

**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 Network Director

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RAIHN

Weather Report

Providing an Interfaith Solution for Homeless Families

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A RAIHN-Bow of Achievements President's Message

After three years, countless hours and the efforts of hundreds of volunteers, RAIHN is ready to **launch on April 26**. I know I speak for the board as well as myself when I express gratitude for all the hard work by so many people who believed in our project even when it seemed an unlikely prospect.

We have found a terrific new Executive Director in Erica Vera. Our Day Center literally shines under the renovation work of Jim Chisholm, Doug and Gail Hitchcock and their team. Our amazing

new bus would never have been possible without the help of the Davenport Hatch Foundation and the wonderful assistance and advice of the Medical Motor Service people. You will hear more about our non-stop creative fundraising efforts now that our newly formed Development Committee is supporting the great work of Helen Tiss and Rod Frohman. (In our next issue you'll find out how you can even "buy a seat on the bus.")

Most important of all are the faith communities – the Host and Supporting and Friend congregations, who

have made real commitments of time and money to bring RAIHN to reality.

Now that we have leapt over our major hurdles, I believe that RAIHN can finally deliver on our promise to help Rochester's homeless families achieve independence. We have heard from IHN chapters around the country that one of the greatest effects a network has on a community is the strengthening of the ties within and between the faith communities. I've seen the evidence during the planning stage. I know our launch will be fantastic for Rochester.

Pete Hallagan
Board President

Two Open Houses Before Opening Our Doors

After many hours of knocking down and building up, our Day Center is ready for Prime Time.



Two open houses have been scheduled to introduce our new facility and Network Director to all our supporters.

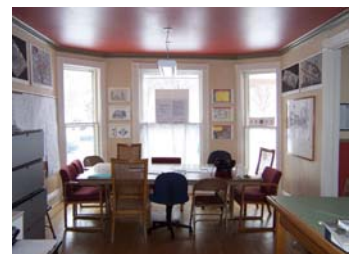
**Tuesday, April 20
5:00 – 7:00 PM** all host and

support congregations as well as our funders and the media are invited to join us in the Celebration Center of Third Presbyterian Church at 4 Meigs St. There will be a walk-through tour of the new Day Center next door and at 6:00 PM an interfaith ribbon ceremony will take place.

A silent auction will be held for deliciously decorated cakes with the proceeds benefiting Day Center renovations. Refreshments will be generously provided by Sandra Holloway of Tasteful Connections.

Thursday April 22 3:00 - 5:30 PM we invite the Rochester area homeless service providers to meet Erica Vera and to learn more about the program and criteria for referrals. It will be held at the Day Center and refreshments will be served.

Rsvp@rainhn.org



Our New Director: Erica Vera



Erica Vera meets with RAIHN Board members Rod Frohman and Nancy Frank.

The RAIHN Board is delighted to announce that Erica Vera has begun as our new Network Director. She will be the key coordinator between the families, the faith communities and the admitting agencies. Erica brings a wealth of skills and experience to our network.

Earning a degree in clinical psychology in Lima, Peru, Erica worked as an advocate for the poor in addition to her career as a psychologist, organizing women and youth in community

leadership programs.

Arriving in the US 13 years ago, Erica worked as a Director of Residential Programs for the Criminal Justice system. She also spent ten years as a Sr. Program Manager for the Latino Substance Abuse Program at the Catholic Family Center.

Erica stated: "I am very excited to be a part of this community effort, I have encountered extraordinary support from the board and met inspiring volunteers in my short experience with RAIHN."

Volunteer Drivers Wanted!

With our launch date fast approaching and the securing of our new beautiful 14-passenger bus, RAIHN is searching for volunteer bus drivers. Drivers will be trained to drive our vehicle and will not require a commercial license. These dedicated drivers will be performing a mission-critical role in transporting the guest

families on a daily basis for approximately three-hour shifts. The morning shift from about 6:30-8:00 AM will include picking up the bus at the Day Center, driving to the hosting congregation and picking up the guests, then driving them to the Day Center. The afternoon shift from 4:00-5:30PM will pick up the bus and guests at the

Upcoming Events:

Forum on Homelessness
 First Universalist
 Clinton Ave.
 April 18 12:00 – 2:00

Open Houses
 Host and Support Congregations, Funders and Media
 April 20, 5:00 - 7:00 PM
 Third Church - 4 Meigs St.

Homeless Service Agencies
 April 22, 3:00 - 5:30 PM
 RAIHN Day Center, 34 Meigs St.

Network Coordinators Meetings
 First Mondays of each month:
 From 7:00 – 8:30 PM
 April 12 – Church of the Assumption, Fairport
 May 17 – Location TBD
 June 14 – Location TBD

For events and locations
www.raihn.org



RAIHN's new 14-passenger bus is ready to roll.

Day Center, drive them to the hosting congregation and return the bus to the Day Center. If you are interested in this important volunteer opportunity, please contact:
 Bob Melech at
rsmelech@aol.com

RAIHN Makers!

We would like to make a special mention of the extraordinary efforts of Gayle and Doug Hitchcock! This remarkable pair has helped RAIHN with the Bus purchase, Day Center renovations, coordinating donations for the Day Center, helping to manage events and the creation of our fantastic web site. RAIHN Thanks Doug and Gayle!

Fundraising Update

Treasurer Rod Frohman and board member Helen Tiss reported that RAIHN Fundraising has met the hurdle required for launch. While there is still a challenging goal to cover all operating expenses for our first year, significant progress has been made.

A new Development Committee has been formed made up of RAIHN board members, and several new fundraising initiatives will be introduced in the coming months.

To make your tax-deductible gift to help us

reach our launch goal, please make checks payable to "RAIHN" and mail to:

RAIHN, 34 Meigs Street, Rochester NY 14607.

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

Invaluable Training from the National IHN

Speaking at our general meeting on November 13 Claas Ehlers, Director of Network Development from the National IHN organization, stressed that a key component of successful networks is proper training of the Board of Directors, Network Directors and Volunteers. That excellent tradition of training began amidst a wintry Rochester blast on March 16th and 17th at Temple Sinai.

Carole Marchand, the National Trainer for the IHN and the Network Director for the Loveland-Berthoud IHN presented a thorough and fascinating program.

The head coordinators from all 13 hosting Faith

communities, as well as the coordinators from all the Support communities, were put through a two-evening session. The first evening was attended by almost 60. The focus was "Volunteering and The Guest Families." This included excellent content on sensitivity and diversity training and prepared the group for what to expect in working with homeless families.

The second evening's program, attended by about 50, focused on the responsibilities of the Network Coordinators.

Ms. Marchand has been traveling the country doing "train-the-trainer" sessions

for startup IHN chapters. The training included round-table discussions about the problems of homelessness, logistical questions about providing services to the guests in the program, and viewing a multi-part video tape provided by National IHN on some hints and tips in working with the guests. The roundtable discussions were a great way to share the beliefs between the many diverse faith communities that make-up the RAIHN organization.

All volunteers will be required to take a training session, and Erica Vera will be scheduling continuous training programs to support the congregations.



Round table discussions helped Network Coordinators prepare for launch.



Carole Marchand, National Trainer for the IHN

Day Center Ready for Staffing: Volunteers Needed

RAIHN is now searching for volunteers specifically interested in working at the Day Center. This responsibility is ideal for volunteers in the faith communities who cannot commit evening or early morning time as the regular Host and Support volunteers are doing.

The Day Center volunteers will be based at the facility (34 Meigs Street) and will be focused on assisting the Network Director, Erica Vera, in day-to-day activities at the Day Center.

Volunteers will assist homeless families in achieving stable housing and

income supports, accompany clients to appointments, and assist families with employment and housing searches as directed by the Network Director.

In addition, the volunteers may provide general office support and will assist the Network Director in support of the families and faith communities as required.

The work will be divided into shifts of three to four hours:

6:30 -10:00 AM

10:00AM - 2:00 PM

2:00 - 5:00 PM

This is also a great

opportunity for students looking to intern in social services.

If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, contact Board member Barbara Cowen at bcowen@rainh.org



Barbara Cowen is seeking Day Center Volunteers

Erica Vera to Speak

On Sunday, April 18, The First Universalist Church of Rochester has invited Erica Vera, the new Network Director, to speak at its annual Forum on Homelessness, between 12:00 Noon and 2:00 PM. The program will follow the Sunday service, which begins at 10:30 AM. From 12:00 -12:30 PM a light lunch will be served. The forum will begin at 12:30. The church is located at Clinton and Court streets. Parking is available in the Frontier lot next to the church building.

Erica will review her background, share information on area homelessness and discuss how she plans to run the RAIHN operation. For more information, contact Alain Perregaux at aperreg@juno.com or by phone at 654-5794.

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
Redeemer Lutheran Church

Religious Society of
Friends (Quakers)

St. John's Lutheran

St. Mary's Church

St. Matthias Episcopal Church

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

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, Janice Schillaci.

Janice is a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. Previous to Morgan Stanley, she spent 23 years with Xerox as a

financial consultant. She has an MBA in Finance from the Simon School at the University of Rochester. She is a member and usher at Calvary Chapel of Greece.

Janice is married and has two grown children and two grandchildren. Her youngest son Mike is a Marine stationed in NC, and an Iraqi war veteran.

An avid golfer, Janice is Sponsorship Chair of the Executive Women's Golf Association and is a Women United committee member for their Golf Tournament and Community Canvas Event.

We welcome Janice's enthusiasm and financial acumen to our board!

Our Wish List

As the launch of RAIHN approaches, our wish list is growing. Check our website for a more complete and updated list. If you can contribute, please contact Gayle Hitchcock at ivydale@rochester.rr.com

or Bob Melech at rsmelech@aol.com

Office Needs

6 desk chairs
Filing cabinet
Copier or Inkjet multifunction printer/copier/fax
Bookcases 48" and 60" widths
Telephones
Fax Machine
2 Desk lamps



1 small end table

Family Room Needs

2 Sofas approx. 84" long
1-2 upholstered arm chairs
2 end tables
Round coffee table
1 Toy chest
1 area rug 9x12' or 10'x14
TV and stand
DVD/VCR player
Radio or CD player
Window treatments
2 Floor lamps
2 table lamps
2 Coat Trees
Boot trays
Indoor/Outdoor area rug

Kitchen Needs

Pots and Pans
Plates unbreakable 2 doz.
Plastic glasses 2 doz.
Silverware/serving spoons
Coffee mugs
Toaster oven
Coffee maker
Tea Kettle
Can Opener
Cookie Sheet
Vacuum cleaner
Iron and ironing board
Table with leaves about 72"
8 Kitchen chairs

Gas Stove

Baby Room Needs

2 Cribs
2 changing tables
2 portacribs
Crib Sheets
Crib Blankets
Crib Mattress pads
Baby bottles, diapers, Tippy cups

Personal Care Items

Towels/Washcloths
Hairdryer
Shampoo
Body soap
Shave Cream
Razors
Body Lotion
Feminine Products
Deodorant
First Aid Kit

Office Supplies

Pens, pencils, staplers, paperclips



Find the Latest News at WWW.RAIHN.ORG

Visit our website www.raihn.org to find the most up-to-date information about RAIHN. You can see the notes from the latest general meetings and

find the most recent wish list items. You can find links to interesting information about poverty and homelessness. You can find out the rotation schedule for our families'

visits to congregations, plus much more. Please send questions to our webmaster, Doug Hitchcock at webmaster@raihn.org.