



**Interfaith
Hospitality
Network**
*Where people of faith work together
to support families who are homeless.*

K.I.S.S. – Keep It Simple and Smile *your extra efforts are helping our families!*

We welcome your support at every level. We'd like to share a few *fun*draising ideas that communities in our IHN network have shared with us. Some are easy to do and some extremely challenging. Maybe there's an idea you'd like to try! The common goal is we're working together to support families in need.

These ideas are relatively easy to implement.

- All can be tailored to your community mission goals and interests.
- All can be tailored to your community size and capabilities.
- All are family oriented ideas in support of our IHN families – everyone can participate!
- Hitch hike these ideas with other activities already on your community calendar.

Remember, it's not all about fundraising - take the opportunity to:

- ***Educate*** - Incorporate into your religious education themes and youth activities
- ***Advocate*** - Be aware of the scripture focus for the week or season to build awareness of the issue of homelessness and what your community's focus is in response to the injustice.

It is about a sense of having a home to call your own. What does home represent to you?

“A Garden of Hope”

Packets of garden seeds are made available for sale under the concept of: growing hope for the future - growing a relationship with other families that need a helping hand — nurturing life from the smallest seed . . . As donating families plant and nurture the seeds and then harvest the results they are reminded of our collective IHN mission. Offset expenses by soliciting donations directly from major seed companies or local suppliers. Try to personalize the packets with an IHN identifier.



“Buy a House, Build a Home”

Request families to purchase a house custom drawn by one of our IHN children. Donors personalize their purchased houses with their family in solidarity, representing their desire for all families to have an opportunity to have a place to call home. Post these homes in a prominent area within the worship community as a reminder of the challenges some families face.

How can this concept be related to a religious story to help connect scripture and today's challenges? Exodus? Nativity? Or in social venues such as Valentine's Day?



“Building Roots”

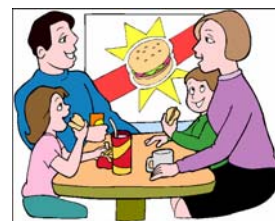
During many anniversary celebrations there is a tradition where monetary gifts are tied to a tree branch called a “money tree” which is presented to the celebrants. What if a “Home Money Tree” was part of your solicitation? Request families to make a one time annual (or seasonal) financial contribution to the “IHN Family Tree”. Utilize an actual branch, small tree or perhaps a very creative representation of the “white picket fence home with hearts on the shutters, flowers in the garden, soft lights in the windows and the aroma of a fresh baked pie” poster. Have creative fun with this one!



“Family to Family” a very personal approach . . .

If each of your family members “gave up” a daily luxury, like buying a candy bar or cup of coffee, in a week’s time what would this represent as a family donation directed to an IHN family? What would be a reasonable dollar amount that a family could work together to contribute?

For *example*: If 80 families were to contribute \$20 the potential result would be \$1600 in support of IHN families!



“Music to Soothe the Soul” An Evening of Music

Pull together community talent and host an evening of music or if you have 1 or 2 extremely talented musicians solicit their talent to be the stars for the evening. Have a cover charge or take a collection. Can be as family oriented or sophisticated as you wish. Provide refreshments afterwards for additional socializing.

Treasure’s of the Community Annual Charitable Auction/Event

An aggressive undertaking but what fun can be had! This fundraiser involves everyone in your community from local businesses to families to schools to all sorts of local talent. Prep time is extensive but well worth it. Consider having multiple charities as recipients of proceeds to attract the interest of a larger cross section of your community. If this is an idea you’re interested in please contact Phil or Janet for more details!

“BAM – Take it up a notch”

Already sponsor a coffee hour after services? Why not bring it up a notch by sponsoring a brunch – menu is limitless. Advance ticket sales helps for better planning.



“Chowda’ Cook Off”



Invite people to prepare and share their favorite chowder with the community. The community gets a sample taste from each (muffin tin is perfect as you go from chef to chef sampling). Participants vote by making donations at their favorite chowder station. Hosts just need to provide a place, tables and some utensils and cleanup.

“Ciao!” (or Chow Down)

Believe it or not we will all be tired of turkey dinners and leftovers soon enough! So break it up with a little Italian spaghetti feast. Offer the traditional red sauce or put a spin on it with topping options – pesto, olive oil and basil, Alfredo . . . Pull everyone together for a simple family style dinner with wonderful but easy side dishes – garlic bread and cool salad. Build community and family fun time. Consider incorporating a silent auction for added interest. Include youth organizations on the planning and execution.



If not spaghetti --- what would be a favorite in your community? Ham & Bean, Pizza, Beef Stroganoff . . .?

Fundraising isn’t just about raising money. It provides an opportunity to draw many people together for a common benefit. It acts as a tool to build awareness of important issues, as well as a means to advocate for a cause. Fundraising is a way of inviting people to give back to the community. It also sets an example to others, like young family members, our children, about our responsibility to address and respond to social and justice issues. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Share your ideas with us!