



Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line

Embrace. Inspire. Restore.

A Self Sufficiency Program for Homeless Families

Newsletter, Fall 2012

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1449 DeKalb Street

Norristown, PA 19401

Phone:

610-277-0977

Website:

IHNcares.org

Find us at:

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

A Season for Giving Back

We are entering the holiday season when we pause to remember how thankful we are for all we have, for our health, for our job, for our family, and for our home. We count our blessings as we share the holidays with family and friends and reach out to those in need. IHN – Main Line is grateful for all our volunteers who give back throughout the year by making sure that those less fortunate have shelter and meals.

IHN – Main Line “Pays It Forward” with a Supportive Housing Program

In partnership with our volunteers, IHN – Main Line assists the most vulnerable families in their time of crisis by providing shelter, meals, and comfort. Through our programming we also ensure that our families stabilize their lives by leaving our Network with a paycheck and housing. We are very proud of the families that go through our program and all that they accomplish in three months. But of course, we want to do more.



In the past, some of our families were able to leave our Network and find housing stability in transitional or subsidized housing programs that subsidized their rent. These housing programs allowed them to pursue their education goals. Moms who participated in these programs have been able to study architecture, nursing, radiology technology, business administration, and many other programs. Not only were they able to stabilize their lives, they were also able to improve their lives through education.

IHN – Main Line is once again looking for one more way to give back, or in this case to “pay it forward”, by providing a similar opportunity for select Network families to improve their lives. We have created the Supportive Housing Program which utilizes

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Donate on-line through PayPal to our Supportive Housing Program through our website

www.IHNcares.org by clicking on the Donate button.

We are grateful for our congregations:

Host:

Beth David Reform Congregation
Church of the Redeemer
St. David's Episcopal Church
St. Thomas of Villanova

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
Main Line Unitarian Church
St. John Neumann
Wayne Presbyterian Church

Central Baptist Church
Our Mother of Good Counsel
St. Mary's Episcopal Church/Ardmore

Support:

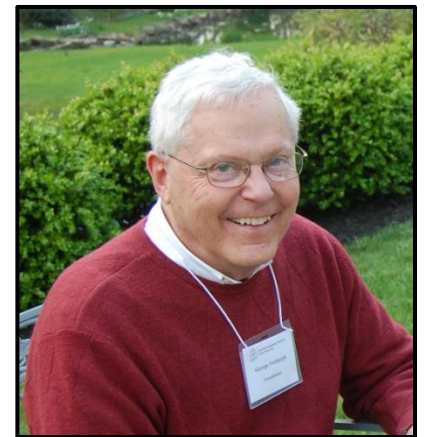
Ardmore Presbyterian Church
Christ Church Episcopal (Ithan)
Gladwyne Presbyterian Church
Mount Calvary Baptist Church
St. George's Episcopal Church
St. Mary's Episcopal Church/Wayne
United Methodist Church of Wayne

Baptist Church in the Great Valley
Church of St. Monica
Haverford Friends Meeting
Radnor Friends Meeting
St. Katherine of Siena
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Zion Baptist Church /Ardmore

Berwyn United Methodist Church
First Baptist Church/Wayne
Main Line Reform Temple
Second Baptist Church/Wayne
St. Luke United Methodist Church
Trinity Church/Gulph Mills

George Vosburgh Nominated for Award

George Vosburgh was recently recognized by the Main Line Media News when he was nominated for their 13th annual Volunteer of the Year award for his dedication and service to IHN – Main Line. He was honored at a ceremony held at the Montrose Mansion at the Villanova Conference Center on October 3, 2012. George is one of our most hard working and dedicated IHN – Main Line volunteers. He joined the IHN – Main Line startup committee at St. David's Episcopal Church in Radnor that brought the Church on board as a host congregation in 2007 and then became their Coordinator. He is the best recruiter of new IHN – Main Line volunteers that we have. Additionally, he has mentored a support congregation and is again taking on this task as a new support congregation contemplates moving into a hosting role. We have no doubt that with his guidance the new congregation will be well prepared to become a host.



IHN – Main Line Pay It Forward...continued from page 1

program funds to lease houses and apartments in Montgomery County, creating stable and affordable housing for these families. Additionally, it provides supportive services to the families living in those leased units. All program participants will be required to work part-time and to attend an approved education program at least part-time.

Our objective is that over 4 or 5 years these families will earn a degree or certificate and become truly



self-sufficient. Although we will give them this opportunity it will be the families that provide the hard work. They will follow in the footsteps of Dorothy who received an Associate's Degree in Architecture, or Syherah who received a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, or Nakia who is two courses short of an Associate's Degree in Business. Not only will they break their cycle of poverty, they will become example for their children and hopefully these children will go on to also realize their education goals.

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

IHN – Main Line Welcomes a New Clinical Therapist

Laura Malhotra, M.A., L.C.P. took over as the Clinical Therapist in October. She meets with the adults in our program on an individual basis to help them cope with the stress and depression associated with their homelessness. With her assistance, our families will have an easier stay in our program as they rebuild their lives. We are grateful to have her on board.

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 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.

Message from the Board Chairperson

As we come to the end of this calendar year I note on my calendar many holidays, most of which ultimately are dedicated to giving thanks for one thing or another. We have much to be grateful for and I believe this is what motivates our congregations to be hosts and the Coordinators, Volunteers and Board members to serve. The families in the network may be at the most challenging point in their lives, having exhausted all resources, but they have not given up hope and are indeed thankful to you all for the shelter and safety of your congregations, the nourishment of the food that you provide and the warmth of your love. IHN-Main Line cannot provide the home they have at the Day Center, the van that transports them to and from the congregations, the services of our Executive Director and Case Manager, parenting and budgeting/financial management classes or personal counseling without generous donations from individuals, foundations and our host and support congregations. The Board has recently approved expanding our outreach to include a Supportive Housing Program, which means helping our graduates and perhaps some others with short and long term rental assistance, as they pursue their educational goals to become self-sufficient.

Please join me in making a generous contribution to the mission of IHN-Main Line as an expression of your gratitude for your good fortune and for the many blessings of your life.

Susan W. Ayres

We are appreciative of our community partners:

Binky Patrol
Cradles to Crayons
Genesis Housing Corporation
Greater Philadelphia Diaper Bank
Literacy Council of Norristown
Startin' School in Style

We are thankful for our foundation supporters:

Ally Bank	Merion Foundation
Beneficial Savings Bank	Montgomery County Foundation
Citizens Bank/Champion in Action	Montgomery County Medical Society Foundation
Fourjay Foundation	Morgan Stanley Foundation
Genuardi's (Employees) Foundation/Safeway	Neighborhood League of Shops Foundation
Genuardi Family Foundation	The Grace S. & W. Linton Nelson Foundation
GT Foundation	Pierce Family Foundation
Patricia Kind Family Foundation	Lawrence Saunders Fund



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1449 DeKalb Street
Norristown, PA 19401

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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: 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 and click on the Make a Donation link.