

INTERFACE Program: INTERFACE is a partnership between individuals, good corporate neighbors and the Town of Brookhaven united in a common effort to provide help to Brookhaven's less fortunate residents. It provides goods and services to those in need and addresses social issues. INTERFACE uses each person's and corporation's unique ability and creativity to tackle these problems in concert with the Town.

INTERFACE was the recipient of the President's Private Sector Initiative Award, and it has also been honored by the Eleanor Roosevelt Committee of the Governor's Office of Voluntary Service. There are approximately 125 corporations, not-for-profit agencies, community and fraternal organizations that make up INTERFACE. [View a list](#) of the individuals, companies, agencies and local groups who generously donate school supplies, toys, food and much more to support our efforts to assist Brookhaven neighbors in need.

To find out more information regarding the INTERFACE Steering Committee, please visit this link <http://www.brookhaven.org/Committees/INTERFACE-Steering>.

For further information about any of the programs listed below, please call Josephine Lunde at (631) 451-8026.

INTERFACE PROGRAMS

Prom Gowns: In response to the overwhelming cost of prom season, the Prom Gown Program was started several years ago, and runs from March through June. Gowns and accessories are provided to graduating seniors who otherwise would not be able to attend their prom due to financial constraints. The gowns collected are mostly new and along with the accessories are for those who participate in the program to keep. All clients are kept strictly confidential.

Back to School Drive: During July and August the Back to School Supply Drive is conducted. This is especially important because we equip children from kindergarten through age 12 with the supplies they need to begin the school year ready to learn. Several businesses throughout Brookhaven participate in this collection of supplies, and through this drive more than 1,000 children each year return to school with the confidence knowing they have necessary tools they need to succeed.

Totes for Tots: This program is a favorite of the Youth Bureau because it provides empowerment to children by letting them know there are people who care about them during their time of need. It provides brand new, small suitcases or brightly colored backpacks that go to the Department of Social Services Child Protection Agency to be used for children who are removed from their home because of neglect or other threatening situations. These totes give these children a sense of integrity, as their belongings can be placed in a space designed for their belongings, rather than being stuffed into black garbage bags.

Holiday Toy Drive: Each year the Brookhaven INTERFACE Holiday Toys for Kids Drive collects and distributes gifts to children in need in the Town of Brookhaven. This dynamic program consistently provides toys for more than 6,000 children during the holidays who otherwise would not have had the experience of opening presents. The Toys for Kids Drive encourages residents to donate gifts at more than 150 toy location boxes throughout the Town at banks, malls, offices and schools. INTERFACE strives to increase voluntarism among Brookhaven citizens by working with neighborhood fire departments, schools, churches, and various community organizations. The Youth Bureau is particularly interested in getting young people to become volunteers for this program.

Turkey/Food Drive: The INTERFACE Program annually holds a Turkey/Food Drive that begins in October and runs through mid-November. Each year this program provides more than 700 families with a fulfilling Thanksgiving meal that otherwise would not be possible. Donations are provided by local businesses throughout Brookhaven, as well as individual residents.

Winter Coat Drive: During the month of January the INTERFACE Program organizes a coat drive and delivers the gift of warmth. Gently used winter coats, hats and gloves are collected from donation boxes placed at various locations throughout Brookhaven, and many residents bring these items directly to the Youth Bureau. These generous donations are then delivered to churches and shelters in Brookhaven.

Used Eye Glass Drive: This is a year round program where donations can be brought directly to the Youth Bureau, located on the second floor of Brookhaven Town Hall. These glasses are used to benefit families in need throughout the Town.

The INTERFACE Program also provides educational awareness with various community groups and colleges, providing them with information on how they can better serve their town by volunteering their time and talents with those less fortunate.