Alison had a chance to change her story

Alison* is our neighbor. She belongs here. But, as she entered high school, Alison began processing childhood trauma. Alison says, "I was struggling with my mental health. I stopped caring about my grades and started hanging out with people that did not care about me."

Alison did not graduate her senior year.

But Alison is resilient.

"It wasn’t until I met the incredible people at Interfaith Outreach and Wayzata Public Schools Adult Education that I had a chance to change my narrative."

Interfaith Outreach and its partners, donors and supporters gave Alison the gift of belonging and support as she worked toward her goals. And, most critically, the stability of a home for her daughter Karin and partner John through Project Success, a transitional housing program funded in part by donations to the Sleep Out.

"While I’m excited to be celebrating one of my goals, completing my GED, I can’t help but be even more excited for the future. I’m currently employed and being trained for a career in the health profession. And, I have a stable place to call home."

Housing is foundational

For the past 23 years, amazing community members like you have slept in boxes, tents, cars, and on living room floors to prevent homelessness through the Sleep Out. The Sleep Out supports struggling families and kids with:

- **EDUCATION**
- **EMPLOYMENT**
- **FOOD**
- **TRANSPORTATION**
- **HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOODS**
- **FAMILY SUPPORT**

* Names changed to protect privacy

Donate by Nov. 14 and double your impact! In memory of longtime Interfaith Outreach supporter and former board member Bill Munsell, his friends and family will match gifts up to $250,000.

The Sleep Out goal: $2.6 million to prevent homelessness
Double your dollars up to $250,000 when you donate between now and Nov. 14.

Double Your Impact

Holiday Gift Program
Sponsor by Nov. 1
Last year 2,822 neighbors experienced holiday joy thanks to your generosity. Learn more and sponsor at iocp.org/holidaygift.

Community Sleep Out
Saturday, Nov. 9, all over town
Join hundreds of community members and pitch a tent or host a Bedless Night as we ignite our collective power. Before you sleep out, swing by the Fire of Belonging between 7-10 p.m. at Interfaith Outreach to pick up a You Belong yard sign. iocp.org/sleepout2019.

Shop with a Purpose
Friday, Dec. 20, all over town
Finish your last-minute holiday shopping! Local caring businesses are generously contributing portions of their sales on this one day to the Sleep Out. View participating merchants and their special offers at iocp.org/swap on Nov. 1.

NEW this year! The You Belong Sleep Out Experience
Thursday, Nov. 14, all over town and online
On Give to the Max Day, share a photo or video of yourself with a You Belong Sleep Out sign to remind others that we all belong here, as neighbors. Set up a Sleep Out fundraising page and inspire your family and friends to donate. Tell our neighbors, “You Belong” by planting a Sleep Out yard sign. Pick up your sign at the Fire of Belonging on Nov. 9 from 7-10 p.m. at Interfaith Outreach. We’ll have a little treat for you. Learn how you can share a powerful message of belonging at iocp.org/youbelong

2,000 families – our neighbors – need your help.
The Sleep Out is the all-in community effort to help families stabilize in times of crisis. Together we can create a caring community that creates a real sense of belonging, for everyone.
Help our neighbors recover their dreams

Most of us who live in this community would say there’s no better place to live, to work, to raise a family, to grow old. Because for most of us that’s true. But, now, in what has become a very tough housing market, for too many others of us, that “no better place” has become more dream than reality.

A safe, stable place to call home is what anchors people’s dreams, but for the 1 in 5 households who came to us last year, homelessness was their current reality. And for others of us, as rents gallop ahead of real incomes, as formerly affordable rental properties have gone to market rate, their “no better place” — to live, to raise their families, to work, to grow old — is at risk of disappearing.

Who are those others? They are us. The people God has placed in our path. They belong here. With us. We need to help them recover their dream. We can. A successful $2.6M Sleep Out Campaign will power up the new and revitalized efforts and partnerships and resources needed to make it happen. Let’s do it!

LaDonna Hoy,
Executive Director, Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners

Rental housing is less affordable than ever

In Minnesota, working full time (or more) doesn’t mean you’ll have enough to pay rent. According to a report from Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP), the gap between wages and rent is growing. Wages are not keeping pace with rent increases.

Building on an annual report from the National Low Income Housing Coalition, MHP’s Out of Reach Minnesota 2019 reveals the wage necessary to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Minnesota has jumped by 9% over the past decade. Meanwhile, as housing costs have climbed, median renter income declined by 5% from 2000 to 2017, with disproportionately severe impacts on communities of color.

From personal care aides and cashiers to restaurant cooks and nursing assistants, top in-demand jobs in our area simply don’t pay enough to afford a modest apartment.

Median Renter Income
-5%

Housing Wage
+9%

Rental housing is less affordable than ever: Wages decline as rents increase (from mhponline.org)

New! Take the Quiz

Every day we are inspired by Interfaith Outreach families. Our community is amazingly diverse and resilient. Take a one-minute online quiz to learn more about your neighbors living right here in the west metro suburbs.

Do you know your neighbors?

iocp.org/neighbors
If it has been done, it must be possible!

We often speak of just-in-time miracles that turn the *im*-possible into the possible. Powered by the resolve that all of us have a place to call home and opportunities to become all we can be, this amazing community steps up, and miracles happen.

We take heart from past successful all-in community partnerships that have made 253 units of affordable rental housing available to low- and middle-income families and individuals of our community. The Sleep Out has been — and still is — a critical support for the life-changing opportunities that safe, affordable housing makes possible.

We take heart from the renewed focus of the Outreach Development Corporation (ODC) in galvanizing the complex and collaborative public/private resolve, as well as partnerships and resources needed to preserve, acquire and develop more urgently needed affordable housing.

Comprised of local professionals who specialize in affordable housing finance and community development, — developers, realtors, representatives of the public sector experienced in addressing housing crises, local business leaders, and Interfaith Outreach board and staff representatives — the ODC board is the just-in-time people to lead the way.

Our families, our kids, need a just-in-time housing miracle now. Your support will make it happen.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Partner</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Cornerstone / Real Estate Equities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shenandoah Apartments</td>
<td>64</td>
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<td>Vicksburg Commons</td>
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<td>Habitat for Humanity</td>
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<td>Interfaith and ODC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boulevard Apartments</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Affordable Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>253</strong></td>
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Thank you! Gifts to the Sleep Out have helped create 253 affordable apartments and townhomes in the Twin Cities west metro over the years.

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GRANTS June-August 2019

- Frey Foundation, Housing & Neighborhoods
- Hennepin County, Housing & Neighborhoods
- City of Plymouth HRA, Housing & Neighborhoods
- General Mills Foundation, General Operating
- Target Foundation, General Operating

MEMORIALS June-August 2019

Kathleen Anderson / James Budd / Dr. Samuel Carlson / Sharon D’Amico / David Davenport / Jerome Deiley / Steve Erickson / Howard “Howie” Guest / Sharon Johansson / Roger Johnson / Frank Leu / Bette McIlrath / James & Kathleen Michaelson / Vergene Miller / Flavian Mueller / Lowell “Tom” Olson / Mary Carol Pederson / Dave Remen / LaVern Stempson / Joseph Wierschem / Marie Williams / Tanya Williams / Paul Youngberg
2019 Sleep Out Campaign
Goal: $2.6 million by Dec. 31, 2019

Housing is the foundation of family stability. Many pay 60% or more of their income for rent every month (30% is deemed affordable) and are barely scraping by.

Your gift helps Interfaith Outreach deliver services in the areas of family support, food, housing and neighborhoods, education and youth, employment, and transportation to 2,000 local families.

Donate to the Sleep Out and send a message to our neighbors: “You Belong,” while also preventing homelessness. iocp.org/sleepout

A few examples of how Sleep Out dollars make a life-changing difference:

- $2,908 provides services to stabilize and strengthen a family for a year
- $1,964 provides employment services for a parent to land a "career job"
- $1,530 provides a child one month of care in a quality early childhood center
- $899 keeps a family in their housing for a month
- $400 puts tires on a car so a family can get to work
- $259 offers a utility payment assist that keeps the lights on

The Sleep Out inspires hundreds of people to sleep in tents, boxes, cars and on floors to raise funds and bring help and hope to local families.

Through the Sleep Out, our community has prevented homelessness 33,272 times

Your contribution today will prevent homelessness tomorrow.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

DONATE  Donate to the Sleep Out by Nov. 14 to double your gift up to $250,000
  iocp.org/sleepout

SLEEP OUT  Host your own Sleep Out or Bedless Night between Nov. 9-Dec. 31
  iocp.org/sleepout2019

GET SOCIAL  Participate in the You Belong experience
  iocp.org/youbelong
Twenty-three years ago, local businessman Bob Fisher started it all! Help us raise $2.6 million this year in support of local families and kids. [iocp.org/sleepout2019](https://iocp.org/sleepout2019)

Gordy Engel, owner of The Foursome, inspired the first Shop with a Purpose (SWAP). Come support the Sleep Out while holiday shopping on [Dec. 20, 2019](https://iocp.org/swap). Participating merchants listed at [iocp.org/swap](https://iocp.org/swap) on Nov. 1.

200 youth gather at Interfaith Outreach for a powerful service and learning experience during the 2018 Sleep Out.

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**HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM needs sponsors & support**

[iocp.org/holidaygift](https://iocp.org/holidaygift)

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.

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Newsletters are available online at [iocp.org/getconnected](https://iocp.org/getconnected). 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  iocp.org

Serving: Hamel, Long Lake, Medicine Lake, Medina, Minnetonka Beach, Orono, Plymouth & Wayzata

Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners and the Interfaith Outreach Endowment Fund, which solely benefits Interfaith Outreach, are registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Gifts to either organization are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.
The Interfaith Outreach Holiday Gift Program is our community tradition of providing gifts for struggling neighbors. Thanks to sponsors and donors like you who purchase gifts and gift cards, the holidays are a little brighter for local seniors, families and kids. This program is 100% community-based and volunteer-led, ensuring your investment has the greatest impact possible.

Who you help
Last year 2,822 people in our community experienced the warmth of your kindness through the Holiday Gift Program, including:
- Individuals with disabilities
- Seniors on fixed incomes
- Families and kids with lean budgets and/or experiencing homelessness

How you help
1. Sponsor a family or individual by purchasing gifts or gift cards
2. Provide a financial contribution
3. Volunteer your time

Sign up to be a sponsor at iocp.org/holidaygift
With the support of our generous community and partners, Interfaith Outreach provides assistance to families celebrating a variety of holiday traditions including Chanukah, Christmas, Eid al-Fitr and Thanksgiving.

Did You Know?
94% of our clients live in poverty*

1. Sponsor Gift Drop-Off Weekend
2. Family Gift Pickup Day

Prefer an easier way to give?
Give $10 or $15 Target gift cards through Dec. 13 or donate online at iocp.org/donate

*Based on Federal Government near and near poor poverty guidelines