

# IM

## FALL 2017 MOSAIC

### INTERFAITH MINISTRIES

FOR GREATER HOUSTON

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Paula Sutton  
IM Board Chair



# MEALS ON WHEELS: THANKSGIVING IS FAST APPROACHING

The highlight of the IM year is coming soon – our annual Meals on Wheels Thanksgiving.

This festive event has become a holiday tradition for hundreds of families who start their Thanksgiving celebration by delivering hot turkey meals, and all the fixings, to more than 4,000 homebound seniors.

This year, for the first time, we also will be delivering to homebound seniors in Galveston County. Many of our seniors were impacted by Harvey, so it is more important than ever to brighten their holiday.

Now is the time to sign up to volunteer and to donate funds for meals throughout the holiday season. This year we hope to raise **\$55,000** for **11,000 holiday meals** for homebound seniors in Houston and Galveston.

To learn how you can help, visit <http://support.imgh.org/thanksgiving2017>

**Thank you for making this a thankful season for all our seniors.**

# MOSAIC

A PUBLICATION OF  
INTERFAITH MINISTRIES FOR GREATER HOUSTON

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## COMMUNITY STEPS UP TO HELP AFTER HARVEY



**I**n the evening hours of August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey slammed into the Texas Gulf Coast dumping more than 50 inches of rain on Houston and surrounding communities, and leaving massive destruction throughout the region.

Large parts of the Coast experienced historic flooding, forcing thousands of families to evacuate to shelters and leaving widespread damage to homes, schools, offices and businesses.

Although it will be months, even years, before the total repair bill is tallied, best estimates put it upwards of \$160 billion.

Sadder still, the death toll exceeded more than 80.

Thanks to the herculean efforts of IM's staff, volunteers, the Army Guard, and donations from across the country, we were able to focus on our homebound seniors and refugees and assist them as quickly as possible. This outreach continued for weeks after the storm had passed.

We also provided other Meals on Wheels organizations in the Gulf Coast, some as far away as Beaumont and Rockport, with meals and hundreds of cases of bottled water.

In addition, we organized volunteers through our Department of Community Partnerships/Volunteer Houston, helping the thousands of evacuees in shelters by coordinating volunteers as well as assistance in the long-term recovery process. Interfaith Relations helped to provide pastoral and spiritual support at Houston's main shelters, served as a conduit for

information with the many faith communities who worked tirelessly to help people in need, and helped media outlets "tell the story" of how people across our great region rose up "Houston Strong."

In the worst of times, we demonstrated the full measure of the Strength of Shared Beliefs.

We cannot thank everyone enough for their support as we to continue this valuable work.



# FROM THE CEO

Several months have passed since Hurricane Harvey hit our community and changed the collective identity of this city for decades to come.

The loss of life has been heart breaking and the damage to property unfathomable. Many in our community continue to deal with the aftermath of the storm, personally and professionally.

There will be many lessons to learn from this historic natural disaster. For those of us at IM, perhaps the most inspiring was witnessing the incredible strength and support that comes from our donors and volunteers.

Just as Harvey flooded our streets and homes with water, this outpouring of support was a flood of love and generosity. All told, IM has received more than \$650,000 in cash donations and \$70,000 worth of goods thus far, including pet food for aniMeals, walkers and wheelchairs for seniors, and hundreds of thousands of bottles of water for the community at large.

Just as amazing was the muscle and mettle shown by countless volunteers who offered their help. This included more than 10,000 individuals who signed up through Volunteer Houston to help out at the city's major shelters and throughout the county.



Martin B. Cominsky  
President & CEO

This was not the first time we've benefitted from Volunteer Houston services. And it won't be the last.

This month, in fact, IM will be integrating Volunteer Houston under our umbrella. By utilizing the volunteer recruitment program of this 43-year-old institution, we will have a greater opportunity to mobilize more Houstonians for collaboration and service, and act as a volunteer pipeline for other organizations in the community.

Be sure to visit Volunteer Houston's website at [www.volunteerhouston.org](http://www.volunteerhouston.org) to learn more about the many ways and places you can lend your time and talents.

This has been a trying summer for all of us along the Gulf Coast. If there is a silver lining to the storm, it's been the recognition that, together, we can get through the worst that Mother Nature can inflict. Let's pray that spirit of oneness and love spills out into all aspects of our daily lives.

Martin B. Cominsky  
President & CEO

## FOR ALL HUMANITY LUNCHEON HELPS REFUGEES AFTER HARVEY AND BEYOND

There is still time to buy tickets and tables for our Nov. 7th For All Humanity luncheon, supporting refugee resettlement and other services of Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston.

This year, IM will bestow its Refugee Services Humanitarian Award on Dr. Shahin Tavackoli & Nadia Tajalli. Shahin serves on our Board of Directors and Nadia serves on our Development Committee and chaired our 2017 Tapestry Gala Auction. This couple knows all too well the refugee experience and that there is hope on the other side. They are generous with their time and resources in helping others. Their Baha'i faith's emphasis on the commonality of all humans has inspired the luncheon's theme – "We Are One."

Event chairs this year are Jennifer Moayyad and Anuradha and Mani Subramanian

The luncheon will be held at the Hilton Houston Post Oak, 2001 Post Oak Boulevard. It will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a reception and market place. The luncheon and program will start at noon.

Individual tickets are \$200; table sponsorships start at \$2,500.

For more information contact, Brandi Ledet at **713-533-4925** or [bledet@imgh.org](mailto:bledet@imgh.org).



### SAVE THE DATE:

Please save February 10, 2018 for the Best Friends Brunch at Hotel ZaZa. This annual event, benefitting aniMeals on Wheels, is popular with animals and their people. This year's honoree is Susan Boggio. For more info, please contact Brandi Ledet at [bledet@imgh.org](mailto:bledet@imgh.org).



### TAIL WAGGING RIDE

This year, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our aniMeals on Wheels program. To recognize this important and growing program that feeds seniors' cherished pets, we wrapped one of our trucks in dogs and cats. Haulin' kibble in style...



## RETIRED NURSE RECEIVES TLC SHE ONCE GAVE PATIENTS

Meals on Wheels client Sylvia G. proudly lives in the house her father built more than 70 years ago.

Her daily companion is her rambunctious cat, Miss Kitty, an aniMeals on Wheels client herself.

Sylvia spent more than 40 years working as a nurse taking care of senior citizens, an irony not lost on the iPad-toting grandmother of four and great grandmother of three.

"I enjoyed being a nurse because I enjoyed taking care of other people," she said. "I worked with the elderly in a nursing home, so now I am I on the other side of that and I am getting the love that I gave them."

Sylvia talks proudly of her grandchildren and is close to her family, spending holidays together and enjoying her son's specialty – barbecue. Still, she lives alone, making the visit from her driver all that more special.

"To have somebody come up and talk to you, maybe that will be the only person you will see that day," she said. "It makes me happy to see people who are willing to do this work, willing to deliver food to senior citizens."



## FALL DINNER DIALOGUES SET FOR NOVEMBER 2

IM's popular Dinner Dialogues will be hosted at our Event Center Thursday, Nov. 2 from 6:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Dinner Dialogues are the cornerstone of our interfaith programs, providing forums to learn information about the faith traditions and practices of a wide variety of families, as well as, an opportunity for the participants to form new relationships across traditional

religious boundaries.

The focus of our Fall Dinner Dialogue will focus on IM's motto - "The Strength of Shared Beliefs."

Registration is \$20. IM's Event Center is at 3303 Main Street, Houston 77002.

To sign up go to IM's website, [www.imgh.org](http://www.imgh.org).

## WELCOME, NEW AND RENEWING MAJOR CORPORATE DONORS!

JUL. – SEP. 2017

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