

**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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RAIHN

Weather Report

Providing an Interfaith Solution for Homeless Families

November 2005

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Combining Faith and Social Justice A Message from the Director

In October, I traveled to the National IHN conference and came away with a renewed enthusiasm for the work of RAIHN. On so many levels, we are doing an outstanding job, even compared to the much more established IHN groups across the country.

What makes us stand out? Our incredibly strong and stable board provides solid leadership – some IHN groups have just one or two members! Many of the networks have 90 day average lengths-of-stays before families are placed successfully – while our average is closer to 40 days. Our volunteers help us to be one of the most

efficient groups in terms of the number of families served and the small number of permanent staff we need.

We also have one of the most diverse groups of host and supporting organizations, including a wider range of faith affiliations than almost any other IHN group.

At the conference, I spoke on the topic of *Tapping into Community Resources*. I think we have done a remarkable job in this area – from our strong use of technology (thanks in a large degree to Dave Van Arsdale's support) – to our growing connections with other community agencies.

Where do we go from here? Our board and I will be working on strategic planning to help take

us to the next level in 2006.

I hope to be able to increase the amount of training and education we can offer our guests in 2006. We believe they could benefit from training on parenting, managing finances, stress management and several other topics.

Much of the conversation at the IHN conference was on the growing combinations of faith and social justice activities. The aftermath of Katrina has helped open so many eyes to the devastation of homelessness and the need to get involved as faith communities. We sincerely thank all of our faith communities for their ongoing support.

Erica Vera
RAIHN Network Director
evera@rainhn.org

Second Annual "Shop Till You Drop" November 28

A sequel to last year's successful "**Shop til You Drop!**" event will return on Monday, November 28. Several more Pittsford Plaza retailers have agreed to be involved this year.

Applebee's has agreed to be our first restaurant, and coupons for their event are attached to this newsletter.

Visit your favorite retailers between 6:00 and 9:00 PM and 10-20% of the evening's proceeds will be donated to RAIHN! You'll find exciting door prizes; over \$1000 in gifts will be given away.

Blueground Jewelry, a contemporary jewelry gallery, specializing in unique sterling silver, 14K gold, and platinum creations. Blueground offers a variety of price ranges and styles, with something for just about everyone.

One World Goods is a fair-trade gift store that sells quality handcrafted items from around the world. Your purchase provides vital income for our global neighbors.

The Lounge offers the area's best selection of snowboard equipment, accessories and clothing featuring Burton, K2,

Rome, Nitro, Roxy, Bonfire, Quicksilver and many other leading brands.

Snow Country Ski Shop offers a great selection and a team that's dedicated to great customer service. Choose your favorite brands for skiing, winter clothing, x-country, snowshoes and accessories, including Rossignol, K2, Nordica, North Face, Spyder, Obermeyer, and more.

Applebee's Visit the new location in Pittsford Plaza –10% of your check will go to RAIHN from 4-9PM. Give your server the attached coupon and enjoy!

RAIHN Makers!

Dave Poland is our RAIHN Maker for this issue. He is the director of our transportation efforts, which are critical to the program's success.

He coordinates all the drivers and makes sure every trip has a back-up driver so we virtually never have any problems! He trains and inspires our driver volunteers and has helped to build a great team.

Dave is a member of Downtown United Presbyterian Church and he lives in the city. He is an avid hiker.

His friendly, get-it-done personality and great organization help keep things rolling for us at RAIHN!



A Congregation's Story

St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church

The following is a letter in a series from individual hosting faith communities that provide volunteers, overnight accommodations, and support for the guests in the RAIHN program. Each newsletter will feature a different faith community, offering their reflections on the experience in providing this service to families in the Rochester area.

I wanted to share with you the effect of participation in the RAIHN network during the last two years.

St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church is a host congregation of approximately 150 members, including children. Currently we have 35 individuals who participate in supporting our guests during the week. In addition, we have two faith communities assisting us – Christ Episcopal Church and Dignity & Integrity. They provide an additional 20 volunteers.

This effort has brought Christ Church and St. Luke & St. Simon Church into a closer relationship to the benefit of both congregations. The participation has also made us better known by the Diocesan leadership and the other churches in the Diocese.

In addition to the volunteers, about 15-20 members have contributed household goods and money for food and feel that they are a part of this important ministry.

We have been assisted by several young members who had previously not attended church, and they have begun to return to the services. Recently, several new members of the congregation have approached me, wanting to be trained to participate in November.

To sum this up, this is an important, exciting and challenging ministry. It is

Upcoming Events

RAIHN Shopping Event
November 28th
One World Goods
Blueground Jewelry
Snow Country Ski Shop
The Lounge
6-9 PM
Applebee's
4-9 PM
Pittsford Plaza

Coordinators Meeting
Incarinate Word 7:00 PM
December 5

helping to energize the congregation to look beyond ourselves. The contacts with other congregations have been valuable to me.

Reverend John T. Burr
Deacon

St. Luke and St. Simon
Cyrene Episcopal Church

First Anniversary Dinner Celebrates Volunteers, Board and Graduates

A dinner to celebrate RAIHN's first full year of operation was held at Christ the King Church in Irondequoit in May. About 250 people gathered for a celebration of hard work and happy accomplishments.

Karen Olsen from the national IHN organization was the guest speaker. She told the group how she was first exposed to homelessness living in the Metro New York City area and how she was impressed by

how many people were concerned and wanted a way to get involved.

Susan Stanger from Temple Sinai spoke about the impact of RAIHN on her congregation – how the congregation has been brought closer together with new friendships that have been created because of the program.

Jacqueline, a graduate Mom, spoke about what it meant to

her to have a place to call home and the warmth and comforting support she received from the congregations she stayed with.

The dinner was a wonderful opportunity for many RAIHN volunteers and supporters from across the area and across the faiths to meet each other.

Letter from a Graduate to Her RAIHN Hosts

To Temple Sinai:

Thank you again for all of the school supplies that you and the rest of the congregation at Temple Sinai put together for me. You have no idea how much it means to me to be able to have everything I need for school. I am so grateful to all of you at Temple Sinai for making me feel as though Cheyenne and I were part of your families. We are so excited to be moving into our own place and we hope to stay in contact with you all in the future. After having been on

this side of the program I will definitely be back in RAIHN, but as a volunteer. I wish all of you the best in all of your endeavors. Again thank you for all of your help.

Love and Shalom

Martha and Cheyenne

Note: This graduate family is now living in Wilson Commencement Park and the Mother is enrolled full time at MCC. They are learning new skills and are enthusiastic about taking advantage of the support groups at Wilson.

Upcoming Rotations

Date	Host Congregation	Support Congregation
11/13/2005	St. Paul's	Zen Center/ Buddhist Peace Fellowship
11/20/2005	St. Luke & St. Cyrene	Christ Church
11/27/2005	Firt Universalist	St. Mary's
12/4/2005	DUPC	Religious Society of Friends
12/11/2005	Incarnate word	Messiah Lutheran
12/18/2005	Temple Sinai	
12/25/2005	Irondequoit IUCC	St. John's Lutheran & Seneca United Methodist
1/1/2006	Church of the Assumption	Mountain Rise UCC
1/8/2006	Brighton Reformed	United Church Pittsford & Trinity Reformed
1/15/2006	Asbury Methodist	
1/22/2006	St. Mathias	St. Louis & Transfiguration & St. Catherine

For questions about the rotation schedule, please contact your Network Coordinator or Erica Vera at info@raihn.org

Gloria Rothstein Wins Award

On June 7th, the Greater Rochester Community of Churches announced that their Faith in Action Award recipient was Gloria Rothstein. Gloria has been a Day Center Volunteer at 34 Meigs for over a year, and guests and visitors frequently can find her friendly and helpful presence in the office.

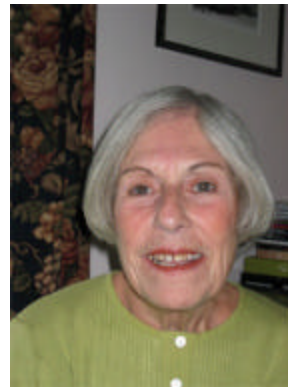
Gloria was a stay-at-home mom for her 3 children until their graduations. She then went to work at the University of Rochester book store and ultimately became the store manager for the Medical Center book store until her retirement five years ago.

She resides in Corn Hill and is currently on the Philanthropy Committee of the Corn Hill

Neighborhood Association, which dispenses charitable contributions from the Corn Hill Festival. She volunteers at the Children's Community Center, which is an inner-city pre-school and after-school center, serving on the Board of Directors. This busy woman also serves on the Temple Sinai "Mitzvah Committee" (the Hebrew word for "good deeds"), where she is a member of the committee that coordinates the synagogue's RAIHN commitment.

Gloria shows constant dedication to all she does, and she brings a tremendous enthusiasm as well, from cleaning windows to her adventures with the Day

Center's computers, and playing with the children. We congratulate her on her award and thank her for her commitment to RAIHN!



Gloria Rothstein – Day Center volunteer and award winner

Temple Sinai Receives Jewish Community Federation Award

In May, Temple Sinai board member Susan Stanger announced that Temple Sinai's participation in RAIHN had won the Elmer Louis Award, which recognizes a program in the Rochester Jewish Community which meets the following criteria: the program reflects an advance in social welfare standards, techniques and benefits derived by clients and the community, the program results in a strengthening of community organization, responsibility and leadership.
RAIHN Salutes Temple Sinai!

We Thank Our Supporters

We sincerely want to thank Wegmans Food Markets for their ongoing support of RAIHN.



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 Universalist Church
- Irondequoit United Church of Christ
- Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word
- St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene Episcopal Church
- St. Matthias 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.

- Buddhist Peace Fellowship/ Zen Center
- Baptist Temple
- Calvary St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
- Christ Episcopal Church
- Church of the Epiphany
- Transfiguration RC Church Dignity & Integrity
- First Presbyterian, Pittsford
- Church of the Transfiguration
- Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Mountain Rise UCC
- Nazareth College
- New Life Presbyterian Church
- Redeemer Lutheran Church
- Religious Society of Friends
- St. John's Lutheran
- St. Joseph, Penfield
- St. Louis, Pittsford
- St. Mary's 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.

Keeping RAIHN Rolling

One of the most critical links in the Rochester Interfaith Hospitality Network is our 14 - passenger bus and the team that drives it. The bus transports the families from the host congregations to and from the Day Center on Meigs St each day. The morning pickup is at 7:00 AM, and in the evening the bus picks guest families up at the Day Center and transports them back to their host congregation. This operation occurs every day of the year except for a few holidays. On average, the bus makes 56 trips a month.

How does this all happen? It takes a group of very dedicated

drivers who rise early or drive during evening rush hour regardless of weather conditions. The job of scheduling volunteer bus drivers falls to our bus coordinator, Dave Poland, who took over from Bob Melech. Dave works with his team to prepare a monthly driving schedule that will work for everyone.

Most of the bus drivers are retired, but a few fit their driving around their work schedules. Seven out of nine current drivers have driven for the RAIHN program since its inception in the spring of 2004. Drivers hail from across the area - from North Chili to Fairport. Their past or current occupations include bus driver, marketing

manager, musician, sales person, school administrator, teacher, engineer and social worker. Individual drivers may take shifts as frequently as 13 times a month. The current drivers are; Dan Alonzo, Marlene Brant-Myrick, Bob Melech, Jim Owens, Dave Poland, Doug Prosser, Bob Richane, Ted Richmond and Vince Tollers.

If you or someone you know would like to join our team of dedicated drivers, please drop an email to Dave Poland at info@RAIHN.org. We would love to have you!

Who's New at RAIHN?

New Board Member

RAIHN is pleased to announce that Paul Carson has joined our board. Paul returned to Rochester, and to Asbury Methodist, just over 2 years ago.

Previous to that he lived in Canada, first in the Toronto area, then in British Columbia,

for about 35 years. He has a B.A. in psychology, and has worked at a wide variety of jobs over the years, always returning to his first love -- social service of some kind. He works for Heritage Christian Services, at Northampton Farm in Ogden working with adults with developmental disabilities. Paul is

also one of the coordinators of the RAIHN program at Asbury. RAIHN staff and the board are delighted to have Paul's wonderful commitment to helping others and great experience working with disabled and disadvantaged people.

RAIHN Statistical Report October 15, 2005

	Year 1	Year 2 (5 mo.)	Total
	5/04 to 4/05	5/05 to 10/05	
Family Units	45	18	63
Persons	129	54	183
Adults	56	21	77
Children	73	41	114
Children under Age 6	33	14	47
Females	71	10	81
Families Dismissed -Rule Violations	8	3	11
Families Placed in Housing	40	15	55
Placed in Permanent Housing	32	10	42
Placed in Transitional Housing	1	1	2
Placed with Family Members	5	5	10
Remaining in Permanent Housing	44	18	62
Adults enrolled In College	6	1	7
Adults gaining Employment	22	6	28
Bed Nights Furnished	4150	1502	5652
Meals Furnished	12009	4506	16,515
Casework per family	23	24	
Households Furnished	23	8	31
Average Length of Stay	38 days	38 days	
Returned to homelessness	1	0	1
Volunteers trained	830	70	900
Congregations Recruited	31	3	34

← 62 out of 63 total RAIHN families remain in permanent housing – a 98% success rate!



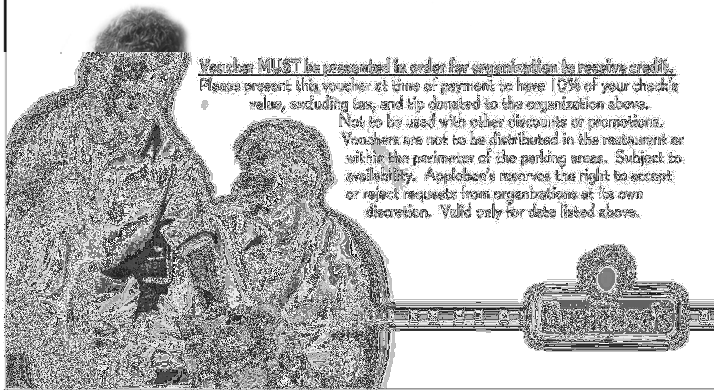
Eatin' Here is *Good* for the Neighborhood!

Applebee's will donate 10% of your check (excluding tax and tip) to:

Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN)

Present this voucher to your server on Monday, November 28 • From 4-9 p.m.

at Applebee's in Pittsford Plaza



Voucher MUST be presented in order for organization to receive credit.
Please present this voucher at time of payment to have 10% of your check's value, excluding tax, and tip donated to the organization above.
Not to be used with other discounts or promotions.
Vouchers are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking areas. Subject to availability. Applebee's reserves the right to accept or reject requests from organizations at its own discretion. Valid only for dates listed above.

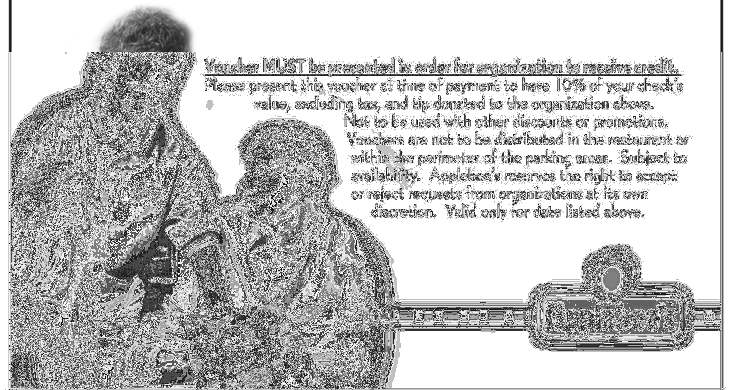
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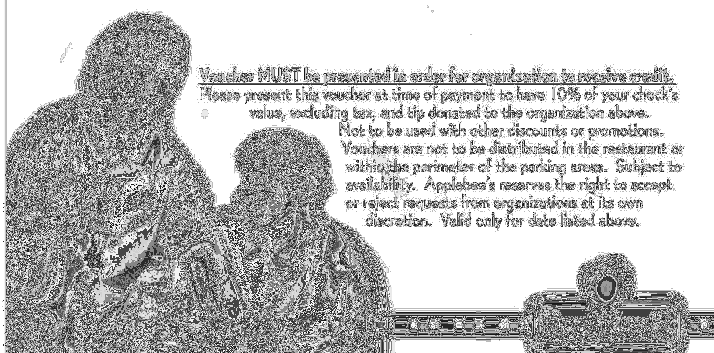
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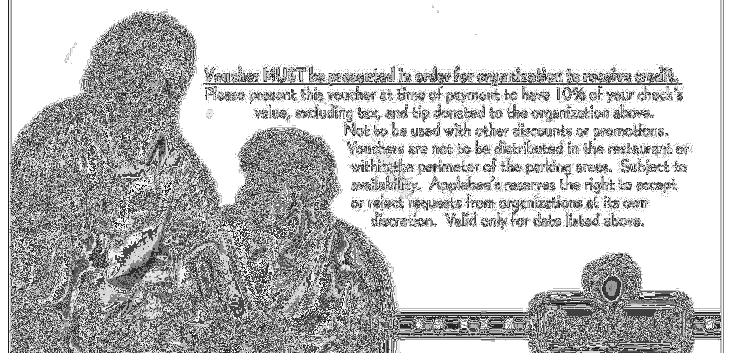
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