

The Interfaith Alliance Affiliate Annual Report for 2007
The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester

End of Year Summary for the period ending December 31, 2007

*Each Affiliate and Emerging Affiliate is required to complete this summary and send it to the Deputy Field Director at The Interfaith Alliance National Office. Summaries may be emailed, faxed or mailed and are due **February 15th of each year**. No exceptions! Organizations that do not submit an end of the year report will not be considered for grants, assistance or Healthy TIA status.*

NAME OF AFFILIATE: The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester

Affiliate Contact person: M. Gratia L'Esperance, RSM

Mailing Address: 275 Parsells Avenue

City: Rochester State: NY Zip Code: 14609

Phone: (585) 271-3226 FAX: -

E-mail: gratia.lesperance@frontiernet.net

Web: www. tia-roch.org

AFFILIATE OFFICERS FOR July 2006 to June 2007

| Position | Name | Phone | E-mail |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| President | M. Gratia L'Esperance | (585) - 271-3226 | gratia.lesperance@frontiernet.net |
| VP | Sally Chamberlin | (585) 248-0765 | bcsally@rochester.rr.com |
| Secretary | H. Robert Herman | (585) 385-1155 | rherman2@rochester.rr.com |
| Treasurer | Marie K. Parsons | (585) 342-6754 | dkpmkp@frontiernet.net |

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| President | M. Gratia L'Esperance | (585) - 271-3226 | gratia.lesperance@frontiernet.net |
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| Secretary | H. Robert Herman | (585) 385-1155 | rherman2@rochester.rr.com |
| Treasurer | Isabel Morrison | (585) 654-5989 | imorrison6@gmail.com |

AFFILIATE ACTIVITY FOR PERIOD January 1- December 31, 2007

Please feel free to attach additional pages.

- 1) How often are meetings held? Executive Committee: monthly; task forces or committees as needed
- 2) Funds raised by Affiliate \$ 4,470.00
- 3) Number of board meetings: 10 (monthly except July & August)
- 4) Expenses of Affiliate: \$ 3,086.56
- 5) Publications: TIAR Brochure (enclosed)

6) Overall Membership numbers:

- as of June 2007 148
- as of December 2007 162

7) Events:

- January 21, 2007: participation in Interfaith Darfur Candlelight Vigil at Asbury United Methodist Church. Support donation: \$50.
- January 27 – 28, 2007: participation in Greater Rochester Community of Churches' Annual Meeting, with talks by the Rev. Bob Edgar, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches. Support donation for TIAR ad in program booklet: \$90.
- March 8, 2007: participation in second annual anniversary dinner of the Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue at Nazareth College, Rochester.
- March 12, 2007: co-sponsorship with St. Mary's Church Downtown Community Forum of a panel presentation on immigration.
- Spring / Summer 2007: participation in Community Forums on Violence, sponsored by Greater Rochester Community of Churches and other groups.
- June 10, 2007: TIAR Annual Meeting. A total of 129 persons attended, including members and board members. Officers were installed for the next 12 months. Speaker: Arun Gandhi, "Peace in the Name of God, Not Violence in the Name of God"
- June 12, 2007: TIAR Board Members were honored at the Greater Rochester Community of Churches' "Faith in Action" dinner: Edward Lemon (TIAR nominee) and Gail Mott, who along with her husband Peter, received the Metropolitan Award for Faith in Action.
- October 29 – November 19, 2007 (Monday evenings, 4 sessions): co-sponsorship of Rochester Voter Preparation Series: "Selecting Candidates and Holding Elected Officials Accountable.". Support donation: \$50

8) Projects:

- Support of Monroe County Reentry Task Force: members provided personal care items for those released from jail or prison. Support donation to the re-entry program: \$200
- February, 2007: members urged to write letters to federal legislators regarding cuts in HUD housing.
- Continuing to offer "The Faces of Poverty," a DVD and power point educational presentation to any adult group on the real challenges of people who are affected by poverty in Monroe County
- Participation in a coalition to address problems at Monroe County Department of Human Services (inadequate phone service, staff overburdened with large case loads, low staff morale, resulting lack of respect in dealing with clients.
- Continuing support of and participation in Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE), supporting one local hotel's workers in their efforts to have a fair process of deciding whether or not to form a union; includes many fruitless efforts to discuss concerns with management; rallies and leafleting conducted outside the hotel; projected boycott to begin March 1, 2008; identified customers are being contacted in collaboration with UniteHERE union staff.

- Continuing support of and participation in Citizens for Dignified Burial: addressing problems with the effects of a reduction in the county allotment for indigent funerals, and the consequent pressure for people to accept cremation even if their religious or ethnic traditions find it unacceptable,
 - Continuing support of and participation in the Rochester Children's Zone (modeled on the Harlem Children's Zone). Support donation: \$500.
 - Continuing support of and participation in Campaign Finance Reform and the "Clean Money, Clean Elections" proposal for New York State.
 - November 15, 2007: "Statement of Principles:" a Peace: Resolution adopted by TIAR Board as a TIAR Priority Issue for 2008 (copy attached)
 - Immigration: proposal passed to research the question of joining with other Rochester area organizations in advocating that Rochester become a sanctuary city.
 - Continuation of Rochester Voter Alliance: a non-partisan coalition of not-for-profit, interfaith, civil rights, and community-based organizations devoted to efforts to:
 - Remind Monroe County citizens about the importance of informed voting.
 - Register voters, with special emphasis on districts with low voter turnout.
 - Get voters to the polls on Election Day, November 4, 2008.RVA has secured meeting space and staff assistance through the Center for Disability Rights. Support donation: \$1,000 (matching TIA National's grant).
- 9) Programs: Co sponsor of Human Rights Day Event, 12/10/07 at Downtown United Presbyterian Church (further descriptions accompany items in the 'projects' and 'committee structure' sections)
- 10) Other: Committee Structure and Activities
- Peace and Nonviolence: Marlyn Wienk, Heide Parreño, co-chairs; resolution passed.
 - Immigration: H. Parreno, chair
 - Poverty Task Force: Paul Brayer, chair
 - Co-sponsor, Rochester Children's Zone: Glenny Williams, liaison
 - Co-sponsor, Coalition for Dignified Burial: Gratia L'Esperance, liaison
 - Co-sponsor, Monroe County Reentry Task Force (following up with ex-offenders)
 - Co-Sponsor: Rochester CLUE
 - Local / State / National Issues: Neil Jaschik, chair
 - Co-sponsor with local League of Women Voters: yearly Fair Campaign Practices Pledge (taken by candidates) and Committee (to review and rule on complaints). For the first time, the 2007 primary campaigns were included.
 - Participation in "Clean Money, Clean Elections" project

Please send copies of Affiliate newsletter or other flyers, for archival addition to Affiliate file, by postal mail to:

The Interfaith Alliance Attn Field Department
1212 New York Ave., NW 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-4706

The Interfaith Alliance Affiliate Annual Report for 2007

p. 4

The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester

PLEASE SUMMARIZE BRIEFLY THE FOLLOWING:

Affiliate activities:

Briefly describe any events sponsored by, or involving, the Affiliate. What efforts were you most proud of?

Being able to have Arun Gandhi as the speaker for our Annual Meeting.

The enthusiasm and dedication of our members, who enjoy our meetings and often continue discussions afterward.

Interfaith / Diversity Outreach efforts:

In nominating for the Board of Directors, we always try to have a diverse representation.

Many of our Board members and general members are involved in other community organizations and interfaith groups, of which there are many in the Rochester area.

Web - Do you have a web site? What is your URL?

www.tia-roch.org

Resolutions passed:

(See reports on peace and immigration)

National Office Initiatives in which your Affiliate participated.

Distributed the following to and through members:

- First Amendment First materials.
- Legislate Against Hate in '08
- Both booklets on Election 2008 for faith communities and candidates

Have you applied for a 501 (c)(3) or 501 (c)(4) designation? No

Other

PLEASE LET US KNOW ABOUT THE FOLLOWING:

Did you receive Election Year materials? Yes

How were these materials used? How were they distributed and to whom?

First to Board members for distribution to their faith leaders; then as opportunity allowed, to other faith communities. Also announced through emails through GRCC (Greater Rochester Community of Churches)

I'd like 1) More contact with the National office _____ 2) Less Contact with the national office _____

3) Its just about right X. I find staff very welcoming of any communication.

Are you aware of our LEADD program for High School students? X Yes ___ No

(If not please visit www.weleadd.org for more information)

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Do you have any young LEADDeRS in your community (between the ages of 15 and 17) who would be interested in participating in our 2008 program? _____ Yes _____ No X Maybe (I need to make some contacts)

Form Completed By:

 M. Gratia L'Esperance, RSM< President
Print name and TIA Affiliate position

Signature

Date

- 1) Fax to 419-728-0765 (efax goes to Jay's email)
- Or 2) Email to field@interfaithalliance.org Subject: 2007 Annual Report from "Your Affiliate"
- Or 3) Mail to Field Department, The Interfaith Alliance 1212 New York Ave., NW Suite 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20005-4706

Thanks!

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Financial Report for Period January 1 – December 21, 2007

Income from Memberships \$3,470.00

Expenses 3,086.56

Special Funds

Poverty Program Fund

 Beginning Balance 685.59

 Expenses 389.00

 Balance 12/31/07 296.52

Rochester Voters Alliance

 Beginning Balance 290.88

 Income 1,000.00

 Balance 12/31/07 1,280.88

Community Burial Fund

 Beginning Balance 1,050.00

 Income 1,756.00

 Expenses 2,600.00

 Balance 12/31/07 206.00

Isabel Morrison, Treasurer
The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester
Submitted 01/08/08