



## FAITHACTION INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

TURNING STRANGERS INTO NEIGHBORS!  
705 North Greene Street ♦ Greensboro, North Carolina 27401  
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### *8 Keys to a successful community ID program*

1. Primary host organization that can effectively coordinate monthly ID drives, and ensure positive collaboration with numerous community partners (most notably, local law enforcement) and volunteers
2. Clear, proactive communication about benefits and limitations of the card (manage expectations), and what is required to get it
3. Be as inclusive as possible (language, race, culture, gender identity, immigration status, faith, socio-economic background), with a focus on vulnerable communities
4. Establish clear vetting system and rules that close gaps for fraud, and also creates possible exceptions for people with special circumstances
5. Create space for compelling dialogue, education, arts, and advocacy during ID drives (be creative)
6. Receive feedback from participants, learn from mistakes, and evolve and expand program overtime
7. Measure program not just by numbers, but by usefulness of card for participants and partners, and quality of relationships

8. Be proactive in messaging about how the program builds, safer, more inclusive and united communities for all, and have public officials, faith leaders, and other citizens come and receive an ID

***Residents who might benefit from a community ID card include:***

- Diverse immigrant/refugee community
- Homeless and low-income communities, and those returning from prison
- Law enforcement, city officials, teachers, and service providers that work alongside these communities
- Religious leaders and community advocates
- LGBTQ community
- Artists, and individuals and families who love the arts
- Citizens who want a greater sense of belonging, pride, and unity in their city

***Primary uses of a community ID card***

- *Law enforcement* (ex: keeps people from going to jail for simply not having a valid form of ID, builds trust between officers and community)
- *City agencies* (ex: access to services from Water Department, Parks and Recreation, Libraries, Municipal Credit Unions)
- *Health Centers* (ex: medical appointments and records, visitation, applying for medical benefits, billing)
- *Schools* (ex: registration, volunteering, picking up child from school, school records)
- *Businesses* (ex: opening a bank account, transferring money)
- *Cultural Arts Organizations* (ex: special discounts on memberships and tickets to museums and theaters)

*\*Some partners may ask for a second form of ID*

# FAITHACTION ID NETWORK



*An ID is just a piece of plastic until a human being gives it a name, a face, and a story, and a community gives it value and integrity.*

## **What is the purpose of the FaithAction ID card program?**

To build greater understanding, trust and cooperation between local law enforcement and other local sectors, and our diverse community. Our goal is to create a safer, more inclusive and united communities for all people in North Carolina.

## **Who has a FaithAction ID card?**

Over **10,000** North Carolina residents now have a FaithAction (or network partner) ID card. This number includes new immigrants and refugees in North Carolina, as well as homeless and elderly individuals, people recently returning from jail, and those who support a diverse and inclusive community (including religious and city leaders, and state representatives).

## **Why is the FaithAction ID program needed?**

Many North Carolina residents, including many citizens, do not have the necessary requirements to receive a state issued ID card. They may urgently need and be required to prove their identity for numerous reasons each day. The FaithAction ID card provides residents with a verifiable form of identification that can be used as a tool by law enforcement, health centers, businesses and cultural arts organizations to better identify, serve, and protect them. The card also establishes membership to FaithAction and other network partners.

## **What are the limitations of the FaithAction ID card?**

The FaithAction ID card is not a state issued form of identification (and clearly notes this fact on the back of the card), or a driver's license. It cannot be used to vote, and does not entitle card holders to any social welfare benefits.

### **What are the requirements to receive an ID card?**

All participants must attend an ID drive, in which they are required to listen to a 30 min orientation on the benefits and limitations of the card, and then go through a vetting process in which they must provide proof of address and identity. The required list of approved documents have been agreed upon by local law enforcement partners, and all those at the document check station have been trained. An immigration attorney or paralegal is present at each table if there are questions, and police can also be called upon to verify certain document requirements.



### **What community partners currently support the program?**

Numerous law enforcement departments have expressed support of the program and participated in ID drives, along with several major health centers, and over 25 businesses and cultural arts organizations. Recently the city of Cincinnati, Ohio became the first partner outside of North Carolina to join the Faith Action ID network, and we also recently trained partners in Houston, Texas. **Current supporters include:**

#### Sheriff Offices

Forsyth, Moore, and Orange  
County Sheriff Offices

#### Police Departments

Greensboro, Winston-Salem,  
Burlington, Graham, Elon, Mebane,  
Gibsonville, Chapel Hill, Carrboro,  
Durham, Robbins, Asheboro, and  
Roanoke Rapids Police,  
Hillsborough

#### Health Centers

Wake Forest Baptist Hospital/Faith  
Health NC, Novant Health, and  
Moses Cone Health network,  
Samaritan Health Center

### **What is the FaithAction ID network?**

A collection of nonprofit organizations, faith communities, and community groups that partner together to establish and host FaithAction ID card drives in several counties throughout North Carolina and Ohio. All partners have agreed to utilize the exact same FaithAction ID drive and dialogue model, and vetting system. Partners also participate in monthly calls to share updates and best practices. **Current partners include:**

- |                                   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| ◇ FaithAction International House | ◇ Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church      | ◇ Asheboro and Robbins Unidos                  |
| ◇ Hispanic League                 | ◇ The Latin American Coalition           | ◇ Latino Commission on Aids                    |
| ◇ FaithHealth NC                  | ◇ The North Carolina Council of Churches | ◇ Catholic Charities of SW Ohio                |
| ◇ El Centro Hispano               |  | ◇ Metro Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati |

### **How does the ID program build trust with local law enforcement, and other local sectors?**

Several law enforcement officers are present for each ID drive, and engage in remarkably positive dialogue with ID participants. Officers listen to the needs and concerns of the community, while also educating the community on laws, and ways to report and help resolve crimes. It is not uncommon for crimes to be privately reported to trusted officers at ID drives.

## What is the impact for our communities?

After just one year of the program, law enforcement in Greensboro publicly shared that several serious crimes had been reported and resolved by participants in the FaithAction ID program, and other law enforcement partners have experienced similar success in creating safer communities. Additionally, FaithAction recently interviewed 150 FaithAction ID card holders, and **over 95% said that they had found the ID very useful with community partners, and that they felt safer, and more likely to report and resolve crimes** after having had positive interaction with local law enforcement at ID drives. Health centers have additionally reported how helpful the ID has been to establish identity for crucial health services and records, and businesses/cultural arts organizations have also greatly appreciated attracting new diverse customers.



### Support from law enforcement, domestic violence agencies, and health centers:

*The Burlington Police Department has been involved with the Faith Action ID Card program for several years. Every month we are able to attend an ID drive and engage new residents. We discuss many aspects of public safety and build great relationships with folks who previously were suspicious or fearful of the police. These relationships lead to enhanced safety for immigrants and citizens alike.*

**- Jeffrey Smythe, Burlington Police Chief**

*The ID drives are especially important in building trust among law enforcement agencies and victims, including victims of intimate partner violence. Not having identification creates a barrier to reporting and seeking assistance. All victims have a right to be free of violence and should be able to rely on the institutions that address intimate partner violence for protection of themselves and their children. A FaithAction ID allows law enforcement, health centers, and businesses to better identify, serve, and protect all survivors.*

**- Dana Mangum, Executive Director of the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

*The FAITH ID program has helped the Greensboro Police Department reach out, get to know, and develop trust in a section of our community that has been traditionally underserved and over victimized. The bridges built in trust through this partnership have led to a safer community overall, not just for the ID recipients.*

**- Mike Richey, Greensboro Police Department Deputy Chief**

*The FaithAction ID program has become an essential partner, helping Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center move into mutually healing relationship with our patients, families and neighbors, including those without documents. This hospital was founded by the NC Baptist Convention in 1922 to provide care to anyone in the state who God so loved; the ID program helps us fulfill that vision by making it safe for our patients to come to receive care by ensuring we know who they are through accurate identification. The integrity and intelligence of the program has also brought us into a new level of collaboration with police and other public servants.*

**- Reverend Gary Gunderson, Vice President of FaithHealth, a Division of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center**

**Link to brief video documentary:** <https://vimeo.com/204267553>

**Contact:** For more information, visit [faithaction.org](http://faithaction.org), or contact FaithAction Executive Director, Rev. David Fraccaro at [dfraccaro@faihouse.org](mailto:dfraccaro@faihouse.org) or (336) 379-0037, ext 2.

