



Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Worcester

**IHN** *Where people of faith work together to support homeless families*  
**news**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

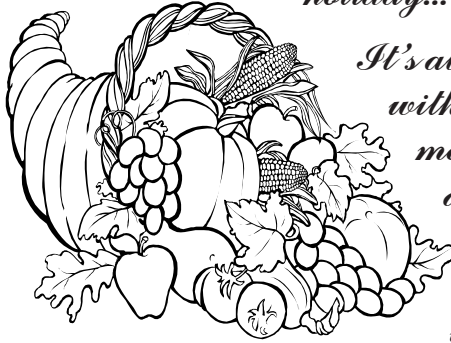
REFLECTION *Phil Holman, Chair*

As we draw closer to the holiday season, people tend to reflect on the important things in life such as friends and family. This is also a time for giving thanks for all the blessings that are bestowed on us. Many of us also give thought to the less fortunate, particularly those with health issues or those who are challenged to meet their basic needs.

For all these reasons this is a time when people have been most generous in their giving to the IHN program. Members of our support network consider the plight of our guests and are motivated to help do fundraising to support our program. Collectively we have called this our "Fall Fundraiser". What the Fundraiser is comprised of is a number of small acts of kindness that collectively become a substantial financial contribution to the program. Some of the fundraising ideas consist of special collections at service, holiday brunches, selling Christmas cards or other novelty items, potluck suppers or just

*Thanksgiving is about being with family and friends...*

*It's about taking our time to stir and simmer and season, until every room in the house is filled with the sweet warmth of the holiday...*



*It's about sitting down with the people who mean the most to us, and passing love around the table until every heart is full.*

individuals writing a check to show their support.

To leverage this special giving we have historically found corporate sponsorship that will match the generosity of the individual fundraising efforts. This year, although the business climate is uncertain, we are working hard to have a corporate match, which could double the amount of money raised by individuals.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a handout developed by the IHN Advisory Committee outlining ideas for fundraising that have

been done over the years on behalf of our program. Some ideas are simple and require little effort, and others are significant and require lots of planning and effort. What we are hoping is that host sites, or other friends of IHN will consider sponsoring one of these fundraisers. Our Advisory Committee would like to know about your ideas, and will help you to promote the fundraiser through our email list and our newsletter. In addition, we will work hard to help arrange a corporate match to increase the

CONT'D PG 2 -CORPORATE



Volume 7, Issue 3  
November 2008

**Co-ordinator's Corner**

**Host Sites**



- December
  - 11/30 - 12/7 Trinity Lutheran, Worcester
  - 12/7 - 12/14 Our Lady of Good Counsel, West Boylston
  - 12/14 - 12/21 Temple Sinai, Worcester
  - 12/21 - 1/4 Temple Emanuel, Worcester
- January
  - 1/4 - 1/18 First Congregational, Shrewsbury
  - 1/18 - 2/1 First Congregational, West Boylston
- February
  - 2/1 - 2/15 First Unitarian, Worcester
  - 2/15 - 2/22 All Saints, Worcester
  - 2/22 - 3/8 Mt. Olivet, Shrewsbury
- March
  - 3/8 - 3/15 United Congregational, Worcester
  - 3/15 - 3/22 Trinity Lutheran, Worcester
  - 3/22 - 3/29 Wesley Methodist, Worcester
- Guests**
  - Mom and Dad with 2 sons, 5 and 3
  - Mom and Dad with 4 month old twin girls
  - Mom with 4 children, ages 14, 8, 4 and 1



# Give Thanks



## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR PROGRAM UPDATES

Joanne Alley,

### Welcome

I would like to welcome our newest host congregation to our IHN family, **Zion Lutheran Church**. Zion, located in the Greendale section of Worcester, hosted our families for the first time earlier this month. They recruited two neighboring congregations, **Greendale People's Church and Salem Covenant**, to help assist with meals, supplies and coverage for their two week hosting period.

Thank you **Pastor Borden** for opening the doors of Zion to our families and thank you Ingrid and all of the volunteers from all three congregations for all that you did for them during their stay.

### A time of giving...

My eternal gratitude goes out to all of our **host sites, clergy, coordinators, volunteers, the Advisory committee, Friendly House, our staff and all who donate so generously** to the program in any way, whether it be a financial donation, one of supplies or household goods/furniture for our families moving out. Our program would not exist without you and all that you do!

### I would also like to thank...

- **Trinity Church**, Northborough for their donation of school supplies;
  - **Worcester Regional Association of REALTORS** for their donation of school supplies;
  - **Retirees of Saint Gobain** for their donation of towels and socks;
- **Evangelical Congregational** for their donation of towels;
- **AMGRO, Inc.** for their donation of computers;
- **Phil Holman** for his donation of computers;
- **Deacon Joe Baniukiewicz, Union Evangelical Church, First Congregational Church in Shrewsbury and United Congregational Church** for purchasing 6 new cots for the program;
- **CornerStone Quilters** for their donation of beautiful handmade quilts;
- **Girl Scout Troop 30212 from Grafton** who created 24 handmade huggable dolls and bears for our children;
- The **residents of Christopher House Nursing Home** in Marlborough who made pillows for our families;
- **Emily Shugarmen and Ethan Robbins** who donated a very, very large supply of personal care products and over-the-counter medicines (so much that we were able to share some with a couple other shelters!);
- **The Fabric Stash** for their donation of beautiful handmade quilts for the children.

*Thank you all for your generosity!*

### Special thanks...

Goes out to Kevin Kirwan who generously donated his time to provide Sunday coverage for the families at the Day Center this year. Kevin - the families will always remember your kind, caring attitude and the love you freely gave them, but they will especially remember your sense of humor and your ability to always make them laugh. They love you, thank you and miss you!! You will always be in their hearts and mine and in our prayers as well.

### IHN has a new Case Manager

I am very happy to welcome **Tom Annunziata** as IHN's new Case Manager. Tom has extensive experience working as a Case Manager with dual diagnosed individuals (mental health and substance abuse). I'm very excited to have him on board and welcome the skills and knowledge he brings to our program. Tom works Sunday through Thursday so if you haven't had the opportunity to meet him yet you will the next Sunday evening the families are brought to your congregation.



**CONT'D FROM PG 1 - CORPORATE** amount of money you can raise for the program.

No matter what you decide, our committee would like you to know that we greatly appreciate all the efforts of our host sites and all the individual contributions people make to our program. On behalf of the IHN Advisory Committee and all the guests who have benefitted from our program, we offer a heart felt "Thank You". May you and your family have a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.



## YOUNG OR OLD - YOU CAN BE A SECRET SANTA ELF! Pam Guild, First Church In Sterling

To continue our support of the Interfaith Hospitality Network during the holidays, please feel free to put on your secret Santa hats!

We will be fulfilling the holiday wishes of the IHN children.

This is now an annual tradition and all gifts and donations are sincerely appreciated and promote a joyous and

festive holiday season for these deserving children.

Moreover, these gifts are a valuable and much appreciated aspect of our giving and support to the IHN program.

As the Secret Santa Coordinator, I will obtain each child's wishes and coordinate with each church who would like to participate. Contact Pam Guild at 978-422-6078 if your church would like to participate as secret Santa elves.

All gifts will be returned to the IHN Day Center for distribution and gift wrapping by the children's parents.

Many thanks to the generous members of our church community to support the IHN children and families at this upcoming holiday season.

### **MARK YOUR ELF CALENDARS WITH THESE IMPORTANT DATES**

**Friday 11/28/08.**

**Contact Pam Guild to participate in gift giving at 978-422-6078 or**

***Pamela.guild@cgi.com***

**Monday, 12/15/08**

**Deliver gifts to IHN Day Center**

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION Ron Casavant

Dear Friends:

My name is Ron Casavant, and I am a new member of the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) Advisory Committee.

Over time IHN has made emergency appeals to help fund transportation costs related to moving our guests and their belongings to the host sites. Without exception, the response to these emergency appeals has been overwhelmingly generous. *Thank you!*

My volunteer contribution to the IHN program is to coordinate a year-round solicitation for donations to cover these transportation expenses, rather than to wait for an emergency situation.

I need your help.

Would you contribute, sometime during the next year, a gas card or gift card to IHN? A \$75 donation

covers gas for one week to a Worcester host site and \$100 to the outskirts host sites, other contributions go toward diapers, baby food, and other general daily needs.

If this sounds like something you would like to support please give me a ring, Ron at 508-826-8891 or [ronnie155@verizon.net](mailto:ronnie155@verizon.net) or send gift cards directly to:

Interfaith Hospitality Network  
114 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01068  
Attn: Joanne Alley, Program Director

Thank you in advance!

Ron

*P.S. Hess is the preferred gas card due to location availability, also VISA or American Express. All contributions are appreciated by our guest families and are tax deductible.*

## WISH LIST

WRTA Bus tickets  
Socks for women and children  
Acetaminophen for children and adults  
Powder

Prayers & well wishes  
*Please call Joanne - 508-798-6732 to donate. God bless and thank you!*

### **Employment Op!**

*IHN: Individual needed every Saturday to cover the Day Center and to transport families to and from the Day Center/Host Sites. Hours: 8:30am - 5:30pm.*

*Must be reliable, have a valid driver's license, willing to drive a 16-passenger van.*

*Contact Joanne at 508-798-6732*



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**, IHN Co-Chair & Editor

*Contributing Reporters: Joanne Alley, Pam  
Guild, Ron Casavant, 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 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 236 families, a total of 700 individuals, since its formation in 1997. IHN makes a difference!***



Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Worcester

IHN

114 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608

Phone: 508-798-6732

FAX: 508-798-8286

[www.ihnworchester.org](http://www.ihnworchester.org)



TO:

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