



Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network

105 South Third Street Goshen, IN 46526 | Tel. & Fax: (574) 534-2300
Email: gosihn@aol.com | Web: www.goshenihn.org

March 2017 Newsletter

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Phil Keller

On Feb. 28th, the Goshen Board of Zoning Appeals heard our petition for a use variance regarding our Fixed Site Project at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. It certainly seems God has gone before us to prepare the path at every juncture, and the BZA meeting was yet another example. We faced no opposition from anyone at the zoning meeting and were blessed with the unanimous approval of the BZA Board for our project!

Over four and half years ago I interviewed for the executive director's position. At that time the GIHN board of directors raised the notion of a fixed site to shelter our homeless guests. Such an idea seemed almost impossible to visualize, yet here we are, apparently in God's perfect timing.

Families and single women facing homelessness will have a stable environment in which to relax and sleep for as many nights as they are in the program. That change in our operating model in no way diminishes the amazing hospitality shown to our past guests by the *host* churches and the countless hour's volunteers have served people in need. It simply means there is a paradigm shift: a change in our method that provides sleeping rooms with real beds, permanent furnishings, and no disruption in living space every seven days; and having to shuffle belongs to the next host church at the end of each week. Guests will be issued programmable "keycards" that will allow each mom or dad to secure their personal room and allow GIHN to control access only during the predetermined hours. Video surveillance of hallways, stairwells, and outside doors will mean safety and security for all our guests and volunteers!

Yet, at the heart of how we function, there will still be that vital connection between volunteers and our guests. There will be that opportunity for our guests to experience the love and compassion of Christ

through the self-less giving of our volunteers' time. Volunteers for the various churches in our "network" can continue to provide the evening meal and socialize with our guests, but rather than requiring 14 hours of volunteers' time (from 5pm to 7am) nightly – we shall only be asking perhaps 5 hours nightly. No more over-night stays for volunteers!

Once operational – hopefully in June – here are some of the benefits:

- Homeless children and their parent(s) in our program will no longer deal with the weekly disruption and transition to "the next host church."
- Newly added opportunity to provide shelter for up to six single homeless females.
- Greatly reduced commitments of volunteers' time.
- Increased comfort and the solace of real beds and a few amenities (desks w/chair, chest of drawers. etc.).
- No more requirements for GIHN staff to transport portable beds from church to church each weekend.

***** That's a win, win, win, win, win!



~~~~~

# CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

## GOSHEN CITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN, FIRST UNITED METHODIST & RIVER OAKS COMMUNITY CHURCH

by Delores Greenawalt



About 10 years ago, First United Methodist Church was searching for a local ministry opportunity when a casual conversation with a member of Goshen City Church of the Brethren led them to partner together. First United Methodist did not have the facility to host and Goshen City Church of the Brethren was willing to host in their building with First United Methodist staffing 2 of their 7 nights.

A few years later, First United Methodist was asked to provide volunteers for all 7 nights. At that time, a small group at River Oaks Community Church was looking for a place to serve and spread the love of Christ and they began providing volunteers for Sunday nights.

Michael Wohlford of River Oaks states that their small group divides and serves by splitting their time. One couple serves the meal from 4:45-7 PM, another couple covers fellowship time from 7-9, and a third couple covers 9 until 7 the next morning. Michael states that serving Interfaith has given their group a sense of purpose and they have been able to connect with a wide range of people.

Linda Russell of First United Methodist says that they are grateful to GIHN for providing all 3 congregations with the opportunity to be the “hands and feet” of Jesus to homeless families in the area. She says “We look forward to serving at the new permanent site, knowing what a blessing it will be for the families we serve.”

~~~~~

FUNDRAISING

by JoEllen Bernstein

GIHN is committed to good stewardship of its resources. With the exciting new opportunity of the fixed site, we will need to grow our resources. We are committed to carefully evaluating our needs and will soon roll out a major fund drive to address the upcoming changes. Please continue your current support and be prepared to consider supporting the new fundraising initiative. Contributions can be given online at www.goshenihn.org or checks sent to GIHN, 105 S. Third St., Goshen, IN 46526. If you wish to give toward the upcoming fixed site fundraising campaign, please designate accordingly. Your generosity is, as always, humbly appreciated.

~~~~~

# EMPTY BOWL

For 17 years, the Goshen Clay Artists Guild have gathered their friends and the community to join them in one very special night for fellowship to help others. The Empty Bowl Soup Supper is a community event for everyone.

For a suggested donation of \$15, guests pick out a handmade pottery bowl, a delicious soup of their choice, bread, beverage and dessert. Proceeds go to GIHN to help with our programs.

Please come out on Saturday, March 25, 2017, from 5-8 pm to the Goshen Farmers Market and enjoy great company along with a bowl of soup.



*Phil and Mindy serving soup at the Empty Bowl Event*

# GIHN WEBSITE

by John Hickey

Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network has a new website [www.goshenihn.org](http://www.goshenihn.org). Please take note of the new web address, as it is different than the previous website. You will find that our new website is totally redesigned and still in the progress of being put together. A few things you will find on the website include:

- Updates on the Fixed Site Project
- a Video Tour of St. Mark's Facilities
- a Donation Page for online donations
- Current and Past Newsletters
- Email sign up to receive Newsletter and special information/updates via email
- and much more to come

If you have any input, ideas, questions, or comments regarding the website please feel free to share them with John Hickey, one of our board members. [pastorjohn@faithgoshen.com](mailto:pastorjohn@faithgoshen.com) or [574-643-7608](tel:574-643-7608).

## Community Support

GIHN would like to thank everyone in and around our community who has supported us both financially and through material goods. Without all of our wonderful sponsors and participants in our fundraising events like A Place at The Table and the great response to our Christmas Letter we could not operate and help families in need in our community.



# GIHN NEEDS

**Make a difference with GIHN by sending in a donation from the following needs list or by monetary donations being sent to 105 S. Third Street, Goshen, IN 46526.**

- Size 5 & 6 Diapers**
- HE Laundry Detergent**
- Paper Towels, Napkins**
- Hair Brushes/Combs**
- Baby Wipes**
- Dish Soap**

• • •

• • •

### *GIHN Board Members*

Jan Oostland • Jo Ellen Bernstein • Jessica Camacho • Ray Collins • Delores Greenawalt • John Hickey • Marcy Kisseberth • Tim Lichti • Cory Martin • Joe Miller • Pat Robbins

• • •

### *GIHN Staff*

Phil Keller • Mindy Morehead • Javier Prietro  
Daisy Gaspar • Brian Snyder •

• • •

## **GIHN would not exist without Host Churches—Thank you!**

Assembly Mennonite Church • Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship • East Goshen Mennonite Church • Faith Lutheran • Faith Mennonite Church • First United Methodist Church • Goshen City Church of the Brethren • Maple City Chapel • North Goshen Mennonite Church • River Oaks Community Church • Silverwood Mennonite Church • St. John the Evangelist Church • St. Mark's United Methodist Church • St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church • Walnut Hill Mennonite Church • Waterford Mennonite Church • Yellow Creek Mennonite Church • 8th Street Mennonite Church

# *Of Special Note:*

- Website Update: Please note the article from John Hickey titled GIHN Website referencing our new site [goshenihn.org](http://goshenihn.org)
- Fixed Site: See Director's Report.
- Fixed Site Fundraising: See Fundraising Article by Jo Ellen Bernstein
- Empty Bowl: Saturday, March 25, 2017 5-8 pm at Goshen Farmer's Market. \$15.00 gets you a handmade bowl, nice hot soup, dessert and drink.



Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network  
105 South Third Street  
Goshen, IN 46526