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Winter, 2004

Hospitality Network News

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

My Experience with IHN

by Linda Lampkins

read at the IHN Interfaith Celebration

*How can I not be grateful when someone is so kind!
How can I not be grateful when someone is so considerate!
How can I not be grateful when someone is so patient!*

I am glad I spent my homeless times here with IHN and their joining congregations because all of the above is a description of the two. Because of your reach out and network approach, I was rescued from the streets or rescued from being mistreated by family and friends while staying at their apartments or homes with my three children.



Living in a Motel room, paying \$700 a month, eating out at restaurants three times per day is very hard on a working homeless mother of three. Looking back I wonder – how did I become homeless? I could say it's my husband's fault because he lost his job and became violent and because of it I had to quit one of my jobs. Or I could say that I no longer had enough money to pay the rent and other bills that comes with caring for a family.

But you see, all

that is, is the dust on the top of a jar. Once you remove the dust you open the jar and you see the true content of the jar. That's what happened when I truly looked at my situation. The respect, patience, and humility of the volunteers and staff of IHN helped me to search within myself and to truly reflect on my situation. What I have learned is that the true reasons for my homelessness were a lack of education, a lack of a financial plan, lack of resources and an unwillingness to make sacrifices in my life.



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.

(photos are from the Interfaith Service; article continued on back page)

Program Report

January – September, 2004

Services:

- 28 families (51 children and 32 adults) stayed in shelter
- 9 waitlisted families received Case Management
- 17 families participated in the Housing Stabilization program
- The Second Chance Apartment Project housed 8 families
- 10 families worked with 24 mentors
- 33 members participated in the Tenant Advocacy Group

Outcomes:

- 19 shelter families found housing (79%)
- 5 waiting list families found housing
- 94% of graduate families retained housing for six months; 64% for 12 months
- 1 family graduated from the Second Chance Apartment Project

Hospitality Network News

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News of Our Graduates

Angela and **Anthony** are enjoying their new apartment. Angela continues to do well at her job and is now training new employees. Anthony has made new friends in the neighborhood and has joined the leadership group at the neighborhood center. Angela and Anthony want to thank all the members of the IHN family for all their love and support.

Monique and **Arkia** moved into their very first apartment in August. Things are going well and Monique says “It is very nice to have my own place.”

Nyln has moved into her new apartment. She wants to thank IHN for providing a safe, happy, loving environment for her and her son.

Congratulations to **Candace** who started school at MATC this fall. She is studying early childhood education. **Brandon** has started kindergarten and **Xavier** has started head start. All of them are doing well in their new schools.

Special Thanks

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

Connie and Steve Nelson donated their used car in good condition to an IHN family. Several more families need dependable cars to get to work!

Pastor Jerry Pribbenow and friends pick up donated furniture from across the county, store it in a garage built specifically for this purpose by **McFarland Lutheran Church**, and deliver it to families moving into housing.

Fred Swanson has joined our volunteer educators, offering an evening workshop on job seeking skills for our families once per quarter.

Stearns Packaging donated 65 cases of laundry soap. **National Guardian Life** donated 15 laundry baskets full of cleaning and paper supplies for families moving into housing. **Datex-Ohmeda** donated 60 backpacks stuffed with school supplies in time for back-to-school so every child in an IHN program can start school with the materials they need.

We also thank all those who donated food, beverages and flowers to the Interfaith Celebration: **The Flower Gallery**, **Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish**, **Ancora Coffee**, **Einstein’s Bagels**, and **C. L. Swanson, Inc.**

To Support IHN:

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

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

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

Why We Give to IHN

By Norma Madsen, Elder and IHN Coordinator, Christ Presbyterian Church

This year our congregation has chosen to make IHN a priority in our local mission annual budget. I asked key people in that decision-making process: "Why?"

"There are plenty of worthwhile ministries for our church to include in our mission budget – international, national, denominational and local. We need to be good stewards not only of our financial resources, but also of our time and personal involvement. IHN provides an opportunity for over 70 members and visitors at our church to work together providing hospitality for our IHN guests. We could not do this without IHN's help."

- Barry Sherbeck, Elder, Chair of Ministry in Daily Life

"Our Stewardship Commission's goal is to help our church speak to the joy of sharing with others. IHN gives us an opportunity to serve with others in our community and to discover that joy." *- Bob Sorenson, Elder chair of CPC Stewardship Commission*

"The Gospel calls God's people to a commitment to care for the poor. At CPC we believe genuine ministry engages us wholly as a congregation: our hearts, our hands and our finances." *- Dale Chapin, Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church*

So, why do we give to IHN from our congregation's annual budget? We know what God requires of us: "To do justice, love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God." IHN helps us do what we could not do alone.



Pastor Dale Chapin, CPC

Wish List

We are most in need of:

Baby Wipes
Bar Soap (Full Size)
Cleaning Supplies (Full Size)
Deodorant
Diapers
Feminine Hygiene
Lotion (Full Size)
Madison Metro Bus Passes
Silverware for Day Center
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Towels for Day Center

We also need:

Dishes
Kitchen Utensils
Movies (Family VHS)
Paper Towels
Phone Cards
Pillows
Pots & Pans
Postage stamps
Super Nintendo Games
Toilet Paper

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

The Ruby Slippers Benefit:



Click Your Heels!

There's no place like home

*February 26, 2005 at the
Concourse Hotel*

My Experience with IHN

(Continued from page 1)

I entered shelter at IHN on May 7th, 2004 and stayed for a little over a month. What struck me most was the welcoming, respectful approach of the staff and volunteers. I immediately got the feeling that they were truly going to help. I worked with Birgit (Shelter Case Manager) to find housing. She referred me to the Second Chance Workshop at the YWCA, which I found really helpful. With Birgit's assistance I was able to find an apartment and we moved in in June of 2004.

I am continuing to work with Amber (Housing Stabilization Case Manager) through IHN. I will continue to do this case management for a year. We are working on a number of goals including financial planning, transportation, GED classes and increasing my income with a different job in the medical field.

In closing, IHN not only provided a roof over my head but it has also given me tools, skills and ongoing support that I can use to prevent another homeless crisis in my life.

Thank you IHN,
Linda Lampkins



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A Community Response for Homeless Families
Madison, Wisconsin 53715
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OF THE MADISON AREA
HOSPITALITY NETWORK



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