



HOSPITALITY

The Newsletter of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greene County, Inc.

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SUMMER-FALL 2007

A MESSAGE FROM CHERYL

Recently, I was asked to speak before a group of people. One of the topics they wanted me to speak about was what does a homeless person look like. I have to admit I was a little surprised by the question. You see homeless people look no different than you and I. They have no distinguishing marks or special facial features that let you know they are homeless. Every guest IHN has had never looked any special way because they were homeless. In fact, if I brought any of our guests with me to your home you would simply think I brought a friend.

Many people lump all homeless people into what TV or movies have depicted what a homeless person looks like. The stereotypical image that the media has always shown is a homeless person as a dirty, scruffy looking drug addict or alcoholic. That is not what our families look like. They look like anyone else you'd meet going to the store or to church.

Our IHN families have experienced something in their lives that caused them to be homeless. Perhaps the event was the closing of the company they worked for, or a company downsized, or they experienced health problems, or they just didn't realize the consequence of their choices. Anyone of these events could have caused them to have to make a hard choice between home mortgage or rent or other urgent bills such as to doctors, or just basic living expenses. These hard choices often created cascading financial problems that ultimately lead to homelessness. The recent mortgage crisis reveals that for many hardworking individuals (such as ourselves) we and they are but three house or rent payments from homelessness!

There aren't any distinguishing marks of homelessness. The marks are all on the inside! There is

the mark of shame and loss of dignity. There is the mark of regret and of pain for their children. There is the mark of remorse and hopelessness. These are the marks of homelessness that we hear and learn of and comfort and work to erase at IHN. Restoring hope and dignity and faith in God and in others is our mission. We offer second chances to people not very different from ourselves who just want to get back to living a normal life. We do so because we are called; and we do it because people like you have decided to give of your time and resources to make our work possible. It is a high calling to serve and love your neighbor as yourself. *Thank you for being a part of this ministry!*

A SPECIAL THANKS! TO FORMER BOARD MEMBER MALCOLM GILLESPIE

Long-time Board Member and dear friend Malcolm "Mac" Gillespie recently stepped down after many years of service to IHN. Mac provided wisdom, humor and a pastoral perspective to the Board during his years of service. He will be sorely missed! We wish Mac God's blessing as he continues to recover from recent health problems. *Thanks Mac, God Bless You!*

IHN SUPPORTS THE UNITED WAY

Please support the vital network of services in our community by giving generously through our local United Way. Your gift to the Community Solutions Fund is vital for those in need, and you can support an agency or cause that is special to you. You can direct all or part of your gift to the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greene County or to any 501©(3) organization providing a health or human service in the Miami Valley by simply entering the name on the pledge form. There are no code numbers for IHN this year. *Thank you for your generosity!*

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I was posed a question recently—"Can you tell me the value of IHN?" I began to talk about the lives changed, the hope restored, the work of our staff, but that was not the point of the question. Said another way — "What does my donation provide, and what is the value of my time?" My answer was less forthcoming because I really didn't know the facts and figures of our operation expressed just that way. Challenged, I checked our history and found that in the past we have operated at cost of about \$37 per hour and delivered services to between 40-70 individuals each year (a majority of those being children) depending upon length of stay; providing food, shelter, transportation, counseling, referrals, donated personal need items, supplies, and someone to listen! WOW! What a value!

Looking ahead we are confronting the reality that we must increase our staff hours (we are currently staffed with *all part-time employees*) to address the needs of our guests, and do whatever we can to shorten their stay and get them back on their feet. This process is much more labor intensive with the current economic climate and the loss of jobs and low pay many of our guests experience. Even so, we project that we can operate at a rate of about \$42 per hour in the future and respond to the needs of our clients. Can you think of any other organization that serves the homeless so well so modestly?

WILL YOU JOIN US FOR ONE AND ONE?

This fall, as part of our annual fund raising drive, we are asking you to consider taking the "*One-and-One Challenge!*" The *One-and-One Challenge!* is simply agreeing to donate one hour of support (\$42) and one hour of time, each month to IHN for one year. At the end of the year you will have contributed to one full (12-hour) day's operation and provided much needed volunteer support. Perhaps this is a service project for your organization or a church-wide challenge between Sunday School departments—I can see it now "Seniors versus Students"…!!!

IHN is desperately in need of increased operating funds to continue our mission. We commit to being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. The *One-and-One Challenge!* provides an opportunity for you to continue to help the homeless in Greene County—Are you up to the *Challenge!*..?

COME GROW WITH US!

IHN Ambassadors Needed!

We need your help! The IHN Board and our staff are asked to speak at many functions during the year—days and evenings. It is hard to say 'no' to folks whose interest is in helping our clients and understanding our mission. Like our clients, we have to make hard choices and sometimes we must say 'no' when we really would rather say 'yes!' You can help by being an Ambassador and be willing to speak for us when we cannot. We'll provide the presentation and the information—you just need to be our Ambassador, as frequently as you are willing and able! Please call us or email us to volunteer to help spread the word about IHN!

IHN Board Positions Open!

IHN is in need of a "Corporate Secretary" and a "Director of Communications". The Secretary assist the Board by recording minutes and providing input at Board Meetings. The Director of Communication prepares this newsletter and other communications and oversees the website content. No web-skills needed. For information or to volunteer, contact us by phone or email:

937-372-0705 or info@ihnofgreeneco.org

GUESTS UPDATES

Amber, Tristen, Dylan and the new baby boy **Zane** have moved into their new apartment and are doing fine. That baby took forever to come into this world but he is beautiful and looks just like his brothers! **Heather** and **Dominic** are doing very well in their apartment. Heather not only works cleaning homes, she also baby-sits. She is extremely busy all of the time. **Von** and **Miracle** are thoroughly enjoying their new apartment. Von is working for a new company. Miracle is enjoying herself when Mommy works at her Christian Day-care. Von says they are truly blessed!

... But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, - And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. *The Gospel of St. Luke, Chapter 10.*



7TH ANNUAL GOLF MARATHON UPDATE

We held our SEVENTH Annual Golf Marathon on May 21st at the Sebastian Hills Golf course east of Xenia. We had another perfect day for golf!!! We only had 25 golfers (our goal was 40) and all played 100 holes or more. A total of \$63,209 was pledged to help support our IHN guests. Numerous prizes were awarded for the most pledge raised, pledges over \$2,500, closest to the pin and longest drive all day. We really appreciate the hard work of all of the players in that this fund raiser is our largest special fund raising effort of the year. THANKS TO ALL FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK!!!!

We are again in the process of planning our EIGHTH Annual Golf Marathon for next spring. Keep watch for the announcements for this event and come join the fun while you raise funds for our great charity, the IHN. We will again hold the Marathon at the Sebastian Hills Golf Course and it will be on May 18, 2008. Mark your calendars now for a great day of fun, food and fund raising!!!

DAY CENTER NEEDS

- Socks, socks, and more socks. Any size from infant to adult both men, women, boys & girls.
- Children and adult underwear. Again all sizes for both children and adults.
- PJ's for children and adults for men or women.
- Paper towels, toilet paper, paper plates, bowls, and cups, plastic forks and spoons
- Coffee, creamer, and sugar
- Diapers any size and baby wipes
- Crib sheets

If in doubt, call the Day Center at 937-372-0705.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY OPPORTUNITY

The Holidays are Right around the corner. So, if your organization is interested in sponsoring or adopting a family at Christmas just let us know. This is a special time and way to celebrate. What several donor companies have done in the past is sponsor a family for Christmas instead of exchanging gifts among themselves. Please call the IHN office for more information at 937-372-0705.

FAMILY CENTER RENOVATION



The

renovation of the IHN Family Center continues to progress, sometimes rapidly and sometimes slowly, depending upon the number of volunteers that we have each week. We continue to receive volunteer help from several groups through the United Way and WPAFB. Please come join us!

Over the winter and summer we were able to build the new addition on the back of the new Family Center, stucco the outside and install the back stairway and metal studs in the new addition. We now have the HVAC plans approved by the Greene County Building Inspection Dept. and are in the process of installing the heating and air conditioning. The plumber has completed most of their work, about all they can do until the HVAC is completed and when we are ready to finish out the kitchen and bathrooms. As soon as the HVAC is



completed the electrician will install all the wiring and then we will be putting up the drywall, mudding and painting. We are also currently in the process of stripping paint in the front of the old building where we are trying to restore the old trim around the doors and windows as well as the front stairway. There are about 5 layers of paint that must be removed before we can repaint these items.

As always, we welcome all the help we can get. If you would like to help, please call Don Schneider at 429-0620 or 232-1806 and he will schedule you for the next workday you are available.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greene County is a nonprofit interfaith ministry committed to uniting the religious community in Greene County to provide shelter, meals and assistance to homeless families and single women. Our mission is to reach out as messengers of God, reflecting His unconditional love with compassion and acceptance, providing help, hope and a safe haven for our guests while they seek permanent employment and affordable housing.

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A Community Response for Homeless Families www.ihnofgreeneco.org



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