



Vol. VII, Issue 3
Summer, 2005

Hospitality Network News

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

Why Give to IHN?

If you are reading this newsletter, we believe you must care about the work we do, but you may not realize that we can't make a difference in the lives of homeless families without you. Here are just a few reasons that you might want to return the enclosed envelope with a gift of support for IHN's families:

Over 75% of the families we serve in shelter move into housing, giving them a chance for a better life and a new start, and about two-thirds of those families stay in stable housing for at least a year.

IHN families in housing learn to manage money better and to use other resources in the area – like the woman who opened her first bank account with her case manager and uses the money she would have spent at check cashing businesses to purchase diapers and do laundry.

IHN parents learn to sustain employment by developing strategies to be on time, to have back up child-care so they don't miss work and to call in when lateness or absence are unavoidable. And many parents are pursuing additional training or education to help them find family-sustaining employment.



School-age children in our housing programs are doing better in school and are having wonderful camp and enrichment experiences this summer. One of our parents faced a new challenge because her daughter's reading scores had improved so much that she wasn't eligible for summer school! Instead, she is going to camp and visiting with relatives.

Two families who were not eligible for any housing two years ago successfully graduated from the Second Chance Apartment Project last month and moved into permanent housing they can afford and maintain on their own.

Even with support from Government Sources and United Way, IHN must raise over 60% of our funding each year to continue these successful and high-quality programs. \$85,000 of those dollars must be raised from individuals and families in the community. Please help.

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 – June, 2005

Services:

- 14 families (33 children, 17 adults) stayed in shelter
- 16 families participated in the Housing Stabilization Program
- The Second Chance Apartment Project housed 10 families
- 26 mentors worked with 11 families
- 18 community members participated in the Tenant Advocacy Group

Outcomes:

- 9 shelter families found housing (64%)
- 3 families graduated from the Housing Stabilization Program
- 90% of shelter graduates maintained housing for six months or longer

Hospitality Network News is a quarterly publication of Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Madison Area
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News of Our Graduates

Jose, Martha and their boys moved out of IHN and into their new apartment in June. Things are going well as they settle into their new home. “We would like to thank all the staff and the churches that helped us find a home and for being so kind and helpful with us. Without your help we couldn’t have done it.”

Lysandra and her children moved into their new apartment on August 1st. They are very happy to be moving into housing. “I would like to thank everyone at IHN for their support and understanding through the process of finding my place. Thank you!”

Special Thanks

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

U.S. Cellular gave a generous grant of \$34,959 to support the Shelter Network! This program has had funding gaps for the past two years, and will greatly benefit from this support. U.S. Cellular also purchased the new van last fall, making them our largest supporter of the Shelter Network for the two straight years.

United Way of Dane County gave emergency funding of \$28,000 to IHN and the YWCA for the Second Chance Apartment Project to cover a gap in other funding. United Way is already a major sponsor of that program and of IHN’s Housing Stabilization program.

Mead & Hunt donated over \$600 in landscaping plants and materials, plus volunteer labor, to improve the front entry of the day center.

Trinity Lutheran Church gave \$500 towards the purchase of new mattresses for the shelter cots to replace those we purchased in 2001, which were in poor repair.

Coral Choinski and **Vicky Franchino** took on the task of sorting, cleaning and organizing all of the toys at the day center and creating a maintenance plan to provide accessible, age appropriate playthings during the day for children staying in shelter. Please see the wish list for a few needed items

Dave Dietzman and **Dave Baker** provided car repairs free of charge to our families, allowing them to stay on the road to all the places they need to go and still balance their budgets. Thank you!



Why We Give to IHN

by Vicky Franchino and Family, Major Donors

Our involvement with IHN goes back to 1999 when IHN first started in Madison. I heard about the program through my church, Our Lady Queen of Peace, and the idea of working with families in need really appealed to me. I'd seen homeless *single* people, but somehow their plight seemed removed from my life. The idea of being a homeless parent and having homeless children was something that felt more immediate. I thought about all the things that I struggle with as a parent providing love and structure and support and security for my children and tried to imagine what it must be like to do all of that when you weren't sure where your kids were going to sleep that night or if they'd have a warm meal to see them through.



IHN was a challenge to my family and me to acknowledge the reality of homelessness in our city of plenty. And not just to acknowledge it, but to do something about it. As I've had the opportunity to interact with and learn from Rachel Krinsky and her wonderful staff, and had the chance to put faces and names to the word "homeless," I feel—I hope—that I've become more understanding of the struggles that each of us is dealing with, the similarities that we share, regardless of our path in life. IHN has opened my eyes to the tough choices and hard realities that so many people face every day and shown me that, together, we can make a difference.

Second Chance Update

Christ Presbyterian Church and **Madison Christian Community** are new Second Chance Apartment Sponsors. Their families are moving into housing this month and will soon be working with their mentors. Many thanks to all the Second Chance Sponsors! We still need to recruit two more sponsors to meet our 2005 goal.

Wish List

We are most in need of:

Baby wipes
Bleach
Car seats
Diapers (sizes 2 and up)
Feminine hygiene products
Laundry soap
Madison Metro bus passes
Play kitchen – wood or
very sturdy
Razors
Riding Toys (small)
Shaving cream
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste

We also need:

African American hair care
products
Cleaning supplies (full size)
Deodorant
Dishes
First aid supplies including
infant items
Garbage bags
Infant formula
Light bulbs
Lotion (full size)
Paper towels
Phone cards
Pillows (new or unused)
Pots & pans
Postage stamps
Silverware
Small household appliances
Toilet paper

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

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, Office Manager, 294-7998, x 301

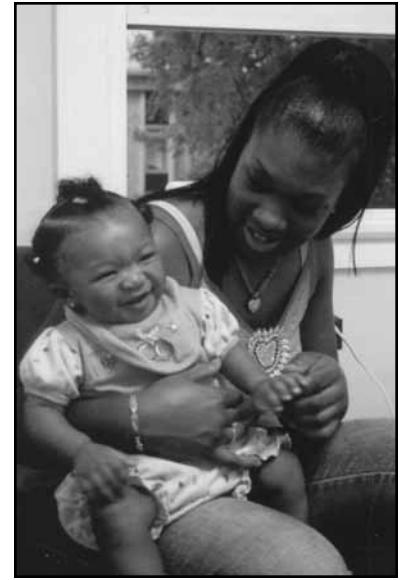
Dear IHN,

I am three months into the Housing Stabilization program, working with Amber. We have been meeting once a week working on finding me a good-paying, full time driving position and I just got one! I will be working full time transporting and assisting people with disabilities. Amber has also helped me find a dentist that served me at no charge. We are also working toward other goals for my future.

Someone donated a 1983 Chevy Conversion Van while I was staying in IHN and when my family moved out of shelter Amber came to my house and asked me if I wanted the van. I never thought in a million years that it would belong to my family. I thank God every time I get ready to drive to let Him know how I appreciate the Blessing!

My family just wants to thank IHN for being such a caring and passionate shelter. Anytime I am asked to do something for IHN, I make sure that I do it, because that is my way of showing my appreciation for having such a wonderful program that edifies peoples lives. We will never forget the people of IHN.

Much Love,
Nicole, Kalen, Kristian & Patience



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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