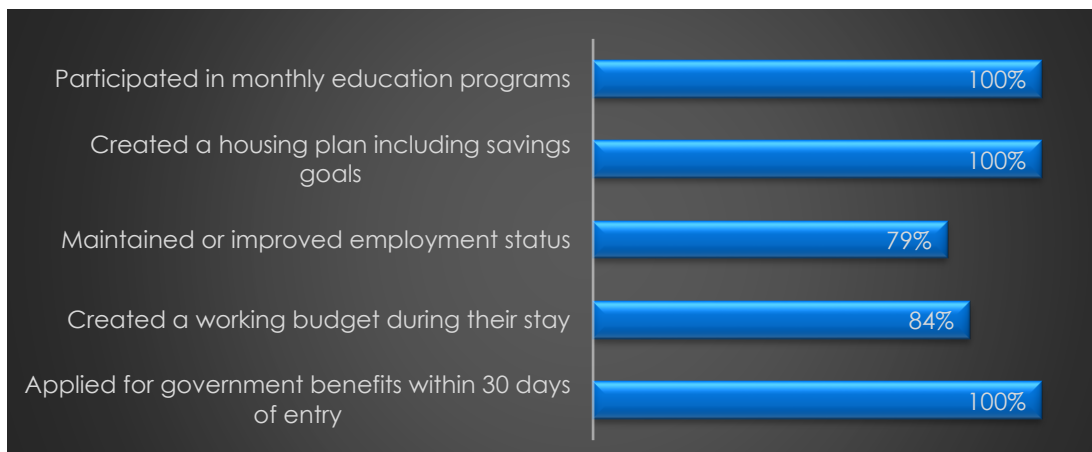
Families will work toward paying fair market rent, and I-FHA's case manager will provide general oversight on a diminishing schedule. Goals will include helping families secure the skills necessary to maintain a living wage job and resolve the debilitating issues that have been a barrier to their stability in the past.

The program bridges the gap from transitional housing to permanent self-sufficiency.

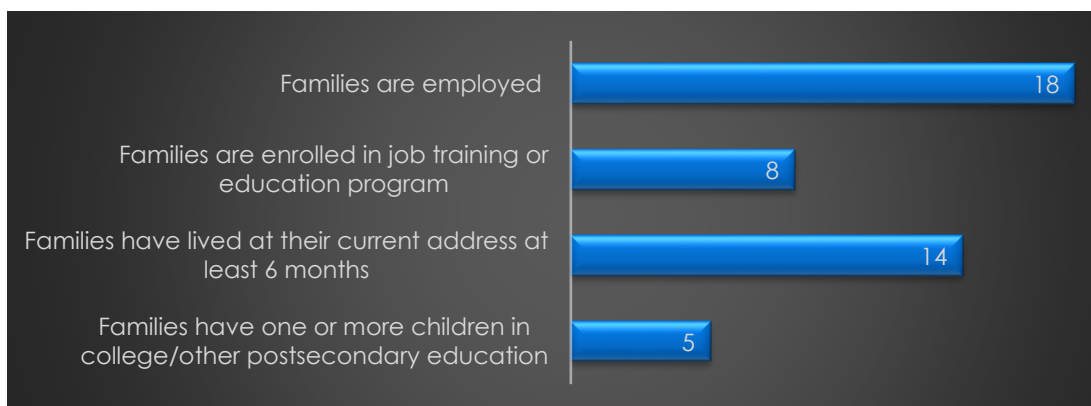
Impact



Families took goal directed steps toward stability while in our shelter programs:



A survey of 21 graduate families showed that:



**790 volunteers
participating**



**12,564
hours clocked**



**Volunteer hours
valued at
\$293,997**



Volunteers

I-FHA capitalizes on significant volunteer support in order to provide cost effective services.

Emergency shelter volunteers bring and share meals with our families, provide overnight assistance, and help with transportation.

Hope Gardens volunteers help with painting, cleaning, sorting donations, and maintenance.

Specialized volunteers facilitate our monthly parent education workshops and children's programs.

Food Cupboard volunteers package and distribute food and provide additional service resources to our families.



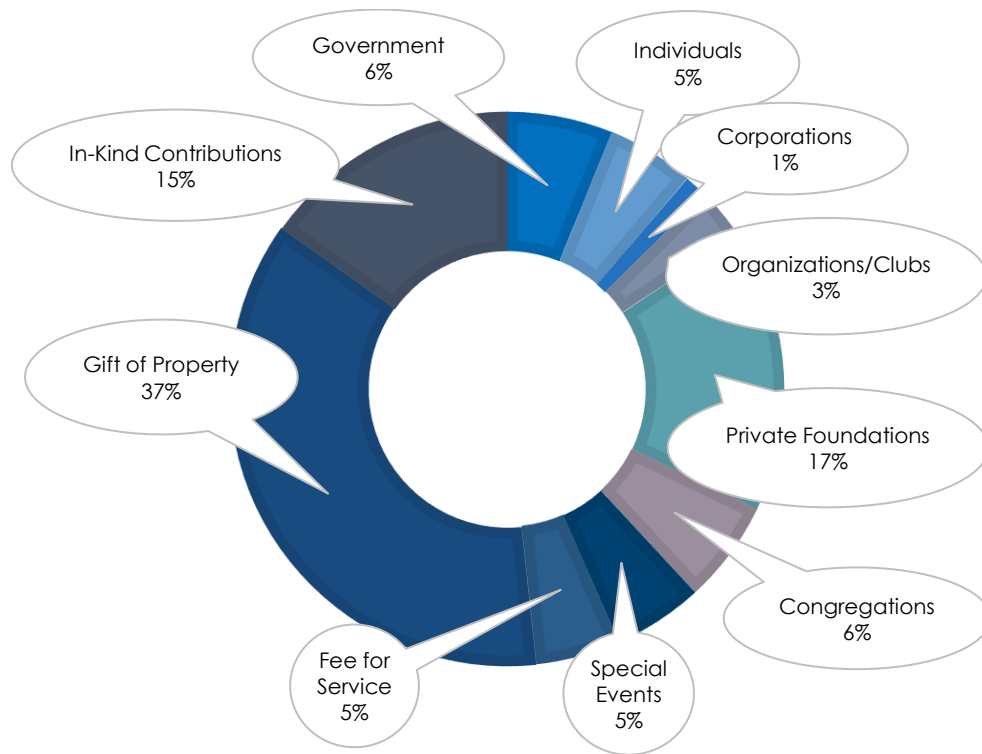


Interfaith Hospitality Network Congregations

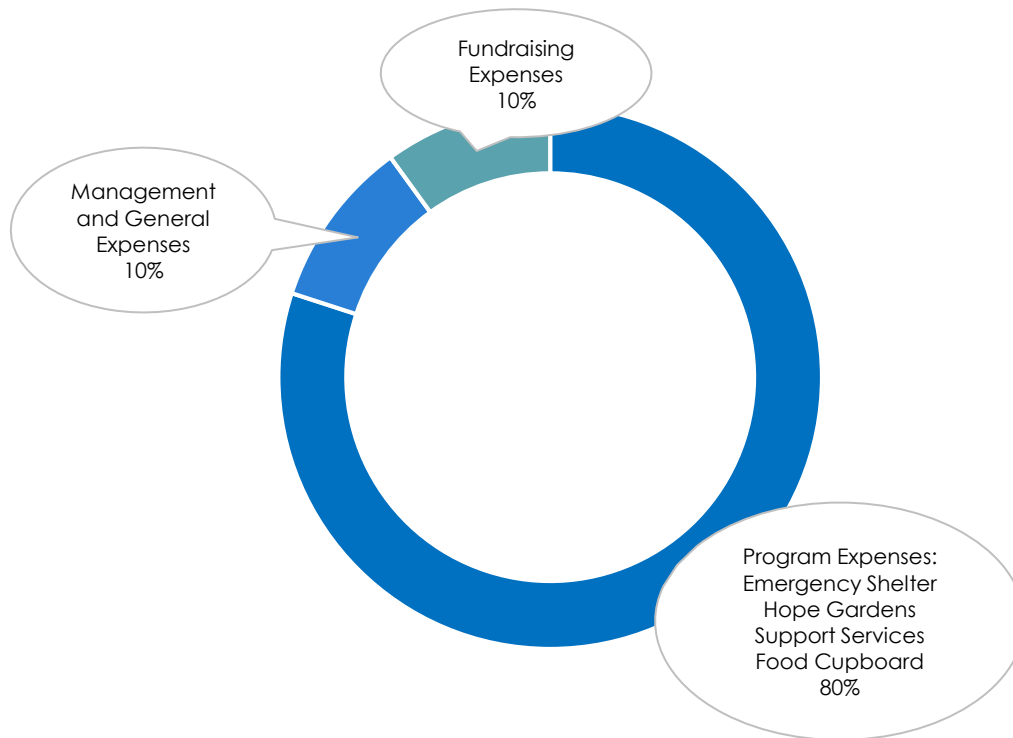
Ambler Church of the Brethren
 Ambler Mennonite Church
 Bethlehem Baptist Church
 Congregation Beth Or
 Congregation Kol Ami
 First Presbyterian Church of Ambler
 Flourish Holistic Ministries
 Grace Baptist Church of Blue Bell
 Gwynedd Friends Meeting
 Jarrettown United Methodist Church
 Maple Glen Bible Fellowship Church
 New Beginnings Community Church of
 Ambler
 Or Hadash
 Sanctuary United Methodist Church
 St. Anthony's of Padua RC Church
 St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
 St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Whitmarsh
 Supplee Presbyterian Church
 Trinity Episcopal Church, Ambler
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 Upper Dublin Lutheran Church
 Zion Baptist Church



Income



Expenses



Sources of Support

Foundations

Beneficial Foundation
 Breaking the Cycle Foundation
 Catholic Human Services Foundation
 Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation
 Drueding Foundation
 Genuardi Family Foundation
 Glenmede Trust Company
 Grace S. and W. Linton Nelson Foundation
 Grandom Institution
 Green Tree Community Health Foundation
 John Paul Endicott Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation
 Lebanon Valley Insurance Company Foundation
 Leo & Peggy Pierce Family Foundation
 Betty and Leo Balzereit Foundation
 Marion Prochazka Charitable Trust
 Mill Spring Foundation
 Montgomery County Foundation
 New Life Thrift
 Patricia Kind Family Foundation
 Stratton Foundation
 Westfield Insurance Foundation
 Willow Grove Charities
 Your Way Home

Corporations

Essent Guaranty
 Item Media
 R&R Wood Products
 Therm-Omega-Tech
 Univest
 Walmart

Government

Community Development
 Block Grant
 FEMA

Organizations

Rotary Club of Blue Bell
 Impact Thrift Stores



"I have always respected the determination of the families from Inter-Faith. They have to do a lot as part of the program—it's hard work, and takes a lot of wherewithal. It's tremendous fortitude."



Inter-Faith Housing Alliance Board of Directors

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Community Volunteer

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Rick Rodes
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Board Member Emerita

Lei Barry
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