



*Vol. IX, Issue 4  
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# *Hospitality Network News*

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

## **TAG Wins \$1 Million for Homeless Services**

Excerpts from an article by Pat Schneider, Capital Times, 10/25/2007

It's just a sliver of the state budget, but some formerly homeless Madison activists are celebrating getting a bigger piece of the pie. "We're so excited," Cynthia Travis, coordinator of TAG, Tenant Advocacy Group, said Wednesday. "It's been a year-long process, but we made it." TAG succeeded in convincing legislators to boost, for the first time in 15 years, funding for the state grant program for shelter and transitional housing services.

An extra \$1 million a year for what had been a \$1.5 million annual fund is just a nibble in the state's two-year \$57.2 billion spending plan approved this week (of Oct. 25). But TAG members know well how much every little bit helps people in dire straits and told state officials as much in their lobbying efforts.



*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.*

TAG is a program of Interfaith Hospitality Network, founded in 2002 to give a voice in public housing policies to those most affected by them. Members wrote Commerce Secretary Mary Burke requesting a boost in funding, then signed on Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison, to support the measure in the Legislature. The proposal faltered before the Joint Finance Committee, when the anticipated funding source, a proposed increase in the real estate transfer tax, was defeated. But Pocan last May found alternate funding in the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority's unencumbered reserves.

The shelter funding increase, included in the Senate version of the budget, but not in the Assembly's, managed to survive in the compromise budget that emerged so many months later.

"All the special interests hire contract lobbyists and spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to get something done," Pocan mused. "These people, activists because they had been homeless, came into our office. They talked to us, they talked to the governor, and we got this done." "It's a good civics lesson. Compared to what you usually see around here," Pocan said. Said Travis: "Something went right."

## Program Report

January – September, 2007

### Services:

- 19 families (38 children, 28 adults) stayed in shelter
- 17 families participated in the Housing Stabilization program
- The Second Chance Apartment Project housed 19 families
- 40 mentors worked with these families
- 23 community members participated in the Tenant Advocacy Group

### Outcomes:

- 9 of 15 departing shelter families found housing (60%)
- 1 family moved from the waiting list directly into housing
- 2 families graduated from the Second Chance Apartment Project
- 93% 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!

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## 2007 Homes for Families Breakfast

Once again, the Homes for Families Breakfast was a great success, raising both funds and friends to help homeless families through IHN's programs. This year's program began with a song: "Gonna Make a Home" written and performed by local songwriter Stuart Stotts in collaboration with children from IHN and the Madison Youth Choirs. The song can be heard, with lyrics printed, on the IHN website: [www.ihnmadison.com](http://www.ihnmadison.com). The attendees also heard from Executive Director Rachel Krinsky and from Mohammad Abdullah, a graduate of the Second Chance Apartment Project.

Many, many thanks to U.S. Cellular (\$50,000), Bachmann Construction, and the Kathy and Al Anding family (\$25,000 each) who presented a challenge grant to match, dollar for dollar, all donations up to \$100,000. The total raised is not available at the time of printing. We'll let you know in the next issue!

IHN also wishes to thank our generous sponsors who underwrote all of the expenses of the Homes for Families Breakfast, ensuring that all dollars raised will directly benefit IHN's programs. Cuna Mutual Group was the lead sponsor for the 2007 Breakfast. Additional sponsors were Meridian Group, Inc., First Weber Foundation, The Great Dane Pub and Brewery, UW Health, Hurley, Burish and Stanton, S.C. and Park Bank.

## Special Thanks

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

**Alice Jones, Nancy Mueller** and **Carol and Michael Shank** all donated cars! This means that three more IHN families have transportation to get to work and school.

**Terry's Car Care** donated their services to help a family whose car broke down so the father could keep his job.

Volunteers from **Meridian Group, U.S. Cellular, North Central Group** and **NCG Hotels** participated in the United Way Day of Caring by painting the day center in beautiful, welcoming colors. We now have a warm beige living room, a sunny yellow kitchen, a soothing blue bathroom and bright white windowsills. Thanks also to **Hallman Lindsay** for the donated paint.

**US Cellular** volunteers also spent a day making picnic tables and staffing a "free rummage sale" for IHN graduates. **Douglas Stewart Company** volunteers (photo right) donated their time on a Saturday to paint the picnic tables, the front porch and IHN's upstairs. **Edgewood High School** volunteers spent a community service day sorting donations.



## Why We Give to IHN

by Chris Rathsack, Wisconsin Director of Sales for U.S. Cellular



U.S. Cellular is proud of the contributions we have made to Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) over the years. The many programs that IHN provides and the commitment they show to their families reflect their passion for addressing the issues surrounding homelessness. As a responsible corporate citizen, U.S. Cellular believes in giving back to the communities we serve. We are committed to building strong relationships with our customers, communities and associates. We appreciate IHN's highly collaborative model and their dedicated staff, bringing together partners throughout the community to address the needs of Madison's homeless population.

U.S. Cellular gives \$2 million in charitable support each year to nonprofit organizations that serve economically disadvantaged youth, families, and seniors. We have been a proud supporter of IHN since 2003 with annual grants for their emergency shelter services. Through our community phone program we provide IHN with phones for on-call case managers, allowing them to communicate with host congregations and IHN families. IHN's ability to engage so many volunteers in their work is truly remarkable and we are thrilled that U.S. Cellular associates are able to volunteer with IHN throughout the year (*landscaping at IHN in photo above*).

We are always pleased to hear new success stories from IHN. We admire the fact that not only do they assist families with immediate needs, but also continue to work with them to find long term solutions. We thank IHN for their hard work and dedication and are glad to be part of their successful approach.

## News of our Graduates

After much hard work and determination, **Marie** and **Venashia** were approved for subsidized housing and moved into their new place on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. They are grateful for this new beginning and would like to thank IHN for giving them the courage to get back on their feet. "IHN helped us not only with housing, but also with health and personal issues and brought us closer together as a family," says Marie. "The patient and good-hearted people at IHN have been an inspiration."

**Cristal** and her kids moved into their new apartment on November 1. Cristal and her family give special, special thanks to IHN and the volunteers for a better chance at a great and prosperous life. "We really needed you!"

## **To Support IHN:**

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

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

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

## Wish List

### *We are most in need of:*

Baby wipes  
Diapers  
Feminine hygiene products  
Grocery store gift cards  
Pull-ups  
Winter Blankets

### *We also need:*

African American hair care products  
African American children's books  
Bleach  
Cleaning supplies  
Deodorant (women's)  
Household paper products  
Laundry Soap  
Light bulbs  
Lotion (full size)  
Madison Metro bus passes  
Mops/Brooms/Dustpans  
Paper towels  
Phone cards  
Postage stamps  
Razors  
Shampoo/conditioner (full size)  
Shaving cream (women's)  
Sheets  
Towels (bath size)  
Washcloths

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

*Dear IHN,*

How did I come to a place where so many amazing and caring people work and volunteer? God has told us to treat people fairly and care for them with justice. We have to love God and our neighbors, doing what is in their best interest. That's what you all do everyday. So when you are having a hard day think about how much you all help us everyday. I am saying thank you for all the times you feel lost.

I hope that everyone is doing great. We miss all of you. I want everyone to know what we have been up to. I have a great job at Covance. I love it. I am an Animal Technician Trainee. It is so much fun and I am learning a lot. We love our new place. The kids are enjoying having their own rooms. When we go past an IHN host congregation, they always say something that happened there. Thank you all for helping us when we needed it.

*Love,  
Maurita and Kids*



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