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### Rev. Monsignor Joseph Schaedel

*Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis*

### Geshe Jinpa Sonam

*Indiana Buddhist Center*

## *A Typical Thursday at Old Bethel Food Pantry*

It's 9:45 on Thursday morning. The scheduled opening time is not until 10:00 for the **Old Bethel United Methodist Church food pantry at Franklin Road and 21<sup>st</sup> Street**, but it is already bustling. People in need of food are already at their cars loading up food, and those waiting are lined up across the front of the building. Ann Mead, Community Outreach Chairperson, explains that if the volunteers are in place and the line is long they have no problem opening early to better serve the people.



*Ann Mead with a young visitor.*

The Old Bethel pantry, occupying a former Village Pantry convenience store, is the IHI Pantry Partner in Warren Township. They serve more than Warren Township, however, having a catchment area bounded by Troy Avenue, Emerson Avenue, 56<sup>th</sup> Street, and the Marion-Hancock county line. Prospective clients show a picture ID and establish that they live in that area. Like so many pantries, the need for their services has grown greatly, from serving 4,100 persons in December of 2008 to 7,500 in August of this year. They also anticipate providing special Christmas assistance to about 350 families.



*It's not a handout — it's a helping hand.*

Ann says that they have benefited greatly from their Pantry Partner relationship with *Gleaners' Food Bank*, as that is the source of much of their food. They also get food from individual contributions, from the *Midwest Food Bank*, and sometimes make purchases from grocery stores.

They currently have about 75 volunteers, but if they had more, they could better serve their community

**If you think volunteering at the Old Bethel food pantry could be for you, email Ann Mead**

**[ram8714@comcast.net](mailto:ram8714@comcast.net)**



*Smiles everywhere you look.*

Thanks to all the volunteers at the Old Bethel Pantry Partner on the east side!

## Director's Message—Dave Miner



A veritable blizzard of articles, op-eds, letters and columns have been written as a result of the potential Islamic building project in NYC, politicians seeking political advantage through division or worse, and a misguided pastor or two. After all of that I must say I am very grateful to be part of the **Interfaith Hunger Initiative**.

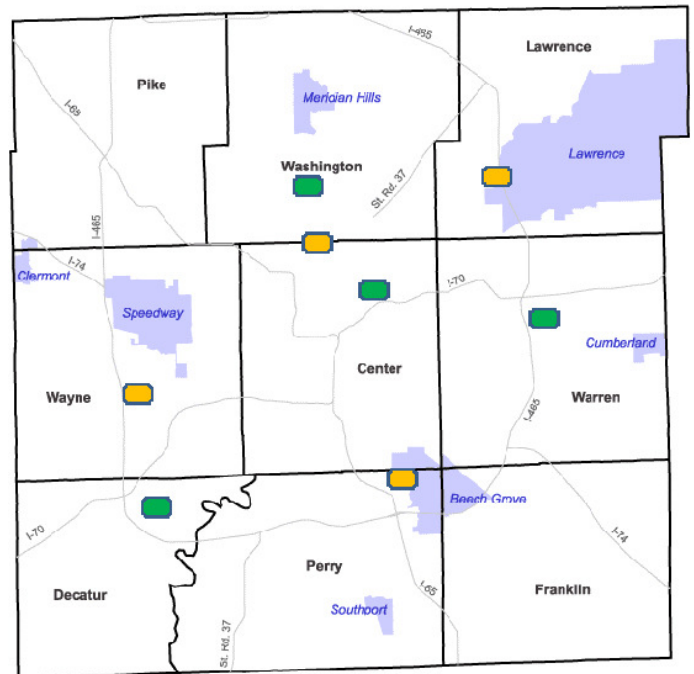
Loud voices are again questioning whether the religious freedom which was fundamental to the founding of our wonderful nation applies to the latest of a long series of immigrants, this time Muslims. Similar voices have been raised over the decades – reacting to the arrival of Irish Catholics, Jews, Japanese, etc.

And hunger is up dramatically both in Indianapolis area and around the world. Poverty figures released recently showed the largest single year spike ever.

Amidst the clamor and the increased need, the Interfaith Hunger Initiative is quietly making an important and unique difference. Our approach is not based on fear and division but on working together to change the systems. We have achieved real progress in improving the systems, improving access to food for the greatly increased ranks of the hungry in the Indianapolis area. The network of nine Pantry Partner pantries across Marion County now covers 7 of the 9 townships, and they are better serving the community than ever before. There remain lots of opportunities to support the wonderful people running these pantries and further improve the overall system.

In Kenya, in partnership with Umoja, we are literally saving lives and providing futures for 2700 children. This year we began assisting with making these school lunch efforts self supporting.

Working **together**, we are doing much more than we could do alone to end child and family hunger. And working together across faith lines, we are building bridges of understanding in our community.



Marion County Pantry Partners

I.H.I. Master Schedule	Month	Events	Steering Committee	Community Meetings	Soup's On Newsletter
	November	2 Spirit & Place Events; 5 Thanksgiving Interfaith Services			
	December				Year-end Report
	January 2011				
	February	"One A-Mazing Lunch"			
	March				
April					



## *IHI Pantry Partner Program*

Established in 2009, the IHI Pantry Partner program collaborates with *Gleaners* Food Bank to assist and enhance services at leading Indianapolis area pantries. There are more than 200 food pantries in the Indianapolis area, run by caring people working to feed their hungry neighbors.

Many are hosted in churches. Most pantries, however, are only open for a couple hours once or twice a month. It's not ideal if your children are hungry today, but the pantries in your area are not open until next week. The goal of the *Pantry Partner* program is to ensure timely access to food for hungry families in quantities and locations that meet their needs without loss of work or extensive travel. An equally important component is providing participating pantries with sufficient resources to maintain food availability through expanded hours of operation.

*Gleaners* continues to support all pantries. The community is well served by having a variety of pantries, both small and large. It is not required (nor is it expected) that all or even most pantries become *Pantry Partners*.

Keeping a pantry open this much is a major endeavor. To assist pantries that elect to become a *Pantry Partner*:

- IHI subsidizes food bank handling

fees, reducing them to 5 cents per pound.

- *Gleaners* commits to resupply them.
- IHI offers a grant program to assist with major capital purchases like freezers and facility modifications.

These food pantries benefit from an expanding network of other *Pantry Partners*.

### Coverage

The *Interfaith Hunger Initiative* works with *Gleaners* and *St Vincent de Paul* to establish at least one *Pantry Partner* in each township in Marion County. We began 2009 with a single *IHI Pantry Partner*. Currently there are four pantries that fully meet the criteria, and four more under development (see map). Next we hope to support establishment of a *Pantry Partner* in each surrounding county.

### IHI Grant Program

Beginning in 2010, a grant program has been offered to facilitate the creation of new *Pantry Partners* and strengthen existing organizations. Three pantries received a total of over \$18,000 for their operations.

### Guidelines:

- Grant requests may be up to \$8,000

### *Pantry Partner Requirements*

- Open to the public 12—18 hours per week, with some morning, afternoon, evening, and weekend hours.
- Allow clients to select their food from what is available, rather than distributing pre-selected bags of food items. (This practice enhances client esteem and reduces waste.)
- Available to all eligible clients residing within the pantry's township of operation.
- Provide outreach for SNAP, WIC and other programs.

- Preference is given to proposals from areas not currently served by a *Pantry Partner*
- Applicants are encouraged to consider using IHI funds to solicit matching gifts.

### Uses of Funds:

- Acquisition or repair of major equipment, e.g. freezers
- Facility modifications

## *Urgent Need for Volunteers at Gleaners!*

With cold weather and the holiday season approaching, *Gleaners* has an urgent need for volunteers. Volunteers who can come regularly (e.g. weekly or monthly) are especially appreciated. The recent move to their new location has made working at *Gleaners* even better, but more help is needed, specifically:

- Weekdays, Monday to Thursday
- Half (or whole) day shifts
- Work type: General

**Contact:** Sa'ane Poston, [sposton@gleaners.org](mailto:sposton@gleaners.org)

**Location:** 3737 Waldemere Ave  
Indianapolis, IN 46241



## Just Who are We Serving?

Who are you helping through *Pantry Partners*? It might very well be someone you know from church or temple, the doctor's office, your kid's sports or school, your work or neighborhood.

I had a chance last year to interview clients at food pantries and soup kitchens across central Indiana. There was no pattern. They were young and old, black and white, employed, unemployed, and underemployed.

I met a woman caring full time for three boys with significant challenges including autism, and living on just their disability payments. There too came high school dropouts marooned by the end of the factory work they depended upon, and college grads whose businesses had gone bust. Seniors on fixed incomes also stood in those food pantry lines, forced into difficult choices between mounting medical bills and daily meals.

## Please Don't Fall for Stereotypes...

## Brad's Story

"Man in the Mirror" sculpture by James Croak

It was hard to miss Brad (not his real name) at the food pantry where we met him. The monthly pantry operation opens its doors at an attractive church hall in a neighborhood not far from downtown. The brightly lit hall is well organized. The program, run by

friendly volunteers committed to serve everyone, welcomes other as they believe God would welcome them. The clients appreciate the good service and food they receive.

Brad however was not happy to be there, as anyone around him was quickly aware. You see, Brad never expected to need the help of a food pantry. He has a college degree, and until recently was doing pretty well. He worked a good job as a manager and lived in his own place in Carmel. Though he was divorced and had responsibilities to fulfill, he earned a decent living.

However, Brad's lifestyle slid downhill when he lost his job. With no income the previous month, Brad found himself rooming in a place where he shares a bathroom with three other guys. He has frequently been hungry in recent months, and has gone without food for an entire day.

With all of these difficult developments, Brad lost his sense of self worth. In his anger over his situation he blames others. "I know things will get better," he says, but the words are offered without conviction. The stranger reflected in his mirror is not the manager from the fancy suburb, not the middle-class citizen with a mortgage and a late model car; not even a guy down on his luck. The image he struggles with is that of a man without opportunity, without friends, without worth.

Brad's financial situation has thrown him in with poor and hungry people for whom, in his former life, he had only disdain. He once believed they were poor because they were lazy or unmotivated. Now he finds it difficult to get started every morning. He has become the man in the mirror, but with food and support Brad can begin to build a new life.



"Man in the Mirror" sculpture by James Croak

## Give Thanks Together Feed the Hungry

Before sitting down to Thanksgiving dinner, Indianapolis area residents are invited to gather to say prayers of thanks. In a world where many walk in hunger, we are very grateful for the harvest. Like the Pilgrims and the Indians at the original Thanksgiving, we come from different religious traditions – including Christians of various denominations, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs, Hindus and more. At five places of worship around the city we will gather for prayer and worship, words of encouragement, and afterwards linger to chat and share dessert.

The services are on five different nights and each is unique. The service at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral downtown features many faith traditions and the wonderful choral music of the Indianapolis Children's Choir. The north side service features Abrahamic faiths and will be at Northminster Presbyterian this year. The east side service at First Baptist Cumberland and south side service at Friedens UCC include lots of diversity. The west side services will again be hosted at The Islamic Society of North America.

In addition to gathering for prayer, we remember those who do not have enough to eat by collecting cans of food and a monetary offering. IHI is grateful to the five organizing committees. the city we will gather for prayer and worship, words of encouragement, and afterwards linger to chat and share dessert.

## 2010 IHI Interfaith Thanksgiving Services

Faith communities helping to end hunger for children and families

You are invited to join people from diverse faiths all across the city of Indianapolis to give thanks for the harvest and help feed those who do not have the luxury of a bountiful Thanksgiving.

All services begin at 7pm.

Thursday, November 18

Islamic Society of North America

6555 South 750 East, Plainfield

Sunday November 21

Cumberland First Baptist Church

116 S. Muessing Street, Indianapolis

Monday, November 22

Friedens United Church of Christ

8300 S. Meridian Street, Indianapolis

Tuesday, November 23

Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral

1347 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis

Wednesday, November 24

Northminster Presbyterian Church

1660 Kessler Blvd. E. Dr., Indianapolis

## IHI Pantry Partners Needs Volunteers!

**NOTE:** IHI will be staffing new hours at the Mid North Food Pantry (3333 N. Meridian) from 1–3 pm on the fourth Sunday of each month. Please contact Dave Miner if your congregation wants to be part of this effort.

Pantry Partner	Address	Needs	Volunteer Coordinator	Phone	Email / Website
Lawrence Caring Center	7147 E 46th St	General Tasks	Stacey Elich Mary Chocklett	549-3178 724-0248 895-2912	elichs@sbcglobal.net
Mid North	3333 N Meridian	General Tasks Wed. and Fri.	LaTasha Mobley	924-7900	manna3421@aol.com
Old Bethel	8032 E 21st St	Driver & Computer Work	Ann Mead	897-8931	Ram8714@comcast.net
St Vincent de Paul	3001 E 30th St	General Tasks	Don Striegel	921-1401 Ext. 236	donstriegel@gmail.com svdpindy.org/images/ VolunteerBrochure.pdf
Southwest Community Cupboard	3737 Waldemere	General Tasks esp. Thurs. pm	Alicia Ray	925-0191 Ext. 136	aray@gleaners.org

*seek, serve and embrace*



*Northminster Presbyterian Church*

## *Partnering with IHI*

Northminster Presbyterian Church has been a charter member of IHI, acting on its mission to "Seek, Serve and Embrace" and building on its participation in *Bread for the World* letter writing campaigns. Associate Pastor Ruth Moore provided early support and leadership as the shape of the Initiative was being figured out. Northminster included IHI as one of the charities to benefit from its tithing in two capital campaigns and the congregation

provided numerous volunteers to help with IHI communications and events such as the *Un-Lunches* and the Dalai Lama's visit in 2010.

Northminster embraces IHI as an opportunity to serve others and seek understanding in our local and global community. This past summer, as part of a Lilly Foundation funded pastoral sabbatical, Senior Pastor Teri Thomas and her husband Rev. Jack Wineman visited the IHI-sponsored *Umoja Project* in Kenya. Teri described her experiences in a column in the *Indianapolis Star*. While she was away, IHI Volunteer Executive Director and Presbyterian Elder, Dave Miner preached a sermon at Sunday services about IHI and our call to witness and serve others. This November 24th, Northminster looks forward to building on its previous participation in IHI Interfaith Thanksgiving services by hosting one of this year's events.

*"We keep giving to IHI because of the statistics of how many children are hungry each day in Indianapolis."*

**Ruth Moore**  
**Associate Pastor**

## *Kenya Trip Update*

Due to press of other business we have postponed the January '11 trip to Kenya. We have begun discussions also about a possible trip to include a special dialogue with Chulaimbo, Kenya area faith leaders about religious diversity. If you are potentially interested in participating in a trip please signal possible interest to Dave Miner (876-1967) or Ellen Daniels-Howell (596-9957). Watch this space for further updates.



## *Changing the Systems for Hungry People*

The Indianapolis Food Resource Network (IFRN) began in the second quarter of 2009. The objective of the group is to better meet the needs of our hungry neighbors through collaboration. The group has worked to understand what resources and services the various organizations provide.

The Interfaith Hunger Initiative has played a catalytic role among IFRN members who are the large players in the complex landscape of food providers in Indianapolis.

The flow of food to the hungry through the literally hundreds of independent local organizations offers many opportunities to improve this complex web of

a "system". IFRN is very supportive of the IHI *Pantry Partner* program, and is working on additional objectives. They met with Township Trustees, and held regional meetings at the township level to foster collaborations among local food providers.

In the second quarter of 2010 a process analysis exercise was conducted. Six Sigma is a powerful process analysis and improvement methodology widely used in industry. With the help of nine volunteers, all black belts trained in six sigma methodologies, the processes of the IFRN organizations were mapped: CICOA, *Connect2Help*, *Gleaners Food Bank*, *Meals on Wheels*, *Midwest Food Bank*, *School Lunch*, *Second*

*Helpings*, *SNAP*, *St Vincent de Paul*, and *WIC*. Many insights were gleaned by the group from these maps. Recently the group built on the six sigma mapping to develop a list of potential improvement projects. Project charters are currently under development.

In addition, in June 2010 a forum was to consider the possibility of a city wide effort to END child hunger in Indianapolis, like the successful effort in the early 90's to reduce infant mortality. A smaller group has worked since then to develop a set of strategies for a community wide campaign.



The theme of this year's *Spirit and Place* is "Food for Thought." IHI is a proud cosponsor of two programs:

**"At Abraham's Table: Sharing the Hospitality of God"**

Tuesday, November 09, 2010 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
at Second Presbyterian Church  
7700 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46260



**Event Format:** Dinner, Discussion

**Audience:** Adults of all ages

**Cost:** \$15.00, pre-register by November 3

**Event Description:** Jews, Christians, and Muslims gather over delicacies from the land and heritage of their common ancestor, Abraham. Practice table fellowship over Middle Eastern food prepared by Istanbul Café and discuss how hospitality breaks down social, political, and religious barriers. Presenters include Rabbi Brett Krichiver, Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation; Dr. Kent Millard, Senior Pastor, St. Luke's United Methodist Church; Mikal Saahir, Imam, Nur-Allah Islamic Center of Indianapolis; and Rev. Lewis Galloway, Senior Pastor, Second Presbyterian Church. Pre-register through Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Interfaith Hunger Initiative, Niagra Foundation, Nur-Allah Islamic Center, or St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

Questions? Call 317-253-6461, ext. 354,  
or email [bmcgee@secondchurch.org](mailto:bmcgee@secondchurch.org).

**"Unexpected Guests at the Table:  
An Interfaith Storytelling Event"**

Wednesday, November 10, 2010 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
at Christian Theological Seminary  
1000 W. 42nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46208



**Special Venue Instructions:** Parking in 42nd Street lot.

**Event Format:** Discussion, Display, Film/Video, Performance, Reception

**Audience:** Adults of all ages, Young adults (18-30)

**Cost:** Free, non-perishable food or monetary donations requested for *Gleaners* Food Bank.

**Event Description:**

Hear traditional and contemporary stories about feeding the hungry from Islamic, Jewish, and Christian traditions. Taking inspiration from both sacred literature and tales of hungry Hoosiers, audience members will also share their own personal experiences and connect with people involved in local hunger relief. Presenters include Dr. Marti Steussy, MacAllister-Petticrew professor of biblical interpretation, Christian Theological Seminary; George Kelley, education director at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck; Rev. Callie Smith, program manager for Lifelong Theological Education, Christian Theological Seminary; and Khabir Shareef, actor and historical interpreter with Storytelling Arts of Indiana. Presented by Christian Theological Seminary; Congregation Beth-El Zedeck; Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, Inc.; Interfaith Hunger Initiative; Network of Biblical Storytellers International, Nur-Allah Islamic Center; and Storytellers Drum Inc.

Questions? Call 317-931-4225 or email [LifeEd@cts.edu](mailto:LifeEd@cts.edu).



# Interfaith Hunger Initiative

coming together. feeding bodies and souls.

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*Soup's On* Editor/Publisher— Brenda Sinclair Sutton  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Hendricks County



## A-Maize-ing!

Just \$18 provides one whole year  
of lunch and hope for a child.

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We're on the web

[interfaithhungerinitiative.org](http://interfaithhungerinitiative.org)

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## Save the Date! It's Going to be "One A-Maize-ing Lunch!"

The *Interfaith Hunger Initiative* has cooked up an idea that will give each IHI congregation an opportunity to participate in a similar events over the same period of time. "One A-Maize-ing Lunch" is a program that will take place the weekend of February 25-27, 2011, at a convenient time of each congregation's choosing.

The idea is that **each community of worship prepares a basic meal of maize and beans, similar to what a child in Kenya receives each day for lunch.** This meal is prepared and shared by individuals to

remind us of our own blessings and what the modest donation of just \$18 can do – feed a child in Kenya a lunch of maize and beans for one year.

We believe this excellent opportunity for our two dozen IHI congregations to join together in a community-wide activity also draws attention to the beliefs of IHI: the power of faith-based collaboration creates dramatic change on issues of global proportions; coming together we can end hunger in our time; and working together across faith lines on ending hunger strengthens our community.

Watch for more information on recipes, ideas on tailoring this event to your specific needs, and fundraising options. Speakers who have recently visited Kenya can be available. Meanwhile, start planning now to hold your special version of this meal sometime during the weekend of February 25-27.

We hope that every one of IHI's member groups rallies around the "One A-Maize-ing Lunch" event next February. It's time to get corny for hunger!

## Riley "Celebration of Children"

As a thank-you to the community for its support of Riley Hospital and the care it provides for children, the Riley Hospital Foundation sponsors an event in the first quarter of 2011 benefiting the *Interfaith Hunger Initiative* and its work to feed children and families. The evening includes the music of the Indianapolis Children's Choir, with former WTHR news anchor and journalist Anne Ryder as emcee, as well as keynote speaker and Honorary Chair of IHI, Jim Morris. The date is still being determined, so check the next issue of the *Soup's On* and our website in the next few weeks for a date, time, and location.