



Home... for Now

A publication of the Greater Nashua Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc.

Volume I – June 2005

Director's Corner: Laurie Skibba

Our First Six Months...

"To share your bread with the hungry and to bring the homeless poor into your house..." Isaiah 58:7

Why it seems like it was just yesterday when we received our first guest family into our program on November 21st! Since that time, the following congregations have welcomed our guests into their faith home: Christ the King Lutheran (Nashua), the Congregational Church of Amherst, the First Baptist Church of Nashua, the First Church Congregational (Nashua), Grace Lutheran (Nashua), Light of the World Christian (Milford), Messiah Lutheran (Amherst), Milford United Methodist, Temple Beth Abraham (Nashua), and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Milford along with support efforts from Church of Our Saviour Episcopal (Milford), Nashua Presbyterian and Congregation Betenu (Amherst). With over 450 trained volunteers, GNIHN has served our first 13 guests with:

- 1,030 bed nights of lodging
- 2,060 meals
- *Over 7,800 volunteer hours*
- 1 graduation (i.e., one family has moved into permanent housing)

Did you notice the statistic that our very new program has already logged *over 7,800 volunteer hours*? That's over 300 volunteer hours each and every week! I believe the most valuable gift you can give *anyone* is the gift of time and our volunteers scattered throughout greater Nashua, have given so generously. We are truly blessed that so many believe in our program and what we are doing to serve families in need of emergency transitional housing. My sincere thanks to all of you, on behalf of our guest families.

And now we look forward to our "home for now" moving from DW Highway in Nashua, to Anne-Marie House at 180 Lowell Road, Hudson, in the former novitiate residence of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, on August 1. Opportunities for you to share your time, talent and treasure abound. Check out our website (www.gnihn.org) or give me a call to learn how you may share your gifts of love and compassion for our brothers and sisters who do not have a permanent home. I look forward to hearing from you!

Joyfully serving,
Laurie

Work Teams

Making Anne-Marie House Ready for Occupancy

We are looking for teams of people to work during the weekdays and on Saturdays to prepare the Anne-Marie House.

The jobs include:

- Assembling the beds
- Furniture, cleaning, repair
- Simple repairs, plumbing
- Cleaning rooms
- Setting up the play field
- Working on the flower beds

We could also use some people to do electrical wiring, rough plumbing and carpentry.

To schedule a time to work, call either Curt Potter (603-579-9821 or Bob Marks at 603-437-6720.

A flyer is available for giving publicity in your congregation. Call Laurie at the Day Center.

Stories that Warm the Heart

Can you imagine starting from scratch to outfit your home? That is what happened when our first family moved into their own apartment. Thanks to the generosity of our network, all of their basic needs were furnished – from bedroom sets to computers.

At the same time this family moved, they were also celebrating one of the children's birthdays. It was celebrated at Milford United Methodist Church, with about 30 volunteers in attendance. Birthday parties have been held for all Moms and children. Host congregations have not let special times slip by for our guests. Having a special meal of Chinese food was one Mom's request. And when children have had a celebration they have received special gifts from our volunteers as well.

We have had volunteers install "kids" computers at the Day Center. This has provided a place for the children to play their games, while freeing up the computers in the office.

Each congregation has stories that can be shared that warm the heart. It is important that they be told so that become a part of the history of GNIHN and the life of the congregations. Please send submission for Home... for Now to Laurie at the Day Center!

Donations Needed

Our Day Center needs donations such as laundry soap, cleaning supplies, and paper products. Call Laurie if you have something to contribute.

Financial Gifts and Grants

We have an active committee seeking grants to fund our program. With the move to the Anne-Marie House we will incur costs in preparing the building plus utility costs. Gifts can be sent to the Network in care of: Brenda Hodgkiss, Treasurer, at the Day Center.

Attention All Volunteers!!

The Greater Nashua Interfaith Hospitality Network Board of Trustees would like to thank you personally for all your generous gifts of time, food, shelter and numerous other thoughtful forms of support and encouragement to our guests and to our program. Please join us for an afternoon of fun and food at our new facility, Anne-Marie House, 180 Lowell Road, Hudson, NH, on July 31, 2005 at 3:00 pm. We are planning a fun picnic with entertainment especially for you. All you need to do is come and enjoy the fellowship. Just let us know by July 17th, by contacting the office at 897-7338 so we will be sure there is enough food. Hope to meet you there!

Linda Jeynes
President, Board of Trustees

Director: Laurie Skibba
Board President: Linda Jeynes
Editor: Rev. Tom Woodward

Fundraising Activities

On April 3, the Network held its second annual *Spring Concert* at Temple Beth Abraham in Nashua. The women of the Temple provided excellent refreshments, and more than 50 items were raffled off. This event was a success in that we raised close to \$3,000 and increased awareness of our program. Performers included John Ogradowczyk, Neerali and Natasha, Sue Hurwitz, Steve Blunt, Michael Nutter and the Raymond Street Klezmer Band. We are presently looking for a church to host next year's spring concert.

Our inaugural *Golf Tournament* is scheduled at the Green Meadows Golf Course in Hudson on September 23. We are just getting this event organized, and would like to have some volunteers for the steering committee, to help with the details that have been laid out by Vern Trudo, who Chairs our Fundraising Committee. Concurrently, we are planning a fun Mini-Golf Tournament for those of us who do not play golf.

A third fundraising project is selling *gift coupons* that can be used at Panera Bread. These coupons can be purchased for \$5 each. They are spent like a gift certificate and can also be given as gifts. There is a place to write in the recipient's name.

For further information on these FUNdraising activities, or to offer help, please contact Vern Trudo at 603-673-4781 or Laurie at the Day Center at 603-897-7338.

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