

December 2011

Dear Friend,

In a fast-paced city we can't always recognize when those around us are in need. Could the woman who sells newspapers on the corner be a silent victim of domestic violence? Is that elderly person on the bus facing eviction? Are the kids who rush past us on the sidewalk the focus of a painful custody battle?

The Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) can testify that New Yorkers in need often turn to local religious leaders for advice and direction. That is why we work to connect religious leaders with civic organizations and people in government office. Through such connections, religious leaders can obtain information and resources that better help them serve the neediest people in their communities. At the same time, government entities gain real awareness of the hardships people face. In a city as large and diverse as New York, this channel of communication is absolutely vital.

For over fourteen years, ICNY has worked to forge and strengthen connections between the public and its leaders. In the past year alone, we have accomplished so much:

- The 2011 Marshall T. Meyer Retreat focusing on Domestic Violence.
- A series of Free Legal Clinics, providing pro bono legal counseling for people with Family or Housing Court issues.
- A series of Court Roundtable discussions about divorce and child custody/visitation concerns.

Along with these efforts, ICNY also engages in ongoing projects to encourage tolerance between people of different faiths. For example, in this 10th anniversary year of the September 11th attacks, ICNY helped facilitate over 250 events around the city that served to bridge religious divides.

This is just a sampling of the work ICNY performs each day of every year. Despite all we've accomplished, it is clear that there is much more to do. New Yorkers know that there are still those among us on busy sidewalks and subways who are feeling alone in the crowd. We invite you to make a gesture of support and encouragement to them today by joining our efforts, and making a donation to The Interfaith Center of New York. With your help, we can continue to keep alive these critical channels of information and assistance that are making a genuine difference in the lives of our neighbors, and improving the quality of life for us all.

Thank you, and have a healthy and happy holiday season.



The Rev. Chloe Breyer
Executive Director