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Hospitality Network News

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

Challenge Grant for New Apartments

Can your congregation or other group sponsor an apartment at half price?

An anonymous donor has committed up to \$50,000 as a matching grant to challenge congregations and community groups to sponsor apartments through the Second Chance Apartment Project. The grant will match up to half the cost of five apartments. The project must add five new sponsors this summer in order to keep our full federal funding.

The Second Chance Apartment Project is a transitional housing program for homeless families, operated through collaboration between Interfaith Hospitality Network, the YWCA of Madison and local sponsors, usually faith communities. The project targets motivated families with multiple barriers to housing that would otherwise remain homeless. It creates affordable housing for these families by placing them in apartments leased by sponsors. The partnering agencies provide supportive services critical to breaking the cycle of homelessness. Seventy-five percent of families leaving this program have moved to permanent housing, and all families who completed the program were able to qualify for affordable permanent housing.

Apartment sponsors participate in this project by:

- ✓ Renting an apartment: signing the lease and paying rent for 24 months
- ✓ Providing 2-4 intensive mentors to work with the family toward specific goals
- ✓ Furnishing the apartment with donations of nice, used furniture and house wares from members
- ✓ Working closely with the partner agencies

For more information about sponsoring an apartment, please contact Rachel Krinsky, IHN Executive Director at 294-7998 x 302 or Lisa Subeck, YWCA Second Chance Coordinator at 257-1436.

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.

Current and upcoming Second Chance Apartment Project Sponsors:

A Fund for Women	Lake Edge UCC
Beth Israel Center	Luther Memorial Church
Christ Presbyterian Church	Madison Christian Community
Covenant Presbyterian Church	McFarland Churches
Door Creek Church	Plymouth UCC
First Unitarian Society	Temple Beth El
Future Madison, Inc.	Village of Shorewood Hills

Program Report

January – March, 2006

Services:

- 9 families (10 children, 11 adults) stayed in shelter
- 14 families participated in the Housing Stabilization Program
- The Second Chance Apartment Project housed 10 families
- 23 mentors worked with 10 families
- 13 community members participated in the Tenant Advocacy Group

Outcomes:

- 2 of 6 departing shelter families found housing
- 2 families graduated from the Housing Stabilization Program
- Of families reaching these anniversaries, 83% of shelter graduates maintained housing for six months or longer, and 100% for at least one year.

Hospitality Network News is a quarterly publication of Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Madison Area
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Ruby Slippers

The 2006 Ruby Slippers Benefit at the Monona Terrace was another great success. About 250 people attended the benefit, which raised over \$30,000 to support IHN's programs. Volunteer auctioneers **Jonathan Suttin** from 105.5 Triple M and **Randol White** from WMTV 15 News kept the crowd laughing. Other highlights included moving words from IHN board member and shelter program graduate Tom Johnson (pictured below with his daughter Sarah), and high bidding on many items, including the sale of a painting made by IHN children for \$1,500!

The 2006 Ruby Slippers co-chairs were **Lynn Kaplan** and **Lisa Levy**. Committee members were **Carlene Bechen**, **Amy Bogost**, **Alyce Columbia**, **Suzie Taylor** and **Trisha Urben**. **Cayce Johnson** designed the invitations. Our sincere appreciation to all of them for creating a beautiful, enjoyable evening. We also thank all of the businesses and individuals who donated items for auction. Finally, we are most grateful to our Ruby Slippers corporate sponsors: **Bachmann Construction**, **Midwest Open MRI**, **Bruce Rosen & Diane Seder**, **Insty-Prints on Park Street**, **Creative Financial Staffing** and **UW Health**.



Special Thanks

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

Tom Johnson organized the donated items in our basement with the help of several volunteers. It will now be easier to distribute those donations efficiently and to see what is needed. Thanks to all of you for providing those items!

Alice Lundeen faithfully donates items from our wish list nearly every month.

Harold Meyer and **Eric Mohr** took everyone in shelter to the Circus.

Students from **Gan HaYeled** preschool collected and donated items from our wish list. Students from **Eagle School** and from **Memorial High School** did community service days and cleaned our day center inside and out.

St. Mark's Church donated 50 hand-made, full-size quilts.

Damone Freeman and **Cleaning General, Inc.** donated professional steam cleaning for the day center carpet.

To Support IHN:

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

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

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

Why I Give to IHN

by Gordon Anderson, Homes for Families Society

When I was young, I thought that I was poor. How wrong I was! An old house with siding that was grey from age, cracked plaster walls, oil space heaters, and no television may not have made for a privileged childhood. BUT, the seven of us were warm and were always well fed. We five siblings always had clean clothes for school and play and were sheltered.

When I learned that there were children and parents who were living in cars or on the streets, who didn't know where their next meal would be found and whose lives were a daily struggle for the things that I took for granted, then I understood what real poverty was.

I give because it hurts that any child must do without the security that I had and which should be theirs, and I am sad to know that parents are so desperate to see their children provided for. I need to do what I can to help, and Interfaith Hospitality Network provides a wonderful way for me to relieve my frustration that in this wealthy country, so many are lacking such a basic of life as a warm, dry place to call home.

I've been very blessed in my life, and I'm grateful that my friend, IHN Board member Laura Rose, told me about IHN several years ago, which gave me a chance to help. The program not only deals with short-term needs, but it prepares families for long-term success in housing. It's been a joy to me to see IHN grow as so many people contribute their time and financial support to this inspired effort.

Thank you, IHN!

News of our Graduates

Davella and her son moved into their new apartment in March. They would like to give thanks to IHN for a new start in life.

Jessica and Sullivan have moved into housing and are continuing to work with the Housing Stabilization program.

And, in her own words: "My name is **Anjanine** and I have two girls that I love. Anyway, when I first came here I was very scared, but then I got help from IHN who did everything for us no matter what. With the help of God IHN helped us get into an apartment. We just want to thank IHN for everything and I'm very happy we made it through it all."



Wish List

We are most in need of:

Aspirin
Baby wipes
Band Aids
Bar soap (full size)
Bleach
Brooms & dustpans
Diapers – all sizes
Deodorant
Fans
Feminine hygiene products
First aid kits
Laundry soap
Madison Metro bus passes
Mops & buckets
Razors
Shaving cream
Sheets – full size, pillow
Towels – bath size
Washcloths
Winter blankets

We also need:

African-American hair care products
Cleaning supplies (full size)
Coffee pots
Dishes
Game system i.e. Nintendo for the day center
Light bulbs
Lotion (full size)
Paper towels
Phone cards
Postage stamps
Silverware
Toilet paper
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste

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

Dear IHN,

My name is Tiajuana Ruffin. I am 20 years old. I have one child, named Tatyana, who is six years old. I moved to Madison from Chicago in August of 2004. I ended up staying at IHN and two weeks before my time was up at shelter I was accepted for housing by a private landlord on the south side of town. I was at this apartment for one year, but could not keep paying the rent since it was too high for what I earned, so I was being evicted. Then I was offered the chance to be a part of the Second Chance Apartment Project. I have been in the program for three months now and I love it. I work with my caseworker and mentors and they are a tremendous help in my life. I have started working on my GED and eventually would like to become a certified nursing assistant. I want to thank Amber, my mentors, IHN and the Second Chance Apartment Project.



*Love,
Tiajuana*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A Community Response for Homeless Families

Madison, Wisconsin 53715
1121 University Avenue

OF THE MADISON AREA
HOSPITALITY NETWORK



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