



Interfaith Hospitality Network of the Main Line

Embrace. Inspire. Restore.

Self Sufficiency Programs for Homeless Families

Newsletter, Fall 2014

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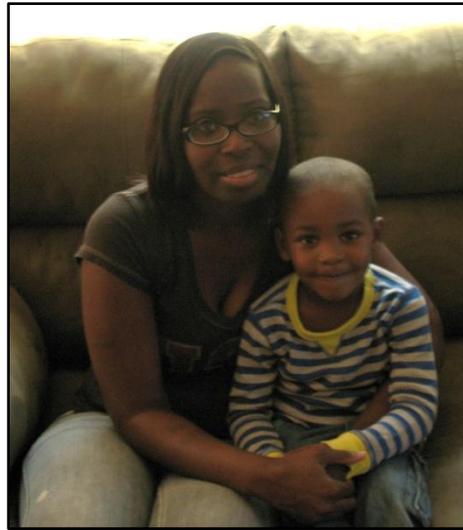
Day Center
1449 DeKalb Street
Norristown, PA 19401

Phone:
610-277-0977

Website:
IHNcares.org

Find us at:
Facebook.com/IHNmainline

Housing for Success Program



IHN – Main Line welcomes a new family into our Housing for Success Program (formerly our Supportive Housing Program). Natasha and her four year old son moved into a new apartment in Eagleville in August 2014. She is enrolled in the criminal justice associate's program at Kaplan University. She hopes to graduate with an associate's degree in December 2015. So far she is doing great in her classes so we expect that she will reach her goal with ease.

This program is made possible through the generous support of the 25th Century

Foundation and St. David's Church. With their help IHN – Main Line is able to utilize program funds to lease an apartment for Natasha, guaranteeing her and her son stable housing as she pursues her degree.

In addition to attending school part-time Natasha will also work part-time to secure the funds for her other expenses. Additionally, Tiffany, our Case Manager, will continue to provide her with case management services, to help her navigate her way through the next three years.

Meet Tiffany Our New Case Manager

We are so pleased to welcome Tiffany Jones, B.A. as our new case manager. She joined our team in May 2014 and jumped right into her new role. Her firm but pleasant attitude has been a real plus around the office and with our families. She brings over 10 years of case management and social service experience to her position and works intensively with our families. She motivates them, helps them establish goals, provides job coaching, and assists our families in finding the resources they need to live independently.



Donate on-line through PayPal to our Housing for Success Program through our website www.IHNcares.org by clicking on the Donate button.

A Big Thank You to our Foundation Supporters

25th Century Foundation
Betty and Leo Balzereit Foundation
Beneficial Savings Bank
Breaking the Cycle Foundation
Louis N. Cassett Foundation
Connelly Foundation
Fourjay Foundation
Genuardi Family Foundation
GT Foundation
Montgomery County Medical Society Foundation
[Neighborhood League Shops Foundation](#)
Pierce Family Foundation
Lawrence Saunders Foundation
Volpe & Koenig Ipromise Charitable Giving Fund
Your Way Home Capacity Grant

Save the Date - Spring Fundraiser April 19, 2015

Please save the date of April 19, 2015 for our annual “Opening Hearts & Opening Doors” celebration and fundraiser. We enjoy celebrating the successes of the past year at this event but also look forward to raising funds to support the many life-skills programs and counseling that train our families for sustainable independence.

Your Way Home Update

As you may recall IHN – Main Line has been working with the Montgomery County Your Way Home initiative. Through this partnership we have been accepting referrals from only Montgomery County residents and through the Your Way Home Call Center. The initiative also has established Housing Resource Centers where our families can access a new rapid rehousing program that helps families with first month/last month/security deposit to get into their own apartment then declining levels of help with rent from 3 to 6 months. This year nine of our families/single women received help through this new program.

Unfortunately, there are now waiting lists for the rapid rehousing program and our current families will not be able to access the program. The families are assessed by the call center and given a score and then priority is given to those with the highest scores. Our families tend to score in the midrange level so they tend to continuously be bumped down the list. We will continue to work with the HRCs hoping that things will improve for our families in the future.

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.

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. ***Thank 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. Christopher’s Episcopal Church
St. Katherine of Siena
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church/Wayne
Washington Memorial Chapel
Zion Baptist Church /Ardmore

Baptist Church in the Great Valley
Christ Church (Ithan)
First Baptist Church/Wayne
Main Line Reform Temple
Second Baptist Church/Wayne
St. George’s Episcopal Church
St. Luke United Methodist Church
St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wayne United Methodist Church

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 Volunteers, Coordinators, Board Members, 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:

- November 8, 2014 at St. John Neumann, 380 Highland Lane, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
- December 14, 2014 at St. Katherine of Sienna, 104 South Aberdeen Avenue, Wayne, PA 19087
- January 10, 2015 at St. Christopher’s Church, 226 Righters Mill Road, Gladwyne, PA 19035
- February 14, 2015 at Our Mother of Good Counsel, 31 Pennswood Rd., Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
- March 14, 2015 at St. Thomas of Villanova, 1229 E. Lancaster Ave., Rosemont, PA 19010
- April 11, 2015 TBA
- May 9, 2015 at Main Line Unitarian Church, 816 S. Valley Forge Road, Devon, PA 19333

RSVP Required. Contact: Sue White-Herchek 610-277-0977 or suewherchek@verizon.net

Family Updates

Danielle

Sweet Danielle and her little boy are doing well. She has gone through a lot this past year but has proven to be resilient. She especially benefited from the counseling she received from Debbie. She helped her on her darkest days. Not being a very verbal person it was hard for her to always express her gratitude to the volunteers, who always seemed to be there for her. After some setbacks (none of which were her fault) she was able to prevail and move into an apartment with the help of the YWH Rapid Rehousing Program.

Tionna

Tionna is still with us in our third floor apartment of our Day Center that we utilize as an interim unit for our families that need a little extra time to make it on their own. You may remember her; she sure remembers and is grateful for the volunteers in our Network program. She is especially thankful to the folks who helped when she had to go to the emergency room. Tionna has had a hard time with her pregnancy, but she and her baby are currently fine. She is due November 22. I know she is anxious for that day to come. If you would like to help Tionna prepare for the new arrival we are still accepting gifts at the IHN – Main Line office. Some things she still needs include: a stroller, car seat, diapers, sheets/blankets for a crib, clothing, and bottles.

Jessica

While in our program Jessica used her time wisely. She did not have welfare, a job, or housing when she entered the program. With the help of our case manager she was quickly able to obtain medical insurance, food stamps and cash assistance. With the job coaching she received she was able to find and start a job at Giant. She also learned the value of saving and saved her cash assistance and first few pay checks to help her with moving expenses. She was one of the lucky ones who was able to receive assistance finding and affording an apartment with the new Your Way Home Rapid Rehousing Program. They will continue to help her for 6 months at which time she will be ready to make it on her own.

Nequeah

Nequeah and daughter recently left our Network program. During her stay with us she was able to use the case management offered her and update her resume and references before looking for employment. She was able to find a job in King of Prussia, working there while in our program. She moved out into the house of a relative shortly after starting her employment so that she could work evening hours. She is so grateful to all the volunteers and staff for all they helped her with while in the program.

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 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. Two new partnerships include:

Dignity U Wear www.dignityuwear.org

Based in Florida, Dignity U Wear gives brand new clothing to schools and nonprofit agencies serving those in need. For the price of shipping we can receive new clothes for the women and children in our program.

One House at a Time www.ohaat.org

One House at a Time delivers new twin beds and linens to children that don't have a bed, so they can get a good night of sleep. Founded in 1998 and supported by volunteers OHAAT works from Upper Dublin to provide beds for children.

Some long standing partnerships include:

The Addis Group, www.theaddisgroup.com

The Addis Group oversees the risk management, workforce and insurance needs of commercial and individual clients throughout the United States and abroad. They provide our families with Christmas gifts at Christmas.

Cradles to Crayons, 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 (0 to 12 years) 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

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.

HeartWork Organizing, www.heartworkorg.com

Darla DeMorrow provides organizing services for anyone that wants to organize a part of their home. She also provides our families with a life skills class on organizational skills.

Impact Thrift Stores, 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

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.

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

Check out our updated website at www.IHNCares.org.

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 or 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.

Collaboration in Action

IHN – Main Line works because of our partnerships with area congregations. We truly collaborate to provide shelter and meals for homeless families. Sometimes these collaborations go further than the usual host and support congregation. For example, St. David's Episcopal Church in Radnor is undergoing some major construction and is unable to use its facility to host our families during 2014 and 2015. Luckily for us our other congregations stepped in to help out. Main Line Unitarian Church, another one of our host congregations, is providing space for St. David's during some of St. David's hosting weeks. St. David's volunteers are still providing the staffing, but in the MLUC facility. Also, St. Christopher Episcopal Church in Gladwyne, a very new support congregation, has also made their facility available to St. David's during St. David's hosting weeks. Again St. David's volunteers will travel to St. Christopher's to host our families in that facility. This is collaboration in action, working together within the faith community to provide vital services to those in need. Other congregations have also shared their space in the past. We are sincerely grateful to them for their service.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Congregation: _____