For Brittany and her son, their new home is much more than a new address. It’s that safe, stable place to put down roots and anchor long-deferred dreams. It’s her place. It’s their place to finally belong somewhere.

For Brittany, who spent her teen years in foster care, it was hard to feel a sense of belonging anywhere. Things didn’t get easier when, as a single mom, she and her son became homeless.

Brittany tells us, “When I came to Interfaith Outreach, Emily helped me work around obstacles and find resources I would never have been able to find on my own.”

“Brittany is like so many other great moms that we see – brave and resilient – determined to do everything they can to build a strong future for their kids. All they need is information, a few tools and a chance,” said Emily.

The chance to move into a new townhome neighborhood at a rent she could afford was a life-changer for Brittany and her son. A new home and a safe neighborhood full of kids for her son to play with was her dream come true.

Her son couldn’t be happier. He loves his new playground and his newfound friends. This fall, he set out on a new adventure called kindergarten. The next step for Brittany includes working on her plan to turn her cooking talents into a career in catering. We are betting on her!

“The day we got the keys and moved in, my son ran around shouting, ‘This is our house, mom. This is our kitchen. This is my playground.’ He loved it.” - Brittany

The Sleep Out is our chance to rekindle the hope and power up the dreams of families and kids to pursue their chance.
Powering up for Sleep Out 2016

Planning for Sleep Out 2016 is now at fever pitch – exactly where it needs to be.

Wonderful people from local faith communities and youth groups, from banks and businesses, schools, civic and community groups, health groups, cities, scouts, corporations, media, Home Base kids, extended families, neighborhoods, social and recreational groups, volunteers – are firing up creative new ways to reach the Sleep Out 2016 $2,184,000 campaign goal.

In its 21st year, the Sleep Out continues to ignite the genius and generosity of our whole community. Plans for all kinds of events and ways to become engaged include an exciting Nov. 12 Ignite the Night inauguration of the Interfaith Outreach new brand and a November 17th Giving Day on the Bay at Wayzata Brew Works. See pages 3 & 4 for details. Donations received between Nov. 12-19 will be doubled by generous donors up to $275,000!

We never cease to be amazed by the heart and will and creativity the Sleep Out generates and the people who step up year after year. The hope the Sleep Out lights up and the new futures it makes possible for struggling families and kids of our community is beyond awesome – certainly for them, but really for all of us.

Come. Bring your friends. Join us for a luminous launch on Nov. 12 and for the Nov. 17 Giving Day on the Bay. Thanks so much for all the ways you turn the power up.

THE 21ST ANNUAL SLEEP OUT IS NOV. 1 - DEC. 31

Donations to Sleep Out 2016 will provide:

- A place to call home – 409 families were homeless when they arrived at our doors last year. Families just like Brittany’s (see cover story).
- Employment – training and coaching for job seekers to build skills that help them secure living-wage jobs
- Educational Opportunities – in-school and out-of-school educational opportunities for children and youth
- Food – to supplement lean budgets for about 4,500 people each year
- Transportation – to help with car repairs, gas certificates, rides to school and medical appointments
- So much more…

YOUR HELP TO RAISE $700,000 DURING THE NOV. 12-19 WEEK OF GIVING WILL BE DOUBLED BY GENEROUS DONORS UP TO $275,000.
Volunteers and donors are the heart and soul of the Sleep Out. Board member Ellie Bathe is a true Sleep Out champion. Ellie tells us, “Year after year, this committed, caring community bands together during the Sleep Out to help our neighbors in need. One of Webster’s definitions of ‘neighbor’ is ‘kindred human being.’ And the definition of ‘kindred’ is ‘of the same ancestry or family.’ Doesn’t that just sum it up? All of us, regardless of age, ethnicity, faith, or economic means are neighbors...we are part of the same family. Each and every day, steadfast Interfaith Outreach staff and volunteers work tirelessly with area families who are struggling to make ends meet. It’s the right thing to do. Everyone can ignite others to get involved too.”

ELLIE BATHE - SLEEP OUT CHAMPION

New website, logo launch – focused on mission

Since 1997, the number of families served has increased by 48%. Thousands of volunteers and donors have worked enthusiastically to live out our mission and address rising suburban poverty. Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners’ name remains the same but this newsletter, our new website, logo and tagline are new. Ellie Bathe (above) weighs in on this historic change, “The new branding incorporates all of our various initiatives and helps clarify who we are, what we do and the impact we make. We really are about ‘igniting the power of community.’” After two years of community conversations and planning, we wave a gentle goodbye to our former logo and usher in a new era and a new look. The changes will allow us to be more responsive to client families, donors and volunteers with easy-to-navigate content and tools. Now it’s easy to make your Sleep Out gift on a smart phone or tablet! Check out the new www.iocp.org website!

• Mobile responsive for smartphones, tablets
• Services all in one place so families can get help faster
• Resale Select (formerly ReSale 101) quickly referenced
• Easier to navigate

Tell us what YOU are doing for the Sleep Out on social media to help spread the word.
Youth unite – for families and kids

Troop 570 has been playing a critical role in the Sleep Out for more than 17 years. Troop Leader Phil Zietlow and many committed scouting parents have given their time, creativity and talent to encourage leadership and selfless service among an amazing group of young men. This dynamic community of scouts has:

- Cut and hauled wood, built and stoked fires at Sleep Out events
- Created their own annual Sleep Out activities and “dragon fires”
- Built a huge “box city” for the General Mills Sleep Out
- Put hundreds of Sleep Out promotional signs up in the community

A special “hats off” thank you to three Troop 570 scouts – Colin Verbick, Zach Verbick and Peter Larson – who took on personal Sleep Out missions over the years. They slept outside for up to 50 consecutive cold winter nights to benefit area families. Wow! This is the stuff that inspires us.

FROM A SPARK TO A FIRE –
Your Sleep Out donations in action

1997
723 families served

2007
1,476 families served

2015
2,184 families served

Interfaith Outreach conducted an extensive rebranding process designed to catch up with our recent growth. Just nine years ago we served 1,476 families. Last year, we helped 2,184 families. Funds raised through the Sleep Out allow us to more effectively address rising suburban poverty.

GRANTS - JUNE-AUGUST 2016

Anonymous
( Neighborhood Program* Camp)

Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program
( Emergency Housing Assistance/Food Shelf)

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures
( Neighborhood Program* Youth Success)

Park Nicollet Foundation
( Neighborhood Program* 50Plus Club)

RBC Wealth Management endorsed by Brad Spencer
( Caring for Kids)

St. Martin’s by the Lake Episcopal Church
( General Operating)

Target Community Engagement Fund
( Great Expectations)

Wells Fargo
( Neighborhood Program* )

*formerly called CONECT

Memorials - JUNE-AUGUST 2016

Carol Knight / Patricia Liebsch / Connie Lundeen / Robert Moe / Lawrence “Larry” Monicatti / Brian O’Brien / Jamison, Kathryn, Ezra, Violet, and Calvin Pals / Robert Raskob / Clarence Schommer / Sandy Willis / Elizabeth Weyerhaeuser / James “Jim” Willemsen
The Sleep Out begins Saturday, Nov. 12

SLEEP OUT WEEK OF GIVING: RAISE $700,000 IN 7 DAYS

The momentum during the first week of the Sleep Out is critical to the success of the campaign. It ignites the generosity of passionate people! Help us raise the first $700,000 toward our $2,184,000 goal.

IGNITE THE NIGHT CELEBRATION
Nov. 12, 7 p.m. at Interfaith Outreach, 1605 County Road 101 N in Plymouth

Witness the lighting of hundreds of luminaries shaped in a burst that represents the new Interfaith Outreach logo. Make your own luminary for your home or Sleep Out site - representing how, together, we ignite the power of community. Saturday, Nov. 12 is the night to gather friends, pitch a tent, or sleep in a car or a box to raise funds and awareness for the Sleep Out and the growing number of homeless families in our area.

GIVING DAY ON THE BAY
Thursday, Nov. 17, 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Wayzata Brew Works, 294 Grove Ln E in Wayzata

Invite your friends and bring your Sleep Out donation for a fun evening of community giving at the new Wayzata Brew Works located next door to The Wayzata Train Depot on beautiful Wayzata Bay. Enjoy live music, snacks, games and prize drawings. Forgot your check? No worries. You can give online, on-site with ease! While listening to the Wayzata Community Church’s band Tapestry you can purchase delicious root beer, pizza and giant pretzels to satisfy every craving. For every brew you buy Wayzata Brew Works will donate $2 to the Sleep Out.

FAITH COMMUNITIES LIGHT THE FIRE

In 2014, area faith communities found a new way to engage in the Sleep Out. Started by Deacon Dennis Hanson at Holy Name of Jesus Church, the Fire of Discipleship is a 24-hour effort where each group in a faith community dedicates one hour to tend a fire while bringing in Sleep Out donations to help area families. In 2015, several more faith communities adopted the idea and expanded the reach even further. Ignite a Sleep Out spark at your place of worship today.

NEW! Sleep Out Medallion Hunt: Dec. 1-9

The Sleep Out Medallion Hunt is new this year. For those who have participated in the St. Paul Winter Carnival Hunt, you know the drill. Each day, from Dec. 1-9, we will post one new clue on the Interfaith Outreach website, Facebook and Twitter. The medallion will be hidden in a public spot within the eight cities that Interfaith Outreach serves. Clues will get easier until we have one lucky winner. The medallion must be turned in to claim the prize of $200 in Target gift cards.
Holiday Gift - Sponsors needed for 500 families

Please help us serve even more families this year by sponsoring a family or making a financial gift this holiday season. Here are some ways you can make the experience even bigger and better!

• Make it a work, neighborhood or other group project to sponsor a larger family
• Let your kids choose the gifts for one child or a whole family
• Have birthday or allowance money to spend in a meaningful way? Encourage your child to give back.

Go to www.iocp/holidaygift to sign up to be a sponsor and buy gifts for individuals or families. You can also choose to make a financial contribution instead.

THE HOLIDAY PROGRAM NEEDS 300 VOLUNTEERS BETWEEN OCTOBER AND DECEMBER 2016

We need you! Please consider giving a few hours of your time on Oct. 26 or Dec. 9, 10 and 11. Holiday Gift Program volunteer shifts fill up quickly, so sign up early at www.iocp.org/holidaygift.

Donate holiday food or special food items to the food shelf. Go to www.iocp.org/donateholidayfood for a list of our most-needed items. For Thanksgiving, please deliver food no later than Friday, Nov. 11; for December holidays, donations are requested by Friday, Dec. 9.

You can even help from your own kitchen. Holiday cookies and bars are needed for the client Christmas party. Items should be securely packaged, labeled with quantity and type, and delivered to Interfaith Outreach Nov. 28 - 30, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

THANK YOU!

MISSION – To engage the heart and will of the community to respond to emergency needs and create opportunities for all to thrive.

VISION – To build a vibrant community where everyone counts and all sectors and systems work together for the good of all.

Newsletters are also available online at www.iocp.org/get-updates. To be removed from the mailing list, please email communications@iocp.org.

Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners
1605 County Road 101 N, Plymouth, MN 55447    763-489-7500  www.iocp.org

SERVING THE CITIES OF HAMEL, LONG LAKE, MEDICINE LAKE, MEDINA, MINNETONKA BEACH, ORONO, PLYMOUTH & WAYZATA

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