INTERFAITH CENTER OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA:
Illustrations of Growth and Impact

Prepared June 2010
Since becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation in 2005, the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia has grown in every facet of our work while enhancing the effectiveness of our programs and mastering operational efficiencies. Today in 2010, the Interfaith Center has impacted thousands of participants and garnered a national reputation for innovative and effective programming.

**ORGANIZATIONAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH**

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<td><strong>2005</strong></td>
<td><strong>2010</strong></td>
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<td>Start-up, experimental programming</td>
<td>Three well-established program areas, including the nationally-recognized “Walking the Walk”</td>
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<td>One part-time staff person</td>
<td>Five (almost full-time) staff, along with multiple interns from neighboring universities</td>
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<td>$26,000 operating budget</td>
<td>$288,000 operating budget</td>
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<td>890 participants</td>
<td>9,600 direct participants, plus tens of thousands represented by over 24 community partners and nearly 2 million affiliated with Religious Leaders Council communities</td>
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“The Interfaith Center is providing important work that is needed in our region.”

Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter during remarks at an event celebrating the Interfaith Center’s Fifth Anniversary, March 2009

“We need to create a movement in Philadelphia to be the example of religious freedom, and an example of the oneness of humanity.”

Kenny Gamble, Founding Board Member, Amir, United Muslim Movement

“The Center’s importance lies in the expansion of religious education to all sectors of society. Secondly, it is essential for the evolution of religious ideals advancing new thought and action related to the improvement and empowerment of communities.”

Reverend Rodney Rogers, Christ of Calvary Church
walking the walk

2005

1 Walking the Walk network
17 youth participants/12 mentors, clergy & group leaders
5 partner congregations
30 volunteers for first annual Day of Service

2010

5 Walking the Walk networks
91 youth participants/48 mentors, clergy & group leaders
25 youth in Alumni Leadership Program
175 volunteers for Day of Service
19 partner congregations, in addition to 13 other local non-profit organizations

“As a sophomore in a diverse college in a diverse city, my participation in the pilot year of the Walking the Walk program continues to be an important influence in my life as I seek to live out my values of multiculturalism and plurality... More than just putting a ‘human face’ on issues like racial diversity, class differences, and religious plurality, the memory of my friends from Walking the Walk reminds me of the importance of trying my best to actually live the values—to truly walk the walk—that I know to be important. It is not enough to recognize the importance of diversity and respect, but rather I must commit myself to actually live that ethical mandate.”

--- Nicole, Walking the Walk Alumna and Macalester College Class of 2010, Philly Fellow beginning Fall 2010

“Walking the Walk presented me with all the ingredients for my current enthusiasm for interfaith work. It introduced me to what interfaith dialogue is, let me reflect on what worked and what didn’t about our process, and above all showed me the potential that interfaith dialogue has for fostering the kind of change I personally want to see and be part of in the world ... a way for us to bring people together to end greater conflicts.”

--- Erin, Walking the Walk Alumna and Tufts University Class of 2010. She was also awarded a prestigious fellowship as part of Interfaith Youth Core’s “Fellows Alliance” program.
Sample feedback from recent participants with the Interfaith Center:

“The Interfaith Center gave me the confidence to step over the threshold of someone else’s ‘home’.”

“Whereas once I had a closed mind, I am now open to working with other faiths. I have left my ignorance and entered into a new knowledge.”

“The Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia provides a wonderful service and opportunity for growth through mutual understanding and faith.”

“Some were fearful of tackling the issue of ‘religious diversity in the workplace’. Today’s program illuminated how much is to be gained; I am personally taking away practical sensitivities and making a commitment to applying them in my role.”

--- Dennis O’Brien, Executive Vice President, PECO-Exelon, after participating in a session facilitated by the Interfaith Center. (Photograph below)
RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

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<th>2006*</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<td>Council was in the earliest stages of formation. In 2005, the Interfaith Center facilitated a year-long process in conjunction with key stakeholders, leading to a Day of Discernment in April 2006, convened by Cardinal Justin Rigali. Began to outline potential points of connection for mutual action across religious bodies</td>
<td>26 official members representing as many faith communities</td>
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Since then, the Council has:

- Hosted several interfaith prayer services, including one for the inauguration of Mayor Michael Nutter and four in memory of slain police officers
- Composed and signed an interfaith “Pledge for Peace” for the city of Philadelphia
- Initiated its newly-launched Zones of Peace, designed to help combat street violence by engaging local congregations as safe havens

“Many would look at the gathering here today and see the distinctions between our religious beliefs and practices. While we have distinctions that separate us, we have much in common. We gather together respectful of what divides us, and celebrating that which unites us, unites in our love of God and Neighbor.”


“At the bedside of a grieving mother’s son at HUP, she said ‘My son was killed on the streets of Philadelphia and no-one cares’. I vowed at that moment to find a way to prove her wrong! This spring I secured a grant to bring public health resources to the Religious Leaders Council in support of its violence prevention work.”

--- Rabbi Nancy Epstein, Drexel University School of Public Health
PUBLICATIONS AND MAJOR MEDIA COVERAGE

Encountering Other Faiths, Maria Hornung MMS, Paulist Press, 2007


“A King Day Message of Aid and Interfaith Tolerance: Christian, Jewish, and Muslim teens prepare food for elderly and homebound”, The Philadelphia Inquirer, January 19, 2010


“In the Wake of 9/11, Interfaith Initiatives Get a Boost,” Jewish Exponent, December 16, 2004

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Parliament of the World’s Religions 2004 (Barcelona) and 2009 (Melbourne)

Interfaith Youth Core Conference 2007 and 2009 (Chicago)

National Service-Learning Conference 2006

National Peace Gathering Conference, American Friends Service Committee, 2009

Goldin Institute, Council of the Parliament of the World’s Religions, 2003, 2004 2005 (Spain, India, Thailand)

HONORS AND AWARDS

Eugene C. Bay Urban Ministry Award, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, ‘Walking the Walk, 2006

Bridge Builders Community Award, Interfaith Youth Core, ‘Walking the Walk’, 2009
2010 PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS
Youth Development, Service Learning, and Leadership

WALKING THE WALK PARTNER CONGREGATIONS

West Philadelphia Network
Beth Am Israel
White Rock Baptist Church
Quba Institute of Islamic and Arabic Studies
59th Street Baptist Church
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church of Ardmore

Suburban West Network
Main Line Reform Temple
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
The Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Mosque & Fellowship
Villanova Foundation for Islamic Education
The Baha’i Center

Havertown Network
Grace Trinity United Church of Christ
Hope United Methodist Church
Suburban Jewish Community Center – B’nai Aaron

Ambler Network
Bethlehem Baptist Church of Penllyn
Congregation Beth Or
Trinity Episcopal Church

North Philadelphia Network
Al Aqsa Islamic Society School
Visitation BVM
Reformation Lutheran Church

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE SITES

Arts & Spirituality Center
City Year
Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center
Fairmount Park
Inglis House
Philadelphia Green
Inter-faith Housing Alliance
Mid-County Senior Center
Lower Merion Conservancy
Aid for Friends
ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

North Carolina State University
University of Maryland

2010 PARTICIPATING AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND CONGREGATIONS

ADULT LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

Gateway to Religious Communities

Baha’i Community of Radnor and Lower Merion
Bawa Muahiyaddeen Mosque
Congregation Lev H’Ir
First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia
Germantown Jewish Centre
Lenape Nation
Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church
SGI Buddhist Community

Speaking and Training Events

Ambler Jewish Christian Dialogue Group -
Drexel University -- Equality and Diversity Department
Encountering Other Faiths Facilitator Training for Philadelphia Leaders
Graterford Correctional Institution - Archdiocese of Philadelphia Dialogue Initiative
Holy Redeemer Hospital
Insearch Program (Candidates to Catholic Religious Communities)
Kol Ami Synagogue
International Visitors Council of Philadelphia (Sister Cities Programs - Russia)
Lafayette Redeemer Village
Maple Village Senior Citizens Home
Mayor’s Office of Faith Based Initiatives and Palmer Seminary: New Conversation on Race & Ethnicity - Neumann University
New Jersey Jewish Christian Dialogue Group
Newtown Presbyterian Church
Our Lady of Hope
Philadelphia Free Library - Central Branch
St Mary’s Episcopal Church, Ardmore
Temple University - Dialogue Institute -- Visiting Scholars from the Middle East
Temple University - Dialogue Institute -- Visiting Israeli and Palestinian Women
Theology on Tap (Young Christian Group)
United Church of Christ-- Young Adults Program
University Collaborative of 17 Greater Philadelphia Institutions
University of Pennsylvania PRISM Student Interfaith Group
Villanova University -- World Religion Days
U.S. State Department and Legacy International -- Encountering Other Faiths Training
Ongoing Community Offerings

Daughters of Abraham -- Book/Dialogue Bi-monthly Series
Encountering Other Faiths (5-9 interactive series, adapted to the interests of the group)
Interfaith Women in Religious Leadership Retreat
QUEST Monthly Book Group
Study of Theology from an Interfaith Perspective - Monthly Series

2010 PARTICIPATING RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL

African Methodist Episcopal Church
Al-Aqsa Islamic Society
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Black Clergy of Philadelphia & Vicinity
The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints
Council of Korean Churches of Greater Philadelphia
Delaware Valley Association of Reform Rabbis
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, The United Methodist Church
Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey
Hispanic Clergy of Philadelphia & Vicinity
International Muslim Brotherhood, Inc.
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
Majlis Ash-Shura of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley
Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia
Mosque of Shaikh M.R. Bawa Muhaiyaddeen
Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ
Philadelphia Baha’i Community
Philadelphia Leadership Foundation
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Religious Society of Friends
Presbytery of Philadelphia, Presbyterian Church USA
Rabbinical Assembly, Philadelphia Region
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Salvation Army of Greater Philadelphia
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia
VAAD: Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia
Organizational Growth
Revenue Growth

- 2003-2004: $26,000
- 2004-2005: $70,000
- 2005-2006: $122,000
- 2006-2007: $170,000
- 2007-2008: $238,000
- 2008-2009: $241,000
- 2009-2010 (Projected): $288,000
- 2010-2011 (Proposed): $390,000