



Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network

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September 2017 Newsletter

FIXED SITE UPDATE

by Delores Greenawalt

For many months, we have anticipated the opening of GIHN's new fixed site at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Many of you have been looking forward to it, too. At the time of the printing of this newsletter, we are just about ready to open the fixed site and we are so excited!



Our guests will no longer have to move each week from one church to another, but will be able to stay overnight in the same place each evening and sleep in actual beds. They will continue to use the Day Center during the day. Churches and volunteers will continue to provide the evening meals each day at St. Marks. Volunteers will also stay each evening until the overnight person provided by Faith Mission arrives.

Once we had the city's permit, Nuway began the construction that was needed to get ready to host families and single women. A number of our host churches have sponsored rooms, providing dressers, desks, lamps, pillows, sheets, and wall decorations and are eager to place them in the rooms to welcome our guests.



DIRECTORS REPORT

by Phil Keller

I have been asked two questions: “Why have there been so few overnight guests at GIHN in 2017?” and, “What does GIHN staff do when there are no overnight guests?”

Traditionally, late summer brings a surge in requests for shelter. That trend is true again this year. The first of August brought more calls per week than we have experienced this year! Almost every request for shelter came from single moms with kids. Schools were starting, and many requests are from moms that are coming here from other states. We can only speculate as to why calls increased. However, the need is emerging again; while sustainable [and plentiful] employment can be a key reason to low demand it is obviously not the only reason since the economy is still improving locally and calls are increasing.

So, to the second question, what other things do we do? GIHN has a staff of two full-time people and three part-time weekend staffers as needed. During the day when we have no guests, or the guests we have will be gone at work, to appointments, etc. we attend to many of the same things. GIHN administers the Goshen Ministerial Assistance Fund at the beginning and middle of each month. Area churches refer residents of Goshen to us for help with utilities and rent from the account the Goshen Ministerial Association provides for us.

We have provided transportation to various past guests for trips to the Goshen Housing Authority (the office is in Milford) and driven past/present guests to look at apartments and houses for rent. We have taken former guests to the Goshen Hospital, Elkhart

Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital in Mishawaka and Memorial Hospital in South Bend. We have visited former guests during their stay in various hospitals; we even attended a funeral. We’ve delivered everything from donated furniture to toilet paper to former guests now in their own dwellings. Former residents, and sometimes people that have never been in our program, stop in to have us review documents or fax forms for them. Others stop in needing a confidant or sounding-board when their problems are overwhelming them. And of course we are a constant referral source for those calling with questions ranging from, “where’s the food stamp office?” to questions about drug rehab programs, and housing for homeless single men and women.

When people contact us, our objective is to figure out how we can be of help.

GOLF OUTING

By John Hickey

On Tuesday, August 22, 17 teams from various churches, companies, and organizations participated in a Golf Scramble organized by St Mary's Orthodox Church. A little rain as we were getting ready to start didn't put a damper on the event. The weather was perfect the rest of the afternoon and a fun time was had by all. A total of \$6641.00 was raised from the event and donated to GIHN.



Thank you to St Mary's for having this idea and making it a reality. Thank you also to Keystone RV who was a generous sponsor of the event.

Dust off your clubs and keep them ready to see if we make this an annual event for next year.

GIHN FUNDRAISING DESSERT BANQUET

When: Thursday, October 26, from 7-8:30 PM

Where: College Mennonite Church

What: Pie and beverages, speaker Shannan Martin, and musical group The Open Fifths.

We encourage our volunteers and host churches to come and bring your friends.

Please RSVP by calling GIHN, 574 535-2300, or by email, mindygihn@gmail.com.

We will not be selling tickets this year, but there will be an opportunity to give at the end of the program.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for organizations or persons who would like to sponsor tables for our Dessert Banquet. There are 2 levels of sponsorship. If you are able to be a sponsor, please call GIHN at 574 534-2300 or email mindygihn@gmail.com.

- 1) \$250
 - a) Name on table
 - b) Table for 8 people
- 2) \$500 plus
 - a) Name on table
 - b) Table for 8 people
 - c) Name in program
 - d) Introduction at event and inclusion in a slide show

ONLINE GIVING

We are grateful for all the support we receive through your donations. Our ministry relies on your support to do the ministry we do. Thank You.

A new easy way to support and donate to GIHN is through our online giving webpage found at www.goshenihn.org/donate. When you follow this link you will be asked to sign in, create an account, or quick give (which requires no sign in). By creating an account you can access your giving history and also set up reoccurring giving.

Would you consider making GIHN part of your regular monthly giving? Visit our website and sign up to donate online and see how simple it is.

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

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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

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GIHN Staff

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

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Of Special Note:

- Online giving at www.goshenihn.org/donate
- Fundraising Dessert Banquet – Thursday, October 26, 7-8:30 pm
- Fixed Site Update on front page

Needs:

- Towels & washcloths
- Twin size sheets
- Size 5 diapers
- Dish Soap
- Baby wipes

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