REACH Homeless Shelter Dinner Program

University of Rochester, Interfaith Chapel

February 24, 2018 – World Interfaith Harmony Week Event

On February 24, 2018 the Students’ Association for Interfaith Cooperation and the Interfaith Chapel at the University of Rochester engaged in an interfaith community service project. We prepared dinner for the residents of the REACH home, an emergency shelter housing thirty of the most chronically homeless people in Rochester. REACH (Rochester Emergency Action Coalition for the Homeless) is a not for profit organization founded by the local interfaith community to address a pressing need in our city. Rochester winters are extremely cold and snowy and there was a dire need for shelter for these residents who were living under bridges in tents. The interfaith community came together to find a house, rehab it, furnish it and through donations obtain clothing and other needs for the residents. One hot meal a day is prepared by volunteers in the community and brought to the shelter in the evening. SAIC students baked and decorated cookies to accompany food prepared by members of the Interfaith Chapel and generously donated by our local grocery chain, Wegmans. The students then went to the REACH home and served the meal to the residents and spent time talking with them over dinner. There were 13 students who went to the home to serve and interact with the residents, and we served about 30 people.