

Network News

Interfaith Hospitality Network
297 E. Beau St. Washington, PA 15301 Phone: 724-229-1129

WINTER 2007

www.homelessfamilies.org



*Open Hearts That
Open Doors*



Harry Jr.

Ralph and Grace's meatloaf was wonderful!

Harry Sr., his wife Jennifer, and Harry Jr. returned to our area after staying with relatives in New York during a family crisis. When they couldn't afford two months rent, along with the utility deposits required to move in, they found emergency shelter at IHN.

Asked how things were going after their first night at Thomas Church, Harry Sr. summed it up succinctly... *"Ralph and Grace's meatloaf was wonderful!"*

Harry, Jr echoed his dad's fond appreciation of one of the many delicious meals they shared with volunteers at one of our Network's first host congregations.

Harry Sr. worked as a security guard while staying at IHN, starting a new job just before he and his family moved into their Canonsburg apartment. Working with our staff, Harry Sr. enrolled in a GED program, hoping one day to work in the criminal justice system.

Jennifer received her driver's license shortly after leaving our Network, and is waiting for results from the GED test she took while at IHN.

Their family's social services at the Family Day Center also included budget counseling, and they've begun saving toward their dream of owning their own home.

Though things are going well for the family, Harry Sr. is worried about their car's transmission problems. Losing transportation is a serious problem we frequently encounter at IHN, and it can be the determining factor in keeping a job.

Since each family is a valuable investment, friendship and follow-up services continue to be offered to families, even after they leave our Network.

Harry's entire family stopped in last week to tell us about their new apartment, and we shared in Harry Jr.'s excitement about the thrill of becoming a big brother in less than two months!!

Expressing their deep appreciation, Jennifer and her two Harrys asked us to convey their heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers of IHN.

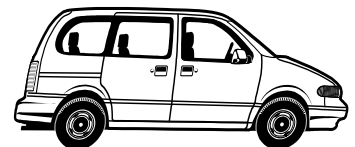
Hmmmm.....wonder if Ralph and Grace will share their recipe for meatloaf???



*Holiday
Greetings
from our
family
to yours!*

The Self-Reliance Used Car Lot

Our families frequently need cars to find or keep jobs. Please consider donating your used car to our Network if it is in good running condition and will not require expensive repairs or parts replacement. Many other nonprofits sell their donated vehicles, and consequently the tax credit is **only** for the price of the actual sale. Since IHN gives donated vehicles to screened impoverished families, your potential tax credit will be for the **full Blue Book** price.



Got wheels?

FAMILY UPDATES FOR 2007

Patricia and her 16 year old grandson are enjoying their new house in Bethel Park, where they moved after volunteers from **John McMillan Presbyterian Church** had a “clean and paint party” there. Pat recently joined that church, and her grandson is doing well in school.

April, Neal, Mona and Christopher have moved to West Virginia. Neal continues treatment for his heart condition, April works for 7-Eleven.

Patty and her two children Jeffrey and Kayla have moved into supportive housing in Clairton.

Annie, Jackie and Georgia moved into a mobile home near her grandfather, Annie works in Washington.

Kenny and his daughter Tina moved to Charleroi where Kenny works as a cook.

Mechelle and her daughter Karena transferred to Greensburg where they are receiving the supportive services they require.

The King family returned to Allegheny County because of custody issues of their grandchildren.

Ty and Melissa moved out of state with their children **Valerie and Tyson**.

“Mama G” and her son Corey moved to New Jersey.

David and Shanta are both working. They moved to Washington and their 5 year old daughter **Aiyana** is now living with them.

Zenaida and her two children Alonzo (13) and Zekima (12) moved into housing in Pittsburgh.

Earla, Auston, Dillon and Ashlyn moved into a house in Washington.

Ella and her two daughters are on the waiting list for supportive housing.

Bernie, Markie and Allysa moved to Mercer County to be with relatives.

Harry, Jennifer and Harry Jr. moved into housing in Canonsburg (*see front page story*).

Thea, Taylor and Tyler moved into transitional housing in Pittsburgh where Thea will work and be able to use daycare for the children.

IHN was able to help **Family Focus** (a housing program for large families) by bringing in **David and Barbara and their 5 children** until their unit was ready.

IHN is a Compassionate and Profitable Investment

Each dollar you donate to IHN is tripled in value. Your contribution results in the work of over 800 volunteers, free overnight facilities for our guests with no staff expenses, and donated food for all meals.

The compassion of our volunteers: **Priceless!**

Your donations help IHN provide social services that help families recover from whatever crisis led to their homelessness, enabling them to leave our program and live independently.

Contributions from you also provide our staff with the resources needed to pursue grants for start-up and special purchase expenses. Six grants were awarded in 2007 to help fund the development of our Second Circle shelter in Crafton. Considerable time and effort goes into each grant application.

The facts: Our Network is a community based, grass-roots nonprofit organization, yet it is professional in administration and fund management. Income and expenditures are reviewed and processed by the IHN director, a contracted accountant (John McCoy, CPA), a professional auditor (Taggart Mitchell & Associates, CPA), a special financial consultant (Michael Lindsey, MBA) and most importantly, by the IHN Board of Directors. In addition we must qualify for, and are reviewed by, private foundations including the citizen review board at the Washington County United Way, as well as several government agencies (Federal Agency for Children and Families, FEMA, Dept of Economic Development).

Please contribute to IHN and enjoy the payback - the satisfaction of knowing your investment helped a displaced family survive a stressful emergency, and that you enabled volunteers to experience the joy of directly helping families in need.

IHN Mission Statement

To unite congregations from the religious community to provide shelter, supportive services, and caring hospitality to homeless families, to keep the families intact during a time of crisis, and to help these families return to self-sufficient lives in the community.

OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE SUPPORTS IHN

Many thanks to proprietor **Daniel McKinney** and the staff of Outback Steakhouse in **Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania** for donating great food and their many talents in making IHN's 3rd annual **"Just Right Lunch"** a great success!

Kudos also go out to the Deacons and volunteers from **Westminster Presbyterian Church** for arranging such a great event, complete with scores of lovely baskets for the silent auction.

Special thanks go out to Lunch Committee members **Paul Adamo, Cindy Marynak, Beth Wagner, and Burt Etherington.**

Money raised during this event helped pay for our new 15-passenger van which will be used for transporting families in our Second Circle program.



* "Cheers" is the Aussie term for "Thank You"

Juggling & Jokes



In October, professional comedian **Jack Swersie** entertained the crowd at *Julian's Banquet Facility* in Washington, Pennsylvania during our second annual **"Jester Goes South"** fundraising event.

The evening began with appetizers and musical entertainment by **Patrick Arena & friends**, featuring vocals and guitar. The Chinese Auction and Silent Auction tables remained busy most of the evening. Cello music provided a pleasant backdrop for the evening dinner.

Watch the *Network News* web page at **www.homelessfamilies.org** for details about our Spring & Fall 2008 events.

Many thanks to our Dinner Committee:

Beth Hunt, Chair
Kristie Horrell
Dottie & Paul Reiber
Maggie Zuraw

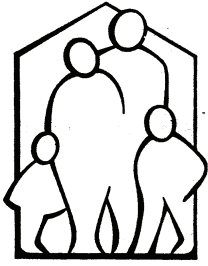


Thanks to our Sponsor **donnan.com**, our Benefactor **Cypher & Cypher**, our auction donors and program advertisers. Also, many thanks for all the donations in response to our dinner invitation!

WANTED

ALLEGHENY COUNTY VOLUNTEERS & CONGREGATIONS

As our non-profit mission of helping homeless families enters its 15th year, we need more volunteers and congregations. Learn the rewards of volunteering for a meaningful cause. We have opened our Second Circle program in Allegheny County, and need congregations and volunteers to help support homeless families through our new program. Visit the Second Circle at: **www.ihnsecondcircle.org**



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- » Send your tax exempt donation to IHN today, using the **enclosed envelope**
.. or ..
- » Go to the IHN web site www.homelessfamilies.org and click on the "PayPal Donate" icon on the upper left of the screen. Your online donation is secure through **PayPal**.

Remember also to designate Interfaith Hospitality Network of the South Hills as your charity of choice through the **United Way**. Opt for **#10151**

"Give what you have. To someone it may be better than you dare to think."
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

