



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



ICNY, the Temple of Enlightenment, and Jamiyatu Ansaru-deen provided a thanksgiving meal for asylum seekers. Pictured: Brennan Brink, Imam Omar Niass, Venerable Subodha, Suneth Pilapitiya, Sylvie Sun, Roshan Perera

Dear Friend,

As we enter a season of light, many of our faith traditions remind us that in the face of both literal and metaphorical darkness, all hope is not lost. Many of you have expressed to us your desire for a gathering to **stand against Islamophobia and Antisemitism** here in NYC and across the country. With the **Micah Table** we plan to do just that in the weeks ahead and will be in touch as the event takes shape.

Upcoming next week is our annual **Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat for Social Justice** that this year focuses on **food justice**. The Retreat will be on Dec 6th and will have online and in person components with a keynote from Kate MacKenzie, Executive Director of the **NYC Mayor's Office of Food Policy**, click [here](#) to register.

On Dec. 5th at 11 AM, please join a **Right to Shelter Rally** on Bowling Green in Lower Manhattan. NYSANE and Coalition for the Homeless are among the groups organizing it. Please RSVP [here](#).

Finally, below you can find ICNY's recently released [2023 Annual Report](#) and, in case you missed our [Interfaith Thanksgiving video](#) narrated by our incomparable Asylee Shelter and Immigration Consultant Brennan Brink, please take a moment to watch it [here](#).

Sincerely,

Chloe Breyer

The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer

ICNY Executive Director



ICNY staff and board members attended the LDS church's Light the World celebration where we connected Houses of Worship to a generous grant program to serve children this holiday season. Pictured: Brennan Brink, Hanadi Doleh, Sylvie Sun

ICNY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

FAITH IN ACTION FOR Food Justice



ICNY's 41st Rabbi Marshall T Meyer Retreat
December 6th, 2023

TIME: 9am-2pm online conference | IN PERSON: 5-7pm

LOCATION: Metro Baptist Church, 410 W 40th St, New York, NY 10018



PRESENTED BY INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK

CO-SPONSORED BY



41st Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat

Faith in Action for Food Justice

December 6th, 2023

9:00 A.M - 2:00 P.M (Online Conference)

5:00 P.M - 7:00 P.M In-Person Service Opportunity (Metro Baptist Church, 410 W 40th St, New York, NY 10018)

Conference just one week away.

Please join the Interfaith Center of New York for a conference supporting diverse faith communities as they work to create food justice for all New Yorkers.

Conference for religious and civic leaders cosponsored by the [Hindu Temple Society of North America](#), the [Interfaith Public Health Network](#), [Muslims Giving Back](#), [B'nai Jeshurun](#) and the [Met Council](#)

Food insecurity has long plagued New York City, and with compounding issues like unaffordable housing, poverty, and racial inequality, far too many New Yorkers remain vulnerable to hunger. According to a 2022 report from the Mayor's Office of Food Policy, approximately 1.2 million city residents have limited or uncertain access to nutritionally adequate food. This figure likely underestimates the true scope of the problem, especially as rates of food insecurity vary widely by race, class, and borough – disproportionately impacting historically marginalized Black and Brown communities.

Many faith leaders and congregations already address food insecurity in their local communities through food pantries, soup kitchens, and community meals. While such programs are essential, our ultimate goal must be a city where emergency food services are no longer needed. The ***Faith in Action for Food Justice*** conference will focus not only on immediate hunger relief efforts, but also on grassroots organizing and advocacy campaigns addressing the structural roots of food insecurity. We will work together to reimagine our food systems and envision a city where all New Yorkers have reliable access to healthy and culturally appropriate foods, produced through environmentally sustainable methods.

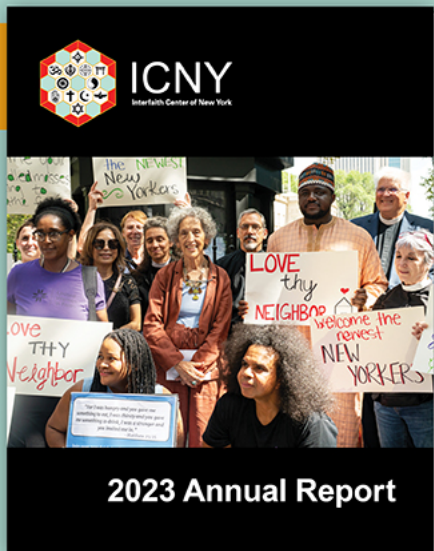
The conference will feature a keynote address from [Kate MacKenzie](#), Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Food Policy, as well as panel discussions and small group workshops exploring faith-based perspectives and concrete strategies for action. The online conference will be followed by a community conversation and service opportunity – packing food for our neighbors in Upper Manhattan. Please [click here](#) or click the buttons for registration and conference schedule.

The conference is open to all religious and civic leaders. **Participants will receive a Zoom link for the online portion after registering.** The community conversation and service opportunity will begin at **5:00 pm** at [Metro Baptist Church](#).

Questions? Please contact Hanadi Doleh, ICNY Director of Community Partnerships, at hanadi@interfaithcenter.org.

[Click Here to Register](#)

[Conference Schedule](#)



ICNY Year in Review

[Click to view ICNY's annual report](#)



Annual Report

ICNY Year in Review

Sine 1997, the Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) has made a positive and lasting improvement to the civic fabric of our city. And, starting today, our latest annual report is available online.

[Click this link](#) to view our online annual report. There you will learn how ICNY:

- Made **regrants** for shelter and migrant support to almost a dozen congregations and convened representatives of 30 different faith communities and nonprofits dedicated to this work;
- Launched **The Covenant** with New York State Council of Churches, calling on faith communities, non profits, businesses and government to shelter, house, educate, and provide legal assistance and expedited work authorization for the newest New Yorkers;
- Provided religious diversity training to two cohorts of 450+ **NYPD** equity employment and inclusion officers;
- Offered public library-based anti-gun violence trainings in the Bronx;
- Partnered with the Office of the **UN Secretary General** to offer prayers for peace at UN headquarters on April 14, 2023;
- Hosted our 40th Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice on housing in partnership with the **Office of New York City Comptroller Brad Lander**;
- Became an Anchor Partner of the new **Perelman Performing Arts Center** and hosted an arts and religion post-production panel with **Bill T. Jones**;
- Partnered with NYC and **NYDIS** to identify houses of worship who could provide overnight accommodations for arriving migrants.

With your support over the past year, ICNY addressed new waves of racial and religious prejudice with a blend of education, dialogue, organizing, and advocacy.

We would be honored to have your support before year's end, so that ICNY can continue to make street-level change in NYC.

Please [click here](#) to make a tax-deductible gift and [click here](#) to visit ICNY's 2023 annual report.

[Read the Report](#)

[Donate](#)



Resource for Faith Community Leaders

Rikers Island and International Human Rights Day

Weekend of December 8-10

On Sunday, December 10th we will celebrate [International Human Rights Day](#) – uplifting the fundamental rights and freedoms of all human beings, and commemorating the day in 1948 that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In this context, we call upon New Yorkers of all faiths and none to respond to the human rights crisis playing out in the jails on Rikers Island.

With our partners at [Freedom Agenda](#), the [Campaign to Close Rikers](#), and the [New York Jewish Coalition for Criminal Justice Reform](#), ICNY has prepared a resource for clergy members and community leaders to address the human rights crisis at Rikers during the weekend of December 8-10, leading up to International Human Rights Day. The resource includes a statement on Rikers and human rights, as well as suggestions for incorporating the statement into religious services and community events in Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Quaker, and Sikh communities.

Faith leaders please [click here to download the resource](#) and adapt if for use in your own community.

[Click Here for the Faith Community Resource](#)



B'nai Jeshurun

Community Hanukkah Candle Lighting

Tuesday, December 12th, 2023

5:45 P.M - 6:45 P.M

257 West 88th Street, New York, NY 10024

Celebrate the Festival of Lights with our community Hanukkah Candlelight! As the sun sets and Kadima students finish class, families and members of all ages are invited to come together for a gathering of joy, music, fried foods, and togetherness.

Our Rabbis will guide the community in the ritual of candle lighting, illuminating the warmth and light of togetherness. We embrace the spirit of unity as we welcome interfaith partners to share in the festivities.

In partnership with Interfaith Center of New York.

[Visit the Website](#)



HOUSES OF WORSHIP & FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION (FBO) SPACE NEEDED PROSPECTIVE HOSPITALITY CENTER SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

NYC is experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, with the arrival of over **70,000 Asylum Seekers from Latin America and West Africa** over the past year - with more arriving every week. NYDIS' Emergency Shelter Network, in partnership with NYC, will fund 5 sites of any faith tradition, to operate a daytime hospitality center for the next 12-24 months providing support to approximately 150 guests a day over the next 12-24 months. Shelters must be open 365 days per year from 7AM to 7PM.

Each House of Worship or Faith-based Organization MUST Have:

- 6+ Single Stall Showers (or the space and willingness for us to install showers)
- A Fire Sprinkler System (or the willingness for us to install a sprinkler system in the center's space)
- A fully functioning commercial kitchen (or food can be catered), preparing a variety of meal options (including, if requested, Vegan & Vegetarian options and may include Halal options)
- Language competent services, volunteers, and staff (Spanish, French, West African French, Wolof, etc.)
- Ability to fulfill reasonable accommodations (such as, language, dietary, religious, and accessibility needs)

Compensation: Up to \$54,000 per month, advanced monthly, from which a site may cover will fund the following documented expenses for required services:

- Janitorial Payroll Allowance (\$100/Day or up to \$3,000/month)
- One 7AM-7PM Onsite Center Coordinator (\$30/hour = \$11,000/month - from which benefits can be paid, if desired)
- One 7AM-7PM NYS Licensed Security Guard (\$360/day or up to \$11,000/ month)
- Food: Daily hot lunch and snacks for 150 (\$5pp per day = \$23,000/month)
- Insurance Allowance (up to \$1000/month)
- Supplies (\$2,000/month) & Miscellaneous Pre-Approved Support (\$2,500/month)
- Wi-Fi and Cable Television Allowance (\$165/month)
- **A Space Use/Utilities Allowance equal to 25% of total operating cost reimbursement per month - up to \$13,000 a month.**

What Will NYDIS' Emergency Shelter Network Provide?

- A dedicated NYDIS Shelter Operations Manager to support the operation of your center site: including logistics support, invoicing assistance, weekly onsite support.
- A monthly operating advance of up to \$54,000, and Space Use Fee \$13,000
- A laptop to track attendance and submit reports/forms as required.
- Grants to add Showers, Fire Safety Equipment/Sprinklers, and/or Paint/Light Refresh
- Referrals for security, laundry, meal procurement and, if necessary, vendors
- Towels/Wash Cloths, Hygiene Kits, Clothing to Distribute
- Training and Technical Support for each site, its staff and volunteers

To inquire about how to be of service to our new neighbors in crisis with hospitality and safe sanctuary and covering your basic costs:



Asylum Seeker info

COMPLETE THIS ONLINE FORM:

<https://howalert.org/HospitalityCenterSurvey>

The survey will help determine your eligibility for a shelter contract. Completing the form does not commit you or your facility to anything other than an exploratory conversation.



Online Survey



HOUSES OF WORSHIP & FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION (FBO) SPACE NEEDED

Funding Available to Operate Asylum Seeker Overnight Shelters that Provide Food & Showers

NYC is experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, with the arrival of over **70,000 Asylum Seekers from Latin America and West Africa** over the past year - with more arriving every week. NYDIS' Emergency Shelter Network, in partnership with NYC, will fund 50 shelters in houses of worship or faith-based spaces, of any faith tradition, to operate 19 bed shelters for single adult men over the next 12-24 months. Shelters must be open 365 days per year from 7PM to 7AM.

Each House of Worship or Faith-based Organization MUST Have:

- 2+ Single Stall Showers (or the space and willingness for us to install showers)
- A Fire Sprinkler System (or the willingness for us to install a sprinkler system in the shelter space)
- Space for a dedicated dining and social area and the ability to provide culturally appropriate meals.
- Language competent services, volunteers, and staff (Spanish, French, West African French, Wolof, etc.)
- Ability to fulfill Reasonable Accommodations (such as, language, dietary, religious, & accessibility needs)
- Storage space for (folded) cots, linens, and Guests' storage trunks

Compensation: \$65 Per Night Per Person of up to \$35,500 per month, advanced monthly, from which a site will fund the following documented expenses or required services:

- Background Checks for Staff/Volunteers (up to \$1,400/month)
- Janitorial Payroll Allowance (\$100/Day or up to \$3,100/month)
- One 7PM-7AM onsite Shelter Coordinator (\$30/hour, includes benefits) = \$11,000/month)
- One 7PM-7AM onsite NYS Licensed Security Guard or off Duty-Law Enforcement Officer (\$360/day or up to \$11,000/ month)
- Bedding Laundry Allowance (\$775/month)
- Food: Daily Hot dinner and a hot or cold breakfast (\$3.27 pp per meal = \$4,000/month)
- Supplies (\$1,000/month)
- Weekly Laundromat Voucher of \$10 per guest (\$760/month)
- Insurance Allowance (up to \$2000/month)
- Wi-Fi and Cable Television (\$165/month)
- **A Space Use/Utilities Allowance equal to 25% of total operating cost reimbursements per month - up to \$9,500 a month.**

What Will NYDIS' Emergency Shelter Network Provide?

- 24/7 emergency support
- A dedicated NYDIS Shelter Operations Manager to support the training of your staff/volunteers, equipment as well as the technical assistance for operating of your shelter: including guest placement, invoicing assistance, weekly onsite support
- Guest placement for all Asylum Seekers to your shelter
- A laptop to document guest vacancy and occupancy placements every night and to submit reports/forms as required
- A monthly operating advance of up to \$35,500 and Space Use Fee of up to \$9,500
- Cots, Linens, Pillows, Towels/Wash Cloths, and Laundry Bags
- Storage Trunks and a Pad Lock for each guest
- Grants to add Showers, Fire Safety Equipment/Sprinklers, and or Paint/Light Refresh
- A daily roundtrip MetroCard for each guest
- Referrals for security, laundry, meal procurement and, if necessary, vendors

To inquire about how to be of service to our new neighbors in crisis with hospitality and safe sanctuary and covering your basic costs:



Asylum Seeker info

COMPLETE THIS ONLINE SURVEY:

<https://howalert.org/AsylumSeekerShelterSurvey>

The survey will help determine your eligibility for a shelter contract. Completing the form does not commit you or your facility to anything other than an exploratory conversation.



Online Survey

NYC Needs Your House of Worship

Support the Newest New Yorkers by Sheltering Asylees

Since last summer, over 44,000 asylum seekers have arrived on their own or been transported to New York City without regard for their wellbeing. Hundreds continue to arrive each week. The NYC shelter system, hotels and alternative housing sites have been overwhelmed as asylum seekers try to find safe shelter while awaiting immigration court proceedings. While most are single men, single women and families with children are also arriving. Many of these fellow global citizens in crisis have fled unimaginable conditions in their country of origin and then experienced an arduous journey on their way to New York City.

The city has been providing hotels, homeless shelters, and other mass care spaces as housing on a temporary basis. We are proposing to fund congregations, of any faith tradition, to provide temporary small

group shelter housing to single adult male and female asylees. The program would provide shelter for the next 12-24 months while all of us continue to call on the state and Federal government to help address this need for more permanent housing.

We are seeking houses of worship in all faith traditions that can meet the practical requirements outlined in the flyer above. In exchange for your hospitality, congregations will be paid a monthly fee -- to cover all required operating expenses related to meeting each asylees' basic human needs and to offset space use costs.

Click the buttons below if your house of worship can help.

[Click Here if Your House of Worship Can Help With a Hospitality Center](#)

[Click Here If Your House of Worship Can Help with a Shelter](#)

OTHER EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



ANNUAL
**TRIBUTE
DINNER**

Episcopal Charities

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
DECEMBER 4, 2023



Episcopal Charities
Transforming Lives

SAVE THE DATE

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE HONOR

THE RT. REV. ANDREW ML DIETSCHÉ
XVI Bishop of New York

CHARLIE GARLAND
Hamlin Capital Management, LLC

COMMUNITY JUSTICE AWARD
INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK
Accepted by The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer

Monday ☪ December 4, 2023 ☪ 6:30 PM
Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City

Invitations to mail in October
For more information contact ecevents@diocesenyc.org
or call 212.316.7575 or visit our website at www.ec-ny.org

Episcopal Charities

Episcopal Charities 2023 Tribute Dinner

Monday, December 4th, 6:30 P.M.
The Cathedral of St. John the Divine,
New York

Please join us as we honor:

THE RT. REV. ANDREW ML DIETSCHÉ
XVI Bishop of New York

CHARLIE GARLAND
Hamlin Capital Management, LLC

COMMUNITY JUSTICE AWARD
INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK
Accepted by The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer

Click the button below to learn more/buy tickets.

[Learn More/Buy Tickets](#)



Gala

Humanity for Relief and Development's Five Year Anniversary Gala

December 2nd, 5:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Astoria World Manor

25-22 Astoria Blvd, NY 11102

To mark its five-year milestone, Humanity for Relief and Development (HRD) is hosting a free gala to raise funds for Gaza and HRD's upcoming Mercy Village initiative, complete with three-course meal and discussions led by esteemed speakers.

HRD is a non-profit headquartered in New York that is most widely recognized for its Mercy Bakery project.

Click the button below to learn more/reserve a seat.

JOIN THE RALLY! NO ONE SHOULD BE DENIED SAFE SHELTER AND FORCED TO SLEEP ON THE STREETS

Come join community members who care about human dignity, housing justice, and the future of our city!

Rally and march to demand that Mayor Adams & Governor Hochul immediately cease their efforts to gut the legal Right to Shelter – a disastrous move that would relegate tens of thousands to sleeping on New York City streets.

TUESDAY
05
DECEMBER

11 A.M.
BOWLING GREEN
LOWER MANHATTAN

Near Bowling Green Station, an accessible subway stop.

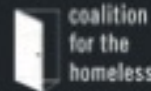
ON THIS DAY, 44 YEARS AGO:
December 5th, the anniversary of one of the first court orders in *Callahan v. Carey*, has long been celebrated as "Right to Shelter Day" in NYC.

Planning to attend? Scan the code below to sign up and learn more:



tinyurl.com/rally4shelter

Masks are encouraged. Please stay home if you are feeling sick.



Rally

Right to Shelter Rally

December 5th, 11:00 A.M.

Bowling Green, Lower Manhattan

NY SANE, the Coalition for the Homeless, The Legal Aid Society, and Housing Justice for All – together representing hundreds of housing and tenant organizations, labor unions, faith groups, and other

organizations throughout the New York – are joining in action for a **major rally and march** in support of the legal Right to Shelter and protecting all those without homes.

We need the Mayor and Governor to hear the voices of all those who believe it wrong to take away this fundamental right, wrong to leave people without homes to sleep unsheltered on the streets.

Will you please commit to joining us at this rally, and please help by spreading the word and driving as much turnout as possible? We are fighting for the soul of our city here and need your help.

Please RSVP [here](#) or click the button below. We look forward to seeing you on December 5th!

RSVP

Hindus for Human Rights

Job Posting

Part-Time New York City Community Organizer, Hindus for Human Rights

Hindus for Human Rights, a 501c(3) nonprofit that advocates for human rights and provides a Hindu voice of resistance to caste, Hindutva (Hindu nationalism), racism, and all forms of bigotry and oppression, is hiring a part-time New York City Community Organizer (\$30,000/year for 20 hours/week). This position will serve as HfHR's primary staffer on the ground building relationships with activists, leaders, and community organizations across the city, and will represent HfHR's policy and advocacy priorities in government and civil society spaces while cultivating the formation of a local HfHR chapter. Click the button below to learn more and apply.

Learn More/Apply



Volunteer Opportunity to Assist with Asylum Seekers

Clothing Drive

October 30th & 31st

334 Amsterdam Avenue at 76th St

Marlene Meyerson JCC is running a clothing drive **and needs volunteers in the final days of October**. Volunteers will sort and distribute items from their Clothing Drive to support students in District 3 Public Schools. Sorting takes place in the JCC lobby (334 Amsterdam Ave at 76th St.) and folks can sign up for shifts on Oct. 30th and 31st at by clicking the button below.

[Sign Up](#)

WANT TO SUPPORT ASYLUM SEEKERS IN NYC?

BECOME A HIAS VOLUNTEER!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS OF ALL
BACKGROUNDS WITH THE DESIRE TO HELP
ASYLUM SEEKERS ACCESS ESSENTIAL SERVICES.



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

JOIN OUR DIRECT SERVICE PROGRAM!

WE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES THAT
RANGE FROM HIGH COMMITMENT
DIRECT PARTNERSHIP TO ONE-OFF
RESEARCH PROJECTS. HIGH NEED
LANGUAGES INCLUDE SPANISH,
AMHARIC, DARI, PASHTO, RUSSIAN,
AND UKRAINIAN

WORK WITH ASYLUM SEEKERS TO:

- WRITE RESUMES
- HOLD MOCK JOB INTERVIEWS
- STRENGTHEN ENGLISH LANGUAGE
SKILLS
- LEARN ABOUT U.S. POLICIES AND
CULTURE
- BUILD COMMUNITY
AND SO MUCH MORE

If you're interested in joining the HIAS volunteer community and hearing from our team, scan our QR code and sign up to learn more. Create a volunteer profile and choose a webinar time that works for you.



For questions or accommodations, contact nycvolunteer@hias.org

Volunteer with HIAS

Help Asylum Seekers Access Essential Services

HIAS is looking for long-term and short-term volunteers to help Asylum Seekers access Essential Services. Volunteering includes writing resumes, holding mock job interviews, building English Language Skills, fostering community, and so much more. Learn more and apply to be a volunteer by clicking the button below.

Learn More/Apply



**The assistance you need to begin life
anew in New York City**

The Asylum Seekers Assistance Project (ASAP) was created by the Migrant Center at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in collaboration with partner organizations to assist newly arrived migrants and asylum seekers in New York City.

If you have arrived in the US within a year, this assistance is for you. If you are ready to self-petition, let us help you. Please contact us.

in collaboration with

*Malteser International • ISC New York • St. Ignatius Loyola
PAX CHRISTI New York State & Metro New York*

Contact the Church of St. Francis of Assisi for more information
To register for assistance, email us at
centrodemigrantes@gmail.com or call us at
(212) 736-8500 ext. 305 or 377.

Volunteer Opportunity

The Migrant Center of the Church of St. Francis of Assisi

The Migrant Center of the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, needs intake coordinators, translators, and especially legal assistance at their site, where they help asylum seekers apply for asylum. For more information or for immigration assistance or to volunteer, please contact Fr. Julian Jagudilla, O.F.M. at 212-736-8500 ext. 377 or at migrantcenter@stfrancisnyc.org.

Email

The Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) works to overcome prejudice, violence, and misunderstanding by activating the power of the city's grassroots religious and civic leaders and their communities.

DONATE

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