

# Network News

Fall 2009

## Interfaith Hospitality Network

297 E. Beau St Washington, PA 15301  
and 7 Oregon Avenue Crafton, PA 15205

[www.homelessfamilies.org](http://www.homelessfamilies.org)



### *A thank you note from Mom...*

Interfaith Hospitality Network has been the answer to our prayers. My husband and I have been in the program for several months now, along with our three children. We were struggling due to the loss of a vehicle and employment and were at the end of our rope. When we lost our home, we had ten days to move. That's when we found IHN. I had never heard of such a program before and was skeptical about "homeless shelters." But I was very wrong – IHN is the best program we ever found and it really does work to help people. I felt a weight being lifted off my shoulders the very first day we were there. So many people give their time, support and help to us every day – that is the main reason that the program does work. All of those volunteers do their part in the plan, and we are very thankful for every single one of them.

The IHN staff really go above and beyond their jobs to make sure that we have all of the resources and support available. They are here to help us – not only to find housing and help get a head start, but they make sure that we will become stable again, for the problems not to reoccur. We thank God for this program and everyone involved. We have a little family and who knows where we'd be if we weren't at IHN. I really can't say because we had no other options. I believe God planned for us to be here. Currently my husband is working as a meat cutter – full-time. Our kids recently went to summer camp, and I have had time to do things that were impossible before. We are hoping to find a home soon. I know that we'll get there and we'll never forget any part of this experience. We will be eternally grateful and hope to someday give back what was given to us.

**Kristie E.**

### *A thank you note from Dad...*

After losing our van, I had no way to work in Cranberry, and my job was lost. The snowball was in motion. It grew as it rolled and crashed hard and fast. I got jobs but the hours weren't enough and the pay was short - eventually we ended up homeless. I never thought in a million years we would end up like this. But thanks to all the wonderful people at IHN I was given time to find the right job and try to get back on my feet. My job is going well and we are moving toward finding a home.

My family and I would like to send out a thank you to all who've helped in any way. You've made it possible for a family to remain together. All of you have given your time in order for us to re-establish ourselves and gain finances for us to be able to move into a house. Thank you with all of our hearts for everything you have done for us. We will never forget the kind and warm hearted people who have treated us with respect and kindness. God Bless and be with all of you.

**William E.**



### *Help make this possible*

The economic downturn has resulted in a tremendous increase in families and individuals needing help (we receive at least 10 calls each day requesting services or information about sources of assistance).

We are determined to weather the economic storm, and to always be available as a refuge for homeless children and their parents. **Please help us make this a reality by sending a donation to IHN, either by check—to either of the above addresses—or through PayPal on our website at [www.homelessfamilies.org](http://www.homelessfamilies.org)**

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## ***Interfaith Hospitality Network.....***

**Who** we help: Homeless families

**How** we help: IHN unites area churches and volunteers to provide emergency and short-term shelter

**Why** we help: Because of the dedication of over 1,000 volunteers who not only feel compassion for families in crisis but who take action and make a difference

**What** is our goal? To help displaced families return to independent lives in the community

*A volunteer described our mission concisely when he said "IHN helps homeless families get back on their feet"*

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Thank you to **Mt Lebanon Magazine** – their September issue features a great, three-page article about IHN. Special thanks go to writer **Holly Schultz** who volunteers at her church, **Mt Lebanon United Methodist**. IHN can provide copies of the article issue, just call Washington 724-229-1129 or Crafton 412-921-2919.