

WHO WE ARE

The Interfaith Leadership Alliance was established in 2007 by a group of clergy to combine its resources to form an organization that could identify gaps in social justice within the Santa Fe community and address those needs that are not being adequately served.

The ILA collaborates and works cooperatively with social service agencies, schools, and professional organizations in the Santa Fe area.

OUR MISSION

- ❖ To advocate social justice and human rights causes from a faith-based perspective
- ❖ Educate the broader community from faith-based perspectives
- ❖ Convene groups that encourage appreciation of differences
- ❖ Nurture interfaith understanding
- ❖ Enhance human services through religious communities' resources

The ILA supports this mission with its broad membership of clergy representing many different faiths in Santa Fe..



Interfaith Leadership Alliance members at the Grand Opening of *Cool Closet*

OUR ORGANIZATION

The Interfaith Leadership Alliance consists of the following Santa Fe churches, synagogues and mosques.

- ❖ Christ Lutheran Church
- ❖ Center for Spiritual Living
- ❖ First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe
- ❖ Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
- ❖ Lutheran Church of the Servant
- ❖ Santa Fe Friends Meeting
- ❖ Santa Fe Community College Campus Ministry
- ❖ St. Bede's Episcopal Church
- ❖ St. Elias The Prophet Greek Orthodox Church
- ❖ St. John's United Methodist Church
- ❖ Taha Mosque and Islamic Center of Santa Fe
- ❖ Temple Beth Shalom
- ❖ Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Fe
- ❖ United Church of Santa Fe
- ❖ Westminster Presbyterian Church
- ❖ Zia United Methodist Church

OUR PROGRAMS

Since its inception in 2007, the ILA has established the following programs:

- ❖ Winter Overflow Shelter
- ❖ Interfaith Block Party
- ❖ Cool Closet

Winter Overflow Shelter

The ILA took a lead role in organizing and staffing an overflow winter shelter program for women and children in collaboration with St. Elizabeth Shelter. Existing shelters lack the capacity to provide beds and safe accommodations for women and their children so they are transported on a rotating basis, to churches and a synagogue every evening. The ILA faith community acquires sleeping bags, toiletries, food, raises money and trains volunteers to keep the emergency overflow shelter program operational.

Interfaith Block Party

The ILA has established a forum to celebrate the rich diversity of the Santa Fe community in the form of an old-fashioned Block Party. 2008 marked an historic occasion as 8 faith communities came together for the first time to learn about each other's faith traditions and to socialize. Programs included music, dancing, food, and tours of five different houses of worship located in the East Barcelona Road district. This annual event will support the ILA's mission to nurture interfaith understanding.

Cool Closet

The ILA recognized that in the Santa Fe community there are few organizations that specialize in services to youth. There are not enough resources to adequately assist and follow up on a consistent basis. These youth are often school drop-outs or struggling in school, may be drug and alcohol addicted, are poorly socialized and clothed and have few marketable skills.

Cool Closet supplements the social services the youth receive by providing work related clothes and a consistent adult in their lives trained to be non-judgmental. All youth must be referred by an agency or faith group to ensure that they have access to professional services.



Staffed by volunteers, **Cool Closet** opened its facility on May 6, 2008, where at-risk youth 16 to 25 receive free clothes suitable for interviews or a job and meet with a mentor/job coach. **Cool Closet** collaborates with and receives referrals from YouthWorks, Adelante!, Youth Shelters & Family Services, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Faith at Work, the office of Probation and Parole, and the New Mexico Human Resources Association.

OFFICERS

President

Imam Aziz Eddebarh
Taha Mosque and Islamic Center

Secretary

Father Richard Murphy
St. Bede's Episcopal Church

Treasurer

Rabbi Marvin Schwab
Temple Beth Shalom

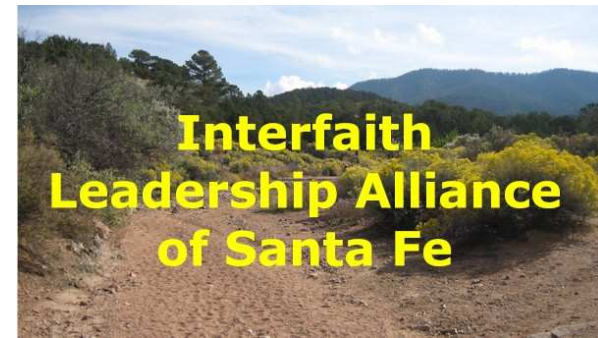
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