

The NW Suburban Interfaith Council was born over 30 years ago when the local Jewish Community Center was defaced with anti-Semitic graffiti. Clergy and members of local congregations banded together-not only to condemn a hateful act but to create something new: an organization that could work together to foster understanding of other faiths, encourage cooperative social service efforts and serve as an ethical and moral voice promoting positive growth and unity in our community.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and since the pandemic started March, 2020 through last May, we have given out over \$10,000 to our community faith-based food pantries. During this scary time and thanks to the volunteers at these food pantries, several thousand people were given food, gift cards, and children's books. This year our virtual "i walk" fund raising donations were a little over \$7000 These donations will be given to our community food pantries, as needed.

Last May, many watched as we successfully created a virtual tour live from Jerusalem, highlighting the different faiths residing in that area...

Other event items of note include...

1. Environmental. Thanks to the efforts our member, Bruce Glickson, we have planted 5 gardens at our member's places of worship, all friendly to the monarch butterfly population. We hope to plant a few more before the frost.
2. Feed Our Starving Children. Thanks to the efforts of our member Jeff Whitehead, we are in the planning stages of creating an interfaith event(s) at their Libertyville facility.
3. Book Drive. Coming this month, we will be placing donation boxes at some of our member's congregations seeking children's books destined for Bernie's Book Bank.
4. Thanksgiving Celebration. This has been an annual event for 30 years. In the past we have had as many as 1000 in attendance We will keep those wishing to attend informed as we get closer to November 21st, the anticipated event date.
5. We are delighted to welcome St. Joseph the Worker to our council, making this our 11 places of worship in Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, Long Grove and Prospect Heights communities.

6. The Buffalo Grove Police Department has asked us to participate in their upcoming and first "Faith and Blue" event in October to strengthen relationships between police and faith based community members.

In closing, these are troubled times. We know that bigotry still exists. As mentioned above, we were born due to the antisemitic defacing of our local Jewish Community Center. Since then, in 2012, we spoke out when 6 members were shot at a Wisconsin Sikh church and... in 2015 we, in partnership with the Children of Abraham Coalition, reached out to local media outlets to create a strong statement condemning bigotry against those of the Moslem faith and all other religious denominations. Recently, due to physical antisemitic attacks aimed at many of the Jewish faith, we "condemn antisemitism" and that "hate has no place in our communities." For our full statement on this serious matter, see our home page on our website at

<https://www.northwestsuburbaninterfaith.org/>

Our mission "to foster understanding and unity among those of different faiths" and to "serve as an ethical/moral voice when issues surface" is clear...Our programming is solid...and.. Our prayers are for peace and harmony, not only for our community, but for all no matter where they may reside.

Richard Rosen.... president of the NW Suburban Interfaith Council