



Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line

Embrace. Inspire. Restore.

A Self-Sufficiency Program for Homeless Families

Newsletter, Spring 2012

A Great Day - A Great Event

The IHN – Main Line Opening Hearts, Opening Doors Fundraiser was a great success. Once again, IHN – Main Line volunteers and supporters gathered for our 3rd annual wine and hor d’oeuvres fundraiser on April 15, 2012. We want to thank Appleford in Villanova for providing a beautiful venue for this event. Everyone visited with new and old friends while they enjoyed a silent auction, bidding on over 40 items, including a handcrafted wine table and a weekend stay at a New Jersey shore house. Richard Hammond, Fundraiser Chairperson, remarked “It was a beautiful day, with great weather and wonderful people, coming together for a worthwhile cause - supporting the work of IHN of the Main Line.” The event raised over \$35,000 and after expenses made over \$28,000 for the IHN – Main Line self-sufficiency program. We appreciate everyone who participated in the event by providing sponsorships, donating or purchasing auction items, contributing to IHN, and of course, coming to the event.

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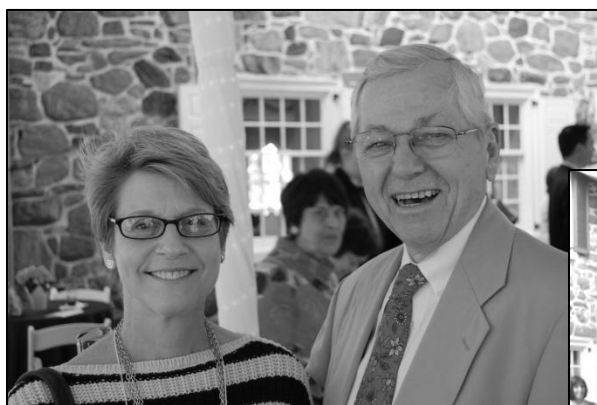
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Phone:
610-277-0977

Website:
www.IHNcares.org

Find us at:
[Facebook.com/IHNmainline](https://www.facebook.com/IHNmainline)



Barbara Heaton and George Hollingshead



Marty Laird, Vijay Aggarwal, and Susan Aggarwal



Kirk Larsen, Trish Larsen, and Anne Von Hertsenberg

Photographer: Warren Ayres

*A Special Thank You to the Sponsors of our
Fundraiser*

Gold Sponsors:

Mitch Gerstein
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Warren and Susan Ayres



Joe Betz, Tom Bang, and Bob Benowitz



Tracey and Michael Delfiner

Message from the Board Chairperson

It is such an honor to have been asked to serve as Chair of the IHN Board, after serving many years as the coordinator at The Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr. I look forward to working closely with Sue, the entire Board, and perhaps with some of you, on one of our top priorities – that of enlisting at least 2 additional host congregations. If you have contacts that might be helpful please let me know.

Our April fundraiser was a great success and I am so thankful to the Board members who served on the Fundraising Committee with me. They worked so hard soliciting interesting auction items, encouraging generous sponsors and planning a lovely party. Thank you to those who supported the effort by attending, sponsoring the event, as well as donating to and purchasing items at the auction. The funds raised will help to provide the services our families need to turn their lives around. They are already hardworking, but with the help of such services as budgeting classes and life-skills training they acquire personal management skills while building confidence in their abilities to sustain independent lives.

As Family Promise, the umbrella organization for IHN-ML, enters its 25th year there is much to celebrate. There are now 174 Affiliates (aka local networks) nationwide and together we were able to help 3,640 families in 2011.

Susan Ayres

Thank you to our Auction Item Sponsors

Adelberger Florist	Susan Apter	Armen Chevrolet/Cadillac
Aux Petit Delice	Susan Ayres	The Bark Avenue Boutique
Lilibet and James Barrett	Berwyn Framer, Inc.	Jill Bukata
Elizabeth Chesick	Cirillo Cosmetic Dermatology Spa	Clearview Cinema
Amy Deahl-Greenlaw	EcoGardens LLC	Sally Ann Fritzson
Mitch Gerstein	Gingy's	Gryphon Café
Dick Hammond	IHN – Main Line Board of Directors	Charles Kern, Natural Creations
Margaret Kuo	Landis Catering	Patricia Larsen
Lauren Hair Style	Montgomery Chiropractic/Dr. Katzen	Rhonda and Jim Mordy
Wayne Ouldcott	Paramour Restaurant	Radnor Dog Club
Radnor Hotel	Range Rover/Tak Papariello	Seafood USA in Wayne
The Sherwin-Williams Company	Tango Restaurant	Taste of Olive
Trader Joe's Ardmore		

The Board of Directors Welcomes New Members

Many of you may have noticed a few new names on the list of Board of Directors. During this past year we welcomed on to the Board of Directors: Susan Ayres from Church of the Redeemer, Mitch Gerstein from Beth David Reform Congregation, Trish Larsen from St. Thomas of Villanova, John Heard from Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Dwight Lundgren from St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Richard Hammond from Our Mother of Good Counsel, and Rhonda LaHue-Mordy from Wayne Presbyterian Church.

Our IHN – Main Line Families Are Doing Well

Our IHN – Main Line volunteers and staff work together to create a safe and nurturing place for our families to re-establish themselves. During their three months in our Network our families are able to achieve a great deal. Over 70% of them find employment and housing. They become self-reliant and provide stability for their children.

Mercedes is an example of one of our families who recently found success during her stay in our Network. It has been almost two months since Mercedes and her son, Rylan, left our Network to share a home with a family member. Mercedes recently applied for a position at a nationally known company, where she was previously employed as a seasonal worker. Mercedes was rehired, and having had a positive experience as a seasonal worker, she is grateful for this second opportunity. In addition, Mercedes continues to work part-time as a recruiter at a local mall, a position she obtained prior to leaving the Network. Along with keeping busy with work, Mercedes is also enjoying the joys of motherhood. During a recent visit, Mercedes excitedly told IHN staff that Rylan is now walking and beginning to talk. She also mentioned that she is very happy with his current daycare provider because, "He's really learning a lot." Mercedes is very optimistic about her future housing prospects. She recently called one of the subsidized housing programs where she is on the waiting list and was told that she should be able to move into a unit within the next six months.

We also recently heard from Christina. She and her four children were in our Network a year ago. When she graduated from our Network she moved into an apartment through a transitional housing program. This program has allowed her to pursue an Associate's degree in Radiology. She hopes to receive her degree soon.

Our families overcome a lot to better their lives, we are so proud of them!

Thank you Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church 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.