



Johnson County  
Interfaith  
Hospitality  
Network

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# IHN Family Update



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## Empowering Homeless Families by Engaging People of Faith

### Host Congregations

Asbury United Methodist  
First Christian Church,  
Olathe  
Grace Covenant  
Presbyterian  
Knox Presbyterian  
Leawood Baptist  
Olathe Bible  
Overland Park Christian  
Prairie Baptist  
Shawnee United  
Methodist  
Southminster  
Presbyterian

### Support Congregations

Church of the Ascension  
Church of the Holy Cross  
Colonial UCC  
Countryside Christian  
Curé of Ars Catholic  
Hillcrest Covenant  
Indian Heights UMC  
Just Faith/ Good  
Shepherd Catholic  
Leawood United  
Methodist  
Leawood Presbyterian  
Midland Islamic Council  
New Life Community  
Church of Seventh Day  
Adventists  
North Point Church  
Olathe Evangelical  
Covenant  
Old Mission UMC  
Or Hadash  
Reconstructionist  
Overland Park  
Presbyterian  
Shawnee Mission  
Unitarian Universalist  
St. Mark's UMC  
St. Michael's and  
All Angels  
St. Paul's UMC  
St. Thomas the Apostle  
Episcopal  
Church of the  
Resurrection  
Valley View UMC

## A Community Response to Homelessness

The face of homelessness in Johnson County looks just like your neighbor's. Homelessness is not always chronic. It is often situational, due to job layoffs, illness, or divorce. United Community Services of Johnson County conducted a one day, point-in-time "Homeless Census" in 2007 which founded that there were 293 homeless persons in Johnson County. Of these, nearly half were children under 18 years of age. Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network serves as one of only TWO shelters for homeless families in Johnson County. Yet, the two shelters combined only have the capacity to house less than 10% of those in need.

IHN was established with a unique service model that is incredibly efficient and cost-effective by utilizing existing community space for overnight shelter (congregational facilities) and the support of over 1,800 trained volunteers. In 2009, our valuable volunteers provided more than 230,000 hours of service! Our comprehensive service model provides shelter, meals, transportation, and social services.

Poverty, even if situational, is a multi-faceted problem requiring a structured program that tackles the root causes of homelessness, not just the symptoms. IHN provides a short-term safety net of stability and support while empowering homeless families to rebuild their lives for the long-term.

After six years of "foundation building," IHN's emphasis is now on long-term sustainability by focusing on three primary goals over the next three to five years:

- 1.) Building awareness about and heightening visibility of IHN within the community it serves
- 2.) Increasing the number of congregations in the Network (capacity building)
- 3.) Strengthening financial resources

Within the pages of this newsletter, we hope that you will be inspired by the success stories and our treasured volunteers. Please join us as part of CLUB 180, our campaign to turn homelessness around in Johnson County (more information can be found on the back page).

## How You Can Help

### • Individual Levels of Giving

Donations enable us to help needy families! Share your commitment to our mission by being a part of CLUB 180 with your annual contribution of \$180.



TURNING Homelessness AROUND  
in Johnson County,  
one family at a time

As always, donations of any size are appreciated.

### • Share the Good News of IHN

Help increase IHN's visibility in the community by passing this newsletter to your friends, family, and colleagues. Also, consider leaving a copy in waiting rooms, your place of business, or at your congregation.



## Wish List Items

- Target gift cards (\$25 each)
- Gasoline cards (\$20 each)
- Toilet paper
- Clorox wipes

These items can be mailed or brought to the Family Center during business hours.

**2009**  
Year in Review

53 individuals served  
9,756 meals served  
3,252 bed nights

The average stay was  
62 days

Successful golf tournament: \$37,000 raised

Family Center Make-over! Thanks to Debbie & Vito Barbieri and Cheryl Smith!

New video created to promote IHN to potential funders and website visitors

Featured in KCPT documentary "Weathering the Storm" August 27, 2009

Listed and reviewed on Guidestar (through the Greater KC Community Foundation), critical to receiving funding from local foundations. Thanks to Linda Stinnett!



**Volunteers provided over 230,000 hours of service!**

See the impact of In-Kind donations of time, food, and wish list items on the income and expense graphs of page 3.



A word from our Executive Director  
**The Gift of Renewal: Positive Generational Impact**

Vicki L. Dercher, MSW, LSCSW

Spring, the season which brings vibrant colors, wonderful fragrances (for those not struggling with allergies), and longer days filled with sunlight. As our change in seasons brings renewal, I would like to once again remind all of you of the tremendous gift of renewal you make possible for our guest families.

Positive generational impact: a term I often use to describe the gift inherent in our work through Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network. From June 8, 2004 to March 30, 2010 the combined efforts of our IHN family have "lifted up" 270 individuals. Of the 270 individuals, 163 were children who would not have had a meal to eat or a pillow on which to lay their head to sleep. Our congregations and volunteers working together have provided 19,525 bed-nights, and 58,575 meals.

Our IHN family continues to grow, both in trained volunteers, as well as new congregations.

As of our most recent volunteer training, we are now 1,802 trained volunteers strong. Over the last several months, four new support congregations and one community group joined our family.

Please welcome North Point Church, Indian Heights United Methodist Church, Leawood United Methodist Church, St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church, as well as the Midland Islamic Council.

Recently, a beautiful ten year old girl walked through our doors at the Family Center with tears in her eyes. Her parents were crying, she was crying, leading to the tears of her four younger siblings. This family was being admitted to our program. This young girl looked at me as I handed her a Kleenex and asked "do you remember me"? I replied that I did, and told her that I was glad to see her again. She went on to say,

"I used to donate my birthday money to IHN when my mom volunteered at the Family Center, now I need to live here".  
**IHN is filled with dedicated volunteers who daily share their time, talents, and treasures with our guest families. The sacrifices which each of you make to support our guest families are a gift which cannot be measured**

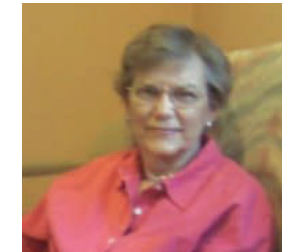
*Feel the love and gratitude of your IHN Family*

**in monetary value. Instead, it is measured by the positive generational impact your sacrifices have and will continue to have on our guest families. The laughter and smiles on the faces of the children are a daily gift for all of us that support IHN. Your love, compassion, and commitment are a rich blessing for all of our guest families. Whether we see their successes daily, or we are a catalyst for future success, we are all blessed by the abundant gifts inherent in IHN.**

**Volunteer Spotlight**

Lois Wimpey has been a treasured volunteer with IHN since its inception. She is the co-Primary Coordinator of Overland Park Christian Church with Steve Glasscock. Lois may be familiar to our newest volunteers as a member of the Volunteer Training Team with Linda Stinnett, Dola McNown, Joan Wade, Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney, Suzanne Hicks, and Yvonne Pickerill. Lois says, "The trainings are fun because we get to see

those who are energetic about becoming part of this ministry." Now that volunteer trainings are led by the training team, new volunteers can see that IHN is an organization that wouldn't exist without the support of volunteers.



"A wonderful thing to me has been to see how guests take care of each other. We've had mothers come in traumatized, and you can see other guests help them make adjustments and to see that they were going to survive."

Most of all, Lois loves the opportunity to see the excitement of our guests when they graduate from the program and move into their own homes.

**A Congregation United by Service**

**Overland Park Christian Church**  
Host Congregation supported by **Hillcrest Covenant and Church of the Holy Cross**

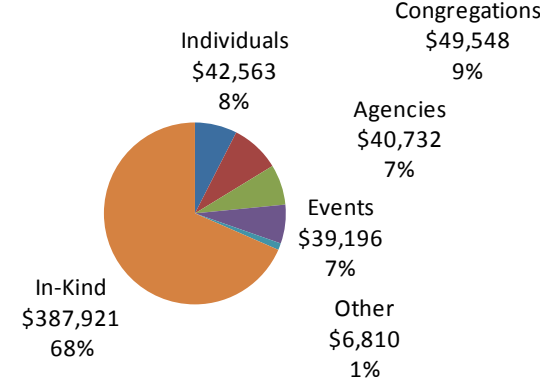
"We wouldn't be able to do it on our own without support congregations. It is a wonderful way to make friends with people of faith that we wouldn't have met otherwise. The sharing of experiences



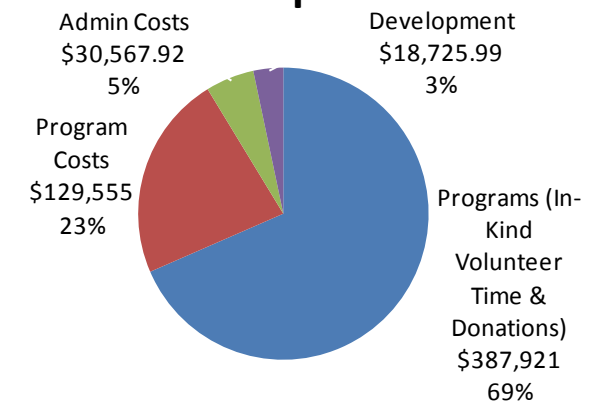
is fun," says Lois Wimpey. "It feels like we are doing something right when established guests feel a sense of comfort and ownership while staying at our congregation, and feel like they can help orient new guests to the facilities. It's also amazing to me that a child can go through the whole rotation of 10 congregations and come back to OPGC and remember where everything is and what toys they like."

**2009 Year-End Financial Summary**

**2009 Income**



**2009 Expenses**



**CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**

IHN relies on the generous support of volunteers and donations from corporations, congregations and individuals. Please consider becoming an IHN sponsor, **gain exposure** to hundreds of caring people, and **do great work in the process!**

◇ **GOLD** \$2500/year  
*Featured on our website, emails, and letterhead.*

◇ **SILVER** \$1000/year  
*Logo on our website, emails, and letterhead.*

◇ **BRONZE** \$500/year  
*Listed on our website.*

All corporate sponsors have their corporate hand-outs at IHN events. Donations are tax deductible and are welcome at all levels.

**Volunteer Needs**

- 1.) IHN is seeking an **event coordinator** to be a team leader for a one-time fundraising event. No experience required!
- 2.) IHN has exciting opportunities on our committees, and is currently seeking professionals with experience in **public relations and marketing**. To learn more, email Elizabeth Barker, ebarker@nw.org