



The Interfaith Center of New York

November 16, 2018

Dear Friends of ICNY,

Throughout New York, grassroots and immigrant religious leaders from every faith tradition are working hard to create positive change for their communities and the city as a whole.

And yet, in today's increasingly xenophobic environment, they find their efforts hampered due to fear and mistrust of government agencies and legal institutions. This is where the Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) steps in, to train and advocate for the grassroots and faith-based leaders who are working to build an inclusive city for all New Yorkers.

ICNY works on the ground, behind the scenes, and on the steps of city hall to lift up leaders to help end discrimination and bias based on cultural, religious, and other perceived differences, **and we could not do our peace-building work without you.**

This year, in partnership with Trinity Church Wall Street, the Interfaith Center of New York launched the *Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy (ICLA)*, an intensive ten-month training program that provides a religiously diverse collection of leaders with the tools and seed funding needed make a difference in today's polarized New York.

When you give a gift to the Interfaith Center of New York, you are strengthening the civic fabric of one of the most diverse cities on the planet.

Through our work with ICLA fellow Imam Dr. Ahmet Atlig, for example, we learned of the unique challenges facing Turkish refugees, including high instances of trauma stemming from painful memories of persecution and terror under the worsening dictatorship in Turkey.

Thanks to his work with ICNY and a small grant we could provide, Imam Atlig has expanded his ministry to support the varied psychological and spiritual needs of the Erdogan Turkish immigrants seeking resettlement here in New York City. This includes the ability for clergy members to travel to those in need in order to provide grief counseling and crisis ministry as well as referrals for financial struggles and mental health issue.

The Interfaith Center of New York's work is tantamount to the success of those looking to protect their communities from prejudice, violence, and misunderstanding.

With your help, New York City can continue to be a model of coexistence in a world that is increasingly fractured along religious, racial, political, and economic lines.

Will you consider a gift before the end of the year to help ICNY prepare to meet the needs of the faith leaders of tomorrow?

Thank you for believing in us, and in our city. I hope you will join the Interfaith Center of New York with a gift that is meaningful to you in honor of the many faith communities we work together to protect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chloe Breyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer
Executive Director

PS: I am delighted to share the enclosed annual report in which I invite you to meet our newest staff members and many of the grassroots leaders and communities we serve as advocates and educators.