

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR
- ▶ LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
- ▶ COORDINATOR SPOTLIGHT
- ▶ FUNDRAISING & EVENT UPDATES
- ▶ A GUEST'S STORY
- ▶ RAIHN BY THE NUMBERS
- ▶ WELCOME TO THE BOARD
- ▶ HOST & SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS
- ▶ PHOTO MEMORIES

FEBRUARY 2010 | WINTER EDITION

RAIHN Inc.

Weather Report

PROVIDING AN INTERFAITH SOLUTION FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

WE ARE A NON-PROFIT, INTER-DENOMINATIONAL GROUP OF FAITH COMMUNITIES
HELPING HOMELESS FAMILIES ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE INDEPENDENCE.

Letter from the Director



Housing is one of those basic, human rights that we would like to think is available to everyone in our grand old US of A. Obviously at RAIHN we know very well the sad reality is that multitudes in our very community struggle to stay adequately housed every day of the year.

I received a call from a former guest (who was with us briefly in 2004), telling me that her apartment had been "red tagged", and that she, her mother and her daughter had to leave immediately. They had been trying to contact the landlord but he was not to be found. Without his cooperation to remedy the code violations, this tenant was helpless to do anything to correct the matter. In a matter of a couple hours, this family found themselves homeless...

I heard from another family of 4, who were living at a motel because they lost their apartment. He had once made a decent living but after being laid off, was now only making \$8.00/hour in customer service. The county told him he didn't qualify for assistance because he made too much money (!), but they couldn't save enough money to pay a security deposit and first month's rent. He said no one would listen to him or help. I talk to many individuals like this. They may not actually come in to our

program, but they are hurting, desperate and needing SOMEONE to hear them!

A mother of three, receiving Temporary Assistance from Monroe County, was in a training program, trying to get her certification as a nurse's aide when the County stopped paying her rental assistance due to code violations in the apartment she was renting. The landlord took her to court for nonpayment of rent, and the judge said if she paid the back rent, she could stay there (no one mentioned the code violations so there was nothing said to the landlord about his responsibilities). The mother managed to pay the rent, but the landlord was still not fixing anything and wanted her out. So, she and her 3 children became homeless and many of their irreplaceable family pictures and belongings were tossed into the street...

I hear stories repeatedly, of single mothers that are helpless to avoid losing their belongings when the landlord throws everything to the street before they are able to arrange moving and storage.

I share these scenarios, not to depress you, but to inform, and to show how important it is that we, as individuals, as a program, and as a community, help families to be heard, from an advocacy standpoint. This year, more initiatives are being started, to bring awareness of the blatant violation of people's basic human rights here in our own community. So...stay tuned! ~ Nancy



RAIHN Director:

Nancy Elliott, MSW
Email: Director@rainh.org

Board of Directors:

President: Nancy Frank
Vice President: Joanne Ligtenberg
Treasurer: Rev. Ruthellen Hoyle
Secretary: Alain Perregaux

Rev. Roderic Frohman
George Gray
Rev. Lawrence Hargrave
Douglas Hitchcock
Karen McCready
Donna Nasca
David Poland
Wendy B. Rose
Michele Saccente
Susan Stanger
Helen Vanderbilt Tiss
Kathy Weber
Michael Williams

RAIHN Newsletter TEAM

STEPHANIE KETTERL
SKETTERL@SJFC.EDU

KAREN MC CREADY
KAREN.MCCREADY@PIERSONREALTORS.COM

The Board of Directors thanks Martha Bush for serving as Editor of the "RAIHN Weather Report" for seven years. We will miss you, Martha! We welcome the able team of Karen McCready and Stephanie Ketterl and the talents they bring to the job!



The Weather Report will be produced three times per year.

ROCHESTER INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK, INC

34 Meigs Street, Rochester NY, 14607 (585) 506-9050, Email: info@rainh.org, Website: www.rainh.org



A letter from

The President

Dear Friends of RAIHN,

RAIHN is truly blessed! Your contributions from the Annual Appeal letter have thus far totaled approximately \$16,000. It is an enormous boost to the support and stability of RAIHN as an organization.

Thank you and thank you and thank you again!

You support us generously in other aspects as well.....

Through the United Way donor option number #2435, RAIHN received about \$6500 in 2009. Some of you have given RAIHN gifts of gratitude or in memory of a loved one. Others have referred RAIHN to sources of funding that you know about. Many of you have advocated for RAIHN to be the recipient of special collections or outreach grants within your own congregations. And I could go on and on...

In April RAIHN will be six years old. Let us come together in the Interfaith Worship Service on May 16th at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Penfield to thoughtfully and prayerfully celebrate our mission of hospitality. I have followed the planning of this event and think that it will be unforgettable. Mark your calendars today.

Sometimes I think of us as a grand organization of 1,600 volunteers, like a puzzle of 1,600 pieces. Each volunteer does a shift and it may seem unremarkable or insignificant....but each shift and volunteer effort fits in to be a part of a much larger picture and thus is created our unique and caring service to Rochester's homeless families. You make this happen rotation after rotation.

As of January 13, 2010 RAIHN has supported over 190 families (605 persons) and it all comes as a gift from you....thank you.

RAIHN is truly blessed by you.
Nancy Frank



Coordinator spotlight:

Monika Andrews

Meet Monika Andrews! Monika is a Volunteer Coordinator for RAIHN and a long time parishioner at Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word. We asked Monika about her experience with RAIHN, and here is what she had to say:

Q: How did you get involved with RAIHN?

A: The Pastor at my church called me to attend a meeting to tell me about this new organization called RAIHN. After listening to what the organizers had to say about RAIHN and all the wonderful things RAIHN does for these homeless families, I was hooked – I knew I wanted to help. I have been involved with RAIHN since the very beginning.

Q: What do you find most rewarding when it comes to your association with RAIHN?

A: I find it so rewarding to work towards keeping these families together, and RAIHN gives families that opportunity. The alternatives are not good. Knowing that these families can find shelter in a welcoming and hospitable environment does well for one's soul. I enjoy coordinating these efforts through Incarnate Word.

Q: What is your favorite memory on the job?

A: I remember overhearing this Mom saying to one of the other guests at the shelter that she had been "sleeping in God's House". I was very much moved by her words and realized the good that was being done. I realized how the guests have an influence on each other as well, in a positive way.

Q: Tell us what you do outside of RAIHN.

A: Well, I must say that volunteering is my main job! Right now I am volunteering at the Isaiah House. I tutor at School #9, I am President of the Board for the Brockport Food Shelf; I am involved in outreach endeavors through my Church, I help organize the "Crop Walk" (walk for hunger) in Brockport. In my spare time I play tennis, bike ride, and exercise. I have traveled to many places including South Africa, China, Borneo, Peru, Dominican Republic, Guatemala (where I have visited my foster children) to name just a few.

Monika is married to Bill, a retired college professor; has 6 children and 13 grandchildren.

Interview by: Karen McCready

Interfaith
Worship Service

May 16

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

~Save the Date~



Celebrating six years... Shop 'til You Drop

Most of the shops were busy that evening because of the Shop'Til You Drop Event: At Camille's Sidewalk Café, you could find many RAIHN board members eating prior to their assignments. "Possibilities" was buzzing with holiday shoppers choosing from their large selection of Holiday items for friends and family. "Rugged Bear", "Irish & Celtic Imports", and "Stefan Otter" extended their hours for our FUN d-RAISER.

And then there's...One World Goods (OWG), who has been on board with RAIHN since the event began. The enthusiasm, fun and laughter being heard at OWG was contagious. The store's employees seem to truly understand and embrace the work that RAIHN does on an everyday basis and seem to love helping with such an event.

Recently during my lunch hour, I was able to personally deliver

It was a fun, rewarding experience to co-chair this year's Shop Til You Drop FUND- RAISER Event with Nancy Elliott. Nancy & I decided to invite a few more of the shops in the Pittsford Plaza to participate in our event. We successfully brought two new stores on board: Possibilities & Stefan Otter Jewelers. The event was planned for Nov. 30th--the Monday after Thanksgiving, (tradition!). Board members and volunteers had signed up to stand at their assigned posts-with blue RAIHN umbrellas in hand!

The evening air was *chilly*, but the love and enthusiasm we felt at the shops was priceless. Throughout the evening, Nancy and I thanked all the vendors that participated and all the volunteers that came out on that cold, winter evening.

Thank You letters on behalf of RAIHN, to each of the participating vendors. I wish I could describe the gratitude and love that they expressed from that small gesture. So in closing, both Nancy & I say thank you to all who came out to shop, all that volunteered (holding RAIHN umbrellas outside the shops), all the participating shops, and all that passed the word out of our event.

Written by: Michele Saccente



"Never doubt that small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead



SHOP for a CAUSE

Again this year, RAIHN participated in Macy's Shop for a Cause on October 17, 2009.

The unyielding dedication of many RAIHN coordinators selling the \$5.00 passes, raised just under \$600 for RAIHN Inc.

Thank you to all those who participated by either volunteering their time or purchasing a pass. Every little bit helps.

Written by: Sharon Burke



A Snazzy Jazzy Sunday Afternoon

On Sunday, November 8, Temple Sinai was a fall wonderland scene for **A Snazzy Jazzy Sunday Afternoon** enjoyed by about 130 friends of RAIHN. The Jazz Dawgs, an up and coming combo of great musicians, provided us with a cool background of tunes for 2 hours while Company B, a trio of female singers accompanied by piano, provided the last hour of entertainment.

Delicious food (appetizers and a dessert gala) was served by Tasteful Connections, under the skillful direction of Sandra Holloway. Activities included a silent auction, a 50-50 raffle, and sale of the new RAIHN umbrellas. Temple Sinai was decorated with beautiful lighted branch centerpieces and large lighted trees with sparkly leaves. About \$8,500 was raised (after expenses) to benefit the RAIHN program, providing shelter, food and support for homeless families.

A HUGE thank you goes to the committee: Helen Tiss and Kathy Weber, co-chairs; Sandra Holloway; Rod Frohman; Nancy Frank; Doug Hitchcock; and Nancy Elliott, Network Director. All considered the event a great success and hope to make it even better and larger next year. Spread the word!

Written by: Helen Tiss



MLK Day of Service

On January, 18, 2010 people of all ages and backgrounds came together to improve lives, bridge social barriers, and move our nation closer to the "Beloved Community" that Dr. King envisioned. Dr. Martin Luther King devoted his life's work to causes of equality and social justice. He taught that through nonviolence and service to one another, problems such as hunger and homelessness, prejudice and discrimination can be overcome" (mlkDay.gov)



Special thanks to the St. John Fisher College faculty and staff who supported the national MLK Day of Service, and donated toiletry items and helped bag, sort, and count hospitality kits. They were able to distribute over 250 bags to five community partners: RAIHN, Bethany House, St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center, A Meal and More, and Saint's Place.



A guest's story:

A mom & her children

A guest and her three daughters joined the RAIHN program in the fall and were with us through the holidays. One Saturday, a volunteer group came in to do holiday activities with the guests. The guest's older daughters jumped right in on decorating the tree in the front office of the Day Center and then made some fun tree ornaments with the other children in the program. When the tree was brightly decorated, the girls went in to the kitchen (AKA- beauty shop) to have their nails painted and then painted the volunteers' nails!



While the two girls were receiving lots of love and attention doing their crafts and nail painting, and her baby was cooed over by volunteers, "Mom" enjoyed a separate activity just for the moms—time individually decorating greeting cards.

This guest's oldest daughter is school age and a good reader for her age. She loves to read books with anyone that will sit with her. Her middle daughter is full of energy and laughs, and the baby gets lots of compliments for how cute she is!



Right now, while looking for housing and employment, this guest is working to get daycare set up for her girls so that when she finds a job everything is in place. She has also thought about taking classes. This guest is a good mom and makes the most of the teachable moments when it comes to her daughters' learning and growing. She encourages the baby to "talk" and to tell her what she's feeling. When the other two are trying new things, she patiently explains "how to's" and "why's." Often she and the girls are laughing together.

Written by: Danielle Straka (MSW Intern from Roberts Wesleyan College)

What can I find Online?



About the organization:

http://www.frontiernet.net/~rainh/What_we_do_Program_Description.html

RAIHN Newsletters:

http://www.frontiernet.net/~rainh/RAIHN_Newsletters.html



About the organization:

<http://www.familypromise.org/About-Us>

Family Promise Newsletters:

<http://www.familypromise.org/newsletters>



RAIHN by the numbers...



#families in program	#of 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 (1yr)	Volunteers trained	Families remaining in housing for one year minimum
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%)
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%)
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%)
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%)
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 18 families	80	11 out of 18 families (60%)
28 families; 84 persons	84	50	30	4	3,649	6,928	56	25/family	14	0	1	3	6	1	0	2	1 of 14 families	181	Data available Jan. 2011
192 families; 605 persons	605	354	189	62	21,840	57,906	38 average	25/family	122	10	22	29	76 or 33% of 255	38	5	24	5 of 122 families	1,661	97 out of 108 (90% of families)

THE ROCHESTER AREA INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK, INC.

NEW YORK NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION WITH 501(C)3 STATUS.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

RAIHN INC

UNITED WAY DONORS CAN DESIGNATE ROCHESTER AREA INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK AS THEIR OFFICIAL DESIGNEE BY USING **ID #2435**



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
- Pittsford Baptist 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

PHOTO memories

A Snazzy Jazzy Sunday Afternoon

