

IM WINTER 2016 MOSAIC

INTERFAITH MINISTRIES

FOR GREATER HOUSTON
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Houston, TX 77002
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Fall Dinner Dialogue:

IM's fall Dinner Dialogue was held for the first time in local mosques. Some 200 Houstonians gathered at seven mosques to learn more about their Muslim neighbors. It was a great evening of sharing and fostered a greater understanding of this rich religious tradition.



Meals On Wheels Thanksgiving:

More than 2,000 volunteers showed up bright and early for the 2016 Meals on Wheels Thanksgiving event. Thanks to their help, we were able to deliver 4,000 hot turkey dinners, with all the fixings, to homebound seniors. A special thanks goes out to our sponsor, Kroger, and to Radio One for the entertainment and First Presbyterian Church for the use of its parking lot.

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FOR ALL HUMANITY LUNCHEON HONORS FARID AND ASHA VIRANI CHALLENGE GRANT SPURS RECORD FUNDRAISING GOAL

Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston (IM) honored community leaders Farid and Asha Virani at its 2016 For All Humanity Luncheon.

Farid Virani is the founder and CEO of Prime Communications, the largest privately held AT&T Authorized Retail Chain in the United States. Asha Virani is an internal medicine physician who is active in causes dedicated to improving children's health and education. Together, they both actively give back to the community.

"The community coming together in support of the work of IM by being united in service, open heartedness, and generosity is a testimony and reaffirmation of the goodness and compassion that is at the heart and ethos of our city," said Asha Virani. "May we continue to lead by example by sharing our light with others."

Event chairs were: Mr. and Mrs. Naushad Kermally; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Vaughan; Mr. and Mrs. Akbar Mohamed; Mr. and Mrs. Beau Pollock; and Mr. and Mrs. Manolo Sanchez. Harris County Judge Ed Emmett provided the keynote address and Channel 13's Miya Shay served as emcee.

Proceeds from the luncheon help IM serve more than 2,000 refugees each year fleeing persecution and violence in their homelands.

IM 2016 "For All Humanity Luncheon" raised a record amount for IM's valuable programming, including refugee resettlement.

Close to 400 guests attended the Nov. 17 luncheon, which raised more than \$220,000, nearly a 70 percent increase from last year's luncheon.

"It is gratifying to see so much support from the community," said Martin B. Cominsky, IM's President and CEO. "Not only did we see more people attend the event than ever before, we saw them donating to our work at an unprecedented level of generosity."



Philamena Baird and IM President & CEO Martin B. Cominsky



IM Board Chair Paula Sutton



Event Chairs Narmin and Naushad Kermally



Honorees Farid and Asha Virani

A NOTE FROM THE CEO



Martin B. Cominsky
President & CEO

Dear Friends,
As we celebrate this season of gratitude, I am counting the many blessings IM has experienced in 2016. First, it has been a tremendous blessing for me to serve as your President & CEO. The work this organization does inspires me on a daily basis. I have been privileged to see the smiles on the faces of seniors receiving a friendly visit and hot

lunch from Meals on Wheels, to see the look of pride in a refugee's eyes when he begins a new job and new life in Houston, and to experience the joy of learning about others' beliefs through our Interfaith Relations programming.

Houston is blessed to be the most diverse city in the nation, and to have many community leaders who dedicate their lives to making our community a better place. Three leaders who truly stand out are friends Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza, Rabbi Samuel Karff and Reverend William Lawson. These gentlemen have worked together for decades on behalf of civil rights and understanding. They are a testament to the power of dialogue and collaboration to effect change, peacefully and powerfully.

Now more than ever, our nation needs healing. In this spirit, we are embarking on an exciting project – the Plaza of Respect. This project will be the capstone for our campus. The Plaza of our headquarters at 3303 Main will be transformed into an inspirational public space that honors the three faith leaders and creates a beautiful outdoor gathering place in the heart of Houston's vibrant Midtown district.

To make this vision a reality, we are raising \$2.5 million for the construction of the Plaza and to establish a reserve fund to enable us to maintain the area for years to come. If you are interested in learning more about this exciting project, please contact me or our Chief Development Officer, Maria Magee, at 713-533-4900.



Plaza of Respect Plans



Meet Tom and Shirley

At 92, Tom is one of our older Meals on Wheels recipients. He and his wife Shirley have been together almost 70 years. "I will never forget my first glimpse of Shirley," says Tom, with a glint in his eye. "Out of the corner of my eye I saw her get into a green '41 Chevy and God said, there's your girl!"

Tom was born in Schulenberg and lived on a farm. At 18, he enlisted in the Army and was sent to the Pacific during World War II. He moved to Huntsville when the war ended and began school to be an auto mechanic. He spent much of his time in Conroe, TX with a Catholic Youth Organization he started, with Shirley at the helm as Treasurer. Their first date was at Lodge 88 for polka dancing, even though Shirley was more of a Jitterbug girl. They had a wonderful time, and Tom asked Shirley for a second date right then and there. She agreed with the caveat that she "never wanted to play second fiddle!" And she never did—they married two years later.

In 1960 the couple bought a house in the Garden Oaks area where they raised eight children. Tom worked as an auto mechanic and Shirley as a nurse. When they were younger, the two of them delivered Meals on Wheels to seniors in their neighborhood. Now, Shirley relies on others to care for her, as she is bedridden with Alzheimer's.

Tom used to cook for himself and Shirley, but with a back injury and a walker to get around, it is hard on him to stand up for too long. Meals on Wheels helps Tom make sure he can give Shirley the care she needs. "I don't do much for myself but when it comes to her, I spare no expense, she is really worth it."



2017 Best Friends Brunch to be a Fairy Tale

Save February 11th for the 2017 Best Friends Brunch at Hotel ZaZa, 5701 Main Street.

The brunch benefits our aniMeals program, which helps feed the beloved dogs and cats of our Meals on Wheels Seniors.

This year's honoree is Jerri Duddlesten Moore, along with her dog Armi. Our Honorary Chairs are Neal Hamil and Karen Winston. Heather Holland is the Event Chair. This year's theme will be Fairy Tails.

Ticket prices start at \$200, table sponsorships at \$2,500. For Information, contact Brandi Ledet, at 713-533-4925, bledet@imgh.org.



Seniors' Holiday Gift Bags Sponsored by Sysco

Sysco is brightening the holidays for our Meals On Wheels seniors by sponsoring the 2016 Holiday Gift Bag program. Every senior receives a gift bag that includes toiletries, a game or book, and something warm to ward off winter chills, like socks or a cozy blanket. For some seniors, this is the only gift, they receive. Thank you to Sysco for making this holiday season special for 4,000 homebound seniors.

CenterPoint and Reliant Sponsor Winter Meals

Each year, Meals on Wheels delivers shelf-stable meals to 4,000 homebound seniors across the Houston area to prepare for winter storm season. In the event that winter weather keeps our drivers from delivering meals, our seniors will have Winter Meals to tide them over. We are blessed this year to have two generous corporate sponsors for this important project: CenterPoint Energy and Reliant, an NRG Company. These wonderful corporate supporters give us the energy and power to make sure no senior goes hungry this winter!

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