



ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

THE YEAR IN REVIEW *Phil Holman, Co-Chair*

With only a month to go before we close out another fiscal year for the IHN program, it is a great opportunity to reflect back on the accomplishments for the past year. Given the financial challenges the program has faced over the years, it is hard not to think of the fall fundraiser as a turning point for the program. With the combination of corporate and personal "matches" and the generosity of people during the holiday season, we were able to raise an amount in

excess of \$70,000. This event, which we hope to organize each year at the same time, allowed the Advisory Board to focus less on financial survival and more on long-term program goals.

One of the by-products of this "found time" was the Power Point presentation entitled: "Transferring Energy" which was developed by members of the Advisory Board. This presentation, outlining the services IHN provides to the

homeless within our community, was given at a lightly attended breakfast at Christ the King. Although the snow storm prevented many from attending the breakfast, those that did attend gave very positive feedback. This presentation will be the basis for future speakers bureaus, and may be distributed through out the network this fall as part of our effort to "get the word out" about the IHN program.

The day center is at the nucleus of all that we do as

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**Co-ordinator's
 Corner**

Host Sites



June

5/27 – 6/3 First Unitarian, Worcester

6/3 – 6/10 Blessed Sacrament, Worcester

6/10 – 6/17 Immanuel Lutheran, Holden

6/17 – 6/24 United Parish, Upton

6/24 – 7/1 St. Stephen's, Westborough

July

7/1 – 7/8 St. Stephen's, Westborough

7/8 – 7/15 Union Evangelical, Hopedale

7/15 – 7/22 First Congregational, Auburn

7/22 – 7/29 Bethel Lutheran, Auburn

August

7/29 – 8/5 Pakachoag, Auburn

8/5 – 8/12 St. Peter's, Worcester

8/12 – 8/19 Evangelical Cong, Grafton

8/19 – 8/26 St. Mary's, Grafton

8/26 – 9/2 Blessed Sacrament, Worcester

Guests

Mom and Dad with 7 month old daughter

Mom with 2 year old son

Mom with 16 year old daughter

Mom and Dad with 1-1/2 year old daughter

Mom with 10 year old triplets - 2 daughters and a son

FINANCIAL UPDATE

LIVING A LIFE THAT MATTERS *Kevin Kirwan, Treasurer*

Having recently participated in the Walk for the Homeless, I was so pleased to see the hundreds of caring individuals helping us and the other advocate groups raise monies for the homeless. Thank you if you participated.

What I found most enjoyable about participating as a volunteer, was talking to the walkers and other volunteers about IHN. Many people didn't know anything about IHN and were excited about the unique role IHN plays in solving the homeless situation in our community.

With the end of our fiscal year approaching, I am very happy to report that with your past fundraisers and

financial support, and some upcoming fund raisers, we are looking to end the year with a small revenue profit versus administrative expenses. We accomplished this by coming up with new fund raising ideas and also by closely watching our administrative expenses. One unfortunate way the administrative expenses were kept low for several months was the fact that we did not, and still do not, have an employee to work at the Day Center on the weekends (really not the way we want to lower administrative expenses). It is very important that we have the proper staffing levels at the Day Center to meet the needs of our families. If you

have any suggestions to help resolve this issue, we would love to hear from you!

I thank you for your financial support of IHN, please continue your support so that we can care for the families that are homeless in our community.

I would like to leave you with paragraph from one of my favorite authors and books, "Living a Life That Matters" by Harold S. Kushner.

"To know that we matter to God makes a lot of our doubts and fears disappear. We don't have to find the cure for cancer to make a difference to the world, and we don't have to write great

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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

ONE DOOR CLOSES, A WINDOW OPENS? *Joanne Marhefka, Director*

Mixed Blessing

Sadly, as many of you know the Worcester County Ecumenical Council is closing its doors on June 30th after 70 years of service to our community. The Board for the Ecumenical Council unanimously voted to make grants of their remaining funds to give to other non-profit organizations that are engaged in ecumenical ministry. They received a total of 35 applications and awarded 12 grants. IHN of Greater Worcester was fortunate to be a recipient of one of these grants.

We are extremely grateful to the Worcester County Ecumenical Council for their generosity and support of IHN over the years, and send a special thank you to their Executive Director, Allyson Platt.

Allyson, we wish you happiness and success always, wherever you go and whatever you do. God Bless.

The Day Center is Expanding! We now have another room, next to our

current space at Wesley Church, where we plan to move the offices. This means that the families will have the 3 rooms in our current space all for themselves. We will have a nap room for infants and sick guests, a TV/playroom for the children and the larger room for the adults, with an eating area for all (no more adults sitting at the kids table!) We should be in our new quarters by June 1st.



Program update

Since our last newsletter Nina, Amanda (with 3 boys), Sammy and Marlenie, and Amanda (with

daughter) have all moved into apartments in Worcester! Katie and Derrick have relocated back to the North Shore; they have jobs and an apartment.

And Worcester Housing Authority has accepted Bertha, she is just waiting for her apartment to become available.

WISH LIST

- Blankets
- Pillows
- Towels and face cloths
- Deodorant
- Razors
- Body lotion
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Cleaning supplies
- Trash bags
- Laundry detergent
- Bins for families' belongings
- Prayers & well wishes

Please call Joanne - 508-798-6732 to donate. God bless and thank you in advance!

SPOTLIGHT

DOHERTY FRESHMAN IS WPI BOUND! *Jorge*

Many of you may remember Jorge, who was an IHN guest last summer. Jorge is a freshman at Doherty, and because of his excellent grades, one of his teachers recommended that he be enrolled in a special program at WPI for high school youth interested in math and/or science and a possible future in engineering. Students were broken down into groups each focusing on a different engineering field. They had to design and complete a project in their particular field and present it to an audience of family, friends and judges. Here is his story . . .

Hi my name is Jorge, as some may know, and I am here in the newspaper to tell you about the program I was in at WPI that is called the Masters Program. In this program I learned about the different fields of engineering

like bioengineering, robotics engineering and much more.

I was in a group with other students, and our project was computer science. This field is about computer animation, 3D and 2D animations. We created a website with animation, called the Gompi Project (named after WPI's mascot). The hard work me and my group did paid off because we won and each of us on our team received a laptop computer!

I would like to thank my family, Joanne and Maria who all encouraged me to keep going and never give up.

Jorge

P.S. Jorge also received a full scholarship to attend WPI's residential summer camp this July 5 - 14th. Way to go Jorge. Congratulations!

*May today there be peace within.
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you... may you be content knowing that you are a child of God... let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us.*

Prayer of St. Theresa



THE BIG PICTURE
REGARDLESS OF THE DEFINITION - THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

Joanne Marhefka, Director

This information came directly from the National Center for Children in Poverty website.

The federal poverty level for a family of four is \$20,650. Families earning less than this are referred to as poor. However, research suggests that families need an income of about twice the federal poverty level to meet their most basic needs, which means a family of four must earn \$41,300. Any family earning below this level, but above \$20,650 is referred to as low-income.

Using those standards, in Massachusetts there are 850,627 families, with 1,482,204 children. 11%

of these children or 165,292 live in poor families; while 27% or 404,130 live in low-income families. A staggering 38% of the children in Massachusetts live in families that do not earn enough income to meet their most basic needs.

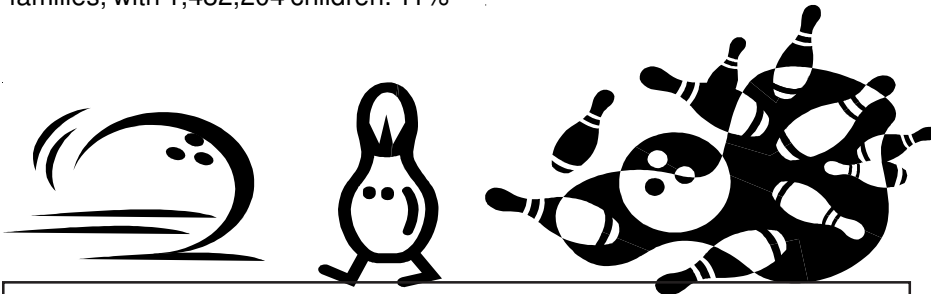
Did you know...

if a pregnant homeless woman delivers her baby before finding housing or shelter, DSS will take custody of the infant and place him or her in a foster home?

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novels to be noticed by God. WE ONLY HAVE TO SHARE OUR LIVES WITH OTHER PEOPLE, AND CHOOSE GENERATIVITY OVER STAGNATION. As Mother Teresa said, "Few of us can do great things, but all of us can do small things with great love." We are the supporting cast of a great and ongoing drama, and it is our inestimable privilege to be part of it"

Thank you,
 Kevin



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a program. The center provides a place for the guests during the day if they are not working or in school. The center also provides a place for our administrative staff to perform their duties, such as guest intake, family advocacy, and vocational training. The current small size of the day center hinders some additional important program improvements due to lack of privacy and confidentiality issues. Recently we were able to acquire an adjoining room to the current day center, which will allow for a small amount of needed expansion. This room is coming on-line in the next few days and will allow our staff to better perform their duties in helping our guests.

As we turn the corner on another year for the IHN program, we are very optimistic about the future. With the ongoing support of the host community, and the hard work of the administrative staff and the Advisory Board, we hope to continue to improve the services we provide to all our guests. On behalf of the Advisory Board I would like to thank you for all that you do to make this program a success.

Keller Williams Greater Worcester Realty

Bowling Tournament Fundraiser for IHN

June 9, 2007

9am & 1pm

AMF Auburn Lanes,

101 Southbridge Street, Auburn

\$25/person - \$100/team

Sponsorship: \$250/team + Business Banner above Bowling Lane

Cash Prizes

Register at the door - Walkins welcome - Donations welcome

Contact Cindy Spellane: 508-365-3956

There are two sessions- 9AM & 1PM. Children ages 12 or younger will get to bowl (1 string) for free. Teams (4 people) bowl 3 strings for cash prizes and get a chance in the playoff. The cost is \$25/per person or \$100/team.If you want to participate but don't have a team, come and you will be put on a team!



Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Worcester

IHN

*Where people of faith work together
to support homeless families
throughout the greater Worcester area.*

Newsletter

The IHN newsletter continues to be made possible by:

Phil Holman, president and owner of **Four Star Connections, Inc.**, Hudson printing and mailing

Janet Madison, Editor & Co-Chair

Contributing Reporters: Kevin Kirwan, Joanne Marhefka, Jorge, Cindy Spellane, Phil Holman and guest reporters from our network.

Thank you!

The Interfaith Hospitality Network is an organization that unites the religious community in an effort to serve and nurture homeless families regardless of income and family structure. Thirty-one congregations, many with assistance from additional congregations, provide meals, shelter and hospitality. Families receive individualized advocacy for housing, employment, and financial issues at the IHN day center. Massachusetts is the 3rd least affordable state in the country for housing and about 20,000 children live in emergency shelters each year. Greater Worcester's IHN has helped 220 families, a total of 649 individuals, since its formation in 1997. IHN makes a difference!



Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Worcester

IHN

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TO:

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