



ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

**IHN IN TRANSITION** *Phil Holman, Chair*

We're excited to welcome onto the IHN advisory committee four new members. Each has found a niche where they can contribute their talents. This is great timing as we enter our new fiscal year with many exciting opportunities and challenges ahead. Their new ideas and a fresh

infusion of energy are welcome at IHN.

Although these new members are enthusiastically contributing, there are unfilled opportunities at the executive level. Our goal is to identify additional new board members with leadership skills. If new members with this skill

set step forward early in this fiscal year there is an opportunity for mentoring in preparation for a change in leadership.

If this is of interest to you and you are ready to take IHN to the next level we encourage you to contact any board member or Joanne Alley for more information.



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**Co-ordinator's Corner**

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**Host Sites**



**August**

8/10 – 8/17 St. Mary's, Grafton

8/17 – 8/24 Evangelical Congregational, Grafton

8/24 – 8/31 Blessed Sacrament, Worcester

**September**

8/31 – 9/7 UCC, Worcester

9/7 – 9/21 First Congregational, Shrewsbury

9/21 – 9/28 All Saints, Worcester

**October**

9/28 – 10-12 First Church, Sterling

10/12 -10/19 First Congregational, Princeton

10/19 -10/26 First Unitarian, Worcester

10/26 – 11/2 Wesley, Worcester

**November**

11/2 -11/16 Zion Lutheran, Worcester

11/16 – 11/23 Immanuel Lutheran, Holden

11/ 23 – 11/30 First Congregational, Holden

**Guests**

Mom and Dad with 2 sons, 5 and 3

Mom and Dad with 2 newborn, preemie twins

Mom and Dad with 3 year old son

Mom and Dad with 9 month old daughter

FINANCIAL UPDATE

**CALLING ON YOUR SUPPORT** *Phil Holman, Chair*

For the second straight year the IHN program has closed their fiscal year with a small surplus equal to one to two months of operating expenses. This will help us going into the new fiscal year which started on July 1st. The surplus is a little deceptive because we would not have surplus if we had filled all of our staffing positions.

It is critical that we maintain our funding levels so that we can provide the transportation system and administrative support our families need to be successful. There are a number of important fundraising events that we count on for our budget needs. In this newsletter you will

see a "save this date" notice for a fundraiser sponsored by Worcester based real estate professionals. This is a fun bowling event that you can support by sponsoring a team, either as family and friends, or with co-workers. Please save November 1st and start recruiting your team.

Later in the fall we will kick-off our most important fundraising period, which coincides with the holidays. During that time, we challenge all host congregations and friends of IHN to consider some type of fundraising event that is an appropriate scale for their group. Since it is the holiday period, people are more inclined to be generous towards our

program as they give thought to our families in need. In the past two years we have been able to match these efforts with corporate donations, which dramatically increases the impact your fundraising event can have on our budget.

Please start to consider what type of event you could plan. Members of our Advisory Committee are available to support you with ideas that have worked for other organizations. No fundraising idea is too small. As you consider what you can do to help our program, I would like to thank you on behalf of our Advisory Committee and our guests, for your continued support and generosity.



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

PROGRAM UPDATES *Joanne Alley, Director*



Back in May our families spent three weeks at **St. Bernard's Rectory** as an experiment toward the goal of finding a static site to serve as a site for our Worcester congregations. I'm happy to report that everyone involved - church staff, program staff, volunteers and the families - report the experiment was successful. The families certainly loved staying in one location for three weeks, especially staying in a house where each family had their own room furnished with real beds, not cots, and a full kitchen, a washer, dryer and a yard where the children could play. They loved the stability of going back to the same place each night and they did a great job of taking care of the property during their stay. Volunteers from **St. Bernard's** and **Christ the King** brought in supplies and came to the families each evening with supper. While

there may have been some trepidation initially from the volunteers, everyone was very impressed with the facilities and quite pleased with how well the program ran during our stay there. The church staff were also very pleased with how well things went and had no problems or issues to report at all.

I must say that none of this would have happened if it weren't for **Father Rodriguez** who graciously opened the doors of St. Bernard's to our families. The families join me in thanking him for giving us this wonderful opportunity. I would also like to thank the **staff of St. Bernard's, coordinators Mark Foran, Celeste Hedge Lionett, Jan Rauktis and all of the volunteers** who worked so hard to make this trial run at St. Bernard's so successful. Thank you for allowing us to prove that a static site in Worcester not only could work, but could work very well.

**Best Wishes**

On another note, we send our very best wishes to **Father Rodriguez** who is no longer pastor of St. Bernard's. As of July 1<sup>st</sup> he is the pastor of St. Joan of Arc (prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> he was pastor of both St. Bernard's and St. Joan of Arc). Our IHN family will miss you very much, Father Jose, you will always be in our hearts and our prayers!

**Update on Our Families**

I am very happy to report that since our last newsletter Michelle, Karen, Kendra, Diane and Iris have all moved into their own apartments!! Many thanks to all who donated items to help them furnish their new homes!

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*Blessed are the flexible,  
for they shall not be  
bent out of shape.*

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SPOTLIGHT

INSPIRING INDIVIDUAL! *Joanne Alley, Director*

I would like to acknowledge a very special young man who took on an incredible Eagle Scout project for the families of IHN. When **Bill Gustavson** came to me last fall with his idea of upgrading a few old computers and then giving them to families who are not fortunate enough to own one, I thought what a wonderful housewarming gift it would be for a few lucky families getting ready to leave IHN. Imagine my surprise when Bill called this spring and told me he was ready to deliver six fully upgraded computers!

Thanks to Bill's hard work and generosity six lucky families now have computers; children are able to do and research their homework assignments, and mom and dads have the chance to learn and refine their computer skills.

All six families join me in thanking you, Bill. You are a remarkable young man. You have touched so many lives in such a positive way. We want you to know that you hold a special place in our hearts. God Bless!



*Congratulations  
to our wonderful director,  
Joanne Marhefka  
on her recent marriage to  
Gene Alley  
July 23, 2008!  
Many blessings and joy  
to you both.*



## WELCOME Janet K. Madison

IHN would like to welcome four new members to the Advisory Committee.

**Ron Casavant** who has taken on responsibilities of fundraising activities;

**David Farabaugh** has undertaken Speakers Bureau to advocate on behalf IHN;

**Deb Richards** has stepped forward in fundraising activities;

**Reverend Cynthia Maybeck**, as clergy and spiritual inspiration.

For the new IHN fiscal year...

**Phil Holman**, nominated and confirmed as Chair by the committee has accepted said position;

**Janet Rauktis**, nominated and confirmed as Treasurer by the committee has accepted said position and will also act as a liason to the Friendly House Board.

It is expected that the other executive committee positions will be filled and confirmed at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

If you are interested we encourage you to contact any board member or Joanne Alley for more information.

## WISHLIST

- WRTA Bus tickets
- Socks for women and children
- Acetaminophen for children and adults
- Ibuprofen for children and adults
- Cold medicine for children and adults
- Feminine products
- Deodorant

Prayers & well wishes

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

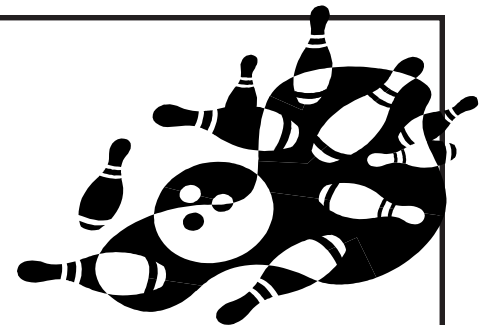
## Save the date!

**Saturday, November 1st**

**9a.m. - 3p.m.**

**Bowling Challenge Fundraiser for IHN**

**AMF Bowling Center in Auburn.**



Two time slots- 9a.m & 1p.m..

The fundraiser is being sponsored by **Keller Williams Realty of Greater Worcester.**

Many other Real Estate Companies from the Worcester area will also be involved in this worthwhile fundraiser.

Everyone is invited to participate!

Four persons per team and the more teams, the better it will be. Start putting together a team and challenge your family and friends to a fun game of bowling. Help in the effort to end homelessness.

Look for more information coming soon.



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: Phil Holman, Janet Madison, Joanne Marhefka, Cindy Spellane 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 families who are homeless 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 4th 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 234 families, a total of 691 individuals, since its formation in 1997. IHN makes a difference!***



Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Worcester

IHN

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TO:

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