



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 *President*
Rev. Roderick Frohman,
Treasurer
Rev. David Gerhard,
Secretary
Rev. Richard Barbour
Nancy Frank
Dr. Denise Mack
Alain Perregaux
Lori Sousa
Helen V. Tiss

RAIHN

Weather Report

October 2003
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Providing an Interfaith Solution for Homeless Families



Summer Progress Report

This summer was an incredibly busy time for the RAIHN team. We have made great progress in many, many areas.

Host and Supporting Congregations

We now have eight host congregations who have signed the RAIHN covenant – towards our goal of 13 Hosts. We believe that four or five congregations are very close to making the commitment -- which should bring us to our goal by the end of the year. There are five faith

communities who have agreed to become Support congregations and six other groups who we believe will sign up as Support groups soon.

Launch Date

With the commitments in place from these congregations, the RAIHN board is now targeting to open our “doors” by March of 2004.

Financial Report

At our last General Meeting Rod Frohman of Third Presbyterian Church reported that we have

written four major grant requests that total \$75,000. By mid-January we expect to receive information on the status of these applications. To date we have raised \$23,100 with a goal of raising \$50,000 to \$60,000 prior to our launch date. It is expected that our first year start-up costs will be approximately \$120,000, with future years running about \$100,000 per year in expenses.

Continued on page 4

RAIHN Forecast – A Letter from the President

The pieces of the RAIHN puzzle are finally beginning to come together after almost two years of work. The major pieces – recruiting Congregations, Fund-raising, acquiring a Day Center and Van, finding a Director – have all moved substantially forward over the last six months.

The Board of Directors has spent time strengthening the foundation of RAIHN through extensive networking in the Homeless Provider Support Community. It is critical that we work closely with the other providers – our

network will be just one piece of a bigger community. We have met with many of the other organizations to see how we can work together. We toured the Salvation Army’s Booth Haven shelter for Men and their Women’s Shelter. We met with the House of Mercy administrators, visiting their facility and discussing issues of the growing homeless population in the Rochester area. Our goal in building relationships across the Homeless Care Community is to create a strong foundation for the

future Network Director. We welcome all faiths and congregations to join us for our upcoming monthly “General Information Sessions.” You will find out about our progress, and how you and your congregation can get involved. Plus you’ll get a sense of the terrific energy that is building towards our launch.

With many thanks for all the time and effort that is being spent by faithful volunteers to make RAIHN a reality!

Pete Hallagan
President RAIHN Board



National IHN Success Stories

What Clergy Say

"In my 44 years of being a Christian and serving as a minister in several churches, I can say without hesitation that the Interfaith Hospitality Network is one of the most effective ways I have ever seen of enabling church members to experience the joy of hands-on ministry in a very, very meaningful way. I have personally witnessed the lives of many members having been changed in a

positive way by the ministry of IHN."

Rev. John Barbour,
Advent Presbyterian
Church, Memphis, TN

"The program has broken down a lot of barriers and stereotypes. Some of our members who might never have gone to help out at a shelter have gotten involved in this.

They see these are people just like us."

Rabbi Arnie Gluck,
Temple Beth-El,
Somerset County, NJ

Join Us For These Events:

General Meeting:
October 9, 6:30
Trinity Emmanuel
Lutheran Church
located at
761 Elmgrove Rd

Upcoming General
Meetings:
November 13
December 11

See the RAIHN web site
for calendar of future
events and locations
www.raihn.org

RAIHN is happy to
introduce our newest
board member: Dr.

Denise Mack, Associate
Pastor, Church of the
Assumption, Fairport

In Search of a Van

One of the key elements for RAIHN's success will be the acquisition of a passenger van prior to our launch date. This van will be the main transportation for our guests each morning and evening between the Host Congregation's facilities and our Day Center.

Virtually all of the nation's IHN groups have secured the donation of a new van

and the RAIHN Board is focusing efforts to find one in the Rochester area. If you have any ideas or suggestions about potential donors please contact Pete Hallagan at president@raihn.org or Doug Hitchcock at webmaster@raihn.org



Fast Facts:

In 2002 there was a shortage of 200 homeless in the Rochester area, leaving 20 – 30 families without available emergency housing. RAIHN will provide about 14 of these beds – serving up to five family units at any given time during the year.

Grants and Fundraising

Fundraising Under Way

RAIHN officially received our 501c3 status in March 2003. We are now requesting needed support from foundations, corporations, churches, civic organizations and individuals. The RAIHN

board member chairing our fundraising efforts is Helen Tiss. Helen can be reached at hvtiss@cs.com

If you are interested in making a donation to help us launch, 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.

Our Daycenter

The Day Center will be the hub of our RAIHN operation. While families will rotate from site to site once a week during their stay with RAIHN, they will spend part of every day at the Day Center. The Day Center adds stability for the families. The center becomes their permanent address and their home base, where children are picked up for school, where they can receive mail and calls, and where the Director will conduct the individualized case management for the families.

The day center must have at least 800 square feet with a room for a Director's office, a general area, and a bedroom that could be used by a sick child or nightshift worker. There will be storage spaces for guests' belongings as well as donations to the network. Being close to public transportation is important so that family members can get to work. Kitchen facilities, showers and washer/dryer facilities will make things more convenient for families trying to get back on their feet.

The board is working very hard to find a Center that will meet the critical needs of our guests, director, hosts and support congregations. We have some preliminary leads, but we welcome your suggestions.

Contact Pete Hallagan at president@raihn.org or visit our website at www.raihn.org with your thoughts.



Family Homelessness

Excerpted from the National IHN website.

Being without a safe, warm place to sleep, eat, and care for children, without the security of familiar people and things; this is homelessness. The loss of a home is a crisis for anyone, but especially for families. Parents must endure the heartache of not being able to provide a secure environment for their children.

Prior to recent times, many people believed that only alcoholics or severely mentally ill people could wind up homeless. But these stereotypes never did accurately portray the homeless population, and

definitely do not reflect reality today. Families with young children now account for up to forty percent of America's homeless, and they are its fastest growing segment.

The root cause of homelessness is simply the lack of sufficient family income to maintain decent, affordable housing. Hundreds of thousands of American families have found themselves caught in the growing gap between family income and the cost of a home. The loss of a job, an increase in rent, sudden illness, the gentrification of a

neighborhood, the absence of family support any one of these can drive a family into homelessness. Fortunately, many believe that homelessness remains unacceptable especially in the world's wealthiest, and most generous, society. And there is much that one person can do about it especially in concert with others. The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is a tangible way many Americans have joined together to provide real help and compassion to homeless families, and to work together toward permanent solutions.



- You can learn about the 90 communities across the US who are running networks by visiting the website of the National IHN at www.nihn.org

Host Organizations

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

Third Presbyterian Church
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Bethel Christian Fellowship
Trinity Emmanuel Lutheran Church
St. Luke & St. Simon
Cyrene Episcopal Church
Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word
Downtown United Presbyterian Church
First Universalist Church

Supporting Organizations

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

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Christ Church, Rochester
Church of the Epiphany
St. Mary's Church
New Life Presbyterian Church

Who's On the RAIHN Board?

The members of the Board of Directors of the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network come from a wide array of backgrounds. Each person brings a unique set of skills to RAIHN, and the group has become a well-tuned team.

Board members come from both the clergy at

area faith communities and also from outside the clergy in the private sector around the community.

During the past year, the board of directors has delegated tasks to each board member covering many aspects of starting-up the RAIHN organization.

Roles have included

recruitment of the various faith communities, fund-raising, training newly recruited congregations, logistics in securing a day center, a transport van, and the hiring of a professional director.

The spirit of RAIHN is embodied in each board member as well as with the many volunteers.

Continued Summer Report – from page 1

Director Search

The search for RAIHN's Director has begun in earnest now that a winter launch date is closer to realization. Board member Nancy Frank is leading the formal search over the 2-3 months. We

will be looking for candidates with three or more years of experience in direct service to homeless or high risk families, crisis management, case management and knowledge of community

services. Candidates should have experience organizing projects, managing employees and volunteers. If you know of a qualified candidate, please contact Nancy at nancyfrank@aol.com

Visit Us on the Web

Visit our new web site www.raihn.org Created by Doug Hitchcock, you'll 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 Doug at 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

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