

2021
*Annual
Report*

PLANTING SEEDS *of* HOPE



Interfaith
Partners for the
CHESAPEAKE

MISSION

To ignite the power of faith communities in the Chesapeake region to honor all of Creation by working together to protect and restore our shared watershed.

HOPE ABOUND

In 2021, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) is wrapping up an ambitious three-year strategic plan that laid out a bold mission: increase impact through hubs of action, cultivate leaders, grow funding and partnerships, and achieve organizational excellence.

Looking back, we have surpassed most of the goals we set as an organization. In the past year alone, IPC hired three new full-time staff, added five new board members, 81 congregations signed the pledge, and we trained 54 new green teams — double the number trained in 2019-2020. Major gifts from a few donors enabled us to bring on three young adults from AmeriCorps, Episcopal Service Corps, and Chesapeake Conservation Corps, which grows IPC capacity while giving opportunities for young leaders to grow professionally. Our network planted trees in Lancaster, fought for transportation justice in Annapolis, installed permeable pavement in Salisbury, restored rain gardens in Columbia, planted a native garden in Takoma Park, and helped reforest a 10-acre Peace Park in Baltimore, and so much more! *Hope abounds.*

Thank you for playing a role in that hope. Whether you lead a green team, are just starting to build one, donate to IPC, or keep us in your prayers, without you our work would not be possible. We ask for your continued support and invite congregations to demonstrate their commitment to our shared goals by signing our Partner Congregation Pledge. We continue to grow...and we want you to grow with us.

GROW THE MOVEMENT BY SIGNING THE PLEDGE!

Visit interfaithchesapeake.org/sign_our_partner_congregation_pledge or scan the QR code



“Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake is doing a great job — they have a steadfast advocate in me!”

~ Will Baker, President, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

CELEBRATING OUR GROWING IMPACT



On August 25, IPC hosted “Celebrating Chesapeake Champions” to recognize legislators and faith leaders who help make our work possible. We welcomed amazing speakers and special guests: Congressman John Sarbanes; Will Baker, President, Chesapeake Bay Foundation; Maryland Senator Sarah Elfreth; Maryland Delegate Kumar

Barve; The Reverend Diana Carroll of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Eastport; and Apostle Larry Lee Thomas of Empowering Believers Church in Glen Burnie.

Each speaker shared their vision for interfaith collaboration to restore the Chesapeake. We presented some Partner Congregations with pledge posters signifying their formal commitment to being a model of stewardship.

SPREADING COMMUNITY ROOTS

Action is growing in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Over 17 congregations participated in Trees of Peace this Spring. A Unity Tree Planting was held in Buchanan Park to commemorate the interfaith effort with the planting of a single tree and installation of a plaque in the park. County Commissioner Ray D’Agostino stopped by the Unity Tree celebration to voice his support for this growing movement. A local task force has been meeting monthly since 2019 to spearhead programming in the County.



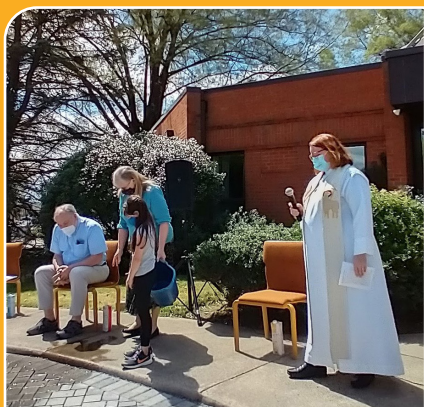
GREEN TEAMS FLOURISH

Throughout 2021, IPC offered monthly Learning Labs addressing critical issues for the Chesapeake, such as environmental justice, conflict resolution, and sustainable food systems. More than 300 people participated in these workshops and continue to guide us on what topics to offer next year.

Along with the Learning Labs, IPC also offered the Faithful Green Leaders Training (FGLT) program three times, more than doubling the number of trained teams to 94. The FGLT featured prominent keynote speakers, including Rose Berger (*Sojourners* magazine), John Francis (environmental activist, author, and “Planet Walker”), and Ched Myers (Bartimaeus Institute). Through collaboration with our partners, IPC has been successful in curating additional resources for partner congregations. These include environmental justice tools and resources for restoration projects. We believe that congregations with trained green teams are better equipped, connected, and resourced to implement lasting environmental improvements on their properties and in their communities.



Green Teams Sow Seeds of Knowledge



Attendees of the June Faithful Green Leaders Training, Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Montgomery Village, recently installed a permeable paver parking lot project to help heal the waters of the Chesapeake. The congregation periodically holds workshops to demonstrate how the project captures stormwater runoff and teach others how to replicate this at their own congregation.

FROM TRAINING TO ACTION

Creation Care at Work

The One Water Partnership is a growing network of faith communities with more than 200 congregations working together to restore clean water. The accomplishments of IPC, our partners, and participating congregations since 2019 include:



397 outreach & educational events hosted



8,776 people & **2,176** volunteers reached at events



82 congregations designed/installed stormwater projects



25 acres of drainage area treated with conservation practices

Other Highlights

- IPC is strategizing with i2 Capital and EcoMarket Services to unlock innovative funding for stormwater and restoration projects on congregational properties to help them install practices on their properties.
- IPC's One Water Partnership proposal for 2022-2024 was the only Maryland proposal to be awarded a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant for Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Removal.

Green Teams: Next Generation

The Saint Demetrios Green Team was created in February 2021, and they are off to a great start! They held a fall cleanup, completed a water audit, organized an eWaste collection, and put together a fun and educational fair for families on Earth Day. They were recently featured in the *Towson Times* for the event. Their ideas for future events

include a rain garden, a kidscape garden for their on-site preschool, seasonal cleanups, a composting area, and more! The next project they are undertaking is a meditation path through their grounds.



DONORS PLANT SEEDS FOR TOMORROW

This year's donors, as of October 1, 2021.

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 Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church
 Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA
 Emmanuel United Methodist Church
 Frederick Friends Meeting
 Homewood Friends Meeting
 Kehila Chadasha
 Presbytery of Baltimore
 Seekers Church

Transfiguration Episcopal Church

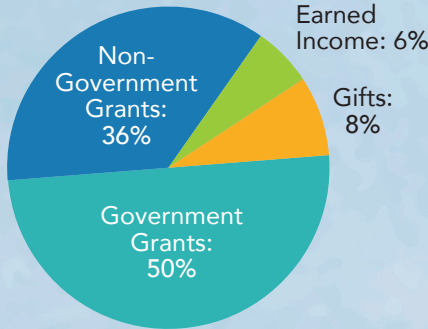
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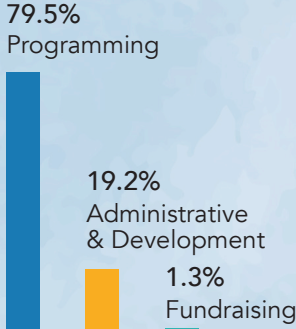
2021 FINANCES*

*As of September 30, 2021

TOTAL INCOME:
 \$559,623



TOTAL EXPENSES:
 \$564,660





HELP US GROW!

Join the movement by supporting IPC and Partner Congregations in restoring our sacred waters, shared lands, and beloved communities.



- Give online at InterfaithChesapeake.org/Donate.
- Become a monthly sustaining supporter.
- Donate by check made out to "Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake" and mailed to the address at the bottom of this page.
- Donate stock or include us in your planned giving (contact Jodi Rose at jodi@InterfaithChesapeake.org).
- Scan the QR code.



Thank you for your support!

IPC is registered as a charitable organization in Maryland, Pennsylvania, DC, and Virginia. Maryland Inquiries: A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by calling us at 410-609-6852. Documents are available from the office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, for the cost of copying and postage. Pennsylvania Inquiries: Registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. DC Inquiries: Call the Office of Tax and Revenue's (OTR) Customer Service Administration at 202-727-4TAX (4829). Virginia Inquiries: Registration and financial information can be obtained from the State Office of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218.

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