

# 2010

## 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

2005	2010
Start-up, experimental programming	Three well-established program areas, including the nationally-recognized <i>"Walking the Walk"</i>
One part-time staff person	Five (almost full-time) staff, along with multiple interns from neighboring universities
\$26,000 operating budget	\$288,000 operating budget
890 participants	9,600 direct participants, plus tens of thousands represented by over 24 community partners and nearly 2 million affiliated with Religious Leaders Council communities.

*"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**



## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, SERVICE LEARNING, AND LEADERSHIP

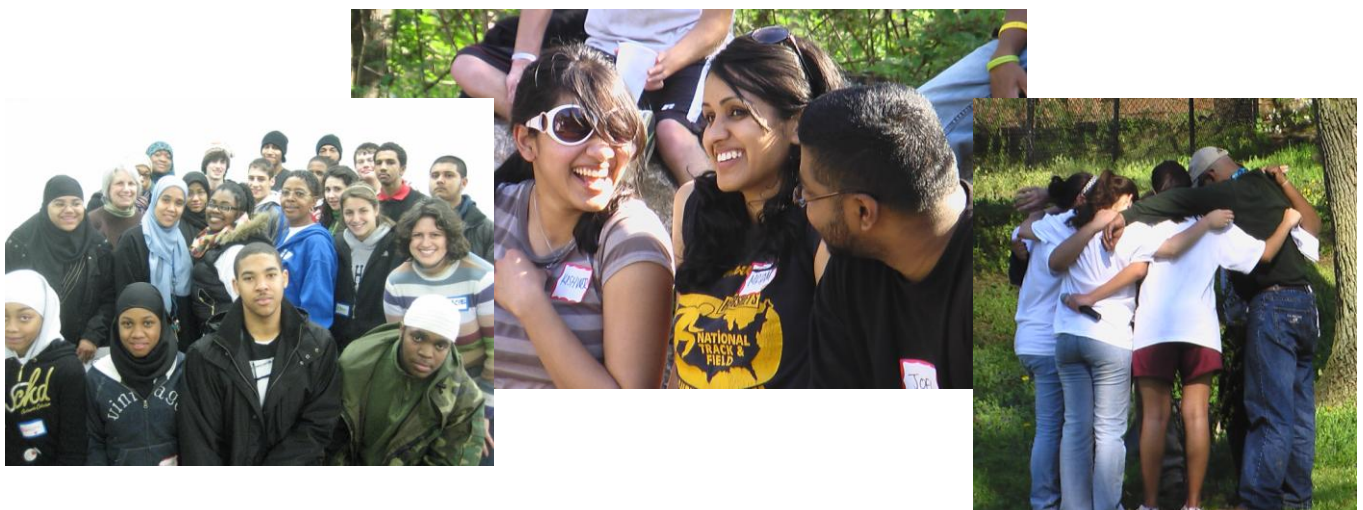
2005	2010
<b>1 <i>Walking the Walk</i> network</b>	<b>5 <i>Walking the Walk</i> networks</b>
<b>17 youth participants/ 12 mentors, clergy &amp; group leaders</b>	<b>91 youth participants/ 48 mentors, clergy &amp; group leaders</b>
	<b>25 youth in Alumni Leadership Program</b>
<b>30 volunteers for first annual Day of Service</b>	<b>175 volunteers for Day of Service</b>
<b>5 partner congregations</b>	<b>19 partner congregations, in addition to 13 other local non-profit organizations</b>

“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.





## ADULT LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

2005	2010
8 events (all one time events)	45 events (10 of which are multi-session or ongoing)
892 participants	1765 participants



### 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

2006*	2010
<p>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.</p> <p>Began to outline potential points of connection for mutual action across religious bodies</p>	<p>26 official members representing as many faith communities</p> <p>Since then, the Council has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted several interfaith prayer services, including one for the inauguration of Mayor Michael Nutter and four in memory of slain police officers</li> <li>• Composed and signed an interfaith “Pledge for Peace” for the city of Philadelphia</li> <li>• Initiated its newly-launched Zones of Peace, designed to help combat street violence by engaging local congregations as safe havens</li> </ul>
<p>*Council not established prior to 2006</p>	

*“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.”*

**---Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of the R.C. Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Founding Co-Convener of the *Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia***

*“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

"Making Dialogue Real", Maria Hornung MMS, Journal of Ecumenical Studies, Vol. 43, No. 2 (Spring 2008)

"Dialogue through Arts – 'Opening the World's Door" by Abby Stamelman Hocky, MSW, Rev. Susan Teegen-Case, and Rabbi Carol Harris-Shapiro, Interactive Faith: The Essential Interreligious Community-Building Handbook, Edited by Rev. Bud Heckman and Rori Picker Neiss, Skylight Paths, 2008.

"Finding Similarities Among the Differences", The New York Times, November 11, 2008.

"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

"Building a Beloved Community through Interfaith Action", The Main Line Times, February 2008

"Religious Leaders Council Plans Zones For Peace", The Bulletin, March 23, 2009

"After Mourning, Remembrance: Religious Leaders Mark End of Mourning Period for Slain Philadelphia Police Officers", The Catholic Standard & Times, October 30, 2008

"Clergy Urge Lasting Peace", The Philadelphia Inquirer, June 3, 2008

"Nutter Leads Pledge for Peace in City: Interfaith Event Begins Inaugural Festivities", The Philadelphia Inquirer, January 4, 2008

"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  
59<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Ardmore

##### **Suburban West Network**

Main Line Reform Temple  
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church  
The Bawa Muhaiyadeen 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 Muahiyadddeen 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

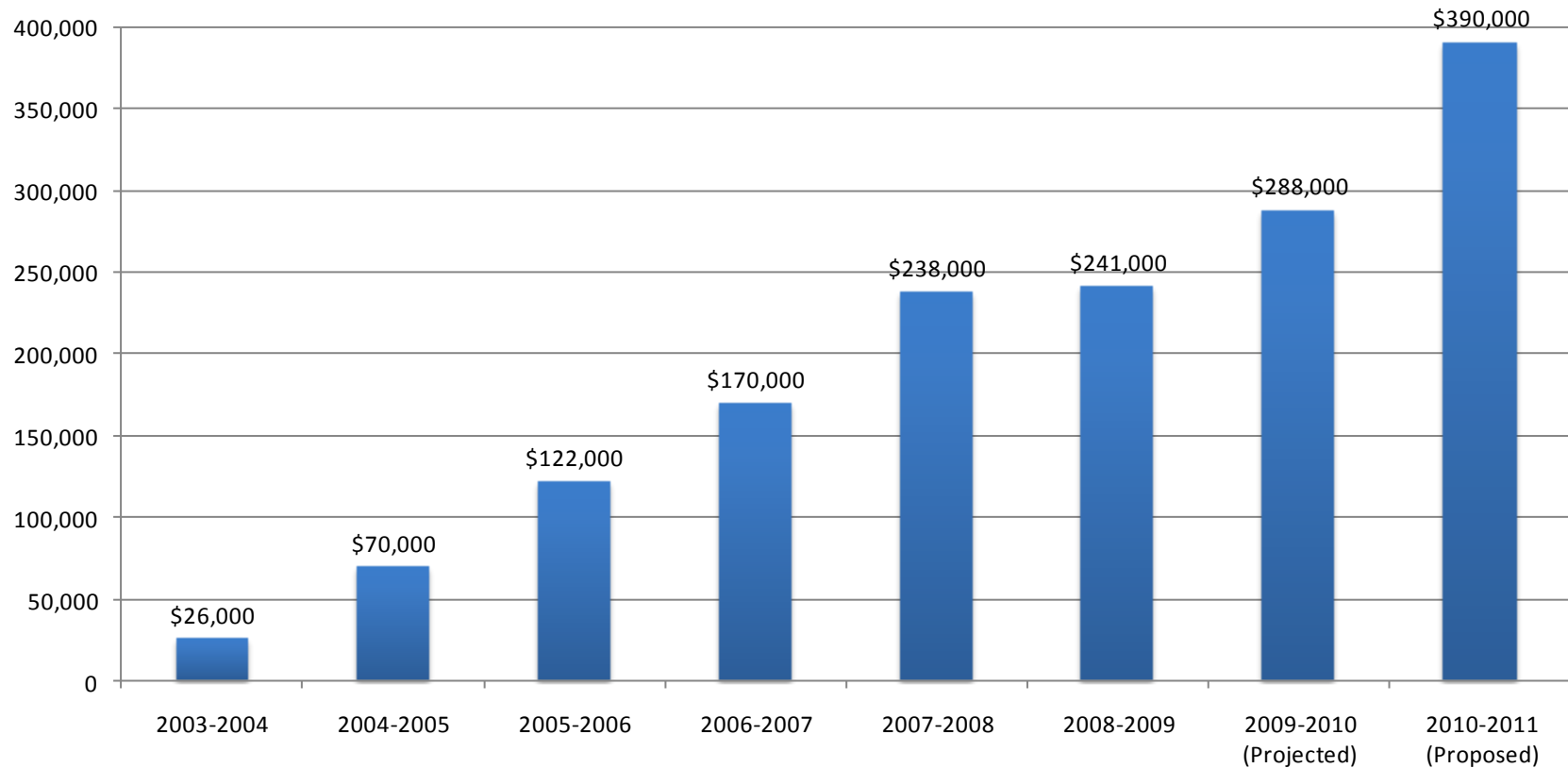




# INTERFAITH CENTER

*of Greater Philadelphia*

## Organizational Growth Revenue Growth





# INTERFAITH CENTER

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## Sources of Revenue

2009-2010

