

Braes Interfaith Ministries Celebrates its 35th Anniversary!

This year marks a major milestone in Braes Interfaith Ministries' history. This year, Braes is celebrating its **35th Anniversary**...thirty-five years of ministering to our community. And to celebrate where we are now, it is important to remember how we got here:

In 1984, the Southwest Ministerial Alliance met to discuss poverty and homelessness in our community. The result was a food pantry at the Willow Meadows Baptist Church. SWAP (**Sharing With Area People**) opened its doors on October 1, 1984.

Then in 1986, Louise Chalupa, the President of the Board of Directors applied for and was granted non-profit status (501 (c)) for the pantry. The name was changed to **Braes Interfaith Ministries**. By this time the clothing closet had been added to the list of services.

Urban Harvest, whose mission is to revitalize neighborhoods through gardening, approached Braes in 1989 to discuss the possibility of starting a Community Donations Garden. The board approved this project and the groundbreaking was done in December of that same year.

Since then the following programs have added to the roster of services:

- ✚ Financial Aid Program
- ✚ School Supply Program
- ✚ Holiday Food Baskets (distributed for Thanksgiving and Christmas)
- ✚ Lecture Series (dialogues on better eating plans, diabetes, cooking strategies, etc.)

The year 2008 saw the opening of the Braes Resale and Consignment Shop at 10319 South Post Oak Rd. The shop remained at this location until 2013 and reopened a year later at its current location at 10814-B South Post Oak next to the Food-A-Rama grocery store.

Eloise's Closet (clothing ministry) is housed at the Resale Shop where household and furniture items are sold at economical prices. The shop also assists clients who have been displaced due to fires, floods, burglary, and/or domestic violence.

Braes Interfaith Ministries is grateful to all our supporting congregations for not only walking through this journey with us but also for holding our hand. Our success is their success and we appreciate their support, commitment, and dedication to serving an underserved population.

And just as important, Braes Interfaith Ministries is particularly thankful to those in our community who have helped sustain our mission throughout the years. We could not be successful without your food drives, toiletries' drives, and clothing drives.