

COORDINATING



TIMES

April 2007

You're invited!

Celebration of Volunteers
Sunday, May 6th
2:30pm-5:30pm

First Unitarian Universalist Church
4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



Please bring a dessert to share!

Join the IHN family of volunteers and friends for an afternoon of fellowship and celebration! The focus of this year's event will be to highlight the strength and breadth of the IHN family. **Each member congregation will be presented with a framed certificate honoring their service to IHN!** One of our partner organizations, Childcare Network, will be recognized for its strong commitment to serving Alpha House children and their parents. We hope to see all coordinators and congregations represented!

Contact Heidi at Alpha House for more information!

Run/ Walk with IHN!

"Endurance" 5K Fun Run/Walk
Saturday, April 28
9:30AM

Gallup Park
Large Pavilion
3000 Fuller Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

INH congregation, Huron Hills Baptist Church, is hosting its 4th Annual "Endurance" 5K Fun Run/Walk. Endurance does not describe the length of the race, rather what the recipient may experience on a daily basis. Each year they choose a different recipient that is in need of financial assistance. This year all proceeds will go directly to IHN!

If you would like to register for this event, please visit their online registration form at:

http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1418292

For more information, contact Alpha House or Terri Parker at: rparker8@provide.net or 734-330-5490.

IHN Program Highlight

Children's Services

The goal of the Children's Services Program is to provide Alpha House children and their parents with the necessary support they need to handle the stressors of life in shelter and successfully weather the crisis of homelessness. Peggy Galimberti, the Children's Services Coordinator, serves as an advocate for parents and a resource for staff and volunteers, arranges school transportation for children, assists parents in obtaining childcare, and facilitates referrals to other community agencies when needed. Peggy works closely with the IHN Family Facilitators particularly when there are child-related issues.

In addition, the Children's Services Coordinator facilitates weekly parents' and children's groups that include skill-building activities. These groups provide a safe, nurturing space for participants to discuss challenges and receive emotional support. Peggy is also available to meet with parents and children individually to provide tailored assistance with parenting challenges, grief and loss issues, and other concerns. The Children's Services Program is a crucial component of IHN's response to families experiencing homelessness.

Coordinators' Meeting Held at Food Gatherers

13 Congregation Coordinators attended the meeting on Tuesday, March 13. Marti Lachapell, Food Gatherers Business Manager, gave an informative tour of the Food Gatherers facility. The tour focused on the many ways Congregation Coordinators can utilize this great resource during their host week for meals and inventory items. See page two for details on ordering from Food Gatherers!

The next Coordinators' Meeting will be held Thursday, May 17, 7pm at Alpha House. Hope to see you there!!

Food Gatherers Order Procedure

Ordering from Food Gatherers is easy, economical, and puts food surplus to good use! Every Monday, Food Gatherers emails Alpha House a list of available food items and paper products. These items may be purchased at Food Gatherers' rock-bottom prices for use during your host week by meal volunteers and/or to meet Alpha House supply needs.

- 1. Heidi will email the current Food Gatherers order form to the Congregation Coordinator the Monday before their host week along with the Alpha House inventory request list.**
 - 2. Congregation Coordinators should mark desired items on the Food Gatherers order form and email the form back to Heidi no later than the Thursday before their host week.**
Please be aware that many items on the order form come in extremely large quantities and may be more than needed.
 - 3. Congregation Coordinators are welcome to "shop" at Food Gatherers for free rescued food items. Please call Food Gatherers to make a shopping appointment. Available shopping items include perishable and prepared food such as bread, dairy products, fruit, desserts, etc.**
- Food Gatherers
1 Carrot Way
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734-761-2796
www.foodgatherers.org**
- 4. Ordered items will be delivered to Alpha House on Monday, the first day of your host week. Be aware that meat will come frozen. Please advise the meal volunteer preparing the meat to pick it up and defrost it at home to make room in the Alpha House refrigerator.**
 - 5. Alpha House will pay Food Gatherers for the order and congregations will reimburse Alpha House. A copy of the invoice will be given to the Congregation Coordinator on Monday, the first day of your host week.**
 - 6. Please pay Alpha House for your Food Gatherers order by the end of your host week.**

Appreciation for Joel Eckel Update

Many Congregation Coordinators donated money to be used to purchase a thank-you gift for former Alpha House Volunteer Coordinator, Joel Eckel. Joel will be presented with the gift at the Volunteer Celebration on May 6. Please contact Sally Lamkin at 663-0300 for more information or to make a last minute contribution.

Friends Mailing

The IHN spring fundraising mailing, **the Friends Mailing**, is one of only two fundraising letters that IHN sends out each year. This is such a successful mailing because we get help from our Friends (i.e. YOU!) to write personal notes on letters to their friends.

All you have to do is send us names and addresses of your friends with whom you'd like to share the good work of what you do with IHN. Then we give you the letters, envelopes, etc. so you can write personal notes to those friends.

Casey Frazee, IHN Development Coordinator, will be contacting Congregation Coordinators about the mailing in the next week. You can also read more about the Friends Mailing on the attached page. We hope you will consider helping with this effort to raise needed funds for IHN. We continue to be grateful for all you do for IHN/Alpha House!

12th Annual Gimme Shelter

The 12th annual Gimme Shelter fundraiser is Saturday, October 20. This is IHN's sole event to raise money for the families experiencing homelessness that we serve at Alpha House.

IHN Development Coordinator, Casey Frazee, is still looking for a few dedicated volunteers to serve on Gimme Shelter committees. The committees are: **Sponsorship, Silent Auction, Food and Ticket Sales**. There are also volunteer opportunities the day of the event.

We know you already do so much for IHN as coordinators. However, there may be others in your congregation that would be interested in helping with this very important event. The commitment varies from committee to committee, but we spread the work around so no one person has to do everything. Please contact Casey for more information at cfrazee@alphahouse-ihn.org or call 822-0220 ext. 204.

Alpha House Chickens?

We are pleased to announce an end to food waste at Alpha House! Chickens from a local family farm are now recycling Alpha House's spoiled and expired food into delicious eggs. While we prefer that Alpha House families and volunteers are the ones to eat Alpha House food, it is nice to know that any unused leftovers will not be thrown away but enjoyed by hungry egg-producing birds. We will continue to strive for more efficient, creative, and sustainable ways to make the most of our precious resources.



Gardeners Wanted

Do you love to play in the dirt, make things grow, and eat garden fresh produce all summer long? Please let Heidi know if you or anyone you know might be interested in helping with an Alpha House herb and/or vegetable garden this season.

Emergency Volunteers Still Needed!

Please encourage your volunteers to add their name the Emergency Volunteer List! This is an easy way for volunteers to stay connected to Alpha House throughout the year without making a big commitment.

Emergency Volunteers state which shifts they are interested in (meals, overnight, activities, weekends) and agree to be called if/when there is a last minute opening or cancellation. Individuals on the list are certainly not obligated to volunteer if they receive a call. However, maintaining a large pool of potential Emergency Volunteers ensures that we will always be able to find someone willing and able to fill in.

Interested volunteers can either contact Heidi at Alpha House or check the box on the volunteer sign-in sheet.

Coordinators' Meeting

2007 Schedule

Thursday, May 17
7pm at Alpha House

Tuesday, July 17
7pm at Alpha House

Thursday, September 06
7pm at Alpha House

Tuesday, November 13
7pm at Alpha House

The Volunteer Log Book Is Back

Some Congregation Coordinators have expressed a desire to see the Volunteer Log Book reinstated as an additional way to facilitate communication between volunteers, Congregation Coordinators and Heidi (Alpha House Volunteer Coordinator). The log book will be located in the Alpha House kitchen near the phone. Please feel free to log questions, concerns, or tips for upcoming volunteers. Heidi will check the log daily and respond as needed. As always, Congregation Coordinators are encouraged to speak directly with Heidi and your volunteers to address any issues that may arise.



Questions, concerns, ideas?

Please don't hesitate to contact Volunteer Coordinator
Heidi Beck, MSW

Interfaith Hospitality Network at Alpha House
4290 Jackson Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Phone: 734-822-0220
Fax: 734-822-0226

www.alphahouse-ihn.org hbeck@alphahouse-ihn.org