



**IM**

INTERFAITH  
MINISTRIES  
FOR GREATER HOUSTON

# FISCAL YEAR 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## A NOTE FROM THE CEO



This year, I celebrated my first anniversary as President and CEO of Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston (IM). Like many Houstonians, I thought I knew about the valuable work IM does in the community, but it took some time at the helm to truly appreciate the full breadth of the impact we make.

I think back, in particular, to the warm evening this summer when IM board members and staff joined religious leaders, government officials and community representatives in an ecumenical vigil for the victims of the Orlando shootings. I was proud of IM's leadership in that stirring event and the spirit of community it fostered.

I was honored, as well, when we were asked on many occasions to organize representatives of many faiths in the wake of the countless acts of violence and hate that seem to punctuate recent world events. These were just a few of the ways we continued to represent and demonstrate the strength of our shared beliefs.

We showed this strength in the services we provided to some 4,000 homebound seniors each day. Our Meals on Wheels program delivers a hot meal and a friendly face to seniors unable to care fully for themselves. We are often their only contact with the outside world.

We showed this strength in our programs to serve 2,000 refugees fleeing the horrors of war and persecution. We met them at the airport, we got them homes, and we enrolled their children in schools, easing their transition into a new community and a new life.

And we showed this strength in our steadfast support for respecting our neighbors, no matter their beliefs or background.

I am proud of IM's role in making Houston an example for the rest of America of what it means to be a welcoming community. There is much more work to do, but I am grateful that IM's board of directors, staff, volunteers and donors are more than up to the challenge.

I see an exciting future for IM. I hope you do, too.

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING IN THIS IMPORTANT WORK.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin B. Cominsky". The signature is fluid and cursive.

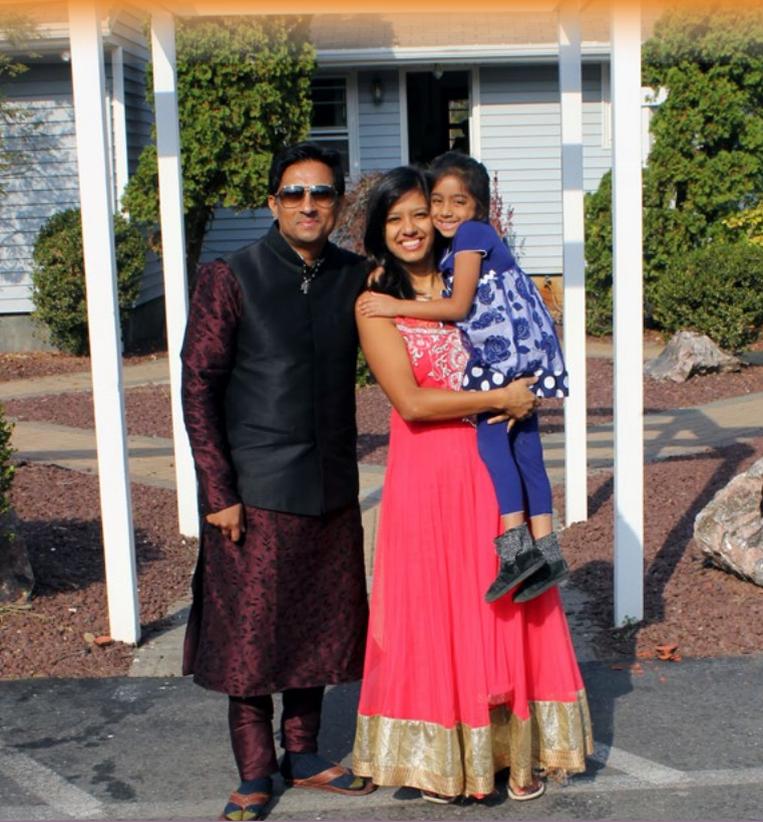
Martin B. Cominsky  
President & CEO  
Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

# MISSION

Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston brings people of diverse faith traditions together for dialogue, collaboration and service, as a demonstration of our **shared beliefs**.

"I continue to be inspired by the commitment of IM to help people where they live. We deliver food and friendship to the doorsteps of Houston's homebound seniors. We walk refugees through the process of becoming new Americans. We foster spiritual understanding among the diverse members of our community. The Strength of Shared Beliefs isn't an empty motto. IM puts it into practice each and every day."

Paula Sutton  
Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston  
Board Chair



# INTERFAITH RELATIONS

The Interfaith Relations Department **fosters understanding, respect and engagement among people of all faiths** through educational opportunities and community service that emphasize our shared beliefs. The department also connects non-profits, religious institutions and government agencies to build a climate that fosters support for "Respect Thy Neighbor."

## DINNER DIALOGUES: Celebrating Shared Faiths

Dinner Dialogues are sponsored by IM's Interfaith Relations Department. This event focuses on conversations held over dinner where participants gather to learn about the faith traditions of others.

In February, Dr. Rad and Ragini Miryala served as Dinner Dialogue hosts. Rad, who is with the Heartfulness Institute, shared some of his thoughts about this popular event:

"I am happy to report that the evening was a great success. After appetizers and introductions, we were able to meet individuals from several different belief systems... Several members of the group commented on how much they enjoyed learning about each other's faiths and how they felt that our faiths had more similarities than differences. It is encouraging to see organizations like Interfaith Ministries building a common dialogue among the many faiths that make up our city."

- More than **700 people** from diverse faith backgrounds participated in IM's adult programming, including Dinner Dialogues where participants learn about one another's faiths over a shared meal.

- IM's Youth Program (ILEAD) hosted several activities, bringing together more than **200 students** to exchange their ideas about faith and make new friends. This included an Interfaith Youth Day of Service.

- IM hosted, or facilitated, **86 events** that brought diverse faith communities together for education and dialogue.

- More than **275 individuals** from the Houston Interfaith Disaster Response Alliance (HIDRA) participated in seminars to learn about preparing for crisis situations.



## PROVIDING A MEAL AND SO MUCH MORE

Elevena is one of 15 Meals on Wheels seniors who are 100 years old or older.

It's remarkable that someone who is 100 can still live at home, a feat made possible in part because of her Meals on Wheels service. Studies show that more than 80 percent of seniors who live at home say it improves their health and sense of security.

This is no doubt due to the fact that Meals on Wheels not only offers a warm meal, but also a valuable wellness check and much needed contact with the outside world.

The meals certainly make a difference to Elevena. She is afraid to cook because she might drop boiling water on herself. But, she proudly proclaims she can still walk. And that means a lot.

"Baby, I ain't got no secret to livin' to 100. I worked hard. I ate what I wanted – including lots of pies which I love. I'm gonna live 50 more if I can help it! Ain't no big deal as long as I'm in God's hands."

With spunk like that, Elevena inspires us all.

# MEALS ON WHEELS

IM's Meals on Wheels for Greater Houston program delivers a meal to homebound seniors 60 and over who are unable to prepare their own meals. The program also delivers breakfast and weekend meals to the most frail and isolated seniors.

Each meal delivery is made by a driver who checks on the well-being of each senior, **bringing peace of mind to seniors and their families.**

- IM delivered **1.5 million meals**.
- Delivered meals to approximately **4,000 seniors** each weekday.
- **2,000 volunteers** delivered approximately 4,000 meals to seniors on Thanksgiving Day.
- aniMeals on Wheels volunteers delivered more than **113,000 pounds** of donated pet food to seniors so they would not feel compelled to share their limited resources with their animal companions.
- Meals on Wheels provided **1,300 seniors** with donated items like walkers and other medical supplies, as well as referrals to other services.
- MOW provided **emergency storm meals** in the summer and winter.



# REFUGEE SERVICES

IM's Refugee Services Department, in conjunction with the U.S. State Department, Episcopal Migration Ministries and Church World Service, resettles refugees fleeing political, social or religious persecution. **Today, there are approximately 26.3 million refugees throughout the world; most are women and children.**

## WELCOME THE STRANGER

Iraqi refugee Ahmed and his family have lived a life of horror few can ever grasp. In the strife that has engulfed his country, Ahmed saw friends and family members brutally murdered and was, himself, shot and severely injured multiple times.

After years of violence and fearing for the safety of his young family, he and his wife escaped to Jordan where they waited 20 months before receiving the paperwork necessary to be resettled in the United States.

When they arrived in Houston, they were immediately greeted by IM caseworkers, who provided them with an apartment, clothes, and a welcome basket of toys, calendars and coloring books for their two young sons. Although life in the United States is new for Ahmed, he is elated that his children are going to be safe and have access to education and healthcare. "I hope to find a job soon, so I can care for my family."

He is grateful for the help that we provided and glad to know that he is welcome and safe in his new home.

- IM served more than **2,000 refugees** from **13 countries**. Refugee Services' goal is to make our new neighbors feel welcome, while helping them become self-sufficient, productive members of the community within six months of arrival.

- The **department works with local congregations and other partners** to provide services such as: airport pickup, housing, English classes, cultural orientation, document application and job placement.

- Over **90% of refugees are self-sufficient** within 6 months of resettlement.

- **IM equips refugees with the tools they need** to make a new life, find work, care for their families, and realize the American dream.

# VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF IM

Meet Tonya Cossie, one of our “America, Let’s Do Lunch” delivery volunteers. The Lets’s Do Lunch campaign is a national program designed so volunteers can deliver meals in a short time frame, such as over lunch.

Each Wednesday, Tonya and her four children Tatiyana, 17, Tynaya, 14, Trayce, 10, and Tauryss, 5, deliver meals to 12 seniors living in a senior apartment complex near downtown.

Tonya home schools her children and this is something special they do to give back to the community. She says it’s a way to show her children the importance of helping others in need. It is also beneficial for the senior clients because they do not often have the opportunity to interact with children.

“One of our seniors calls us her “favorite family,” Tonya says.



# VOLUNTEER SERVICES

**The strength of Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston lies in the selfless service of our dedicated corps of volunteers.** Each year, more than 4,000 volunteers lend their time and talents toward helping homebound seniors and refugees who turn to IM for help.

- **Opportunities to serve are varied** and include: delivering meals to hungry seniors, packaging pet food for their beloved dogs and cats, befriending refugees looking to call Houston home and assisting staff with important administrative tasks.

- **We have many volunteer opportunities for individuals, families and groups** to help serve people in need. Many of our projects are appropriate for families with children.

- **We could not carry out our mission without your help.**

**Call 713.533.4989 for more information on individual and group volunteer opportunities.**

# FY 2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## REVENUE



- GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS
- OPERATING CONTRIBUTIONS
- CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
- UNITED WAY
- SPECIAL EVENTS, NET
- PROGRAM SERVICE FEES
- RENTAL INCOME
- OTHER

**TOTAL REVENUE \$18,570,045**

## EXPENSES



- PROGRAM SERVICES
- MANAGEMENT AND FUNDRAISING
- CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
- BUILDING RENTAL OPERATIONS

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$17,746,834**

# FY 2016 MAJOR DONORS

### \$100,000 + - (\$100,000.00 + )

Anonymous Foundation  
The Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Foundation  
Karyn and Charles Crisp  
EOG Resources  
The Eleanor and Frank Freed Foundation  
Houston Endowment Inc.  
Houston/Galveston Area Food Bank  
William King  
The W.T. & Louise J. Moran Foundation  
Edward & Helen Oppenheimer Foundation  
Roxell Richards Law Firm \*  
Shell Oil Company  
Silver Eagle Distributors  
Sysco Corporation  
United Way of Greater Houston \*  
Valley Services, Inc.

### \$50,000 - \$99,999

Arjmandi Law Office, PLLC \*  
Ruth and Ken Arnold  
Shaiqa and Shahzad Bashir  
CenterPoint Energy  
Costca \*  
Crate & Barrel \*  
Habiba and Mohammed Ali Dhanani  
Jet and Judge Robert Eckels  
Lily and Charles Foster  
Alyson and Elliot Gershenson  
Paula Sutton and Bill Gross  
HEB  
Mary Gwen and Ben Hulsey  
Isla Carroll Turner Friendship Trust  
Manmeet and Paul Likhari  
Mars Petcare \*  
Shazma and Arshad Matin  
Fatima and Amin Mawji  
Rescue Bank - Houston \*  
Shifa USA Foundation  
Salma and Riaz Siddiqi  
Stewart & Stevenson, LLC  
Elizabeth Tate  
TFI Resources  
Craig Weinstock  
Frances Zandstra  
Nihala and Shaikat Zakaria

### \$25,000 - \$49,999

Nuzha and Adnan Amjad  
Seema and Gumil Bhatia  
Bank of America  
The Brown Foundation, Inc.  
Congregation Emanu El  
Asif Dakri  
Deutser, LLC \*  
The Duddlesten Foundation  
Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church  
Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.  
Episcopal Foundation of Texas  
Halliburton  
Karen and Jay Harberg  
Heart of Fashion  
Carol and Leonard Hoffman  
Kamila and Nomaan Husain  
Suzanne and Ziad Itani  
Amna and Nadim Jafri  
Masu Haque-Khan and Badar Khan  
Rosie and Laeeq Khan  
Sharon Hairston-King and Daryl King  
KUHF-FM (88.7) \*  
Sushma and Devinder Mahajan  
Linda and Fred Marshall  
Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church  
Gerald Merfish  
The Charles Mills Estate  
Plains All American Pipeline  
The Samuels Foundation  
The Simmons Foundation  
Jasmeeta and Bobby Singh  
St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
The Dixie Starnes Wenger Foundation

### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Sushila and Durga Agrawal  
Baker Hughes Foundation  
Margaret and E. William Barnett  
Janet and W. T. Carter  
Chevron  
Terry and Martin Cominsky  
Patti and Richard Everett  
ExxonMobil Foundation  
Falls of Point West \*

The Frost National Bank  
Martha and Ajit Giani  
George and Mary Josephine Hamman  
Foundation  
Monica and Andrew Hoffman  
The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston  
Suzanne and Terry Johnson  
Mrs. Marilyn Katzman  
Sippi and Ajay Khurana  
Nathan J. Klein Fund  
The Kroger Company  
Marek Family Foundation  
Ms. Marlene Marker  
Mona T-shirt & Embroidery \*  
Petsmart \*  
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Rebecca and Kurt Schweigert  
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Nasim and Pyarali Umatiya  
Village Key \*  
Shahzad and Malik Waliqani  
The Wells Fargo Foundation  
Jennifer Weston  
Abid Yousuf

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

The Aga Khan Council for the Southwestern  
United States  
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Foster LLP  
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Global Charitable Foundation  
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Soha and Shareque Haque \*  
Heimbinder Family Foundation  
Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation  
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Bimla and Swatantra Jain  
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Kramer Portraits, New York \*  
Jennifer and Joseph Leone  
Erica Lisbon \*  
Carmelia and Meredith Long  
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Memorial Hermann Health System  
Palmer Foundation  
Pelican Landing \*  
Pines Presbyterian Church  
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Regina J. Rogers  
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Sempra LNG & Midstream  
Service Corporation International  
Leena and Ash Shah  
Cartha and Nameer Siddiqui  
Smart Rags Recyclers  
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Anuradha and Kohur Subramanian  
Ali Al Sudani  
Tam International Inc.  
Selma and Mustafa Tameez  
Laura and Tomas Torres  
Chapelwood United Methodist Church/United  
Methodist Women of Chapelwood  
Emily and Danny Weingest  
Westward Square \*  
Melinda and Michael Wilhelm

\*Includes Gifts made In-Kind

# PLAZA OF RESPECT



Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston (IM) is excited to begin the final phase of its Many Faiths Building Together Capital Campaign. The campaign has raised \$11.7 million thus far, allowing IM to consolidate its operations into one Midtown campus. Now, we must raise the remaining funds to complete our campus, with the Plaza of Respect at 3303 Main.

The Plaza will be dedicated to the interfaith work of three of our city's most celebrated faith leaders — Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza, Rabbi Samuel Karff and Reverend William A. Lawson. It will be the capstone of the IM campus and a beautiful civic space in the heart of Midtown.

We invite your support of this reflective, inspiring space celebrating the rich and cultural diversity of Houston.



## IM BY THE NUMBERS

**1.5 MILLION**  
MEALS DELIVERED

**113,000**

POUNDS OF PET FOOD  
DELIVERED TO SENIORS'  
PETS

OVER  
**2,000**  
REFUGEES SERVED IN  
2016

OVER

**200**

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN  
YOUTH PROGRAMMING AND  
ILEAD

OVER  
**4,000**  
VOLUNTEERS DONATED THEIR  
TIME

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Bret Baccus

## Treasurer

Nizar Charania

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Martin B. Cominsky

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## Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

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