***Interfaith Service Initiative***

**DAY OF UNITY SUPPORTING IMMIGRANTS**

The Interfaith Service Initiative (ISI) together with Project Rozana- Greater Washington Chapter, JAMAAT (Jews, Muslims and Allies Acting Together) and World Consciousness Alliance ( WCA) will take part in a Day of Unity event on Sunday, May 10th focused on providing food and gift cards for immigrants experiencing food insecurity across the DMV.

The Day of Unity, which begins on May 3 and continues on May 10, is an annual event sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington featuring coordinated interfaith grassroots actions and community building activities around the D.C. metro area.

Participants in our Day of Unity event will be provided with names of people from Sanctuary-DMV (SDMV) <http://sanctuarydmv.org/>, an immigrant advocacy organization. During the coronavirus crisis, SDMV is focused on providing food and essential baby supplies to immigrants who have been pushed off the economic cliff by the Covid-19 crisis and are ineligible for government services and relief checks. There are many terrifying stories illuminating the desperate situation of people SDMV has managed to help in recent weeks: Ana’s family had 2 eggs and 4 pieces of fruit left for six people. Marni is pregnant with Covid and had no food,. Many families are running out of milk and diapers for their babies.

Over the past 3 weeks, SDMV has provided food and baby supplies to 3,450 people. Yet the need continues to escalate. There is now a wait list of 700 plus. SDMV has raised $60,000 during this period and has spent all of it on food.  SDMV is an 100% volunteer organization and 100% of the money is used to feed the immigrant families during this crisis.

During our ISI food delivery effort on the Day of Unity for May10, physical distancing will be rigorously maintained. Volunteers who deliver food will leave grocery bags on doorsteps and hang gift cards in small baggies on door handles; then wait for the family to retrieve them from a distance.

**There are a number of ways in which you can participate in this important ISI Day of Unity:**

* Volunteer to pick up food or a gift card(s). Please donate whatever you are able and SDMV will reimburse the rest. Feeding one family costs $100-$200 depending upon the size. Volunteers usually deliver from 1 to 5 gift cards/groceries per trip.
* Donate money directly to SDMV via PayPal at <https://www.paypal.me/sanctuarydmv> or Venmo@SanctuaryDMV.

Feel free to reach out to friends and family for help in raising this money. SDMV can help!

Please let us know if you are interested in taking part in this critically important ISI Day of Unity.

 **To RSVP, please email the following people by MONDAY, May 4th.**

**Put “Day of Unity” in the subject line:**

 Denise Woods of SDMV woodsassoc@gmail.com and Walter Ruby and Andra Baylus of ISI walter.ruby2@yahoo.com and interfaithandra@gmail.com.

**Denise will respond to your RSVP with specifics and discuss how you can be involved on May 10th. Your participation will make a dent in rising food insecurity across the DMV.**