



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 Network Director**

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### **Board of Directors**

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# RAIHN

## Weather Report

*Providing an Interfaith Solution for Homeless Families*

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## New Growth, New Challenges

### A Report from the President

Summer Greetings! This is an important time to be involved with RAIHN – and to keep everyone informed about new developments, people, and activities.

I wanted to let you all know about an important dialogue we had recently at our Annual Clergy Lunch held May 10.

About thirty clergy associated with RAIHN congregations met at lunchtime at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. We enthusiastically heard a report from Ryan Ardrey, our MSW intern from Roberts Wesleyan College, and heard a report from Network Director Erica Vera.

The major portion of the meeting was spent in discussion and gathering advice from the clergy to the RAIHN board about our future development and direction. Several current development issues were presented.

Most importantly, demand on RAIHN services continues to grow: Our region has more homeless families than there are beds available to keep the

families together – our mission is still critical!

There are about 100 families who have “graduated” from our program but who continue to seek case management services. Being placed in housing does not solve all the needs of our guests.

We have generally concluded that “mentoring” by volunteers does not work as we had hoped – for many reasons. Of course, the current families in the network need case management as well – meaning that our case management resources are stretched.

We have concluded that some level of RAIHN expansion is needed.

There was strong support for RAIHN becoming more of an advocacy organization to take on issues regarding the cause of homelessness and to push for local, state and federal legislation on these issues.

There is also concern about the development of our administrative staff. There was an important discussion

about how to create more administrative support for Erica's increasing caseload. Several ideas were proposed. One idea is to have four or five MSW interns (like Ryan) working for RAIHN at the same time. Another is to hire a strong office administrator who could manage much of the day-to-day information flow, computer work, and communication, all done in cooperation with office volunteers.

To be clear, there was no general support for the idea of starting a second network at this time. Such a second network would mean at least doubling our annual costs.

The staff, board and clergy meeting was very productive, and we are considering ways by which we can institutionalize such an advisory group.

These are critical issues for RAIHN, and we welcome the input of volunteers and supporters as we work together to fight homelessness in the greater Rochester area.

**Rod Frohman**  
RAIHN President

## Erica Vera Reports on National Conference

This spring, Erica Vera attended the annual meeting of Family Promise – the national organization that helped start all the Interfaith Hospitality Networks. She reported, “It was a great conference; I met Directors with extensive experience,

who carry a sense of wisdom and seem untouched by the daily struggles of running a shelter.”

Erica was especially interested in gathering information about the development process that

other networks went through, or are going through. She found that we are not alone in our search to define our future. RAIHN, like many other networks, is in the midst of evaluating and redefining its work and the impact we have in the lives of the families we serve.

**Continued on page 3**

## Board Member Returns



RAIHN is pleased to announce the return of Helen Vanderbilt Tiss to the RAIHN Board of Directors. She will serve as Treasurer of the organization.

Before our doors opened in 2004, Helen was critical with the start-up of RAIHN by assisting with Fund Raising and Development planning. Helen has served in the not-for-profit community since the late 1980's, when she began her fund-raising career at the RPO. Subsequent positions included Director of Development for

Visiting Nurse Foundation and the Susan B. Anthony House.

In the 1990's Helen was a member of the Board of the Alzheimer's Association. Helen hopes that her experience and skills in the not-for-profit community will help the Board in fulfilling the RAIHN Mission of serving the homeless.

Helen is an active member of Third Presbyterian Church, singing in the Chancel Choir and serving on the Board of

Deacons. Since retiring in 2002, Helen has kept very busy with community activities, including the OASIS Advisory Board and tutoring high school math in the Greece Central School District. She has taught classes in 'Taking Control of Arthritis' through the Arthritis Foundation. In addition, she loves to travel and often visits her children and grandchildren in Virginia and Colorado.

*Welcome back, Helen!*

## A Congregation's Story

High Holy Days Service at Temple Sinai Mentions RAIHN

*In each issue of this newsletter we try to highlight one of our congregations. Last fall on Rosh Hashana the congregation of Temple Sinai received an address from their President, Liz Ornstein from which we take this excerpt -*

"...Every year the Religious Practices Committee invites people who have contributed in some way to the congregation during the preceding year to participate in the High Holy Day Services as a way of honoring them. Well, this year, as always, there were approximately 100 "slots" available for such honors, but we had 300 people nominated to fill them! Such a problem! Too many volunteers! But you know, this "dilemma" is largely due to one program... Yes, it's the RAIHN program. They submitted a list of close to 200 people! So, this "problem" that we have is all RAIHN's fault. And thank God for that! And thank Sue Stanger, RAIHN's champion, and everyone who works with her, as well.

Recently, the leadership of Temple Sinai has been thinking about just how well we fulfill the "role" of a *Kehillah Kedoshah* – a Sacred Community – and could we improve on it and better meet the needs of our congregants. We are, unquestionably, a good synagogue. The question is, how can we become a great synagogue?

...RAIHN is unquestionably the single most successful (in terms of congregant participation) program that Temple Sinai has ever mounted. People volunteer to participate for RAIHN who haven't been involved in ANY other synagogue activity! I would argue that the reason for this success is precisely that participation meets many of the needs that a great synagogue is designed to meet.

People who volunteer for RAIHN certainly feel welcomed, they know they are doing something important that has great meaning, and the connections that are made with

other congregants are incredibly enriching. The number of friendships that have begun as a result of "sharing a shift" at RAIHN can barely be counted. Participating in RAIHN is a microcosm of what it would be like to participate in a true *Kehillah Kedoshah*...

When we can have this atmosphere of welcome, warmth, purpose and engagement throughout our congregation then we will have truly become a *Kehillah Kedoshah*, a Sacred Community."

Liz wrote us to say – "Thank you so much for all that you do for RAIHN, and thank you for making it possible for Temple Sinai to be a part of RAIHN. Our participation in this incredible program has been nothing less than transformative for our congregation."

*Many thanks to our volunteers from Temple Sinai*



### New Cultural Competency Training

Look for more information this fall about a new training program for volunteers in Cultural Competency. This training class is being funded by a generous grant from **First Unitarian**.

**Many thanks to this congregation for their ongoing support of RAIHN!**

## New Bumper on Our Bus

Dave Poland writes that on October 17<sup>th</sup>, he and his wife drove the RAIHN bus to Penn Yan to be serviced. “The purpose of our trip was to have a new rear bumper and door installed. The bus was purchased from Shepard Ford in Canandaigua in 2004 and manufactured by Coach & Equipment Manufacturers Corporation in Penn Yan. After less than 3 years the rear bumper had some areas of heavy rust. The rear door also had spots of rust. Through Board member Doug Hitchcock’s negotiating skills, the rear

bumper and door were replaced by the manufacturer with no expense to RAIHN. The work was done satisfactorily and very quickly. Two days after we took the bus to Penn Yan I received a call from the manufacturer saying I could come and pick the bus up, it was all fixed!”

Although RAIHN has been in service for three years, the Bus Crew must stay aware of the maintenance required to keep RAIHN rolling safely and smoothly. *Thanks to Dave and Doug!*

## New Member of Bus Driver Crew

*Ted Richmond recently joined the ranks of the RAIHN Bus Drivers.* Ted Richmond and his wife, Mary Lou, have lived in North Chili since the fall of 1970. His wife retired from nursing and Ted from the printing business- employed at Remley, Inc of Albion, NY as VP of Sales and Marketing.

Ted reports that he has

always felt that giving back something to the community in which you live is a responsibility everyone should consider. His community service has included being a member of the Board of Education at the Churchville-Chili School District for 19 years. He was also a dispatcher with the Spencerport Volunteer Ambulance. Ted has been active in his church as a member of Vestry, as Treasurer, and also has been a long time

## National Conference- Continued

Other networks around the country have taken different paths in their development - some have up to 6 full-time employees, others have opened transitional housing programs, some have chosen to open a second network in the community and many have decided to continue to stabilize their existing programs.

RAIHN continues to be a well-known network: Family Promise personnel have asked us to speak about our success in recruiting and retaining volunteers.

Hot topics at this year’s conference included: serving

the undocumented, strategic planning, fundraising, keeping a healthy board, and whether advocacy through a national campaign is a viable strategy.

One guest speaker who had worked with mother Teresa in Calcutta was very inspiring. He advised us not to surrender to the daily struggles with a search for perfection, because “we have not been called to be successful but to be faithful.”

Erica reported: “I came home re-energized and with many ideas, re-connected with my role, and most of it grateful for being a part of RAIHN.”

member of Rotary.

When the Church of the Epiphany was approached to join the RAIHN as a helping church with Trinity Emanuel Lutheran Church, Ted heard they were looking for people to drive the bus. He jumped at the opportunity and says: “Transporting our guests has been a fun experience. The families we have met have given us an insight into the

lives of wonderful people who have met some sort of temporary misfortune. It is inspiring to see so many RAIHN volunteers helping those in need. The RAIHN staff and its volunteers are to be commended for all their hard work in helping these families get back on their feet and to start to put their lives back together again.”

## RAIHN by the Numbers – The Director’s Report

Dates	# Families	# Individuals	# Children	Adult Females	Adult Males	Bed Nights	# meals	Average Stay	Family placed permanent housing	# enrolled MCC	Discharged	# adults employed	# on permanent disability	Families placed with relatives or friends	Returned to homelessness	Trained volunteers	Remained in home for one year minimum
5/04-12/04	36	100	56	35	9	2,688	9,000	32	24	6	7	18	6	2	2 of 25 families; 7 individuals	600+	
1/05-12/05	30	97	57	31	9	3,897	11,700	41	19	2	5	10	10	6	1		26/27
1/06-12/06	36	123	74	34	15	3,884	11,652	28	26	0	1	20	11	7	0	approx. 130	
1/07-5/07	14	46	21	15	10	1,265	3,795	27	10		1	6	8	2	0	65	
<b>totals 3-yr stats</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>158 Adults</b>		<b>11,734</b>	<b>36,147</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3 families</b>	<b>1,200</b>	

## Host Organizations

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

Asbury First United Methodist Church  
 Brighton Reformed Church  
 Church of the Assumption  
 Downtown United Presbyterian Church  
 First Unitarian Church  
 First Universalist Church  
 Irondequoit United Church of Christ  
 Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word  
 St. Luke & 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  
 Baptist Temple  
 Buddhist Peace Fellowship & Zen Center  
 Christ Episcopal Church  
 Church of the Epiphany  
 Church of the Transfiguration  
 First Presbyterian, Pittsford  
 Messiah Lutheran Church  
 Mountain Rise UCC  
 New Life Presbyterian Church  
 Redeemer Lutheran  
 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  
 Trinity Reformed Church  
 Trinity Lutheran 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.*

## A Graduate Speaks

Recently, a member of the RAIHN board had an opportunity to interview one of the RAIHN graduates.

### What was the best part of your experience at RAIHN?

*The most important and powerful thing for us was that we were allowed to keep our dignity. We never felt inadequate or dysfunctional.*

### What about your experience at RAIHN didn't work for you?

*There seemed to be some lack of communication in the very beginning. We were not aware of all of the new rules we needed to follow. Maybe a better structured orientation procedure would help new families be clear about the*

*rules and their responsibilities. Mary Kay at Asbury presented a very clear orientation about the rules there.*

### What part of the RAIHN program worked well for you?

*Erica was the cornerstone for us. She led us through the most difficult time of our lives and allowed us to keep our pride...opened doors for us and LISTENED to us. We were able to continue with a certain quality of life while we were at RAIHN.*

### How can we make the RAIHN program better?

*The rules and regulations need to be emphasized and made clear so ALL families respect, understand and follow them.*

## New Day Care Resource

Board President Rod Frohman was pleased to announce a new working agreement with the Jefferson Avenue Childhood Development Center.

What this means is that RAIHN now has a source for emergency and transitional childcare through scholarships at the Center for RAIHN children. It means that no RAIHN child will be without day care.

The Jefferson Avenue Childhood Development Center (JACDC) offers quality child care and early childhood education programs for children who are 6 weeks through 12 years old.

### The mission of the Center is:

First, to provide a loving and nurturing environment and programs for all children.

Second, to provide an array of support services for parents, grandparents, and other adult care-givers in order to promote a strong, healthy, and nurturing family life for the Center's children.

And finally, to actively participate in the continuing development of the Jefferson Avenue – Genesee Section.

This is a great benefit to our guests and will help parents in their transitional period as they move out of homelessness.

## Save The Dates

### Macy's Shop For a Cause

October 13<sup>th</sup>, at Eastview Mall, for a \$5.00 ticket, you'll get a 20% discount pass for regular, sale or clearance items. 100% of the ticket sale goes to RAIHN

### Shop 'til You Drop 2007

November 26<sup>th</sup> at Pittsford Plaza. Work will begin soon to make it a successful fundraiser again this year. Shop 'til You Drop 2006 raised \$2,300 for RAIHN. Thank you to all who came and purchased!

### Annual Dinner

RAIHN hosts its annual dinner at 6:00 PM Tuesday, October 23rd at the Church of the Transfiguration, Pittsford. Join us to celebrate RAIHN volunteers and guests. And start collecting your lavish silent auction gifts, vacation spots, and entertainments for the silent auction. For info, please email [dmack@dor.org](mailto:dmack@dor.org) and put RAIHN in subject line.

## Remember RAIHN is a United Way Agency

United Way Donors can now designate Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network - RAIHN - as their official "designee".

The official RAIHN ID number is **# 2435.**

Contributors can give through their place of employment or use the regular donor designation form.