



Campaign Highlights

THE GOAL

1. To raise awareness **about the increase in suburban poverty and homelessness.**
2. To raise \$2,400,000 to deliver individualized services (in the areas of family support, food, housing and neighborhoods, education and youth, employment, and transportation) that help nearly 2,000 local families each year stabilize, strengthen and thrive.

60% of the Twin Cities' poor population now lives in the suburbs

- Suburban and rural poverty in the seven-county metro area rose by 92% from 2000-2013, while it grew 24% in Minneapolis and St. Paul.
- Wilder Research indicates that 14% of people living in our eight-city service area are living in poverty. For a family of four, that's \$25,100 a year, an income level that can scarcely cover even the most basic needs.

THE NEED

The real cost of housing in Minnesota

- Housing is foundational to family stability. However, the escalating affordable housing crisis is threatening the well-being of a growing number of our neighbors.
- Housing costs are increasing as vacancy rates decrease, and wages aren't keeping up with the rising housing costs.
- The Department of Health and Human Services defines housing insecurity as paying more than 30% of household income for rent/mortgage. All of the 1,996 families Interfaith Outreach worked with last year were cost-burdened. It is not unusual for Interfaith Outreach families to spend 65-70% of their income on housing.
- Affordable rental units are being converted to market rates, sending an exodus of low-income families into crisis. The number of families experiencing homelessness in our community is on the rise. One in five of the families Interfaith Outreach worked with last year experienced homelessness.

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Continued... Campaign Highlights

THE RESPONSE

The Sleep Out funds provide almost 40% of the Interfaith Outreach annual budget

- Thanks to the Sleep Out campaign, this community helped nearly 2,000 families meet their emergency needs for food, housing, transportation, child care and medical needs last year.
- When families come to Interfaith Outreach, they are often in crisis or about to lose their housing. We currently help 90 families each month avoid homelessness through rent assistance. Two-thirds of these families need our help one or two times to get over a rough time and back to stable footing. Those needing additional financial assistance work with a case manager on longer-term plans to address more systemic issues.
- The funds we raise through the Sleep Out campaign help us deliver individualized services (in the areas of family support, food, housing and neighborhoods, education and youth, employment, and transportation) that help nearly 2,000 local families each year stabilize, strengthen and thrive.
- Throughout the history of the Sleep Out, our community has helped prevent homelessness 32,098 times.

Critical uses of Sleep Out funds

- \$2,718 – average cost of providing services to stabilize and strengthen a family for one year
- \$1,952 – provides employment services for a parent to land a “career job”
- \$929 – allows one child one month of quality early childhood care
- \$799 – keeps a family in their housing for a month
- \$400 – puts tires on a car so a family can get to work and school
- \$214 – offers a utility payment assist that keeps the lights on

Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners' Mission

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

About Us

Interfaith Outreach is a community-based outreach organization with a 39-year history of serving families, children and individuals in eight west suburban Hennepin County communities. The organization channels the efforts of effective cross-sector partnerships to help families overcome systemic and complex barriers that prevent people from thriving.

Serving

Hamel, Long Lake, Medicine Lake, Medina, Minnetonka Beach, Orono, Plymouth, Wayzata