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Hospitality Network News

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Madison Area

A Farewell Message from Birgit Budreau

As many of you know, I am relocating to Cincinnati, OH, to reside with my fiancé following our wedding this month. It is with regrets that I leave you all behind. Since coming to IHN, I have been able to learn a great deal not only from the well-experienced staff but also from the families we serve. Now it's my turn to say thank you and somehow it just doesn't seem adequate. The staff at IHN has become almost a surrogate family for me, providing an ear to listen, constant encouragement, and a pat on the back when I have needed it most.

I have never worked for an agency so completely dedicated not only to making the lives of the families it serves better, but the lives of an entire community. I have been challenged every day to look outside the box and not to be content with the status quo. I am constantly amazed at the talent and dedication of the staff and the Board of Directors and how passionately they all believe in IHN. And the support the agency has in the community from the volunteers is mind blowing. It gives me hope that change can happen with a little sweat, tears, and belief in something better.

As IHN moves into the future and takes on new endeavors, I know that you will all make it work, and make it work well, because I have seen this every day that I have spent with IHN. I wish you all the very best of luck in the future and I plan to keep in touch. Each of you who is involved with IHN has made my life better in your own special way and I take little pieces of each of you when I leave. Thank you for always caring and for never giving up.



Welcome to our New Staff

While wishing Birgit all the best in her new life in Cincinnati, IHN is very pleased to welcome new staff members Mary Barrett, MSW, Shelter Case Manager (*left*) and Cyndi Wood, Development Director (*right*) to our staff.

Mary comes to IHN with many years' experience as a social worker in the Milwaukee public schools, and Cyndi joins us with a great deal of fundraising and team-leadership experience in local non-profits.



Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Madison Area serves homeless families by mobilizing religious communities to provide shelter and meals, by working with families to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency and by raising awareness of social justice issues.

Program Report

January – September, 2006

Services:

- 20 families (26 children, 25 adults) stayed in shelter
- 20 families participated in the Housing Stabilization program
- The Second Chance Apartment Project grew to 17 apartments
- 17 community members participated in the Tenant Advocacy Group

Outcomes:

- 16 of 20 shelter families moved to housing (80%)
- 7 families graduated from the Housing Stabilization program
- 92% of graduates have reached 6 months in stable housing
- 82% of last year's graduates have reached 12 months in stable housing

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News of our Graduates

Toni and Thomas have been in housing for four months. School is going great for T-man. He completed summer school and was moved up a grade this year! He is now in 8th grade and is involved in drill team and football, and has joined a church in his neighborhood.

Heather and Domiana love their new apartment. Heather writes: "Thank you for your support in helping my family find a permanent home. God bless you all."

Lashionda and Jaqueline moved into the Second Chance Apartment Project in October. Lashionda is excited to continue working on her goals now that she is in stable housing. "IHN really helped me a lot," says Lashionda, "I was in a bad situation before coming here and they have me a better outlook on life."

Special Thanks

Everyone at IHN extends sincere appreciation to everyone who has given time, money or items to support our families.

Griff and Mary Beth Madigan donated a Chevy Blazer! This truck, which the Madigan's repaired and serviced for its new family, is being donated to an IHN mom with a disability who has saved money to use for maintenance and repair.

Springs Window Fashions donated a custom blind for the IHN day center.

GE Health Care donated 75 backpacks stuffed with school supplies so every IHN child could start the year out right.

Teresa Knudson put together 15 birthday kits of gifts, wrapping paper and cake fixings for children in the Housing Stabilization program. **Margaret Franchino** is baking birthday treats for any child in shelter who has a birthday and wants to bring a treat to school.



United Way Day of Caring – see p. 3

Scott Kramer and Gerry Maruska donated tickets for everyone in shelter to go to the Madison West Kiwanis Club pancake breakfast.

The VFW Women's Auxiliary, Lakeside Street, brought fleece jackets, mittens hats and gloves.

To Support IHN:

Financial gifts: Rachel Krinsky, Executive Director, 294-7998, x 302

Volunteering: Shannon Hayes, Volunteer Coordinator, 294-7998, x 306

Wish list items: Lissa Sundberg, Business Manager, 294-7998, x 301

Why We Give to IHN

by Cheryl Weston, CEO and Chair, The Douglas Stewart Company

It is difficult to imagine a social condition more devastating than homelessness. Its impact on physical and mental health, education, nutrition, the ability to maintain stable employment and stable family structure cannot be underestimated.

One of the reasons we think IHN is special is it provides for meaningful opportunities for broad community involvement in alleviating these adverse impacts. IHN has demonstrated the power of community by coordinating the efforts of volunteers to provide the most direct kinds of service. It takes advantage of existing social networks in providing that which is needed most: shelter. It allows us to feel good by doing good.



But these good works rely on financial support as well. The Douglas Stewart Company, like many area business, is its own community of sorts. We are a diverse group of people; our purpose as a company is undoubtedly secular. Yet we all benefit from the outstanding quality of life in Dane County, which includes being part of a place that values helping those in need.. We are honored to lend our collective support to the works of IHN. We hope that many other businesses will join us, extending the range of collaborations necessary to combat homelessness.

The Douglas Stewart Company provided the lead gift at the Homes for Families Breakfast, pledging \$100,000 over five years to support IHN's programs and to encourage others to give.

United Way Day of Caring 2006

Over 30 volunteers from **American Family Insurance**, **United States Courts**, **Stafford Rosenbaum Law Offices**, **Rosenberry Society**, and **Covance Research** helped IHN clean out and re-organize our basement, including building large sturdy shelves. This reorganization has improved the safe storage and efficient distribution of the wonderful personal and household items that so many of you



bring for our families. Many thanks to the Day of Caring volunteers!

We also thank **Tom Johnson** for designing and organizing the project, **Marling Lumber** and **Hallman Lindsay Paint** for contributing supplies, and IHN volunteers **Chuck Romstad**, **Roland Aeschlimann**, **Marquita Fortune**, and **JR Stroede**.

Wish List

We are most in need of:

Baby wipes
Bar soap (full size)
Bleach
Cleaning supplies
Diapers
Deodorant
Feminine hygiene products
Laundry soap
Lotion (full size)
Paper towels
Pillows
Razors
Shampoo/conditioner (full size)
Shaving cream
Sheets – full, twin, pillow
Toilet paper
Towels – bath size
Washcloths
Winter blankets

We also need:

African American hair care products
Backpacks
First aid kits
Game system - i.e. Nintendo for the day center
Grocery gift certificates
Light bulbs
Madison Metro bus passes
Phone cards
Postage stamps

Financial gifts allow IHN to direct resources to our most critical needs

Dear IHN,

My name is Anjanine Witcher. I am a 34-year-old mother of two girls, Datondra 14, and Aaliyah 4. I moved to Madison in November of 2005. It was a difficult transition, but when we got to IHN, Birgit started working with me to help find housing, daycare, and school for myself and my girls. We got approved for a 2-bedroom apartment at Eastpointe where we lived until a spot opened up for me in subsidized housing.

We now have a 3-bedroom townhouse at Kennedy Heights. I love my townhouse and am planning on staying there for years. We work with Amber, in the Housing Stabilization program. My current goals are to obtain my GED and get my driver's license. My girls and I would like to thank God, IHN and Amber for helping us and working with us for the last six months. April 3rd, 2007, is our last day working with Amber and IHN, but if I could keep working with them we would all love that!



Love always,
Anjanine, Datondra and Aaliyah

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