



Interfaith Association of Central Ohio

Creating a vibrant interfaith community based on understanding, friendship, and trust.

2023 Year in Review

A Message from IACO's Outgoing President

Hello All,

As we say goodbye to 2023, I bid you farewell as President of IACO. I will continue to be engaged in the capacity of council member representing Hindu Faith.

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as IACO president over the last 2 years and I cannot thank each of you enough for the support, guidance, and friendship you have shown me. The last two years were particularly challenging for IACO and in general for all faith communities. Coming out of the COVID pandemic, we realized we had lost touch with each other; many of our activities had moved to online or limited contact processes. It was tough trying to return to pre-pandemic normal interactions. However, our efforts with the support we were used to, before COVID, created a measure of success.

Our Central Ohio communities continue to face challenges with ongoing conflicts and political turmoil all over the country and the world. The loss of innocent human life, civility in our social discourses, and eroding trust among groups of people have further exasperated the situation. In these troubling times, I feel organizations like IACO and the work we do are more important than ever to continue establishing trust, friendship, and increased communication with each other.

I am pleased to see a new team of IACO officers for 2024-25. I am particularly happy that Steve Dimler is going to be President of IACO, supported by Ian Urquhart of the Buddhist Faith as Vice President, Danya Furda of the Universal Universalist faith as Secretary, and Anup Behera as treasurer from the Hindu faith. Steve has been associated with IACO as president in the past and we will greatly be enriched from his experience and knowledge. I have worked with each one of these wonderful individuals and have no doubt they will serve this community and organization with dedication and kindness. I wish our new team the very best for 2024 and invite you all to please support them in all ways you can.

I look forward to continued involvement with IACO and engagement with all of you. And, I wish you all a very happy new year.

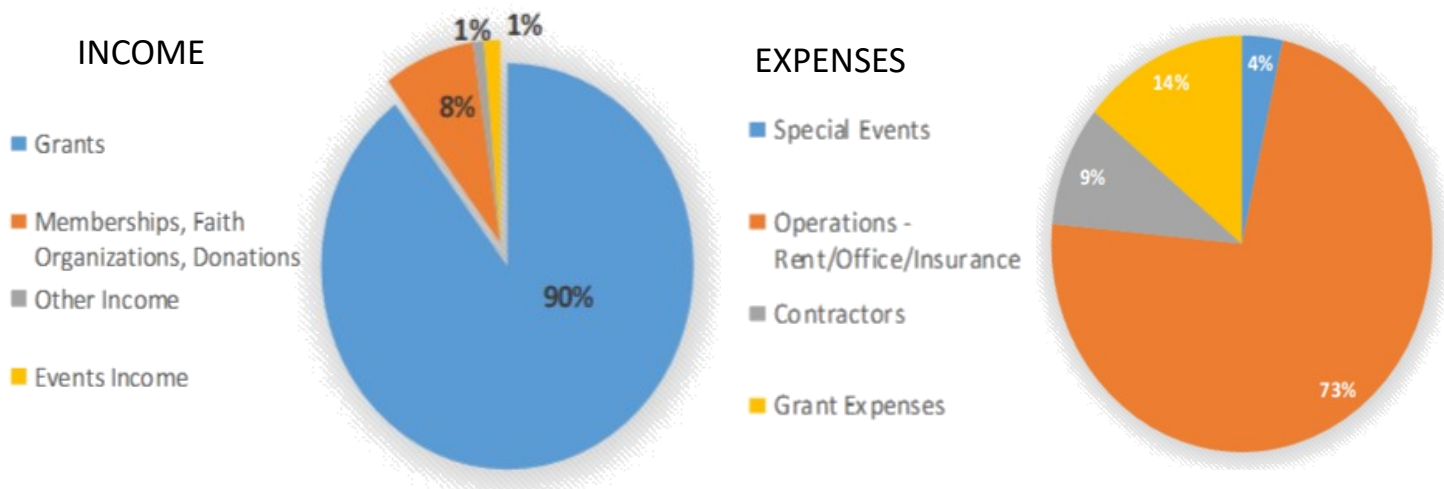
Thanks,

Rakesh Thaploo
President 2022-2023

Become a member!



2023 Income and Expenses



Thank You!

Puffin Foundation West made 2023 a year of exciting opportunities! We received a contribution of \$50,000 to help us in our mission of creating a vibrant interfaith community based on understanding, friendship, and trust!

We also appreciate the support of all of our co-sponsors for this year's Interfaith Prayer Gathering and Potluck on December 3:

*Abraham's Tent
Baha'i Faith
Bharatiya Hindu Temple
Church for All People
Community United Church of Christ
Faith in Public Life
First Unitarian Universalist Church
Horizon Prison Initiative*

*Indianola Presbyterian Church
Jain Center of Central Ohio
Noor Islamic Cultural Center
Ohio Council of Churches
Safe Alliance of Interfaith Leaders
Spirituality Network
Women of Religious Diversity of Dublin
Worthington Interfaith Neighbors*

2023 Member Faiths and Council Members

Bahá'i—Janet Wilson-Sheppherd, Steve Dimler

Buddhist—Ernestine Jackson, Ian Urquhart, Geneva Nixon

Christian—Drew Tucker

Hindu—Rakesh Thaploo, Manish Singh, Anup Beher

Islam—Marwan Mohammad, Malik Imram

Jain—Mehta Alpesh, Prankul Jain, Banthia Kunal

Jewish—Aaron Portman

Sikh—Guramrit Singh, Tarunjit Singh Butalia, Inderjot Kaur Hansra

Unitarian Universalist—Karen Dawson, Danya Furda, Jackie Zarley

2023 Programs and Events

Interfaith Visits

Interfaith visits provide an opportunity to learn about our member faiths and help build a community of trust. Participants attend a worship service and a reception/educational program afterwards.

Our 2023 visits included:

- *KTC Buddhist Temple* — May 21
- *The New Faith Baptist Church* (Christian Faith) — October 1
- *Congregation Beth Tikva* (Jewish Faith) — October 27



IACO Interfaith Visit to KTC Buddhist Temple



IACO Interfaith Visit to The New Faith Baptist Church



Other Events

- *Interfaith Conversations* — March 18 and April 23
- *Organizational Strategic Planning Meeting* — April 23
- *Youth Service Day* at the Neighborhood Services Inc., (NSI) Food Pantry — July 26
- *Interfaith Leaders Conversation: How can we effectively come together to have positive impact on our own faith members & our communities?* — October 4
- *Interfaith Engagement Online Forums* on “What is Interfaith Engagement & How to Do it?”— October 11 and December 13
- *IACO Membership Meeting: Envisioning IACO Over the Next Two Years* — November 19
- *Interfaith Prayer Gathering and Potluck: Living Our Faith and Spirituality, With Our Hearts, Heads, and Hands* — December 3

