

SPIRIT of RENEWAL

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Interfaith
Partners for the
CHESAPEAKE

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



In the heart of the Chesapeake Bay region, a profound spirit of stewardship thrives, championed by the faith community's dedication to restoring clean water and safeguarding our natural heritage. Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC) mobilizes hundreds of congregations to take action, equipping them to become stewards of their local environment and the wider Chesapeake Bay watershed.

With hands-on assistance, we guide communities in planning, funding, and executing a wide range of projects and programs including rain garden installations, tree plantings, and native plant workshops, which embody our shared commitment to environmental preservation. Our strategic partnerships with over 25 organizations amplify our efforts, enabling us to secure vital grant funding amounting to millions of dollars invested in conservation initiatives.

Diverse voices ensure a culture of stewardship without boundaries. By welcoming and embracing different perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences, we strengthen our collective resolve to protect and nurture our natural resources. This inclusive approach not only enriches our work but also fosters a deeper sense of community and cooperation among our partners and stakeholders.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, we extend our sincere gratitude to all our valued supporters, dedicated volunteers, and esteemed partners. Your unwavering commitment has been instrumental in driving our success, and we are deeply appreciative of your continued support.

Looking ahead, IPC is poised for an exciting new chapter. As we transition to new leadership, we embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead with optimism and enthusiasm. Moving into this next era, we are confident that IPC will continue to thrive and innovate, advancing our mission with renewed vigor and purpose.

With your ongoing support and collaboration, we will continue to shape a brighter future for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Together, we will build upon our legacy of stewardship and environmental conservation, embracing our faithful and moral call to safeguard our common home for generations to come.

Tonya Sanders Thach

208

Congregations Engaged
in IPC Programs



2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



935

Volunteers Donated
2,203 Hours of Time



135

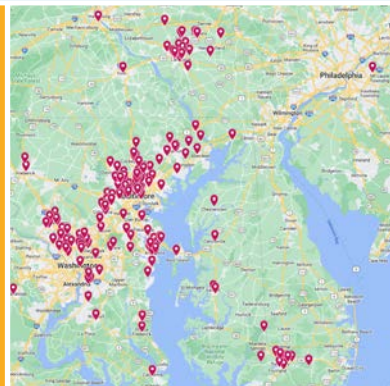
Activities
Planned by
Faithful
Stewards

IPC envisions a time when faith communities across the Chesapeake region honor, care for, and protect the watershed we share so all our communities, and future generations, may thrive.



55

Acres of Best
Management
Practices
Installed on Faith-
Owned Property



SACRED SUSTAINABILITY



The Nepali American Cultural Center (NACC) of Baltimore County was awarded a \$75,000 grant through the Chesapeake Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense program by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This grant will aid NACC in developing a green infrastructure and resilience plan. With support from technical partners within IPC's One Water Partnership program, NACC will plan innovative stormwater management solutions, including rainwater harvesting and reforestation.

This grant is part of the \$2.5 million secured for various projects by partners and congregations in 2023. Since 2019, this type of grant funding has collectively awarded more than \$4.3 million to faith organizations, demonstrating our success in advancing environmental initiatives and showcasing the value of partnerships.

NACC is not only bolstering its resilience but also fostering community sustainability. Through the One Water Partnership program, former IPC Board Member McKay Jenkins facilitated the installation 40+ raised beds, supporting NACC's vegetable garden and promoting food justice.



Explore opportunities for your congregation with assistance from an IPC regional outreach coordinator. Find yours by scanning the QR code or visiting InterfaithChesapeake.org/Team_and_Board



Photo: Raised Garden Beds at the Nepali American Cultural Center

CELEBRATING GROWTH & PARTNERSHIPS

Nearly 150 devoted advocates gathered for IPC's inaugural Chesapeake Champions Interfaith Breakfast at Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reisterstown, MD in November 2023. Among them were Maryland Delegate Regina T. Boyce, State Senator Benjamin Brooks, Renee Cooper from US Wind, Kristen Fidler, Assistant Secretary for Aquatic Resources with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and several other state elected representatives.

IPC staff and volunteers facilitated table conversations among attendees and representatives around priority issues of concern and how to collaborate on solutions. At this gathering, we proudly honored new Partner Congregations among our current 145 partners, showcasing their commitment to environmental stewardship.



Partner Congregations Honored at Celebrating Chesapeake Champions



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd's Rain Garden Project

88%

OF PARTNER CONGREGATIONS HAVE TAKEN ACTION

Emphasizing the power of partnerships, the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Lancaster collaborated with IPC and the Lancaster Clean Water Partners to install a rain garden on their grounds. In addition to the benefit of flood risk reduction and water filtration, this project will also support biodiversity and wildlife.

Excited to join the movement? Take the first step by signing the Partner Congregation Pledge!

Scan the code or visit:

InterfaithChesapeake.org/Sign_Our_Partner_Congregation_Pledge





SPEAKING UP...STANDING OUT

“This year the testimonies from IPC and other religious groups were helpful in passing multiple bills, so I look forward to working with them to implement future actions.” — Delegate Dana Stein

Early in 2023, IPC hosted its annual Legislative Briefing with Interfaith Power and Light to discuss pivotal legislation for the upcoming legislative session.

IPC mobilized 480 advocates, amplifying their voices and influence. Later in the year, Executive Director Jodi Rose stood beside Governor Wes Moore as he signed three priority bills into law that will help advance environmental conservation and community well-being.

In addition, IPC partnered with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Chesapeake Bay Trust to channel funding and resources to congregations eager to plant trees and reforest their properties through our Trees for Sacred Places program in support of Maryland’s 5 Million Trees legislation. Over the past 10 years, IPC congregations have planted more than 21,000 trees across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Through this initiative, we hope that number keeps growing along with all of our trees!

Watch the 2023 Maryland Legislative Debrief
<https://bit.ly/MDLegis>



Stay up-to-date with IPC’s advocacy efforts!
Scan the QR code or visit:
InterfaithChesapeake.org/Advocacy

Photo: Executive Director, Jodi Rose,
with Maryland Governor Wes Moore

CULTIVATING GREEN LEADERS



IMAAM Center
Green Team Leaders

The Green Team Mentorship Program, formed to guide newly trained green teams, successfully paired Jen Zalbi from the Indonesian Muslim Association in America (IMAAM) Center with the green team at the Islamic Community Center of Potomac, helping them coordinate an e-waste collection event for Earth Month, establishing a compost barn at their congregation, and moving their community towards being zero waste.

In 2023, IPC hosted both our 10th and 11th Faithful Green Leaders Training sessions, training 31 teams. Since the program's creation in 2019, we have witnessed remarkable outcomes across the watershed:



192
TEAMS TRAINED



405
ACTIONS TAKEN



67,000
PEOPLE ENGAGED



"IPC is doing a great job of bringing people together in an important way."

— Dorothea Lankford,
Church of the Redeemer
Green Team Member



Want to form your own green team?
Participate in an upcoming Faithful Green
Leaders Training

Learn more by scanning the QR code or visit:
InterfaithChesapeake.org/Faithful_Green_Leaders_Training_Program



PROTECT THE FUTURE & LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Did you know that your gift to IPC today can impact your grandchildren tomorrow?

We invite you to join us in sustaining this work for generations to come by contributing to our Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County (CFAAC).

Your gift to establish our fund may qualify for a 25% tax credit on your tax return and would help safeguard your or a loved one's legacy by making a positive impact on the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

To learn more about IPC's Endowment Fund, please contact Natalie Johnson at Natalie@InterfaithChesapeake.org.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE TO THE NEXT GENERATION:

MAKE A FUTURE GIFT IN YOUR WILL: With one sentence in your Will, you can make a meaningful gift to ensure that IPC's work to protect and restore the Chesapeake watershed continues well into the future. Consult with your estate attorney to add IPC to your Will.

TAX-FREE IRA GIFT: The IRA Charitable Rollover (also known as qualified charitable distribution) allows donors aged 70½ or older to make a gift to a charitable organization and receive tax benefits. You can give up to \$100,000/year directly to qualified organizations such as IPC without having to pay income taxes on the money.

GIVE FROM YOUR DONOR ADVISED FUND: Similar to a charitable savings account, funds can be invested and grow tax-free while you take a tax deduction. You then direct grants from the fund to any IRS-qualified public charity, like IPC. Your grant or recurring grant to IPC can make an immediate impact on our work.

OUR MISSION

To inspire and equip people of faith to honor, protect, and restore our shared watershed.

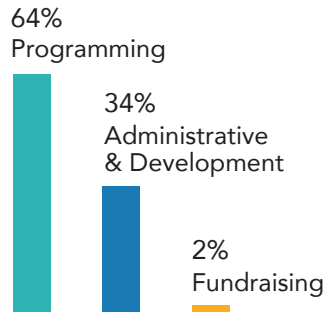
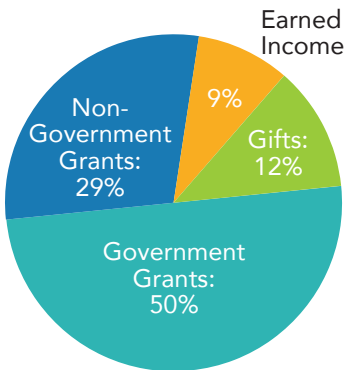


2023 FINANCES

Formally reviewed by a certified public accountant

TOTAL INCOME: \$1,030,074

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$992,717



“Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake is a great organization and I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in the great work they do.”

— John McKusick, Green Team Mentor & Homewood Friends Meeting member

DONORS RENEW OUR VISION

Thank you to all of the friends, congregations, corporations, foundations, organizations, and government agencies who supported IPC in 2023 and made our mission possible!

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Baltimore Suburban
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(United Women
in Faith)
Christ Our Anchor
Presbyterian Church
Frederick Friends
Meeting
Galesville United
Methodist Church
Grace Lutheran
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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS



CLAYTON BAKER TRUST



Imagine the potential if the more than 19,000 Congregations of faith across the Chesapeake Bay watershed came together...
Help us make that happen!



WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS WORK:



- Donate at InterfaithChesapeake.org/Donate or scan the QR code.
- Become a monthly sustaining supporter.
- Donate by check made out to "Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake" and mail it to the address at the bottom of this page.
- Planned giving and donation of stock:
Contact: Natalie@InterfaithChesapeake.org
- Corporate matching gifts — ask your employer for details.

Thank you for your support!

Cover photo credit: Chuck Book

IPC is registered as a charitable organization in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., 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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