

Volunteer Starting Points & Opportunities

As our organization grows, we are finding that we have more volunteers coming to us, asking for things to do, for ways they can help. We've always been a small organization that has a can-do, do-it-yourself attitude. But the more we grow, the more crucial delegation of responsibilities will be, so that we can have a greater, more effective and compassionate outreach. Our base of operations is in Los Angeles, but since we became the corporate home of the Interfaith March for Peace & Justice last year, we are now an international organization with constituent groups all around the U.S. and a growing global contingent. And as we grow, the key to our success will be the effective involvement and management of passionate and committed volunteers. Regardless of location, with the increase in usage of teleconferencing, we are now able to do even more effective work without ever leaving home. Organizing and activism is within reach through our keyboards as a great way to keep ourselves engaged in the world.

Here are some of our programs and activities that need your help. Please peruse this list and see which of these speak to your heart and spirit, and we can then work together to put you in touch with the leadership of each of these programs so that your passion will be put to the best use.

- 1) The Interfaith March for Peace & Justice—an annual and now global coalition of sister marches to help solidify and raise awareness about our interfaith movement. We need people to staff our local march planning committee, as well as the international planning committee that helps all of the contingent sister marches coordinate and keep in contact with one another. Planning committee meetings on the local and international level are usually conducted through Zoom or other teleconferencing platforms. In-person meetings are only convened when absolutely necessary. Volunteers are often needed to help with setup and teardown of the march events, as well as staffing tables and implementing the details of our months of planning.
- 2) Interfaith Ambassadors Program—during usual conditions, we facilitate field trips to local houses of worship for anyone interested, but we tend to cater to the demographic of undergraduate students who need to visit houses of worship as part of their curricular programs focused on enrichment through religious and cultural education. Right now, we are conducting these site visits virtually and electronically. We could use some help identifying communities that have moved their religious services online and will allow virtual visitors to view their live streams or recordings and maybe have some Q&A available. A list of participant communities can be replicated in any locality. Even after the COVID-19 pandemic has been brought to heel (or heal!), we will still have a need for virtual tours and site visits—perhaps more than ever before. At that time, volunteers might be called upon to help lead or coordinate site visits.
- 3) Interfaith Emergency Response Network—a newly launched initiative which helps to put interfaith groups and faith communities in touch with each other during times of crisis as well as peace, in order to ensure that people with specific needs can be put in touch with those who have the needed resources. The elderly and infirm are often particularly vulnerable at times like this and if they are not within the usual radius of their faith communities, they might be best helped by people from other faith communities who are in closer proximity to them. We are



currently compiling lists of contacts from different communities so that they can interface with one another and exchange resources more efficiently and to the greatest benefit of all concerned. We have launched a Facebook group whereby the contacts and leadership of these communities can communicate needs at the touch of a button. The beauty of the Facebook group is that it can be replicated in any locality. Moderators and administrators of the Facebook group are needed, as are personnel to help with coordinating contacts and outreach.

- 4) Blogging, podcasting, and making informational videos—many of you have great ideas or content that needs to be heard. We invite you to use your voice in conjunction with our considerable reach to change the world. A newsletter is on the table for consideration. We need contributors and editors for that. We can also conduct interviews with faith leaders that will go out on the internet for the purpose of educating people. Optimally, we would get our best interview results while interviewing in person, but right now we can still do interviews virtually.
- 5) Event planners for seasonal events--We will always need volunteers to help with the planning and execution of various seasonal and occasional events, such as the “Our Muslim Neighbors” forum, seminars, and panel discussions, among others.
- 6) Staying in touch and performing outreach for the organization—it only takes a few minutes to share emails with your network, and only a little more effort to identify new organizations and houses of worship that might be interested in, or could benefit from, our programs. You can be our emissaries of peace, our evangelists of interfaith, our knights fighting for the rights of people to worship freely and safely as they wish, our scouts for the advance party of workers for the Good.

Please contact us and let us know which of these programs excites you the most and get involved!

Many Blessings,

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