



Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line

Embrace. Inspire. Restore.

A Self Sufficiency Program for Homeless Families

Newsletter, Spring 2010

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Learning Skills Center
1449 DeKalb Street
Norristown, PA 19401

Phone:
610-277-0977

Website:
www.IHNcares.org

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Thank you to everyone who attended our Opening Hearts and Opening Doors Fundraiser!

The IHN – Main Line spring fundraiser was held on April 11, 2010. Over 110 people shared wine and hor d'oeuvres while seeing old friends and making new ones at the Athertyn Clubhouse in Haverford. Everyone also enjoyed a silent auction, bidding on over 45 items. "Our Opening Hearts and Opening Doors Fundraiser brought in over \$28,000 and after expenses raised \$23,000 for IHN – Main Line to assist the homeless families with children we serve," said Executive Director Sue White-Herchek. "Especially in today's economy it was

heartwarming to see the out pouring of support for the work we do and the families we assist as they build better lives for themselves." A special thank you is extended to everyone who helped to make this event a success.



Jean Yanko & Nancy Costello



Karen Wilson & Jane Dugdale



Joe Murphy, Pat Murphy & Dick Yanko

*Photographs submitted by:
Joan Bang, Jane Dugdale, and Dick Yanko*

A Special Thank You to the Sponsors of our Opening Hearts and Opening Doors Fundraising Event

Platinum Sponsor: Anonymous Donor from the Church of the Redeemer

Gold Sponsor: John and Janet Haas

Silver Sponsors: Elizabeth Chesick; Paul Lichtman; Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hoppel LLP

Bronze Sponsors: Chadwick & McKinney Funeral Home, Inc.; David G. Faw, CPA; Pennsylvania Trust

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Thank you to our Auction Item Sponsors

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Crystal: A Success Story

Unforeseen circumstances can cause anyone to become homeless. Crystal and her family were living the American dream. Crystal was a stay at home mother, her husband had an excellent paying job, she was a college graduate, and her children attended a private Christian school.

Around the beginning of the great financial crisis, Crystal and her husband were in the process of buying their dream home. Not knowing the condition of the banks and their financial situation, Crystal and her family found themselves with nowhere to live. Her family made the decision to move to Philadelphia where they bought Crystal's in-law's home. Life was great until her husband became ill and lost his job. Things began to deteriorate quickly. Repairs were needed to be done to their home, but due to the lack of income they were unable to be completed. Crystal's entire family fell into a state of depression. In a desperate attempt to save her family Crystal felt it was necessary to leave her home and seek help from a shelter.

On December 15, 2009 Crystal started the Interfaith program. She was a little apprehensive about starting, but to her surprise it was nothing like she imagined. Going to a different congregation each week was a bit difficult at first but she made the adjustment well. She learned to be more flexible and tolerate of different people.

During her time at Interfaith she met many kind and wonderful people at the congregations that she stayed at. Each day new and delicious meals were brought in by the volunteers. "People really do care about others in need. We don't always get a chance to see how much people really do care until there is a crisis."

Crystal always had a strong belief in God but she was able to see God really move on her behalf. Today Crystal has a job working with disabled youth. She has graduated into a transitional housing program and hopes to own her own home one day. She gives praise and thanks first to God for directing and sustaining her. She also gives thanks to all the workers, volunteers, and congregations who helped her during her time of need. Crystal plans to return the kindness she received when she begins to volunteer in the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Message from the Board Chairperson:

We are thrilled. Patrons and friends supported our first "official" fundraiser and helped us see that *all things are possible*. The Pohlig's were kind enough to allow us to use their beautiful new club house at Athertyn. We were embraced by the lovely surroundings and the warmth of the event. But we never forget that the families we serve deserve their own livable homes and can find their way to better lives when people "open their hearts". We help families confront and transcend crisis and hopefully insure that no child sleeps in a car tonight.

Thank you to our founders, clergy and the 2,500 volunteers that make our program run. It was delightful to have representatives from all the different congregations in one place, realizing they share the same goal of trying to end homelessness, if need be, one family at a time.

Thank you,
Karen Kutcher Wilson

Dorothy: A Graduate Continues to Succeed

Dorothy, a past graduate of IHN – Main Line, will be graduating with an Associates of Architecture from the Community College of Philadelphia on Saturday, May 8, 2010. Dorothy started the Architecture Program at the Community College of Philadelphia in 2008 and achieved a 4.0 GPA in her first semester. Dorothy will continue her studies at Drexel University this coming fall.

Dorothy shares her success by stating, "I know that finances and tuition costs will be a challenge, but it's one that's worth any effort I put forth. I hope to get internships and other experiences to develop my career. I have been very fortunate so far with many supporters all around me. In fact, with the help and support of the many 'guardian angels' of IHN and counselors, I have completed the program at CCP with honors. At the same time, I have shared the best 'me' with my son. I am forever grateful to all who have so graciously and selflessly given to me and my son. It has brought me to the point of knowing that 'I can.' "

Thank you Professional Duplicating for providing the printing for this newsletter



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Together we can make a lasting difference by breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Our Mission

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.*

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

Volunteer your time: by making a meal, helping to turn a congregational space into a home for our families, helping children with home work, or spending time with a homeless family.

Contact Sue at 610-277-0977 to learn more about how you can volunteer.

Donate: 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** and click on the Make a Donation link.

Look for us soon on **Facebook**.