



*Vol. V, Issue 1  
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# *Hospitality Network News*

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

## **Rolling Out the Welcome Wagon**

Lynne Toseff, Guest Columnist

Several years ago I became the coordinator for Christ the King parish, part of the three church involvement of IHN in McFarland. United Church of Christ houses the IHN guests and Christ the King and McFarland Lutheran are the buddy churches. The volunteers are some of the best I've ever met.

Just before Christmas 2002, a fellow volunteer and I delivered a couch and a bedspread to an IHN family just starting out in a new apartment in Waunakee. They had been homeless for about 6 months. I said, "So is there anything else you need?" Then I really looked around and realized the only thing in the apartment was the couch and bedspread we had just delivered. Not even a bed to put that spread on. I rephrased my question and asked, "What would you like the most?" Cleaning supplies was the answer. I never even thought about the fact that many families move into their new homes with just the clothes they've been carrying from shelter to shelter for months.

How can we, as volunteers, make this a better transition for the guests once they find housing? One of the ideas IHN staff and I came up with is to provide a laundry basket filled with beginning housekeeping items to each family as they move into housing. I have already made a few baskets and the families who received them were thrilled. I want there to always be a basket for anyone needing a basket, a bed, a coat, a whatever. We live in one of the most affluent countries in the world and we need to share that wealth with those going through a tough time.

Rather than inundate the IHN office (and staff!) with donated items, I would like to coordinate this baskets program by collecting items from individuals and putting the baskets together.

Interested in getting in on the fun? Contact me, Lynne Toseff, for more information and to coordinate efforts: 221-4520(home), 204-3699 (work), or email: ltoseff@madison.k12.wi.us

## **Come See Our New Home!**

Please join us for light refreshments and a view of our newly renovated facilities:

**Monday, March 24, 2003**  
4:30-7:00 p.m.  
1121 University Ave.

*A ribbon cutting ceremony  
will take place at 5:30 p.m.*

*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

2002 Annual:

- IHN congregations provided 29 Families (39 adults and 62 children) 4,965 days of shelter and three meals each day.
- All shelter residents attended weekly evening workshops on Depression, Parenting and Nutrition.
- 16 of 27 (59%) departing families moved into housing. Seven families obtained employment while in shelter.
- 78% of families leaving shelter for housing (since July, 2000) retained their housing for at least six months.
- 22 families received housing stabilization services. 10 families received intensive case management while on our waiting list. 3 of these families found housing rather than staying in shelter.
- 494 people were turned away from IHN shelter due to lack of space.

## News of Our Graduates

Von and her girls moved into an affordable apartment. **Carlaya** and **Tekisha** are both healthy and doing well.

**Marilyn** and her kids are doing well in their home and Marilyn often stops by the office to say “hi” on her way home from work. Marilyn says, “thanks a lot to all the volunteers. IHN has really helped my family get settled in Madison.”

## Special Thanks

It is not possible for us to mention each of the groups and individuals who collected and brought holiday treats or items from our wish list, but our shelves were actually full in December, and we are very grateful to you all.

*There was an error in the last newsletter. The correct name of the Coordinator from Trinity Church recognized by the \$1,000 Grant from Phillip Morris Co. was **Vicki Olson**.*

Everyone at IHN extends our sincere appreciation to...

...**Girl Scout troop # 536** and their leader, Denise Mirkin, who decorated our day center for Thanksgiving and brought treats for the families.

...the **Franklin School Girl Scout Troop**, led by Laura Rose, who collected toys for the children staying in shelter.

...**Kristi Zoegtline and the Board of U.W. Community Service** for decorating the day center for Christmas and bringing cookies.

...**The Wingate Hotel** for hosting our families over the Christmas holiday. They fed them fabulous meals and provided extraordinary gifts and entertainment. We also extend our appreciation to all of the community business and volunteers who assisted The Wingate in creating this wonderful event.

...the employees of the **State Department of Electronic Government** and the **Department of Health and Family Services**, who adopted IHN graduate families and bought them gifts for Christmas. Special thanks to the UW's **Athletes in Action** for driving the families and their gifts home from the day center.

...**Lynne Toseff** and other members of **Christ the King** in McFarland, who created the “Pennies For Pillows” campaign and dedicated themselves to purchasing a new pillow for each person who enters our shelter.

...**Bethany United Methodist Church** who sent a team of volunteers to paint our new offices (loaned by **Habitat for Humanity** – thanks Habitat!)

...**O'Mara Moving**, who donated their services to move our furniture into the new space.

...to all the individual volunteers who carried bags and boxes next door

## What's New at IHN

We have hired Megan Heiser as a Case Manager for Housing Stabilization programs. Megan will be working with all families placed in the Second Chance Apartment Project and with several of the follow-up families who have left IHN shelter for other housing. Megan has worked as a Case Manager at the Salvation Army, and coordinated the Transition Living Program at Briarpatch. We are delighted to bring her skills and experience to our families.

In December, IHN received our first stock donation. In order to accept this donation, we opened the Interfaith Hospitality Network Passthrough Fund at the Madison Community Foundation. Anyone who would like to make a gift of stock to IHN may make a direct transfer to this fund.

Madison Community Foundation awarded a two-year, \$100,000 grant to the Second Chance Apartment Project. The funds are contingent upon the financial support provided when congregations sponsor apartments. IHN and the YWCA continue to seek congregations who are interested in learning more about this opportunity.

Thanks to excellent work by the IHN Board of Directors; particularly Sona Olson, Fundraising Committee Chair, IHN exceeded our goal for the 2002 Major Donor Campaign. This success means that IHN continues to have a healthy balance of revenue between Government, Foundation Grants, and Individual/Congregational gifts. Thanks to all who helped us succeed! IHN is now recruiting members for the 2003 Fundraising committee. Please call the office if you would like to be considered.



Sharon Black, IHN's AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, has been working since August to recruit formerly homeless people for participation in community education and advocacy activities around housing and homelessness issues. On January 23rd, this group had its first meeting at the Lakepoint JFF office. Eight neighborhood residents who have had personal experiences with homelessness

gathered to name the group and to choose priorities and activities. The group chose the name "Tenant Advocates Group" and decided to begin by attending the community meeting on Inclusionary Zoning.

Plans for this year's Comedy Auction, to be held at the Edgewater Hotel on March 8<sup>th</sup>, are really shaping up! Look forward to live music by classical guitarist George Lindquist, delicious appetizers and desserts, and entertainment by Tanya Atkinson, our comic/auctioneer. Many wonderful items have already been donated for you to bid on, including spa services, Packer tickets, jewelry, art, baby/kids items, food and lodging certificates and home décor. All expenses for the Auction are being underwritten by our corporate sponsors: Midwest Open MRI and Bachmann Construction. All proceeds will benefit IHN. We hope to see you there!

**Hospitality Network News**  
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Interfaith Hospitality Network  
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### **Staff**

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Housing Stabilization Case Manager:  
Megan Heiser  
Volunteer Coordinator:  
Shannon Hayes  
Americorps VISTA Volunteer:  
Sharon Black

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Keith Pollock  
Richard C. Seaman  
Cynthia Travis

# Wish List

## We are most in need of:

Hair Grease  
Diapers  
Hair Gel  
Mousse  
Combs  
Brushes  
Cleaning Supplies  
Deodorant  
Household Items: pots, pans,  
dishes, sheets, etc.  
Laundry Detergent  
Toilet Paper

*Financial Gifts are always needed and appreciated.*

## We would also like:

AA Batteries  
Alarm Clocks  
Baby Wipes  
Dish Soap  
Garbage Bags (13 or 55 Gallon)  
Feminine Hygiene Products  
Irons  
Madison Metro Bus Passes  
Videos – rated G & PG only  
Paper plates, cups, bowls  
Paper Towels  
Phone Cards  
Postage Stamps  
Stroller

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*A Community Response for Homeless Families*  
Madison, Wisconsin 53715  
1127 University Avenue



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