



ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

FALL & HOLIDAY FUND-RAISING ACTIVITY

Phil Holman, Chair

On behalf of the IHN Advisory Committee I would like to thank all the Friends of IHN who generously supported our program during the fall and holiday fundraising period. This financial support is critical in allowing our program to deliver the support and services to our guests. The money raised during this time comes from hundreds of individual donations who gave their support to the following specific fundraising efforts:

First Baptist Church of Worcester Thanksgiving Collection

First Unitarian of Worcester Christmas Offering

First Church in Sterling Christmas Offering

First Church in Sterling Holly Berry Brunch

Keller Williams Realtors Bowling Fund-raiser

Corporate Donations:

Image Diagnostic Instruments Corporate Match: \$1,000

Fourstar Connections Corporate Match: \$2,000

The program is truly blessed to receive all this financial support. Once again I would like to thank all those who

organized the fundraising activities. I would also like to thank all the individual donors who generously contributed their financial support (over \$2600).

In addition, IHN received funds from grants and foundations. I would like to acknowledge and thank:

Greater Worcester Community Foundation

Robert Treat Paine Association

Robert F. Hunsicker Foundation

Melvin S. Cutler Charitable Foundation

Co-ordinator's Corner

Host Sites



March

2/22 – 3/8 Mount Olivet, Shrewsbury

3/8 – 3/15 United Congregational, Worcester

3/15 – 3/22 Trinity Lutheran, Worcester

3/22 – 3/29 Wesley Methodist, Worcester

April

3/29 – 4/5 Wesley Methodist, Worcester (not confirmed)

4/5 – 4/12 First Church, Sterling

4/12 – 4/19 First Congregational/Prince of Peace, Princeton

4/19 – 4/26 First Congregational, Holden

4/26 – 5/3 Our Lady of Good Counsel, W. Boylston

May

5/3 – 5/17 Christ the King, Worcester

5/17 – 5/24 St. Bernard's, Worcester

5/24 – 5/31 Trinity Episcopal, Shrewsbury

June

5/31 – 6/7 Immanuel Lutheran, Holden

6/7 – 6/14 Blessed Sacrament, Worcester

6/14 – 6/21 United Parish, Upton

6/21 – 7/5 St. Stephen's, Westborough

Guests

Mom with 4 children, ages 14, 9, 4 and 1

Mom with 1 year old

Mom and 19 year old pregnant daughter

MEET THE IHN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Reverend Jan Gregory-Charpentier

The Advisory Committee for IHN of Greater Worcester is made up of volunteers from our Network congregations and the Worcester County area. These people have a heart for homeless families and a desire to make a difference through our shared efforts. They meet monthly and work to support the Greater Worcester IHN staff and programs through fundraising, promotion/marketing, a speakers' bureau, grant writing, communications and congregation support and coordination. In alphabetical order by last name:

Deacon Joe Baniukiewicz has been a Roman Catholic deacon for 29 years for

Christ the King Parish, Worcester, where he lives. He is also Acting Director for Social Justice for the Diocese of Worcester and serves as chaplain for several other community organizations. Deacon Joe has been on the IHN Committee for about nine years or so. He says, "I serve because there's such a need for help for homeless families in the community, and especially now as the news brings news of further cuts to government funds in this area."

Dave Farabaugh, lives in Sterling and is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Holden. Dave has been an IHN coordinator for his

church for about 4 years and on the Advisory Committee for about a year. Dave says, "My vision for this program is that we can become an independent organization with a fixed site and income sources that will sustain us for as long as there is a need."

Rev. Jan Gregory-Charpentier, Clerk, is the Pastor of the United Parish of Upton, an IHN congregation since 2001. Jan has a passion for issues of family homelessness having worked in the field herself many years ago and knows the unique needs of

cont'd on page 3, UNIQUE



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR PROGRAM UPDATES *Joanne Alley, Director*

Christmas Blessing

Despite the economy many people, both from our congregations and from outside organizations, generously stepped forward to help IHN families this Christmas season, and thanks to their efforts we were able to assist *36 families with a total of 86 individuals!*

There are many to thank, but I would like to begin with **Pam Guild** who coordinated our Secret Santa program once again this year. I am truly grateful for the amount of time and energy Pam puts into this program. Year after year she goes above and beyond her duties in this role. Thank you Pam for your dedication to helping the families of IHN!

And of course many thanks go out to all the "**Secret Santas**" who bought gifts for the 80 children and 6 adults (who were currently in the program at Christmas). Participating congregations included - **United Parish in Upton, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Holden, First Congregational Church in Shrewsbury, First Church in Sterling, Pakachoag Church in Auburn and Wesley United Methodist Church in Worcester.**

Special thanks also go to...

The **children and teachers at Houghton School**, who participate in Secret Santa each year. Once again their generosity was overwhelming!

The folks from **U Mass Memorial Hospital** who provide care baskets for our families;

UMass Memorial Foundation's Development Office who provided gifts for two of our families;

The **Building Inspectors office from the town of Shrewsbury** who generously gave a cash donation;

Sarah's Circle from Wesley United Methodist Church, who bought the families a DVD player and movies, toys and a Wii, in addition to purchasing a gas card for the program;

ReMax Advantage 1 who provided pajamas, books and toys for our children;

Christopher House in Marlborough who donated 3 more bags of pillows;

Ron Alarie and Trinity Episcopal Church for purchasing 2 new tires for the van;

Volunteers at Trinity Episcopal Church who provided gift certificates to local supermarkets to help past families in need, as well as families who are moving out of IHN and into their new homes;

Volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Church who purchased American Express gift cards to be used for the van;

And the "**Elves**" from **Upton** who always remember the staff with gift cards for Dunkin Donuts.

I thank each and every person who contributed in any way to making this a happy, memorable Christmas for our program and especially for our families. May God Bless you for your generosity, for caring and for reaching out to help those in need.

New Weekend Co-ordinator

IHN has finally hired a weekend person to cover Saturdays. I would like to welcome **Anne Graham** as the new weekend coordinator for IHN. Anne, who started working in January, has a great deal of experience working with families and individuals who are homeless. She is a welcome addition to our staff and I hope you all get the opportunity to meet her and welcome her into the IHN family.

Weathering Icy Times

A very special thanks to **Our Lady of Good Counsel and Temple Emanuel** for extending their hosting periods in December. Temple Sinai was unable to host their week because of the damage that was caused from the ice storm. OLGC allowed the families to stay two days longer and Temple Emanuel allowed them to come 5 days earlier covering the open week for us with very little notice. Temple Sinai provided the volunteers and meals for both sites.

Wish List

- WRTA Bus tickets
- Socks for women and children
- Acetaminophen for infants & children
- Powder
- Tissues
- Cleaning supplies

SPOTLIGHT

SECRET SANTA ELVES - THANK YOU! *Pam Guild, First Church, Sterling*

No rain, sleet or snow or **ICE STORM** could hold back the outpouring and enthusiasm to provide gifts to the IHN children and families this year.

Alternative and emergency plans were put in place to make this past holiday season outstanding. The continuous support and Herculean efforts of the Interfaith Hospitality Network helped make the holidays festive and joyous for the IHN families and children.

All gifts and donations were sincerely appreciated and given to deserving children. They are a valued and

appreciated aspect of ongoing giving and support to the IHN program.

Special thanks to the following groups:
First Church of Sterling, First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury, United Parish of Upton, Immanuel Lutheran of Holden, Pakachoag Church of Auburn and Houghton Elementary School in Sterling.

Many thanks to the generous members of our community who support the IHN children and families at this magical time of the year.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

We now have a wonderful and informative Power Point presentation ready and enthusiastic people available to talk about IHN. If you would like to schedule a presentation for your community or any other organization contact Dave Farabaugh at Farabaughd@comcast.net or Joanne Alley 508-798-6732.



CREATIVE DONATING

Call for Unused Gift Cards

Robert Kovacs

As the weather begins to warm, the holidays become more of a distant memory. If you received a gift card during the holiday season, or if you have a small balance left on a gift card that you are not going to use, please consider donating it to IHN. Gift cards with even small balances of \$1 or \$2 can add up to a lot when pooled together.

IHN is always in need of supplies for our families. Gift cards to supermarkets, clothing stores, department stores or gas stations are of great value to us. Gift cards to electronics stores and elsewhere will help us keep up with increasing administration expenses at a time when we have seen our revenue diminish.

Thank you for your loyal support of IHN. Without it we would be unable to assist so many.

Please mail or drop off your donation to the IHN of Greater Worcester Day Center, 114 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608.

PayPal: New Tool on IHN Site

Dan Keohane

More and more charities and fundraisers use online tools for making donations, charges to credit cards or transfers directly from checking accounts. Many people prefer making donations online instead of using paper checks, putting the check in an envelope, finding the right address only to realize their last postage stamp isn't enough to cover the most recent postage increase.

IHN Worcester's website (www.ihnworchester.org) has the ability to receive donations online, quickly and

easily using the most popular tool on the web: PayPal. Simply visit our website above and click "How To Help/Donate" at the top of the page to see the link to our donation tool. The account is currently managed by our webmaster, Dan Keohane, who forwards all funds received to Joanne Alley, IHN Worcester Director. Joanne will then send a personalized thank-you email to the contributor. This confirms receipt of their donation and provides a receipt for tax purposes. Contributors, if they do not currently have a PayPal account, will need to spend a minute or two setting one up, but ease of use and security is what has made PayPal the leading online provider of credit / transfer of funds processing on the web.

Next time donations to the IHN are a topic of conversation in your community, be sure to mention the website and PayPal. We're now just few clicks away from providing stronger support to our families in the program.

Continued from page 1, UNIQUE

homeless families often fall through the holes of our social safety nets. Jan lives with her husband and 3 kids, ages 12-18, and also loves reading, cycling, hiking.

Phillip Holman, Chair, is the President/Owner of Fourstar Connections, Inc. in Hudson, MA. Phil has lived in Sterling for 22 years and is married to Linda. They have (4) children and (2) grandchildren. Phil is a member of First Church in Sterling, and has served many roles there. Phil is also currently a Friendly House board member and serves as our IHN liaison with Friendly House (our IHN fiscal agent).

Dan Keohane lives in Princeton and is one of the five coordinators in town for the joint Prince of Peace / First Congregational IHN program. Dan also serves as the webmaster for our www.ihnworchester.org website. In his spare time, he's also a horror writer and novelist, though he still needs his day job to pay the bills....

Robert W. Kovacs, Jr., is a bankruptcy attorney on Shrewsbury Street in Worcester. In addition to being one of the newest IHN Board members, he also serves on the Worcester Bar Association's Committee on Homeless. Attorney Kovacs and his family live in Auburn, MA.

Janet K. Madison, Vice Chair, has been serving the IHN Advisory Committee for 5 years in a number of capacities -Chair, Co-chair and Marketing & Communications. Janet believes volunteering is the heart and soul of building a healthy and striving community, while providing opportunities to meet people and keep ones mind open to what the world has to offer. Janet is Director of New England Sales for the ModuForm Companies, resides in Sterling and is a member of St. Richards Parish.

Janet Rautkis, Treasurer, was introduced to IHN a little over ten years ago. Since then she has been a Coordinator for Christ the King in Worcester and a member of the IHN Advisory Board. She has been the

secretary for several years, and presently now holds the position of treasurer. Janet says, "IHN has been my way of helping those in need."

Deb Richards was introduced to IHN by her involvement with The Pajama Program, providing pajamas and books to children in need. Deb has been involved with the Advisory Committee since winter of 2008 after being asked to attend a meeting by Cindy Spellane. She is a resident of Holden and a member of Greendale Peoples Church, Worcester. Deb works as a realtor with RE/MAX Advantage I, Worcester.

Shannon Williams is a therapist at Motivating Youth Recovery (an adolescent inpatient detox and stabilization unit) in Worcester. During graduate school, Shannon worked at a homeless shelter and specialized with refugee populations. Shannon recently relocated to Massachusetts and just became involved with IHN. She hopes to help with fundraising and grant writing.

Cindy Spellane and Ron Casavant, will be featured in the next newsletter.



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, IHN Chair, president and owner of
Four Star Connections, Inc., Hudson: printing
and mailing

Janet Madison, Editor & Co-Chair

*Contributing Reporters: Joanne Alley, , Jan
Gregory-Charpentier, Pam Guild, Phil
Holman, Dan Keohane, & Robert Kovacs.
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 238 families, a total of 704 individuals, since its formation in 1997. IHN makes a difference!



Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Worcester

IHN

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www.ihnworchester.org

SAVE THE DATE:

Join Bernie Rotman and Bishop Daniel Reilly, Honorary Chairs, along with The Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance for the

24TH ANNUAL WALK FOR THE HOMELESS - SUNDAY, MAY 17

Walk begins and ends at Elm Park, Worcester, 1-2pm registration . 2pm start . live entertainment . post-walk cookout

**For more info call 508-791-7265 ext. 31; Online donations:
www.cmhaonline.org or visit walk.kintera.org**

TO:

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