

**Rochester Area
Interfaith
Hospitality
Network**

RAIHN Mission

We are a non-profit, non-denominational group of faith communities helping homeless families achieve sustainable independence

RAIHN Board

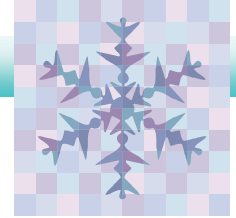
Peter Hallagan
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Barbara Cowen
Nancy Frank
Dr. Denise Mack
Alain Perregaux
Lori Sousa
Helen V. Tiss

RAIHN

Weather Report

Providing an Interfaith Solution for Homeless Families

January 2004
Volume 1, Issue 2



Bright Forecast: Sunny December Delivered #13

A flurry of excited phone calls rang between the RAIHN board members and volunteers late in December when Asbury First United Methodist Church voted to join as the newest Host Congregation. This vote was critically important, not only because Asbury is a strong city congregation who will lend needed support to our network – but also because they become the necessary 13th Host Congregation. Just preceding Asbury’s signing was Brighton

Reformed Church and Temple Sinai -- our first synagogue to join as a Host. With 13 signed Host Covenants and seven signed Support Covenants RAIHN has met the recruitment goal to launch a full schedule of support to homeless families.

Nancy Frank and Alain Perregaux have led the tireless effort to recruit congregations. Their busy December included meetings with the Islamic Center who signed a “Friend’s of RAIHN” letter.

With these covenants in place RAIHN has cleared a major hurdle. The board expects to be able to launch RAIHN services in the spring once a Director has been identified and trained and fundraising has been completed.

RAIHN’s Director search was launched in earnest in December when the Director’s job posting was distributed to organizations and agencies on Dec 11th. The cut-off date for accepting resumes was January 15th. The contact is Lori Sousa
lori.sousa@rainn.org

Found – A Home For RAIHN!

RAIHN’s December was filled with amazing holiday delights. On December 9th the “Session” or Executive Board of Third Presbyterian Church voted unanimously to allow RAIHN to use a church property for the Day Center. The building is now used as an office building and is located next door to the church at 34 Meigs Street, near the corner of East Avenue, in downtown Rochester.

With the building’s central location just one block away from Goodman Street, University, Monroe

and Park Avenues, the Day Center will provide excellent access for guest families to get around to jobs, appointments and bus lines. The space itself is about 1100 square feet and is on the first floor, it has enough space to serve the Day Center’s needs well.

RAIHN will enter into a one year building use agreement with Third Church for the space. RAIHN will contribute toward the utilities and janitorial expenses. Over the next few months the Board and volunteers

will identify needed furniture, appliances and other equipment that will help make the Day Center comfortable and effective for serving our guest families. Please see our “wish list” on page 4.

Some renovations will be needed at the new location – volunteers are very welcome! Volunteers will also be needed regularly at the Center to help with daily logistics between 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Contact Bob Melech at rsmelech@aol.com if you would like to help.



According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, one out of ten American households, including 12 million children, is unable to eat adequately.



Fast Facts:
Of the nearly 15 million children eligible for child care assistance, only 10% receive any help. Only half of the children eligible for the Head Start program are enrolled.

Children's Defense Fund Yearbook 2000

National IHN Success Stories

What Clergy Say

"This has involved more people than any other program in our church. It has stirred some people who had not been active before, as well as drawn the participation of new members. We're a small church and it takes about half our congregation to host. People feel "Here's something I can do. It's concrete. This is something the Church ought to be doing."
Rev. Russell Fuller,
Memorial Christian Church, Anne Arbor, MI

"There is such diversity in the spiritual gifts of individuals. IHN gives occasion for people to use their abilities and skills. Driving a van, preparing a meal, listening to a parent, playing with a child, washing linens, and arranging living quarters are all ministries... Relationships are formed and fellowship is shared.. all to the glory of God and for the good of those who need a blessing." Dr. Ken Altom, New Hope Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC

Mobilizing Our Families

Helen Tiss, our Fundraising board member, was delighted to announce the receipt of a generous grant from the Davenport Hatch foundation for \$15,000 to provide some of the funds needed to procure a transportation bus for our guest families. The transportation team is researching various options for moving our families from Host

Congregations to the Day Center each day, and from Host site to Host site each week. The current plan is to purchase a Type II Bus like those used by medical services around the area. This grant moves us much closer to a transportation solution. Once we secure the vehicle, we will be looking for volunteers to drive the bus each day from about

Upcoming Events:

Coordinators Meeting
(for Hosts and Supports)
Monday February 9
7:00 – 8:30 PM Veteran's Outreach Center, 457 South Ave. Rochester (contact Barbara Cowen at 546-4250 or bjc717@aol.com)

General Meetings
February 12, 6:30 PM
St Luke & St Simon
Cyrene Episcopal
17 Fitzhugh St

March 11, 6:30 PM
Place TBD

For events and locations
www.raihn.org

6:00-9:00am and 4:00-6:00 pm. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity please contact Pete Hallagan at peter.hallagan@raihn.org



Fundraising

Rod Frohman, RAIHN Treasurer, reports that we have raised just over \$50,000 of the \$60,000 needed for launch. In December Rod and Helen Tiss sent the first Holiday Appeal to RAIHN's growing list of volunteers and supporters. Response has been very encouraging, and we

have received significant gifts from several congregations and religious organizations as well as many individuals. In addition to the \$15,000 we received from the Davenport Hatch Foundation, we are awaiting word on another important grant from an area foundation.

To make your tax deductible gift to help us reach our "launch goal" please make checks payable to "RAIHN" and mail to:

**RAIHN, 4 Meigs Street,
Rochester NY 14607.**

You will receive a written confirmation of your donation for tax purposes.

Claas Ehlers Visits from National IHN

Speaking at our General meeting on November 13th was Claas Ehlers, Director of Network Development from the National IHN organization in New Jersey. He shared an enthusiastic progress report on the 107 networks now functioning across the country.

Mr. Ehlers stressed that a key component of successful networks is proper training of the Board of Directors, Network Directors and Volunteers. Getting the logistics right is critical, he said – which includes recruiting volunteers, facilities set-up, and smooth coordination of family moves. He reminded

us that “Moving families week to week keeps congregations from burning out and it reminds the homeless families that this is only temporary shelter, so that they keep focused on finding permanent housing.”

Claas reported that Rochester looks like it will be the most religiously diverse IHN in the country with the growth of our partnership between area Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist and Christian organizations.

Claas was recently Director of Interfaith Programs at IHN’s parent

organization: Family Promise. Family Promise is committed to helping low-income families nationwide achieve sustainable independence and to raising awareness of the conditions that create homelessness. Their largest program is the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Additional program areas are “Family Mentoring”, “Just Neighbors”, and “Community Initiatives” which combat underlying causes of homelessness.

To find out more about Family Promise, visit their web site at:

www.familypromise.org or, www.ninh.org



RAIHN Board and Claas Ehlers. First row from left: Alain Perregaux, Nancy Frank, Rod Frohman, Pete Hallagan

Second Row: Claas Ehlers, Helen Tiss, Barbara Cowen, Dave Gerhardt

A Day in the Life of A RAIHN Guest Family

Once our network is up and running, homeless families will be referred to RAIHN from a number of social service agencies throughout the Monroe County area. A family coming into the RAIHN program will be pre-screened and they will sign a pledge to abide by the rules of the program before they are accepted for RAIHN support.

In a typical "Day in the Life" of a guest of the RAIHN program, the family moves weekly from one Host faith community to the next; typically spending four to six weeks in the IHN program while they seek new housing through

professional counseling from RAIHN’s director and other local agencies.

Each day starts with breakfast at the Host facility, provided by the volunteers from each Hosting or Support organization.

The guests are then transported to the centrally located Day Center. At the Center, acting as the “hub” of the network, the guest families can receive their mail, do their laundry, bathe/shower, and most importantly, receive counseling on

jobs and housing.

Children will be picked up by school buses at this central location – avoiding the truancy that plagues homeless families as they move around and out of their children’s normal bus routes.

At the end of their busy day, the guests return to the Host faith community where they are provided with dinner and support (if needed) from the Host volunteers. The evening hours are relaxation times, as they would be for any family. The day ends with a private place to lay their heads together as a family -- under one roof.



Host Organizations

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

Asbury First United Methodist Church

Bethel Christian Fellowship

Brighton Reformed Church

Church of the Assumption

Downtown United Presbyterian Church

First Universalist Church

Irondequoit United Church of Christ

Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word

St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Temple Sinai

Third Presbyterian Church

Trinity Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Supporting Organizations

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

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

Buddhist Peace Fellowship/
Zen Center

Christ Church, Rochester
Church of the Epiphany
Mountain Rise UCC

New Life Presbyterian Church
St. Mary's Church
United Church of Pittsford

Who's New on the RAIHN Board?

The members of the RAIHN Board of Directors are happy to announce that we have been joined by a new board member, Barbara Cowen.

Ms. Cowen brings excellent social services experience that will help us support our Director and deliver the best help possible to our guest

families. Barbara is a case manager at the Veterans Outreach Center. She was formerly the Employment Specialist at Wilson Commencement Park. For several years she worked on the "Superbowl Party for The Homeless" and she has worked with children as both a Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troup Leader. She

is an active member of one of our newest Host Congregations -- Temple Sinai and is a member of the Homeless Services Network of Rochester. Barbara's home temple in New Jersey has been an IHN host for 15 years. She brings a wonderful set of new skills to our board along with her enthusiasm.

Our Wish List

As the launch of RAIHN approaches, our wish list is developing. Check our website for an updated list. If you, your congregation or your business can contribute, please contact Bob Melech at rsmelech@aol.com

Office Needs:

4 desks and chairs
Filing cabinets
Computers (4)
Printers (2)
Windows Office Software
8-foot folding tables
Telephones
Mud/doormats

Family Room Needs:

Sofas and Love Seat
4-6 Arm chairs
8-10 padded folding chairs
Round coffee table
3 - 12' x 12' area rugs
TV and stand
DVD/VCR player
4-6 book cases
Window treatments
4 standing lamps
2 table lamps

Kitchen Needs:

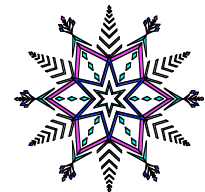
2 high chairs
1 microwave
45" round kitchen table
55" round kitchen table
Kitchen cabinets
Garbage cans
Vacuum cleaner
Iron and ironing board

Remodeling Needs:

300 sq ft luan sub-floor plywood
300 - 400 sq ft linoleum
40 standard drop ceiling panels
2 bathroom light fixtures
2 ceiling mounted light fixtures
5 medicine cabinets

Hosting Congregation Needs:

Twin-sized bed linens
Pillows (must be new)
Large plastic storage totes
Small area rugs
bedside lamps



Visit Us on the Web

Visit our web site www.raihn.org
You will find it a great resource for everything about RAIHN. If you have suggestions or ideas about how we might use

the site to support our volunteers, congregations and guests, please drop a line to our webmaster, Doug Hitchcock webmaster@raihn.org.

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.

RAIHN

Roch Area Interfaith Hospitality
4 Meigs St.