



**Rochester Area
Interfaith
Hospitality
Network**

RAIHN Mission

*We are a not-for-profit,
non-denominational
group of faith
communities helping
homeless families
achieve sustainable
independence.*

RAIHN

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Director@rainh.org

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RAIHN

Weather Report

Providing an Interfaith Solution for Homeless Families



A Letter from Nancy Frank The New President of RAIHN

I would like to thank the RAIHN Board for giving me the opportunity to become the third President of RAIHN. We are delighted that Rod Frohman will be staying with RAIHN as a Board member. He leaves enormous shoes to fill! Rod's energy and passion for RAIHN are evident in every facet of the RAIHN organization. We offer many thanks to Rod for his incredible commitment, energy and just plain hard work that continued to build us into a stronger organization!

I have served RAIHN as Vice President since 2003 and have helped to form three other non profits since 1985; Project Intervention, a drug and alcohol awareness organization; Water for Sudan, Inc., a well drilling project to provide fresh water in southern Sudan; and the American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan where I served as first volunteer Executive Director. In addition to RAIHN my other passion is Sudan and I have been to southern Sudan and lead trips there five times.

I became aware of the National Interfaith Hospitality Network in 1994 while I was Coordinator of Mission and Outreach at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. I was so glad to be a part of the founding group of Rochester's network! And now we are five years old!

Continued on page 2

RAIHN Turns Five Celebration Planned for May 6th

April 26th marks RAIHN's 5th year of providing services to families in Rochester. We have just received news that Karen Olson, founder of the National Interfaith Hospitality network, now called "Family Promise," will come to Rochester to celebrate with us on May 6th.

Our incredible results over five years are detailed on the chart on page 3, in short:

- 164 guest families removed from homelessness
- 521 individuals served (304 children, 159 adult females and 58 adult males)
- 1,480 volunteers trained
- Adults placed in employment: 217
- Average length of stay in our program: 35 days
- 96% of our families have remained out of homelessness for one year

Our Fifth Anniversary events will include Ms. Olson speaking to our Host and Supporting Clergy at the Clergy Luncheon at 12 noon, May 6th at Asbury Methodist Church. An event is scheduled for Coordinators from 6-8 PM, May 6th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (corner of Westminster and East Ave, across from the George Eastman House).

Nancy Elliott: Our New Interim Director of RAIHN

When Erica Vera announced that she would be leaving RAIHN last August, she recommended that we consider Nancy Elliott as an Interim Director. It has been the Board's pleasure to become acquainted with, and to work with Nancy. She had been our outstanding Roberts Wesleyan intern and she has been working as the Network Director position as she finishes her MSW at Roberts Wesleyan this May. Rod Frohman said it well "Nancy Elliott is exactly the right kind of interim director we need now for RAIHN!" Nancy is making her mark on the Interim job. She and this year's intern, Michelle Fulmer, are working to bring "Life Skills" discussions into every



A Guest's Story By Michelle Fulmer, RAIHN's Roberts Wesleyan Intern

In October of 2008 Jowanna and her three boys, DJ, Keith, and Zierre, entered the RAIHN program in a crisis mode. After using up all her family's last resources, Jowanna was overwhelmed with the immediate concerns of finding housing, food, and a safe environment for her children. She looked to RAIHN for help and support.

The staff and volunteers were impressed by Jowanna's sweet, kind spirit and how her three boys mirrored their mom's attitude. While at RAIHN, Jowanna and her children made the most out of their current situation. DJ and Keith were always willing to help with chores around the Day Center. Not surprisingly, an occasional candy treat did spur on some motivation. With

great enthusiasm, DJ and Keith would come bouncing in the office everyday asking, "Do the windows need cleaning, is the trash full, can we sweep today?" One day, their eagerness provided a learning experience for the staff. Soon after handing them a large packet of window wipes they returned empty handed. Asking what happened to the wipes, they proclaimed, "We used them all, the windows are very clean." In the future we learned to specify only one wipe per window. During the Christmas season, D.J. and Keith also enjoyed making ornaments for the office Christmas tree.

Jowanna would fill the Day Center with enticing aromas from the kitchen and she was always quick to share with the staff and other RAIHN guests.

Although Jowanna faced many serious situations her humor and positive outlook served as an example for other families in the program. With a combination of case management, volunteer support, and Jowanna's motivation she found permanent housing for her family.

Jowanna told us, "The RAIHN program provided stability for me and my family and the reassurance to know that I have what it takes to make it in today's society". Jowanna graduated from RAIHN in January and continues to make strides. She is currently working and is looking forward to a new addition, a baby boy, to her family in May.



Guest children making Gingerbread houses



Musical Evening with guests at St. Paul's

Letter from Nancy Frank *Continued from Page 1*



Do I have a vision for the next few years at RAIHN? Just to become stronger and better at what we do! All systems are being revisited and refined. Committees are hard at work, the strategic plan is guiding us and the Board is full of energy! To all of you, who volunteer at RAIHN in some way, thank you!

Our mission of caring for families makes a huge difference, one family at a time. In these months of even more stress and strain on families due to the economy let us continue to serve our guests, one person at a time. Our kindnesses, meals, and conversations

transmit our mission of care. Yes, it is important for RAIHN officers and Board to lead but **the real heart of RAIHN is in you, the volunteer. Please know how much RAIHN appreciates you!**

Nancy Frank, President

Nancy Elliot: New Interim Director Continued

guest's program. Nancy has researched and networked with many of the area's homeless resources; the Homeless Services Network as well as other County Department of Human Services providers. There is a normal cycle of development in the creation of

a viable non-profit. Erica magnificently birthed RAIHN and left us in a position of great strength after 4 ½ years. Nancy has stepped into the job and worked with all the office systems and RAIHN committees to move RAIHN on to the next phase of RAIHN's development. Nancy was

Office Manager and Administrator of Touchstone Technology for 15 years before going for her B.S.W and now her M.S.W. She has served various internships in social work throughout the Rochester social service community and has worked

fulltime in the Family Outreach Program as a Preventive Social Worker at SPCC of Rochester for 3 years and as a Community Based Clinician on the General Prevent Team at Hillside Children's Center for one year. We welcome her!

New Board Members – George Gray, Ruthellen Hoyle, Joanne Ligtenberg and Kathy Weber

We are delighted to welcome to our board four talented new members who bring new skills and experience. **Their pictures can be found on page 4.**

George Gray is a Partner in the Law Firm of Gray & Feldman LLP in Rochester whose practice includes estate and tax planning, and business law. Through his long association with the Learning Disabilities Association and the Norman Howard School Foundation, he has developed an expertise in meeting the legal needs of individuals with disabilities and their families. Mr. Gray is a member of the Monroe County and New York State Bar Associations and is active in Tax, Estate Planning and Elder Law with each association. He has lectured on a variety of tax and estate planning topics throughout Western New York. Mr. Gray received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Hamilton College, Clinton, New York and his Juris Doctor from Albany Law School of

Union University. Mr. Gray lives in the City's southeast side and he is married with one adult son.

Ruthellen Hoyle Since July 1, 2008, Ruthellen has been the Pastor of the Wesley United Methodist Church. Prior to that (July 1, 2000-July 1, 2008) Ruthellen was the Superintendent of the United Methodist Churches in the Genesee Valley District which is composed of 75 churches in and for 50 miles around Rochester. Prior to 2000 Ruthellen was the pastor of three churches in Western New York: Friendship, Holley and Hilton. She graduated in 1987 from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. She professes that this is her third career. The others were accountant and elementary school teacher. Ruthellen enjoys the arts (including dance, art, music) nature and reading. Ruthellen is married to Gary and lives in Churchville. Gary is an accountant with the Urban League.

Joanne Ligtenberg was born and raised on a farm in South Dakota, educated in a one room school house and attended Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. She worked for the Health Association for 13 years and coordinated exercise classes for people with Arthritis in a four-county area, taught parenting skills classes to inmates at the Monroe Correctional Facility and was Assistant Director of two Wellness Centers in the inner city of Rochester. After retiring in 2003 she continues to teach water fitness classes at the Northwest YMCA.

“My husband and I live in the suburb of Greece and attend Messiah Lutheran Church which is a RAIHN support congregation. We have two adult daughters, one son-in-law and one teen age grandson in the area. We particularly enjoy travel with elder hostels and hopefully will be able to travel with them to the Canadian Maritime Provinces this fall.”

Kathy Weber has lived in the Rochester area for 42 years and raised two daughters in the Greece/Hilton area. Kathy comes to RAIHN with 15 years of experience in Chemical Addiction and Abuse Counseling. She has worked for 7 years at the SUNY Brockport Counseling Center as a counselor and alcohol and other drug educator. She retired in December of 2007 but got called back this semester to do part time counseling. Before she worked in the AOD field she worked for Habitat for Humanity, as the volunteer and special events coordinator and the YMCA of Greater Rochester in various capacities for over 30 years. For fun Kathy likes to ski, swim, teach a water exercise class at the Northwest YMCA, spend time with grandchildren and volunteer now with RAIHN. She lives on Lake Ontario with her partner, Nat Goodhartz.

RAIHN by the Numbers – The Director's Report Through December 31, 2008

Dates	# families	# individuals served	# of children	Adult females	Adult males	Bed nights	Number of meals	Average Stay	Casework Interventions	Families placed permanent housing	Clients enrolled MCC	Clients enrolled in vocational education	Discharged	Adults placed in employment	Clients on permanent disability	Families placed in other shelters	Families placed with relatives	Families returned to homelessness	Volunteers trained	Families remaining in housing for one year minimum
5/1/04-12/31/04	36 families; 100 persons	100	56	35	9	2,688	8,062	32	25/family	24	6	11	7	18	5	2	3	2 of 24 families	600	22 of 24 (92%)
1/05-12/05	30 families; 97 persons	97	57	31	9	3,897	11,700	41	25/family	18	2	5	5	16	7	1	6	1 of 18	550	17 of 18 (94%)
1/06-12/06	36 families; 123 persons	123	74	34	15	3,884	11,652	28	25/family	26	0	0	1	20	11	0	7	0 of 26 families	130	25 out of 26 (96%)
1/07-12/07	27 families; 90 persons	90	51	26	13	4,120	12,360	41	25/family	22	2	5	2	13	10	0	4	0 of 22 families	120	22 out of 22 (100%)
1/08-12/08	35 families; 111 persons	111	66	33	12	3,602	7,204	32	25/family	18	0	0	11	3	4	2	2	1 of 35 families	80	data available January 2010
Aggregate 5-year statistics	164 families; 521 persons	521	304	159	58	18,191	50,978	35 average	25/family	108	10	21	26	32% of 217 adults	37	5	22	4 of 125 families	1,480	86 out of 90 (96% of families)

Host Organizations

The hosts house and feed guest families for one-week periods, four times each year.

Asbury First United Methodist Church
 Brighton Reformed Church
 Church of the Assumption
 Downtown United Presbyterian Church
 First Presbyterian of Pittsford
 First Unitarian Church
 First Universalist Church
 Irondequoit United Church Of Christ
 Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word
 St. Luke's & St. Simon – Cyrene Episcopal
 St. Matthias Episcopal/Trinity Lutheran
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 Temple Sinai
 Third Presbyterian Church
 Trinity Emmanuel Lutheran

Supporting Organizations

Faith communities that provide in-kind and volunteer support to one of the hosting organizations.

Baber AME Church
 Baptist Temple
 Buddhist Peace Fellowship & Zen Center
 Christ Episcopal Church
 Church of the Epiphany
 Church of the Transfiguration
 Messiah Lutheran Church
 Mountain Rise UCC
 New Life Presbyterian Church
 Religious Society of Friends
 Seneca United Methodist
 St. Catherine of Siena
 St. John's Lutheran
 St. Joseph Catholic Church
 St. Louis Catholic Church
 St. Mary's Catholic Church
 St. Paul's Evangelical
 Summerville Presbyterian
 Twelve Corners Presbyterian
 Trinity Reformed Church
 United Church of Pittsford

The Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc. is a New York not-for-profit corporation with 501(c) 3 status. All donations are tax deductible.

Faces of RAIHN



Rod Frohman, Outgoing Board President, current Board Member



George Gray
 New Board Member with Nancy Frank, Board President



Barbara Jablonski,
 RAIHN Grant Writer



Silent Auction October 2008 Annual Dinner



Kathy Weber, new RAIHN Board Member



Deni Mack Annual Dinner Chairperson and Board Member



Ruthellen Hoyle,
 New RAIHN Board Member



Joanne Ligtenberg
 New RAIHN Board Member

Interested in Volunteering?

Our transportation group needs volunteer drivers. We transport our guests M-Sat from the hosting congregation to the Day Center and return them in the afternoon. Call: Dave Poland 586-0742

RAIHN Wish List

RAIHN would be greatly appreciative for the donation of the following:

A PowerPoint Projector

RAIHN is a United Way Agency

United Way Donors can designate Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network - RAIHN - as their official "designee". The official RAIHN ID number is # 2435.