



## **INTERNSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT – INTERFAITH SUSTAINABLE FOOD COLLABORATIVE**

The Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative is a non-profit organization seeking an intern to assist with advancing our mission:

To advance the production of and access to healthy food produced in a sustainable, socially just manner by empowering faith communities with models and resources to impact local food systems and advance public policy.

Interfaith Food is working with local, state and national coalitions to advance public policy that supports family farmers, increase food access for low-income individuals and builds the sustainable food movement. These internships will focus on build capacity for advocacy and advancing specific campaigns.

### **The Internships:**

The Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative offers two internship opportunities to help grow sustainable food systems by working with the faith community. One will focus on California and federal policy to facilitate equitable access to farm land, and government food and farming programs. The second, will support regional livestock marketing connecting ranchers and religious communities committed to Halal and/or Kosher meat consumption. Both internship positions will include the following projects:

- A. Organize and implement E-mail promotions, web-site updates and social media outreach campaign to facilitate advocacy and promote a regional and a national conference.
- B. Develop contact list of faith community groups, farmers and secular food system farmers and update Salesforce - CRM (Client Relationship Management) system.

In addition, each intern will work on one of the following:

- C. Facilitate advocacy at the state and federal levels to build a more sustainable local food system. This will include working to facilitate grassroots advocacy for state and federal legislation and state budget asks.
- D. Coordinate communications between mid-scale and small-scale livestock producers and local Masjids (Mosques) seeking to purchase sheep and goats.

### **Qualifications:**

The best candidates will have a familiarity with faith community work, sustainable food systems and/or public policy. Experience with social networking platforms is a plus. Strong communication skills are key. We are seeking a college student or recent graduate.

### **Terms/Stipend/How to Apply:**

Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative offers a supervised yet casual atmosphere. Interns will commit to 16--24 hours a week, for a 10-12 week period. Interns will be paid a stipend. Travel within the Bay area may be required. Travel expenses will be reimbursed. The internship will be based in Sebastopol (Sonoma County), some remote work may be possible.

Please submit a cover letter describing your interest and resume. These will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning May 5th, the positions will remain open until filled. Interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter as a PDF to Steve Schwartz: [Steve@interfaithfood.org](mailto:Steve@interfaithfood.org). For questions regarding this position, call (707) 634-4672.



## **INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERFAITH SUSTAINABLE FOOD COLLABORATIVE**

The project facilitates faith communities sharing models to produce and access healthy, local food and build a more sustainable food system by providing resources to help committed congregations increase their level of activity. The project also facilitates policy activism by connecting congregations to educational resources and specific advocacy opportunities. The group's focus on sustainable food systems encompasses soil and water protection, social justice, market development and access to food aid programs. Interfaith Food works to broaden the base of the sustainable agriculture movement by building bridges between faith and farming communities. For more information visit: [www.interfaithfood.org](http://www.interfaithfood.org)

Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative empowers congregations to develop programs through networking, technical assistance and financial assistance. Interfaith Food is building the movement of people demanding healthy, sustainable food by facilitating cooperation with and among faith community leaders. We have engaged representatives of over 550 congregations, and have provided regrant funds serving more than 25 faith-based congregations or service providers advancing grassroots food access projects.

### **The Challenge**

The sustainable agriculture movement and local food advocates have had many successes over the decades and awareness has grown about how consumers can advance a sustainable food system. However, in many ways the work to facilitate a shift to a more sustainable food system has just begun. This project is designed in part to impacting individuals' consumption habits not through their pocket books, but from the perspective of religious values.

In recent years, several religious denominations at the national level have advanced initiatives highlighting the connection between the food system and spirituality. Projects, campaigns and programmatic resources have been developed by the national bodies of the United Methodist Church and the Union of Reform Judaism, for example. Many creative programs have blossomed from these efforts. However, the diverse application of congregational-level projects has not been catalogued and shared in a way that facilitates development of new projects across the faith spectrum. The Interfaith Food fills the gap by facilitating sharing of innovative models.

Many low-income individuals in the Bay Area do not have adequate access to affordable food. Farmers need increased access to land, and outlets to sell food and kitchens for value-added processing. Families with limited assets seek commercial kitchens for micro-enterprise food businesses, and garden space to grow their own food. Congregations need resources to be able to advance programs and policies that support these objectives.

### **Programs and Services**

Interfaith Food provides 'how to' resources, and professional technical assistance to implement a range of practices to connect congregants with sustainable food systems in a manner that amplifies faith practice. The project provides training, technical assistance and, in some cases, direct financing in the form of mini-grants to start-up projects among congregations to improve food access. Our printed resources highlight successful projects and lessons learned from faith groups in the region.