



In Community

Spring
2010

The Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge

pursuing unity, justice, and peace through interfaith cooperation

2010 Recap

What a 2010 it has been! The Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge coordinated a variety of excellent events including:

- Interfaith Dialogue: Poverty & Faith
Congregation B'Nai Israel hosted a wonderful dialogue and supper on Feb. 23, 2010. Panelists included Rabbi Jordan Goldson (Judaism), Jane Aslam (Islam), Dr. M Kumar (Hinduism), Rev. Jennifer Jones (Protestant Christian), and Michael Acaldo (Catholic Christian). The moderator was Dr. John Pickering (Buddhism).
- Poverty Forum
Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church hosted the Poverty Forum on March 7, 2010. Over 200 people attended the event. Poverty Solution Tracks included Early Childhood, Education, Housing & Jobs, Legislation, Families, and Violence.) Participants were invited and encouraged to adopt five actions within their realm of influence to reduce the number of children living in poverty in the Baton Rouge area. The mayor and other local leaders presented their list of five.
- Hands for Change
The Interfaith Federation launched the Hands for Change Initiative to expand the work of the Poverty Forum. Watch for more information on this.
- Art and Architecture Pilgrimage
On March 21, we toured Broadmoor Baptist Church, Tam Bao Buddhist Temple, Islamic Center of Baton Rouge, and Beth Shalom Synagogue.
- 20th Annual Sounds of CommUNITY Concert
St. Joseph Cathedral hosted the 20th Anniversary of the Sounds of CommUNITY concert on Sunday, April 25, 2010. The program included: East Baton Rouge Parish Children's Chorus, Baton Rouge Magnet High School Girls Ensemble, Jewish Community Ensemble (Shirei Tikvah), Shiloh Baptist Church Young Adult Mass Choir, Unitarian Church Trio, and Heritage. In addition, we honored Rev. Charles Smith, the originator of the Sounds of CommUNITY concert.
- Clergy Gatherings
Clergy meet the first Thursday of the month. The next gathering is Thursday, May 6, 2010, noon at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour. The topic is "Clergy Self-Care". (RSVP the Federation office by Wed. May 5)
- Operation Red Stick
The Interfaith Federation of GBR organized two Work Weeks to help people recover from Hurricane Gustav. Local volunteers and college students from Texas helped significantly.
- Holy Grill and Interfaith Caregivers
Direct services includes the Holy Grill feeding program (Lunch on Mon.-Fri. at Cadillac Park & two Kids Cafes) and transportation for the elderly.

Finances

In December, we learned that a \$25,000 Holy Grill grant from the city was not renewed. Other first quarter grants have been delayed.

Fortunately member congregations and individual gifts have been generous. Yet, the Federation still faces a significant financial gap. It is clear we will not be able to continue services at the same level in the past.

Please pray for the Federation, especially the board. Please consider a financial gift.

Interfaith Federation
of
Greater Baton Rouge

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