

Dear Rev. Jonathon Crane,

Greetings from the Steering Committee of the Interfaith Housing Initiative (CRIHI). Ten years ago, we came together as people of faith from many different religions and spiritual communities to work together to address homelessness in Edmonton. Thank you for the support you have given us over the years as together we have made a real difference in Edmonton for people who are or who have been homeless.

As people of faith, we believe that we are called to strive as we are able so that everyone might have a home that is safe and affordable in communities that are welcoming.

This year has been one of challenges and opportunities.

Our newly-minted project, *TogetherWise* (www.togetherwiseconsulting.ca) was created to help community consultations around affordable and supportive housing proceed with integrity – building trust and earning new neighbours a welcome in the local community. In the pandemic, consultation work has changed with few opportunities for face-to-face conversation. Most in-person consultations with significant numbers of participants have not been possible this past year. Therefore, our process has needed to adapt with advice for how consultations could proceed while navigating new guidelines around safety.

Covid-19 required many of us to spend more time at home and gave us the opportunity to get to know our neighbours better – while remaining masked and socially distanced. This gave us the inspiration for a new and exciting project called helpisnextdoor.ca; helping local neighbours safely connect and care for each other during Covid-19. This project was conceived and developed because of Covid-19 and has consumed much of the time, energy and skills of our staff person, Mike Van Boom. Please take a look at the website which includes videos and resources in twelve languages. We have several resources there awaiting translation, but the work has had to slow due to lack of funding.

At this time we face significant financial challenges brought on by Covid 19. The City of Edmonton has until now been a significant funding partner, providing half the cost of our main staff person. But this year, the City has been forced to let a very large number of their staff go and are not able to assist us. We believe that they will be open to resuming our request for financial help in the future, but we need to deal with our financial shortage this year.

If you have already given us money for this year's expenses, thank you. If you have not, please consider helping our work with a financial donation. In either case, please pray for our work as you consider our request for financial aid at this time. **Many thanks for your continued support!**

Rev. Kathleen Schmitke

Sofia Yaqub

Co-chairs for the Interfaith Housing Steering Committee



CAPITAL REGION
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HOUSING INITIATIVE

To Donate

The Anglican Diocese serves as fiscal agent for Interfaith Housing and has created a pathway for donations to our organization. You can visit their donations portal at Edmonton.anglican.ca. Simply select Interfaith Housing from one of the options.

Cheques can be made out to the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton and designated to the Interfaith Housing Initiative in the memo line.

Please mail cheques and donations to the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton at 10035 – 103 Street, Edmonton, Alberta; T5J 0X5

What do we need to keep doing our work?

Interfaith Housing's operating budget is quite small currently as we continue to enjoy gifts of office space and shelter under the organizational umbrella of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton. We also continue to receive gifts of meeting space, food, and volunteer energy on our various committees and working groups. This generosity has allowed us to keep operating with a budget of less than \$70,000 annually.

With that support, we have been able to do some pretty amazing work serving our city and her faith communities During this past Covid year, we have been a resource...

- Supporting faith communities in exploring land development/redevelopment with the possible inclusion of affordable/supportive housing.
- Providing consultation coaching to both community and developer via the TogetherWise program. www.togetherwiseconsulting.ca
- Helping neighbours safely care for each other during Covid-19 with resources in twelve languages posted at www.helpisnextdoor.ca.
- Advocating for meaningful housing solutions with all three orders of Government.
- Providing tools, resources, volunteer opportunities and public education via our website: www.interfaithhousing.ca, and our newsletter: *the Neighbourly*.
- Hosting an Interfaith effort in creating a 0% mortgage (Jubilee Mortgage) program to support financial stability and home ownership for low and middle-income Canadians.

As the Pandemic resolves, we look forward to resuming our normal activities:

- Helping local faith communities work together to respond to local needs in their community.
- Promoting the Interfaith Works Project; a yearly volunteer drive with Habitat for Humanity providing people of many faith communities opportunity to work together to provide families with a home. (Had to be suspended in 2020 and 2021)

We want to continue to serve our city and ask for your help in meeting our operating budget.
