

COORDINATING TIMES

August 2007

UPCOMING WEEK WITHOUT HOST CONGREGATION

Alpha House will be without a hosting congregation **August 20-26**. Volunteers are needed to fill all shifts (excluding the Saturday and Sunday dinner & evening activity). Please let your congregation and trusty volunteers know that Alpha House is in deep need of volunteers willing to help during this week. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Heidi Beck at: 734-395-0081 or hbeck@alphahouse-ihn.org.

Thank you for spreading the word about this important need!

July Coordinators Meeting

Twelve people attended the recent Coordinators Meeting. It was a fantastic gathering full of productive, creative, and lively discussion. New staff members, Pam Chalklin, IHN Housing Relocation Coordinator, and Angie Leath, IHN Home-Based Family Facilitator, introduced themselves and spoke about their work. You can read more about each of the talented new IHN staff members in the summer 2007 IHN newsletter.

Other agenda items included: the **Volunteer Action Team**, an **email alert system**, **taking IHN families on outings**, the **2008 schedule**, a **welcome to new congregations**, and **Gimme Shelter reminder & update**. Please read more about each of these topics in the following pages.

Next Coordinators Meeting:
Thursday, September 06
7pm at Alpha House



Volunteer Action Team

The newly forming Volunteer Action Team will develop a vision and create a plan to expand volunteer involvement to more effectively and comprehensively serve IHN families. Some creative ideas for expanded volunteer involvement generated at the last Coordinators

Meeting included: utilizing parish nurses, helping families move, assisting with home maintenance and car repair, and mentoring.

The Volunteer Action Team will hold its first meeting after Labor Day. If you or others in your congregation

are interested in lending your voice and insight to this exciting process, please contact Heidi Beck at 734-822-0220 or hbeck@alphahouse-ihn.org.

Email Alert System

One type of feedback we received from volunteers during the strategic planning process was a desire to be better connected to Alpha House, the needs of our families, and efforts to end homelessness. At the last Coordinators Meeting, we discussed launching an email alert system to be used to inform volunteers and IHN supporters about urgent shelter needs, unique volunteer opportunities, and legislative action impacting homeless families.

Many coordinators at the meeting expressed a desire to remain the main contact for their congregation and the filter through which information flows rather than widening the list to include any interested volunteer. Under this model, Coordinators would have the responsibility to communicate upcoming Alpha House needs and action alerts to their congregations in the way that makes sense for each congregation (making an announcement during services, placing a brief article in the newsletter, calling someone who you know could meet the need, etc).

Your input is important! Please contact Heidi with your ideas and suggestions for developing this new tool to serve our families more effectively.

Out and About with IHN Families

Looking for creative ways to share a little extra joy with Alpha House families? Wondering how to fill those weekend afternoons at Alpha

House? Searching for ways to utilize the gifts of your volunteers? Consider planning an outing with Alpha House families! Weekend day trips can be for a few hours to somewhere special such as Vets Park Pool, miniature golf, the movies, bowling, Hands on Museum, etc. These types of opportunities are rare for our families and can be incredibly rewarding for all involved. Please let Heidi know if you are interested in planning an outing.

IHN Program Highlight

Tenant Based Rental Assistance Pilot Project

In 2007, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) awarded a grant to IHN in partnership with SOS Community Services based on a model of service called Housing First. The name of this Pilot Project is Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and will be conducted over the next two years. Sixty vouchers are being made available to families who are experiencing homelessness and who reside in shelters in Washtenaw, Jackson, Hillsdale or Lenawee Counties. These vouchers will offset the cost of rental properties based on income for participating families. Of the sixty vouchers being awarded, 34 will go to families residing in Washtenaw County. The anticipated result of the TBRA Pilot Project is that families will be self-sufficient at the end of two years!

TBRA found its roots in a program developed in New York City whereby persons who were homeless and asking for housing were accommodated *immediately*. The outcome of this approach to circumvent homelessness demonstrated an increased success toward self-sufficiency and was directly proportional to readily available affordable housing.

Although Washtenaw County does not yet have the resources to provide affordable housing without delay, we anticipate that the outcome of TBRA will be a stepping stone that will change the outlook of homelessness, not only in participating counties, but throughout Michigan.

Pam Chalklin, IHN Housing Relocation Coordinator, manages IHN's role in the TBRA Pilot Program. Pam joined the IHN team in June, 2007 and brings a wealth of skills, knowledge, and enthusiasm. Pam also coordinates housing relocation services for all IHN families. IHN is thrilled to have Pam on board and excited to have the opportunity to participate in the TBRA Pilot Project.

Welcome Foundation of Faith!

We are pleased to welcome another new congregation to the IHN family of volunteers! The Ann Arbor-based church, Foundation of Faith, will serve its first meal at Alpha House on Saturday, August 12th. They will prepare lunch and provide afternoon children's activities on the second Saturday of each month through the end of the year.

WELCOME

IHN Website Link

www.alphahouse-ihn.org

The IHN website is currently undergoing an extensive updating process. If you have never visited our website, take a look! It contains a great deal of information about our programs, ways to get involved, instructions for donating money and goods, and helpful information for volunteers. A few congregations have a link to the IHN website included on their websites. This is a great way for the congregation to stay connected to IHN. In addition, having a link to IHN allows potential new congregation members to see what kinds of community outreach the congregation is involved in. We would love to know if you are able to persuade your congregation to incorporate a link to the IHN site into their website.



2008 Schedule

Though the dog days of summer are upon us, it's time to begin thinking about the 2008 Host Schedule. This will be an important topic at the next Coordinators Meeting. Please email Heidi if:

- there are days/weeks that your congregation had in 2007 that you do not want in 2008
- you think your congregation could take on more hosting (additional full or partial week/s)
- there are specific days/weeks that you would like your congregation to have in 2008

Michigan Tax Credit

Did you know that money donated to IHN is eligible for the Michigan Homeless Shelter/Food-Bank Nonrefundable Tax Credit? IHN has been designated as a qualified agency under this tax credit. Please feel free to pass this information along to your congregation.



Gimme Shelter: Save the Date!

Gimme Shelter, IHN's annual fall fundraiser, is **Saturday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Morris Lawrence Building at Washtenaw Community College. As always, there will be great food, music, and a silent auction. Casey will be contacting Congregation Coordinators towards

Coordinators Meeting 2007 Schedule

Thursday, September 06
7pm at Alpha House

Tuesday, November 13
7pm at Alpha House

the
end of
August
to
enlist
your
help
with
selling
tickets

. Please save the date and we hope to see you there!

Gimme Shelter Volunteer Opportunity

10 volunteers are needed to help at the Gimme Shelter 'stuffing party' on **Thursday, August 23, 5:15pm-8:30pm**. Volunteers will stuff, seal and mail invitations to Gimme Shelter. Supplies, dinner and beverages will be provided. Interested individuals should RSVP to Casey Frazee at 822-0220 or cfrazee@alphahouse-ihn.org.

2007 Updated Schedule

An undated version of the 2007 Host Schedule is attached to this issue of the Coordinating Times. Please review it and let Heidi know if you have any questions or concerns.

Questions, concerns, ideas?

Please 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

Michigan Food Stamp Challenge: September 4-10

The Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice is organizing the Michigan Food Stamp Challenge to raise awareness about the experience of poverty and food insecurity and the importance of the food stamp program. Michigan Food Stamp Challenge participants pledge to spend only \$21 dollars for the week on food the average amount food stamp recipients receive.

**But it s about more than understanding,
it s about action.**

Congress will vote on proposed cuts to Food Stamps this October. When you take the Challenge, you help share the word about the importance of food security in our country. You join part of a movement that is raising awareness, starting conversations, getting the message out in the media, and letting your leaders in Washington know how you feel about this issue.

Food Stamp Challenge Rules

1. You can only spend \$21 on food and beverages during the Challenge week.
2. All food purchased and eaten during the Challenge week, including fast food and dining out must be included in the total spending.
3. Do not eat food that you already own.
4. Avoid accepting free food from friends, family, or at work.

For more information about the Michigan Food Stamp Challenge contact:

The Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
730 Tappan, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
phone: 734-663-1870 email: info@icpj.net
www.michiganfoodstampchallenge.org

2007 IHN Host Schedule

DATE	HOST	SUPPORT	SUPPORT	SUPPORT
Jan 1 - Jan 7	Ann Arbor Seventh-day Adventist Church	Shalom Community Church		
Jan 8 - Jan 14	First United Methodist Church of Ypsi	WEEKEND DAYS OPEN (Breakfast to afternoon 5:30)		
Jan 15 - Jan 21	Westside United Methodist Church			
Jan 22 - Jan 28	First Presbyterian Church of Saline			
Jan 29 - Feb 4	First Unitarian Universalist Congregation	Beth Israel		
Feb 5 - Feb 11	Huron Hills Baptist Church	Bethel United Church of Christ (Sat. dinner & activity)	Chelsea Free Methodist (Sun. dinner & activity)	
Feb 12 - Feb 18	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints			
Feb 19 - Feb 25	St. Mary Catholic Church			
Feb 26 - Mar 4	First United Methodist Church of AA	Community of Christ (Sat dinner & activity)		
Mar 5 - Mar 11	Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church	Adrian Lewis EMU BSW Students (Wed activity only)	Bethel United Church of Christ (Sat. dinner and activity)	
Mar 12 - Mar 18	First United Methodist Church of Chelsea		Chelsea Free Methodist (Sun dinner and activity)	Sam Estenson Mon, Tues, Thurs Overnights
Mar 19 - Mar 25	St Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church/Temple Beth Emeth			
Mar 26 - Apr 1	First Presbyterian Church of AA			
Apr 2 - Apr 8	OPEN			
Apr 9 - Apr 15	St. Paul Lutheran Church			
Apr 16 - Apr 22	First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti			
Apr 23 - Apr 29	Huron Hills Baptist Church	Bethel United Church of Christ (Sat. dinner & activity)	Chelsea Free Methodist (Sun. dinner & activity)	
Apr 30 - May 6	First Unitarian Universalist Congregation	Beth Israel (T & Th)		
May 7 - May 13	Dexter United Methodist Church	Bethlehem United Church of Christ Sunshine Circle Women's Group (Monday dinner & activity)		
May 14-May 20	First United Methodist Church of Ypsi	U of M Indian Student Association (Saturday breakfast & lunch)	NorthRidge (Sunday breakfast)	
May 21-May 27	Ann Arbor Seventh-day Adventist Church	Shalom Community Church	Red Hat Society: Contact Ms. Robinson (Tuesday Dinner)	
May 28 - Jun 3	St. Paul Missionary Baptist			
Jun 4 - Jun 10	St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church	Bethel United Church of Christ (Sat. dinner & activity)	Chelsea Free Methodist (Sun. dinner & activity)	
Jun 11 - Jun 17	St Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church/Temple Beth Emeth	NorthRidge (Sunday breakfast)		
Jun 18 - Jun 24	First United Methodist Church of AA	Community of Christ (Sat. dinner & activity)		
Jun 25 - Jul 1	First United Methodist Church of Chelsea			

2007 IHN Host Schedule

Jul 2- Jul 8	Dexter United Methodist Church			
Jul 9 - Jul 15	St. Andrew Catholic Church			
Jul 16 - Jul 22	First Presbyterian Church of Saline	NorthRidge (Sunday breakfast)		
Jul 23 - Jul 29	Huron Hills Baptist Church	Bethel United Church of Christ (Sat. dinner & activity)	Chelsea Free Methodist (Sun. dinner & activity)	Aura Ahuvia & Family (Sun. afternoon activity 3-4:30)
Jul 30 - Aug 5	Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church	Aura Ahuvia & Family (Sun. afternoon activity 3-4:30)		
Aug 6 - Aug 12	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Foundation of Faith (Sat. lunch & afternoon activity)	Aura Ahuvia & Family (Sun. evening activity)	
Aug 13 - Aug 19	St Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church/Temple Beth Emeth	NorthRidge (Sunday breakfast)	Detroit Church of Christ (Sun. afternoon activity & dinner)	
Aug 20 - Aug 26	OPEN	Bethel United Church of Christ (Sat. dinner & activity)	Chelsea Free Methodist (Sun. dinner & activity)	
Aug 27 - Sep 2	First Baptist Church of Ypsilanti			
Sep 3 - Sep 9	First Unitarian Universalist Congregation	Beth Israel (T & Th)	Foundation of Faith (Sat. lunch & afternoon activity)	
Sep 10 - Sep 16	First Presbyterian Church of AA	Bethel United Church of Christ (Sat. dinner & activity)	NorthRidge (Sunday breakfast)	Chelsea Free Methodist (Sun. dinner & activity)
Sep 17 - Sep 23	Westside United Methodist Church			
Sep 24 - Sep 30	First United Methodist of Chelsea			
Oct 1 - Oct 7	First United Methodist Church of Ypsi	Jewish Cultural Society Saturday day only (Breakfast, lunch, & afternoon 5:30)	SUNDAY DAY OPEN (Breakfast, lunch, & afternoon 5:30)	
Oct 8 - Oct 14	Huron Hills Baptist Church	Foundation of Faith (Sat. lunch & afternoon activity)	Bethel United Church of Christ (Sat. dinner & activity)	Chelsea Free Methodist (Sun. dinner & activity)
Oct 15 - Oct 21	St. Francis Catholic Church	NorthRidge (Sunday Breakfast)		
Oct 22 - Oct 28	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Bethlehem United Church of Christ Youth Group Halloween Party Saturday 1-5pm		
Oct 29 - Nov 4	St. Mary Catholic Church			
Nov 5 - Nov 11	OPEN	Foundation of Faith (Sat. lunch & afternoon activity)		
Nov 12 - Nov 18	First United Methodist Church of AA	Community of Christ (Sat. dinner & activity)	NorthRidge (Sunday breakfast)	
Nov 19 - Nov 25	First Unitarian Universalist Congregation	Beth Israel (T & Th)		
Nov 26 - Dec 2	Dexter United Methodist Church			

2007 IHN Host Schedule

Dec 3 - Dec 9	First Presbyterian Church of AA	Foundation of Faith (Sat. lunch & afternoon activity)	Bethel United Church of Christ (Sat. dinner & activity)	Chelsea Free Methodist (Sun. dinner & activity)
Dec 10 - Dec 16	First United Methodist Church of Chelsea	NorthRidge (Sun. breakfast)		
Dec 17 - Dec 23	St Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church/Temple Beth Emeth			
<i>Dec 24 - Dec 30</i>	<i>OPEN</i>		Bethel United Church of Christ (Sat. dinner & activity)	Chelsea Free Methodist (Sun. dinner & activity)

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