



# INTERFAITH CARING MINISTRIES

*Pathways to self-sufficiency*

## ICM CONNECTION



The 2008 Interfaith Caring Ministries' Festival of Trees stayed true to its theme by hosting a week of WILD events. The week began when 35 eager individuals and community organizations put their creativity to the test looking to win the First Annual Tree Decorating Contest. While all of the trees were breathtaking, It's All Good walked away with the distinct honor of Best Overall Tree. Lutheran South Academy, Wiredin.cc and Girl Scout Troop 1213 each won First Place in their perspective categories. For a complete list of winners, please visit our website. We would like to thank all of our tree decorators for helping to create an atmosphere of elegance at all of the events.

Our adventure continued as our most successful Open House filled the night with kids, cookies, choirs and Santa. Again this year, this event was sponsored by Ms. Janet's Children of the Future III.

Several local area bakeries brought their holiday best to our First Annual Cookie Competition. It was with great anticipation as Dr. Gregory Smith,

CCISD Superintendent, announced Tuscany Bistro Restaurant Best of Show. Cakes by Jula won Kids Choice, The Cake Place won Holiday Attire and Tuscany Bistro Restaurant won Sweetest Tooth. Clear Lake and Clear Creek Pop Choirs were on hand to provide musical entertainment while both children and adults alike stopped to visit with Santa.

The WILD Winter Wonderland Style Show & Luncheon was nothing less than spectacular as fashions from the Clothes-horse, Jos. A Banks and Jill's Fashions & Bridal were modeled by local community members. We would like to thank Dorinda Corbett of Family Jewels, who once again selflessly donated her time and expertise to chair this event.

The much anticipated Festival of Trees Dinner and Gala ended our WILD journey. Teresa Vencil, of TAD AKERS Event Facility, worked countless hours to create an event that everyone in attendance would not soon forget.

Drawing from her many talents, Teresa was able to transform the ballroom at South Shore Harbour Resort into an atmosphere of unique elegance. Hundreds of people were on hand to enjoy a night of dinner, dancing and good friends.



# Thank you to all of our 2008 FOT sponsors

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## Centerpiece Sponsors

Dan Rockett – State Farm Insurance  
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## ICM Special Thanks

United Way Texas Gulf Coast	League City United Methodist Church	George and Ann Lyon
Isla Carroll Turner Friendship Trust	Clear Lake United Methodist Church	John Knight
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		Houston Endowment

ICM Programs	
Administration.....	281-332-3881
Rent & Utility Assistance	
Food Assistance	
Childcare Assistance Program	
Health Outreach Program	
Senior Outreach Program	
Development Department	
Resale Store.....	281-332-2025
Webster Lab.....	281-316-4190
After School Computer Classes	
ESL	

## *Plant a Seed ~ Feed the Community*

The Plant a Seed ~ Feed the Need Community Garden at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church is a donation garden providing fresh organic produce to the Food Pantry at Interfaith Caring Ministries in League City Texas. ICM currently provides grocery assistance to approximately 2000 families in CCISD currently living at or below the poverty level.

The garden is open to all individuals and groups wishing to volunteer in this community outreach project. The one acre site will eventually house up to 30 vegetable beds, herb beds, 2 dozen fruit trees, a Texas wildflower bed and a children's bed

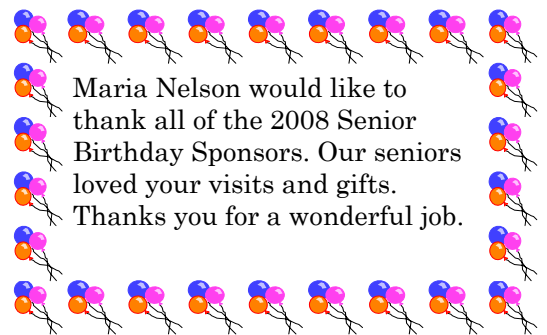
where children can claim a foot or two for their own and plant whatever they wish. It is an eco-friendly project in which organic gardening practices are encouraged. A low volume drip irrigation system is also used to conserve water.

The Garden is funded through individuals donations and corporate in kind donations as well as community development grants. Memorial gifting opportunities are also available including park benches, bed sponsorships and tree plantings. Please contact Ally Hardick at (832) 277-0765 to learn about volunteers and memorial gifting opportunities.



Ally Hardick and ICM's DeAnna Fulkerson are all smiles over the first harvest from St. Christopher's Community Garden.

## SHOPPING LIST



Maria Nelson would like to thank all of the 2008 Senior Birthday Sponsors. Our seniors loved your visits and gifts. Thanks you for a wonderful job.

### Meet the ICM Staff

Suzy Domingo, Director of Client Services  
 Alicia Gonzales, Client Services Coordinator  
 DeAnna Fulkerson, Food Pantry Coordinator  
 Michelle Kross, Webster Lab Coordinator  
 Lee Leopard, Resale Shop Manager  
 Janey Nelson, Director of Volunteers  
 Maria Nelson, Client Services Assistant  
 Amber Roberts, Administrative Assistant  
 Arden Stone, Director of Development  
 Joni Strachan, Development Associate  
 Dana Turner, Accountant

## ***Building for the Future of Interfaith Caring Ministries***

Interfaith Caring Ministries lives inside the Mission of serving our community “by providing assistance to people leading to a path of self-sufficiency”. Building for the future is all about expanding ICM’s capability to give more people a hand up, not a hand out.

ICM has grown from a concept by a caring people in 1985 to its current facilities, which have provided growth to meet needs since 1996. Current facilities are stretched beyond capacity attempting to fulfill the needs of a growing community.

ICM’s new facilities will increase the available space to assist clients from 6000 square feet to 10,700 square feet. The food pantry space will triple in size and provide for the growing daily needs of our clients; it will also provide much needed expansion capability when neighboring cities partner with ICM to provide disaster relief for events such as Hurricane Ike. Additionally our existing facility will be converted into a second resale shop which will provide another source of income for meeting client needs. The resale shop can also easily be converted to strictly a distribution facility for all the material people needs following a natural disaster.

It is exciting to envision the expanded ability of ICM to serve the Bay Area and continue the tradition of caring for people in good times, not so good times and true times of disaster. This level of caring and service will continue through the generosity of people, houses of worship, businesses, institutions, and foundations.

When I think of ICM’s purpose “a hand up, not a hand out”, I remember that ICM is part of a larger plan. We all have an equal chance to give of ourselves and our resources for something that is larger than any one of our individual capabilities.

Thank you for your continued support of Interfaith Caring Ministries.

Jon R. Keeney

ICM Board President

### ***Included in the Project:***

#### **Park Avenue Location:**

Renovated 5,000 sq. foot Administration Building which includes more client interview rooms and an increase in office space which will allow for ICM’s future growth.

Brand new, state of the art, 5,700 sq. foot Food Pantry which includes a new drive and bay doors for 18 wheeler delivery access. The new pantry will allow ICM to receive and store larger quantities of food to service our clients.



New Park Avenue Location

#### **FM 270 Location:**

Complete renovation to transform the current Administration Building into a 6,000 sq. foot Resale Store. This second Resale Store for ICM will provide convenience for our clients and donors living in the League City area and provide a new source of income to support the programs of ICM.

## *The Benefits of Giving*

You strongly believe in the mission of ICM.

You have been blessed and you want to give back to your community.

To set an example for future generations.

To strengthen your ties to the community.

To ensure that ICM is able to continue to provide assistance to those families in need in the Greater Bay Area.

The gift you give today could change the course of someone's life.

It teaches good values to your family, friends and co-workers.

To enable ICM to better provide for those affected by emergency disasters, such as Hurricane Ike.

## *Project Expenditures*

New Administration Building and Food Pantry	\$1,071,000
Renovation of Existing Location	\$29,000
Miscellaneous Costs including Shelving, Furniture and Computer Systems	\$150,000
<b>Total Project</b>	<b>\$1,250,000</b>

## *Ways to Give*

Pledge a monthly or annual donation

Credit card

Matching gifts

One time cash gift

Appreciated securities

Donate New Office Furniture

Donate your Moving Services

Donate Shelving for Food Pantry or Resale Store

Future site of ICM Food Pantry

### **2009 ICM**

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## *Giving Levels to Fund the Project*

### **Leadership Level**

**\$75,001 or more**

An individualized plaque with your name will be placed in the Administration Building

### **Advanced Gift Level**

**\$25,001 - \$75,000**

A plaque listing all Advanced Gift Level supporters will be placed in the Administration Building

### **Builder Level**

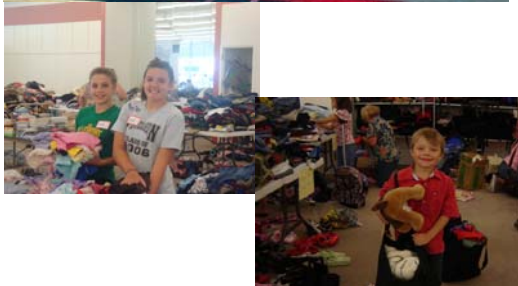
**\$10,001- \$25,000**

A plaque listing all Builder Level supporters will be placed in the ICM Food Pantry

### **Supporter Level**

**\$1,000 - \$10,000**

# Interfaith Caring Ministries' Disaster Relief Center



The aftermath of Ike has been truly devastating. Many people in our community have been affected by this devastation and their lives are forever changed. Due to the overwhelming generosity we received, we have been able to help many of these families start to rebuild their lives.

ICM has closed it's Disaster Relief Center, but will continue to provide relief services to families in our normal service area at our Administration Office.

The sense of community has never been stronger. The amount of support we have received from both inside and outside the community has been inspirational. Since September 13<sup>th</sup> 2008, ICM has provided hurricane relief services to over 3,300 families. We project that we will continue to serve countless numbers of families throughout the coming months. If you would like more information on how to continue to support ICM, please feel free to contact Arden Stone at (281) 332-3881.

## A Heartfelt Thank You

Ferro  
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 City of Waco  
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 City of Kingsville  
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 League City Food & Wine Festival

Clear Lake United Methodist Church  
 St. Christopher's Episcopal Church  
 Lighthouse Church—South Carolina  
 Second Baptist Church—Indiana  
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 Booz Allen Hamilton  
 Marathon Petroleum  
 RRS Engineering  
 Andrew Kaufman

Susan Ashton  
 Clear Brook High School  
 Humanity First  
 Church World Service

The hundreds of people who donated to or volunteered at our Disaster Relief Center. Your selflessness helped ensure that our DRC remained opened and stocked for those in need.

## Volunteer Today

Interfaith Caring Ministries has various volunteer opportunities, and we would love to have you join our team. You may have even been interested in volunteering, but just haven't made the call. Now that we are in the new year, maybe now is the time to do something new and inquire about volunteering at our agency. Volunteers are SO important to what we do in our community, we look forward to your call and joining our volunteer team.

Office—Receive incoming calls, make appointments, greet clients or visitors and organize files. On a substitute basis—Monday through Friday 12:30 p.m. -4:30 p.m.

Mailings—Stuff, fold, label and tab materials for various mailing through out the year. Flexible schedule.

Pantry—Fill client orders, sort food contributions, stock shelves and keep pantry organized. Must be able to lift 25lbs. Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday 9 a.m. -12 p.m.

Resale—Help sort and organize clothing and household donations. Help straighten store and rearrange merchandise. Flexible schedule. Monday through Saturday 10:30 a.m. -6:30 p.m.

For more information, please call Janey Nelson at (281) 332-3881

## *Volunteer Spotlight: Carl Farley*

*By Janey Nelson*

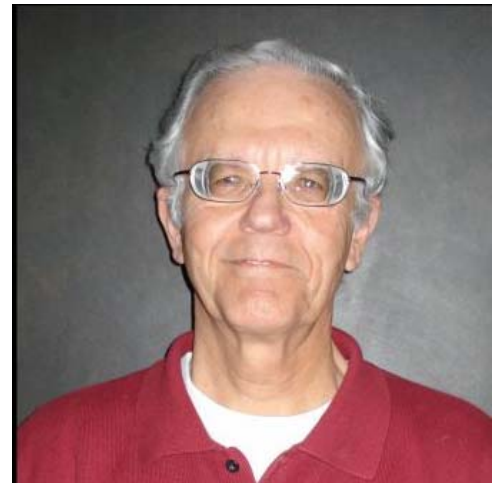
Hurricane Ike was devastating to our community, and often hard to see the good it brought. One of the good things it brought was an amazing group of volunteers to help those in need. Carl Farley was one of those many incredible volunteers who came in with the storm.

The first day Interfaith Caring Ministries was setting up the Disaster Relief Center, Carl's wife Judy was working in the food pantry. She volunteered to give him a call to see if he could help. Carl was on a roof of a home he was repairing, but said he would be at the DRC at 3 PM. Carl came to the DRC that afternoon, and continued to come at 3 PM every afternoon until the DRC closed. He would come in each afternoon and ask, "What needs my attention today?" and he would repair it, remove it, move it, stack it or whatever was needed. Carl continues to spend his mornings working with CORE and

an independent work group from Clear Lake United Methodist Church to repair and rebuild homes in the area,

Carl came to Texas 25 years ago by way of Pennsylvania and Delaware. He said, "I got here as quick as I could!" He worked as a chemical engineer for DuPont, and has been married to Judy for 16 years. They have a blended family of six children and 12 grandchildren. Three of the grandchildren are twelve year old triplet boys. For their honeymoon trip, Carl and Judy took eight grandchildren and their parents to Disneyworld and a Disney cruise. Now the family takes a trip together every other year, and this year twenty-two people will enjoy an Alaskan Cruise.

We are grateful for the many volunteers who stepped up to help our neighbors, in the time of need. If you would ask Carl why he volunteered every day at the Disaster



Relief Center, he would say, "I saw a clear and desperate need, and I believe in the great work Interfaith does."

Interfaith Caring Ministries would like to say THANK YOU to all the volunteers who saw the need and came to help. We appreciate your time and the many talents you shared to help others.

## *Christmas Store a HUGE Success*

*By Suzy Domingo*

The 2008 Christmas Store held at Clear Lake Presbyterian Church was a huge success for all involved. If you did not get to visit or participate, you missed out on a very joyous occasion. Interfaith Caring Ministries was able to help families who otherwise would not have Christmas gifts for their children. Through our Christmas Program, ICM assisted 384 area families for a total of 990 children.

Toys, bikes, gift cards, small appliances, and electronic gifts are examples of the items that were given away. We would like to thank Clear Lake Presbyterian for the use of their facilities and all the wonderful volunteers this year. We would also like to thank all the donors for the great gifts. The smiles on the parents' faces as they left the store were priceless.





**Interfaith Caring Ministries**  
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**Comments and Suggestions!**

The ICM newsletter is produced 3 times a year. It is written by the ICM staff and edited by Arden Stone, ICM's Director of Development. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact her at 281-332-3881 ext 231 or email at [astone@icmtx.org](mailto:astone@icmtx.org).