



Interfaith Hospitality Network

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

February, 2019 Newsletter

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT



Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship By Susan Garboden

Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship (BAMF) has been a host church since the beginning of GIHN in 1995. At least 3 GIHN Board members and one director have been members at BAMF. We currently involve about 30 volunteers each week that we host at St. Mark's.

The memories I am sharing are from the years prior to the fixed site at St. Mark's.

The weeks that we hosted at our building, we usually involved 30-40 volunteers from our congregation. Even members not directly involved supported IHN by generously sharing space and resources. Trustees often came over to assist with various housekeeping issues.

We tried to make our space feel like home. We have made so many memories...too many to list. Here are a few favorites:

Guests often enjoyed helping in the kitchen. I can remember several times when a guest said "Let me do that for you!" We often prepared part of the food right in the kitchen.

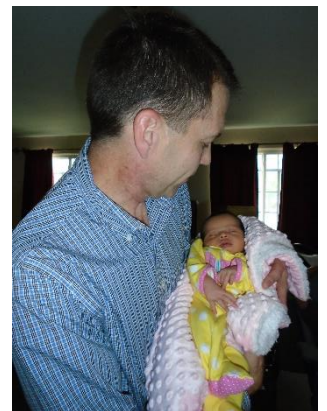
Our Sunday evening hosts for years were Curt, Sherry, Jud, and Rita. Because the guests arrived on Sunday, sometimes the children would expect Jud and Curt to be present the rest of the week to continue games of ping pong and carpetball!

Occasionally a family would return as guests after a period of time. One woman arrived on a Sunday and announced "I've told everyone about Beth's (Berry) lasagna on Tuesday nights. I hope she's still serving on Tuesday nights!"

Children who returned were happy to run again through our long halls. Jesse and Genie Kehr played endless games of Uno, Jenga, and did puzzles with the guests. Laverne Nafziger taught some children Dutch Blitz. One week she knitted two tiny bird finger puppets for each child, after some of the children discovered a basket of the little bird puppets in her Sunday School room.

We each found our own unique ways to relate to guests as we tried to embody our church vision, which is "to live Christ's loving, caring, healing presence in the world." We strived to "connect" when a guest wanted to connect and to give privacy when that was needed.

My favorite memory is from a few years ago. When a family of four arrived on Sunday, they told us that they were awaiting the arrival of a new baby. Their daughter was born midway through our week of hosting. We recognized the birth with balloons outside the family's room at our church. After visiting the mother and baby in the hospital, Greg and Barb Smucker presented the congregation with a few needs, including a stroller. We donated money so that Greg, Barb, Laverne and a few others could have a small baby shower at the Day Center.



Hosting GIHN has been a rich part of our congregational life. Many of our original volunteers have "retired". We anticipate making a new set of memories at the fixed site!

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BY: MINDY MOREHEAD



Happy New Year to Everyone! The holiday season is behind us now and I am especially thankful for everyone who made this time special for the residents in our program. Giving our clients something to celebrate is as important to their health, well being and recovery as giving them a warm, safe place to sleep at night. We rely

on support from our community to make these things a reality and once again you came through. There is still so much to do and I am so excited for the opportunity to make Interfaith Hospitality a better place for our residents in 2019.

Although things can get pretty chaotic around here sometimes, we never lose sight of what is important- Our mission. Our residents are homeless because they lost a job, lack affordable housing, became sick/injured, and so many other reasons. We exist to make sure homeless individuals and families have a roof over their heads and to provide a safety net for our fellow human beings who struggle daily just to survive. IHN is a place people can turn to when they are needing a hand to get off the streets and do something positive with their lives no matter the circumstances that put them there. When they come to the shelter and ask for help we don't need an explanation as to why. We invite them in, and let them stay.

While a healthy economy helps some struggling with homelessness, for others it does not eliminate the issues that caused their homelessness. In addition, a healthy economy has drawn many to our community. The floods of 2017 decreased the affordable housing units that our community already lacked. Now the increased demand combined with reduced availability has resulted in rising costs exasperating the problem. For instance, while section 8 housing subsidy vouchers are available in Goshen, there are virtually no apartments to use the vouchers with. Also, some of the people seeking employment bring with them the issues that caused them to struggle with employment in

their previous location ... added to the demand for services.

Homelessness is a problem that can be solved, but no one can do it alone. It takes the combined efforts of an entire community. By supporting Interfaith Hospitality Network you are supporting the effort to eliminate homelessness in Elkhart County and the surrounding area. It is a big challenge and one that requires all of us to participate. I see every day how much we can accomplish as a community by working together. It won't happen overnight, but if we stay dedicated to the mission ***It will happen.*** Through your support and the support of the entire community, we can make Goshen and Elkhart County a better place for our children, our grandchildren, our friends and neighbors, for all of us to live.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for businesses, individuals or churches that would like to sponsor our expenses for an entire month. It costs \$15,000 per month to operate both sites running at the current capacity. Green House Villages of Goshen sponsored us in January.

If a month is more than you can do we invite you to sponsor one family for a week at \$700.00 (average size of 4) or a month at \$3000.00.



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

BY: Mindy Morehead

Our business spotlight this time is Miller Poultry.



Miller Poultry is a small, family-owned company located in Northern Indiana. There are many positive reasons that this fact is beneficial for you, the consumer. When a company goes to the extent to put their own name on the product, it adds a whole different element, it becomes personal, real personal. We want it right and we want it right every time.

Most of our customers live very close, like neighbors or family and we consider all our customers that way. We provide an 800 number on every one of our packages and encourage calls with not only compliments but other observations as well. One can usually judge a business or individual by how they handle service challenges. We take comments very seriously and respond to every single one.

Our aim is to provide a perfect product in a perfect package in perfect condition every single time. We are driven to do the absolute best we can for you and encourage your comments to help us achieve our goal.

We have been operating a warming shelter out of our Day Center now since January 9, 2019. The first few nights we only served 2 but since then we have served no less than 6 but as many as 17 each night. The men are very happy for a place to get in out of the weather. They also have built a relationship with the Police Department and the Mayor who have stopped in and spent time with them.



CENTER HAPPENINGS

Interfaith Hospitality has decided to take Goshen out of our name. We don't want to just be inclusive to Goshen since we are serving over the people from all county and area.



IHN NEEDS

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

- Toilet Paper**
- Cleaning Supplies**
- Disinfectant Wipes**
- Napkins/Paper Towels**
- Size 5 & 6 Diapers**
- Baby Wipes**

...

GIHN Board Members

- Jan Oostland • Tony Brinson • Craig Detweiler • Ray Collins • Delores Greenawalt • John Hickey • Marcy Kisseberth • Tim Lichti • Cory Martin • Joe Miller • Pat Robbins • Loraine Troyer • Steve Hochstetler Shirk • Jonathon Snyder

...

GIHN Staff

- Mindy Morehead • Daisy Gaspar • Brian Snyder • Jasmine Morehead • Becca Briscoe

Of Special Note:

- *Empty Bowl - Farmers Market, Goshen, Saturday, March 30, 2019 \$15.00 for a unique bowl full of soup*
- *Read about Berkey Avenue and Miller Poultry as our spotlight Church and Business*
- *Read about how you could support a family or our program for a week or a month.*



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