



# Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line

**Embrace. Inspire. Restore.**

*Self Sufficiency Programs for Homeless Families*

*Newsletter, Fall 2013*

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Day Center  
1449 DeKalb Street  
Norristown, PA 19401

Phone:  
610-277-0977

Website:  
IHNcares.org

Find us at:  
Facebook.com/IHNmainline

## *Supportive Housing Program*



IHN – Main Line is excited to have our first Supportive Housing Program family! This program is made possible through the generous support of the **25th Century Foundation** and **St. David's Episcopal Church**. With their help IHN – Main Line is able to utilize program funds to lease an apartment in Montgomery County for Teren, guaranteeing her and her children stable housing as she pursues a three year degree in cosmetology. Teren received her keys to her new apartment on August 21 (to the delight of her children) and started school on August 26. So far she reports that she is learning a lot and really enjoying school. Hair Styling has been Teren's passion for many years, but without a degree she has been unable to find a stable job in this field. Teren will be going to school part time and also working part time to secure the funds for her other expenses. Additionally, Sonya, our Case Manager, will continue to provide her with case management services, to help her navigate her way through the next three years.

After bouncing around between family and friends Teren came into our Network Self-Sufficiency Program three months ago with her two children. With the support of IHN – Main Line staff and volunteers she has overcome many obstacles and has shown her pure determination to be successful. Although she misses the fellowship she felt in the Network, she is excited and grateful to have this unique opportunity. We are very proud of her and look forward to her next few years with us.

Donate on-line through PayPal to our Supportive Housing Program through our website [www.IHNcares.org](http://www.IHNcares.org) by clicking on the Donate button.

## *A Big Thank You to our Foundation Supporters*

25<sup>th</sup> Century Foundation  
Ally Bank  
Anonymous  
Betty and Leo Balzereit Foundation  
Beneficial Savings Bank  
BNY Mellon Mid-Atlantic Charitable Trust  
Breaking the Cycle Foundation  
Louis N. Cassett Foundation  
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Montgomery County Medical Society Foundation  
Morgan Stanley Foundation  
Neighborhood League Shops Foundation  
Grace S. & W. Linton Nelson Foundation  
Pierce Family Foundation  
Lawrence Saunders Foundation  
St. Christopher's Church  
Volpe & Koenig Ipromise Charitable Giving Fund

### **Day Center Open House**

IHN – Main Line held its second annual Open House at our Day Center in Norristown on September 17, 2013. Our Board of Directors and staff were on hand to answer all questions. Visitors were able to tour our office and Day Center space while they sampled some great wine and cheese. They also were able to see our new wheelchair ramp installed last winter.



### **St. Monica Fundraiser to Benefit IHN – Main Line**

The Saint Monica Women's Club is pleased to host an evening of Beef 'N Beer 'N Classic Rock with the Blue Sky Band on Saturday, October 19, 2013 to benefit IHN – Main Line. It will start at 6:30 p.m. in their Parish Room at their Church, 635 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Berwyn, PA 19312. A donation of \$25/person is requested. To RSVP or to learn more contact Sue McCarty at 610-889-0810 or [mccarty564@gmail.com](mailto:mccarty564@gmail.com).

### **Looking for an Additional Host Congregation**

IHN – Main Line is actively looking for a new host congregation to join our Network. If you have a contact at a congregation in the Main Line area that would be a good fit for our Network let Sue know at 610-277-0977. IHN – Main Line is made possible through our partnership with 11 host congregations that work together to provide temporary shelter for three families at one time for three-month intervals. Each host congregation provides overnight lodgings for a week at a time, four to five times a year. Beyond the actual space that they supply, these congregations also provide meals, contribute a multitude of volunteers, and aid the program financially. We would love to have a new host congregation join our Network.

**The mission of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line** is to *provide a caring and positive environment for homeless families and their children while they design and implement a plan to break the cycle of homelessness in their lives. Using the energy of over 2,500 community volunteers we are dedicated to families who seek to be accountable, resilient, and strive for a better tomorrow for their families.* Make a secure PayPal donation to IHN – Main Line through our website [www.IHNCares.org](http://www.IHNCares.org) by clicking on the Donate button.

## IHN – Main – Line’s Congregations

IHN – Main Line could not do the good work we do with our homeless families if it we did not have the support and dedication of our congregations and many volunteers. *Thanks You!*

### Host:

Beth David Reform Congregation  
Central Baptist Church  
Main Line Unitarian Church  
St. David’s Episcopal Church  
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church/Ardmore  
Wayne Presbyterian Church

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church  
Church of the Redeemer  
Our Mother of Good Counsel  
St. John Neumann  
St. Thomas of Villanova

### Support:

Ardmore Presbyterian Church  
Berwyn United Methodist Church  
Church of St. Monica  
Haverford Friends Meeting  
Radnor Friends Meeting  
St. George’s Episcopal Church  
St. Luke United Methodist Church  
St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Washington Memorial Chapel

Baptist Church in the Great Valley  
Christ Church (Ithan)  
First Baptist Church/Wayne  
Main Line Reform Temple  
Second Baptist Church/Wayne  
St. Katherine of Siena  
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church/Wayne  
United Methodist Church of Wayne  
Zion Baptist Church /Ardmore

## Volunteer Orientation Trainings

### How can you make a difference in the lives of others?

Serving homeless families with children is a rewarding and wonderful way to help our neighbors in a time of crisis. The Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line is active in your congregation and we need your help. Learn how your love and hope for a better future can change a life.

The orientation is for any Volunteer, Coordinator, Board Member, Clergy, or anyone interested in learning more about IHN – Main Line. If you are interested in learning how to make your volunteer experience more meaningful, enriching, and enjoyable please attend this orientation.

The trainings are held on the second Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to noon. They are:

- October 12, 2013 at Main Line Unitarian Church, 816 S. Valley Forge Road, Devon, PA 19333
- November 9, 2013 at St. John Neumann, 380 Highland Lane, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
- December 14, 2013 at Our Mother of Good Counsel, 31 Pennswood Rd., Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
- January 11, 2014 at Church of the Redeemer, 230 Pennswood Road, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
- February 8, 2014 Central Baptist Church, 106 West Lancaster Avenue, Wayne, PA 19087
- March 8, 2014 at St. Thomas of Villanova, 1229 E. Lancaster Ave., Rosemont, PA 19010
- April 12, 2014 at St. Luke Methodist Church, 568 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
- May 10, 2014 TBA

**RSVP Required. Contact: Sue White-Herchek 610-277-0977 or [suewherchek@verizon.net](mailto:suewherchek@verizon.net)**

## The Holidays

The holidays are a busy and stressful time for most families and this is even more so for homeless families. It also provides a special opportunity to help the families in our program. This year we are accepting \$25 gift cards (from Wal-Mart, Target, Toys R Us, etc.) in lieu of presents for the families in our program. Please send the gifts cards to the IHN – Main Line, 1449 DeKalb St., Norristown, PA 19401. Thank you.

### Family Updates

#### Genevieve



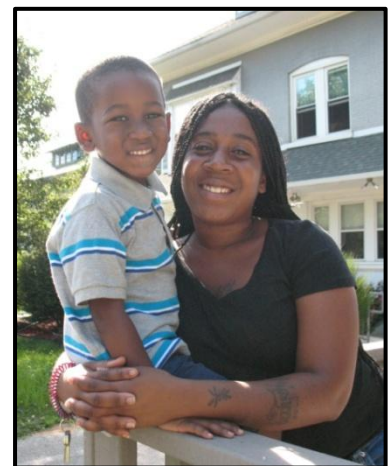
Genevieve is thriving in the 3rd floor transitional unit at our Day Center. About six months ago she came to our Network Self-Sufficiency Program at a low point in her life. While in our Network she looked for work, became more knowledgeable about money matters, and fully utilized IHN – Main Line’s therapist. Genevieve also benefitted from the regular, ongoing emotional support she received from IHN –Main Line volunteers and staff. She worked hard during her stay in the Network and earned the spot in our 3rd floor transitional unit. Since then her life has taken off. She is currently working as a sales associate at a wholesale cosmetic store. She has proven to them that she knows her stuff. Additionally, her daughter visits her on the weekends. They are having great mom and daughter time. She is saving and hopes to move into her own apartment soon.

#### Ciaria

Ciaria is a single mother who found success in our Network Self-Sufficiency Program. She entered our program with her two small children and was determined to be successful. With the help of the job coaching she received she was able to find a great full-time job. She was also accepted into not one but two transitional housing programs and is now living in Hope Gardens in Ambler. She continues to strive for a better life for her family and plans to use the time in Hope Gardens to rebuild her life. With all that she has accomplished so far, we are sure she will be successful.

#### Shawntell

Shawntell excelled in our program. She was determined to get a job. Working with IHN – Main Line’s Case Manager, Shawntell updated her resume, prepared a list of references, and went shopping for interview appropriate clothing. Within a short time, Shawntell found a job at a restaurant. Shortly afterwards she found a second job. Always being conscientious and realistic about her finances she decided that what was best for her was to share an apartment with her sister. So together they moved into an apartment in early September. We think it was a smart decision. We wish her much success as she moves forward with her new life.



Make a secure PayPal donation to IHN – Main Line through our website [www.IHNCares.org](http://www.IHNCares.org) by clicking on the Donate button.



## IHN – Main Line Partnerships

IHN – Main Line partners with several organizations in our area to better serve our families. Some of these partnerships include:

**Cradles to Crayons, [www.cradlestocrayons.org](http://www.cradlestocrayons.org)**

Cradles to Crayons provides new and used children’s items to area nonprofits for free. IHN – Main Line puts in an order for clothes, toys, and books for each child that comes into our program. Please consider them to donate clothes, toys, books, baby equipment when IHN – Main Line cannot take the items directly. Their contact information is: 215-836-0958, 30 Clipper Rd., West Conshohocken, PA 19428

**Greater Philadelphia Diaper Bank, [www.philadelphiadiaperbank.org](http://www.philadelphiadiaperbank.org)**

The Diaper Bank provides a three month supply of diapers to IHN – Main Line children for free. They are always in need of diapers and are interested in having diaper drives with area congregations and organizations. Their contact information is: Pat Kennedy, President/Founder 215-919-8500 or pat@philadelphiadiaperbank.org.

**Impact Thrift Stores, [www.impactthrift.org](http://www.impactthrift.org)**

IHN – Main Line partners with Impact for items for our families. Please consider Impact Thrift for the donation of items that IHN – Main Line cannot accept. They accept gently used: clothing, shoes and accessories; furniture; home furnishings and household items; jewelry; books; electronics and stereo equipment; sporting goods; and pianos. They do not accept toys for children 12 and under. They pick up large items for free, to schedule a pick up call 215-957-6131.

**Joy of Sox. [www.thejoyofsox.org](http://www.thejoyofsox.org)**

The Joy of Sox collects and donates socks to the homeless. They also do sock drives. Their contact information is: Tom Costello, 610-745-1075.

***How you can make a real difference in the life of a homeless family in need:***

**Volunteer your time:** make a meal, turn a congregational space into a home for our families, help children with homework, or spend time with a homeless family. Contact Sue at 610-277-0977 to learn more about how you can volunteer.

**Make a Donation:** your tax-deductible contribution will go a long way towards helping our families reach self-sufficiency.

Donate by mail:  
Send your tax-deductible check or  
money order to:  
IHN – Main Line  
1449 DeKalb Street  
Norristown, PA 19401

Donate on-line:  
Visit [www.IHNcares.org](http://www.IHNcares.org)  
and click on the Make a Donation link

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_