



Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line

Embrace. Inspire. Restore.

A Self-Sufficiency Program for Homeless Families

Newsletter, Spring 2013

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Great Music, Great Food, and a Great Time

A good time was had by all at our 4th annual IHN – Main Line Opening Hearts and Opening Doors Fundraiser! Once again IHN – Main Line volunteers and supporters gathered for our spring fundraiser on April 21, 2013. We want to thank Appleford in Villanova for providing a beautiful venue for this event. This year we were lucky to have the John Grecia Band grace us with their blend of classic rock, jazz, and original pieces. They played for over an hour as our guests enjoyed a picnic dinner and danced to the beat.

The event raised over \$43,000 and after expenses made over \$34,000 for the IHN – Main Line self-sufficiency programs. We appreciate everyone who participated in the event by providing sponsorships, contributing to IHN, and of course, coming to the event.



The John Grecia Band



Bob and Jill Bukata

Rhonda Mordy, the Fundraising Committee Chairperson, remarked, "The gorgeous weather was only outshined by the wonderful time everyone had at the Benefit Concert! The John Grecia Band got the crowd dancing and the warm celebration of IHN – Main Line's efforts

to eliminate homelessness through volunteerism and congregational goodwill was evident through the cheers, laughter and camaraderie on Appleford's lovely terrace. A dedicated Fundraising Committee and Board made the Benefit a great success."



Photographer: Warren Ayres

A Special Thank You to the Sponsors of our Fundraiser

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More Photos from the event



Ulf and Kristin Cahn von Seelen



*Dick Hammond, Sister Anne Woodeshick,
and Fr. James Martinez*



Chana Burnham and Brenda Hoelman

Photographer: Warren Ayres

Make a secure PayPal donation to IHN – Main Line through our website www.IHNCares.org by clicking on the Donate button.

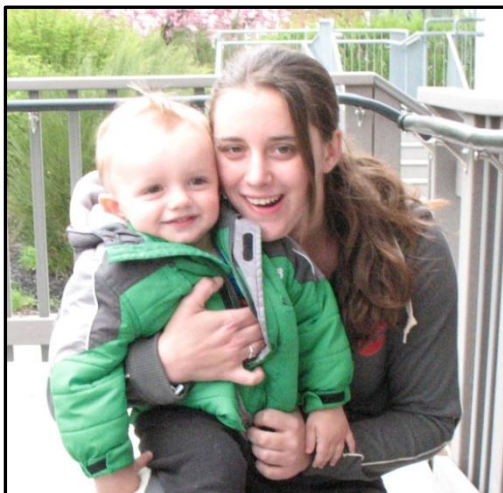
Valerie

Valerie, a recent graduate, came to us with a long history of housing instability. She and her children had not had the experience of being rooted in any one particular place for any great length of time. Fortunately, Valerie was able to participate in - and complete - IHN's three-month program. As a result, her oldest son didn't have to switch schools and say good-bye to his favorite teacher. Her youngest son was enrolled in daycare and became more independent in the process. Valerie, for her part, used the structure of the program to her advantage: She looked for work, saved money, embarked upon a search for permanent housing, worked on improving her parenting skills, became more knowledgeable about money matters and found comfort in having a safe person in which to confide in during her weekly sessions with IHN's therapist. Valerie also benefitted from the regular, ongoing emotional support she received from IHN volunteers and staff. Upon exiting the program, Valerie and children moved in with a friend. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers as she continues to look for permanent housing and employment.



Supportive Housing Program Update

With the generous support of the 25th Century Foundation and St. David's Episcopal Church we are ready to launch our Supportive Housing Program. This program will use program funds to lease houses and apartments in Montgomery County, creating stable and affordable housing for homeless families with children for up to 5 years. This will allow the single mothers to earn a degree or certificate in an approved education program. All the participants will be required to work part-time and to attend an approved education program at least part-time. Additionally, we will provide supportive services to these families. We are currently interviewing potential SHP participants and hope to have one or two families in this program by the end of the summer. We are very excited about this new program which will afford single mothers the opportunity to rise out of poverty.



Marisa

Marisa entered our program determined to find employment, but first she needed child care for her son. IHN - Main Line facilitated this process by paying for Marisa's child care expenses while she waited to become eligible for government subsidized child care funding. Once child care was no longer a barrier, Marisa was able to focus intensely on her job search. Working with IHN's case manager, Marisa updated her resume, prepared a list of references and went shopping for interview appropriate clothing. Within a short time, Marisa found a job with a behavioral healthcare services company. IHN - Main Line assisted Marisa in obtaining the clearances her employer needed before she could officially start her new job working one-on-one with an autistic child. Marisa's background and interest is in working with children, and we wish her much success in her chosen line of work.

Submitted by Sonya Reynolds, IHN Case Manager

Message from the Board Chairperson

What a wonderful turnout we had at this year's "***Opening Hearts, Opening Doors***" fundraiser at Lower Merion's ***Appleford***. The gorgeous day, your enthusiasm, good food and the energy of John Grecia's band contributed to its great success.

I want to thank all who attended, were Sponsors (including John Grecia's band) and who made personal donations. Support of our mission from individuals like you must continue, and must grow in order to fund our budgetary needs as state, county and federal funds are being cut or re-directed.

We have need also of at least two additional host congregations, so please, if you have personal contacts at other Main Line congregations, network with us! Adding these hosting sites would mean that each congregation hosts only four times a year, instead of five.

We are so grateful for the two generous grants that will enable us to embark on our Supportive Housing initiative.

So, there is lots of good news and thank you!

Susan W. Ayres
Board Chair



A Benefit Concert for IHN – Main Line

St. John United Methodist Church put on a concert to benefit IHN – Main Line. The concert was held on Sunday, April 14 and the audience enjoyed the music performed by Raymond Brebach, flute; Russell Ferrara, guitar; Irina Schuck, violin; William Gatens, organ; and Clyde Shive, organ. Pieces were also song by Susan Lomax, John Stroud, and Marcia Reynolds. The Media Chamber Chorale directed by John Stroud finished the night strong with Yankee Doodle, Exaltation, and First Movement. They were inspiring. It was a great night of music, song and fellowship. A big thank you goes out to Rev. David Tatgenhorst, Lillian Harris, Clyde Shive, Elaine McDermott, Sue Lomax and all the people at St. John United Methodist Church for putting this event together. They raised \$425 for IHN – Main Line. Thank you!

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 homework, 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.