



Vol. IX, Issue 3
Summer, 2007

Hospitality Network News

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

Fall Events at IHN

September Open House

Please join us on Sunday, September 16 between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. at Midvale Community Lutheran Church, 4329 Tokay Blvd., for a **Shelter Network Tour**. Midvale will be all set up for the IHN guests to arrive that evening, but you can get a “sneak peek” of their operations in the afternoon. There will be tours of the space throughout the afternoon and a short program at 3:00 featuring the executive director and a program graduate. This will be a great opportunity for those who have never seen the shelter program in action. If you already participate in the shelter network, please bring a friend or a family that is new to IHN. *Note: this Open House can serve as part I of volunteer training.*

The Middleton Jaycees have chosen IHN as the beneficiary of funds raised at their Halloween Haunted House this fall. Join us at **Horror in the Dark at Olin Park** on October 19, 20, 25-27 or 31 from 7-10 pm. Mark your calendars for some scary fun!! If you'd like to help with the haunted house, call the IHN office – the Jaycees could use three or four volunteers each night of the event as well as a construction crew beginning on the weekend of Oct. 12.

October Haunted House

November Breakfast

We invite you to join us at the **2007 Homes for Families Breakfast** on November 8 at the Alliant Energy Center. If you are interested in attending, or if you would like to be a table captain and invite others, please contact Cyndi Wood, Development Director, at 294-7998 x 311 or cyndiwood@tds.net.

Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Madison Area (IHN) serves homeless families with children in collaboration with local faith communities and organizations. We are committed to the empowerment and long-term success of children and families, to serving each family with dignity and respect and to achieving results in helping families improve their lives. IHN welcomes the entire community, in all its diversity, to participate in the pursuit of safe, affordable housing for all.

Homes For Families
a free fundraising breakfast
2007: Building Hope

Program Report

January – June, 2007

Services:

- 16 families (28 children, 24 adults) stayed in shelter
- 15 families participated in the Housing Stabilization program
- The Second Chance Apartment Project housed 19 families
- 40 mentors worked with these families
- 19 community members participated in the Tenant Advocacy Group

Outcomes:

- 8 of 12 departing shelter families found housing (67%)
- 1 family graduated from the Second Chance Apartment Project and was able to assume the lease and stay in the same apartment
- 90% of families reaching six months post-shelter during this period maintained stable housing, as did 100% of those who've been out of shelter for at least a year!

Hospitality Network News is a quarterly publication of Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Madison Area
1121 University Ave.
Madison, WI 53715
Phone: (608) 294-7998
Fax: (608) 294-8007
interfaith@tds.net
www.ihnmadison.org

How I came to an IHN Tour... and loved it!

By Helen Lackore, volunteer and donor

I started cooking for the IHN guests at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church. I always make the fried chicken for dinner. Then I started staying through dinner sometimes when nobody else was available. Then I was "encouraged" (rather strongly) to attend a *Homes for Families Tour* as a part of IHN training.

As a retired elementary teacher I was pretty sure I didn't need to be trained. I expected to be bored to tears, and worse, the tour was also at night time, and at my maturity I don't like to go out at night. But I went.

I was overwhelmed by what I heard. The process that IHN goes through to help families establish themselves through housing, jobs, training, social work... it is total life involvement. After coming to the tour I can really feel that my little bit is going a long way. I think IHN is doing a super job, and I would encourage anyone to attend a *Homes for Families Tour* – I promise you'll enjoy it.

Special Thanks

Everyone at IHN extends sincere appreciation to all of you who have given time, money or items to support our families.

Keller-Williams Realty along with **Renshler, Wisconsin Title, Mortgage Professionals LLC** and **Homestead Title Company** had a giant garage sale and raised \$3,000 for IHN. They also donated kitchen and household items directly to the families.

GE Health Care donated more than 50 backpacks filled with school supplies for children in IHN's shelter and housing programs.

The quilting group at **Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ** donated four beautiful handmade quilts.

Martin's Cosmetology College regularly donates services to our clients and provided a special day just for the members of the Tenant Advocacy Group.

Christ Presbyterian Church took the families to the Mallards game. **St. John's** in Oregon took them bowling and to "Oregon Fest." **Trinity Church** takes the families bowling every time they host and **Orchard Ridge** always takes them swimming at the YMCA.

Judy Hunsaker has a great idea: She uses Walgreen's rebate program to purchase wish list items for IHN that are free after rebate. What if lots of people tried that?!



Why I Give to IHN

By Nancy Rosnow, Homes for Families Society



IHN combines the vast array of volunteers' gifts and talents, the smallest to the largest contributions, and the commitment and dedication of a caring staff and congregations to make a visible difference in building a better community. I became involved with IHN because of that visible difference. When I think of what "home" means to me, I felt it impossible to stay on the sidelines.

As a mother, I think of the children and how they are affected by homelessness and what impact that can have on the future of the community. I see people I could work with everyday and never know they were homeless. When you listen to their stories, you realize many are just one bad break away from being on their feet; others just need direction and guidance. I give to IHN because it allows me to visibly share God's love, it teaches people how to get out of homelessness, and it provides the stabilizing structure to do so.

Everyone should have a home: a place of family togetherness, of sheltering security, of peace and comfort. Through the services and goals that IHN strives to achieve, "home" becomes a real place where families are fed, have a warm and safe place to sleep, have opportunities for their children's education and are shown the love and care of people in the community, while actively pursuing their own goals. I give to IHN because faithful and reliable gifts and contributions help ensure the continuity of IHN impacting the lives of children and families to make a visible difference in our community.

News of our Graduates

Toni Love was a featured speaker at a press conference on May 29th with Senator Russ Feingold as he announced the introduction of his Affordable Housing Expansion and Public Safety Act. She shared her story and expressed how critical affordable housing has been to her family's success.

Bobby and Ashley moved out of shelter and into the Second Chance Apartment Project in mid-June. They were delighted with their new apartment and eager to create a better life for their two little boys. Ashley has set her sights on becoming a medical assistant. Bobby wants to pursue his GED so he can obtain a good job that will support his family.

To Support IHN:

Financial Gifts: Cyndi Wood, Development Director, 294-7998, x 311

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

Items for Families/Programs: Lissa Sundberg, Business Manager, 294-7998, x 301

Wish List

We are most in need of:

Baby wipes
Cleaning supplies
Diapers
Dish soap
Deodorant (women's)
Feminine hygiene products
Foot powder
Grocery store gift cards
Gift cards for school clothes
Laundry soap
Pull-ups
School supplies
Socks
Toilet paper
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Towels (bath size)
Underwear
Washcloths

We also need:

African American hair care products
Bleach
Light bulbs
Lotion (full size)
Madison Metro bus passes
Paper towels
Phone cards
Postage stamps
Razors
Shampoo/conditioner (full size)
Shaving cream (women's)

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

Dear IHN,

When our family first came to IHN, we had no idea what to expect. But after spending our first week and getting to know the staff and volunteers, we began to have a better understanding and outlook. We learned a lot during our time at IHN's shelter such as the value of family and being responsible, how to interact with people from different cultures and backgrounds, and the parenting groups and other activities helped us learn to deal with real life situations.

Godfrey has been employed for the past three months. We have our own apartment and are doing very well. We are continuing to work with Amber in the Housing Stabilization Program. Amber is very important to us because without her helping us, we would probably be in distress as this is our first time on our own. Amber is really showing us the ropes and how to be financially stable.

Thanks to IHN we really do appreciate and value life more responsibly. We love you all. Thanks for everything. We will never forget you or the things you've done for us.

Jena, Godfrey, and Imari



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1121 University Ave.
Madison, WI 53715

OF THE MADISON AREA
HOSPITALITY NETWORK



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