

**Interfaith  Action**

 **JOINING FORCES**  
for Affordable Housing

 **connections**  
FOR THE HOMELESS

**Homelessness, Hunger & Affordable Housing 101**

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**Primary Causes of Homelessness**  
Source: National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

**For Families and Individuals**

- **Lack of affordable housing**
- **Unemployment**
- **Poverty**
- **Low wages**
- **Medical issues**
- **Mental illness and lack of needed services**
- **Substance abuse and lack of needed services**

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**Hunger Reaches Beyond Homelessness**  
Source: National Coalition for the Homeless

- **Unemployment**
- **High housing costs**
- **Low wages and poverty**
- **Lack of access to SNAP (food stamps)**
- **Medical or health issues**

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## The Safety Net

Examples

- **Many municipal, county, state, and federal services are available; gaps remain**
  - District 65 and 202 Services for Youth; Evanston City funds; CHA housing choice voucher program; Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled; Homeless Youth Services
  - Headstart, CCAP; SNAP, WIC, Link, Farmers' Markets; Medicaid; Disability & Retirement Benefits
- **Assumptions**
  - Eligibility requirements for receiving services
  - Ability to navigate complex system
  - Enough funding in the system to adequately cover the number of people in need

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## Non-profit Organizations

Addressing Homelessness and Hunger in Evanston

- Alliance to End Homelessness
- Children's Home and Aid Society
- Connections for the Homeless
- Family Focus of Evanston
- Family Promise - Chicago/Northshore
- Housing Opportunities for Women
- Impact Behavioral Health Partners (Mentally III)
- Open Communities
- Salvation Army
- Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare
- YWCA/YMCA Evanston Northshore
- Meals on Wheels
- **Interfaith Action and Local Faith Communities**

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## Faith Communities

Onsite Efforts to Address Homelessness and Hunger in Evanston

- Bethany Baptist Church
- Beth Emet Synagogue
- First Congregational Church
- First Presbyterian Church
- First United Methodist Church
- Hemenway United Methodist Church
- Hillside Free Methodist Church
- Immanuel Lutheran
- Lake Street Church
- St. Mark's Episcopal Church
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- Second Baptist Church
- St. Mary's Catholic Church
- Vineyard Christian Church




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**Non-profit Services**

**Housing and Shelter**

- Homeless prevention; Supportive housing; Rental assistance; Limited assistance domestic violence
- Emergency Overnight Shelters (Nov - Mar); Warming Centers (Nov – Mar); Hospitality/Drop-In Centers; Limited long-term shelters/occupancy for men or families or housing for youth

**Hunger**

- Soup Kitchens; Meals at Home; Food Pantries; Producersmobile

**Other**

- Employment and mental health counseling
- Clothing pantries; limited storage and showers

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**What's Still Missing?**  
To Address Homelessness and Hunger in Evanston

- Personal hygiene and cleaning products
- Daily access to storage
- Women's shelter (in progress)
- Family shelter
- Weekend daytime shelter
- Year-round emergency shelter for men, women, and families
- Adequate housing choice or rental subsidies
- Adequate affordable housing
- Jobs/wages for housing and living costs

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**Pivotal Role of Affordable Housing**  
In Homelessness and Hunger

**Affordable Housing**

- Provides a foundation for people to build wellbeing
- Without it, people cannot reach their full potential as human beings.




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**What are the Challenges and Barriers?**

**Housing:**

- Attitude: “Not In My Backyard” (NIMBY)
- Available land; Insufficient resources allocated
- Absence of political will; Zoning prohibitions

**Hunger:**

- **Food & Groceries:**
  - Food deserts-no nearby grocers; Transportation
  - Limited hours at food pantries & social services
- **Other Necessities:**
  - Snap funds not for personal hygiene or cleaning; limited resources to support personal needs

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**Interfaith Action of Evanston:  
What is Our Role?**

**Immediate: Direct Services for Homeless People**

- **Hospitality Center**
  - 7am-11pm M-F
  - Referrals, Employment & Mental Health Counseling
- **Emergency Overnight Shelter (Nov -Mar)**
- **Warming Centers (Nov-Mar; Mon.-Fri.)**

**Immediate: Direct Services Relieving Hunger:**

- **Hospitality Center-Breakfast**
- **Daily Soup Kitchens (lunch or dinner)**
- **Monthly Producemobile; bimonthly 6 months**

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### Interfaith Action of Evanston What is Our Role?

**Longer Term: Advocacy**

- Monitoring city government for policies that impact homeless and hungry people
- Participating in Joining Forces, a collaboration of Evanston organizations advocating for affordable housing
- Mobilizing IAE membership for advocating on behalf homeless and hungry

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### Interfaith Action of Evanston: What is a Delegate's Role?

**Delegates:**

- Inform and mobilize faith communities to help with:
  - Volunteering in Soup Kitchens, Emergency Overnight Shelters, Producemobile
  - Advocating for homeless and hungry with elected officials
- Support IAE goals through communications, fundraising, and special events

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### What Have We Accomplished as a Delegate Community?

**In 2018-2019, more than 4,500 IAE volunteers**

- **14,000+** hours in service to homeless and hungry people in Evanston
- Served **1399** guests at warming centers
- Distributed **138,968** pounds of fresh produce, milk and bread to **3,029** individuals, feeding **11,400** people in their households
- **Added** Evanston Producemobile distribution site

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### What Have We Accomplished as a Delegate Community?

**Continued...**

- Opened the Emergency Overnight Shelter every night from Nov. through **March 15th**
- Successfully advocated for retaining Evanston's Mental Health **budget**, gathering more than **400** signatures
- Commissioned **study** to identify remaining gaps in community services for Evanston's homeless and hungry people

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### Social Capital: Power and Potential of Interfaith Action




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### In What Way Might Your Faith Community Participate?

**Filling gaps for homeless and "on-the-edge" families:**

- Develop a "personal hygiene" supply bank that includes toilet paper, shampoo, lotions
- Design a solution for distributing cleaning and laundry supplies for "on-the-edge" families
- Establish a Soup Kitchen or Warming Center (see current schedule)
- Examples: FUMC Diaper Pantry/Service; Grace Lutheran Bridges to Home

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### In What Way Might Your Faith Community Participate?

**Standing witness, expressing concern:**

- Signing letters to/calling elected officials on issues of homelessness, hunger, and affordable housing
- Attending key city council and committee meetings
- Hosting informational panels to learn more about the issues and opportunities
- Participating in Joining Forces meetings & activities
- Presenting Ministry Minutes to inspire action

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### In What Way Might Your Faith Community Participate?

**Join an Interfaith Action Committee:**

- **Communications:** raising the visibility of IAE work
- **Event Planning:** raising critical support for services
- **Finance:** establishing financial policies and practices that support IAE work
- **Advocacy:** monitoring policies that impact IAE constituencies and mobilizing faith communities
- **Delegates:** engaging the energy and interests of faith communities
- **Direct Services:** planning and oversight for services and programs

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### In What Way Might Your Faith Community Participate?

**Sign up to receive Joining Forces' Digest:**

- Access to a calendar of affordable housing-related events and meetings
- Information about current affordability activities in Evanston
- Opportunities to participate in advocacy
- Info on new initiatives & research

Sign up at [www.joiningforces.connect2home.org](http://www.joiningforces.connect2home.org) (bottom of the page)

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**How can we help you  
take action?**

**Have ideas, questions, want to know more, or  
are ready to fill a gap, please let us know!**

- Anne Heinz at [anneheinz67@gmail.com](mailto:anneheinz67@gmail.com)
- Sue Murphy at [ia@interfaithactionofevanston.org](mailto:ia@interfaithactionofevanston.org)
- Melissa Appelt at [mmappelt@gmail.com](mailto:mmappelt@gmail.com)

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