



# Home... for Now

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

Volume II – June 2006

## *A View From a Board Member*

The opportunity of serving as a member of the Board has been an experience in hearing the stories of our guests, working to build the a structure that will carry the Hospitality Network into the future, and provided opportunity to be a host volunteer. As a person of faith, reaching out to the community is essential for the integrity of who I am as a person.

We are drawing near to the first year in the Anne Marie House. I am brought to reflect on the ways the Hospitality Network makes it possible for our guests to move to a home of their own. At the Anne Marie House quiet days move into noisy afternoons as children arrive from school. People fixed breakfast and lunch alone or in pairs, and then all the guests gather for dinner. We extend hospitality to new guests, and celebrate the departure of our guests when an alternative home situation becomes a reality. Our volunteers contribute in many ways to maintaining and expanding our program and to build relationships. As a Board member I realize how important the effort made by our volunteer coordinators. Each person demonstrates compassion beyond words.

The Board of the Hospitality Network continues to build the organization that is needed to support our emergency shelter program. Building, finances, policies, and fund raising events emerge from the planning of committees. As many non profit organizations know, funding is dependent upon the donors who are willing to share their personal assets because they have a vision that providing a home for now meets a basic human need for shelter and safety. Laurie often is our “out front person”, but in reality each volunteer is able to share stories about their experience at the Anne-Marie House.

May our vision of the work of the Hospitality Network continue to strengthen, and may we know the joy of providing a basic need that our guests will use as they journey toward a home.

Rev. Tom Woodward, Vice President

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## *New Families and Departing Families*

This Spring, we have seen the departure of Paula and Susan and their families. We have welcomed Robert and Christina, and April, with their children. Laurie reported to the Board in May that we are housing 11 children, and 5 adults. When you volunteer you can learn the names of the guests by checking the bulletin board in the Volunteer Center.

## *Support from the Community*

GNIHN makes use of a number of agencies in the Greater Nashua area. The following are a partial list of agencies that help our guests: Boys and Girls Club, Children and Family Services, Community Council, Vocational Rehabilitation, Families in Transition, DHHS, Nashua Pastoral Care Center, Harbor Homes, NH Works, St. Vincent de Paul Society and Social Security.

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## *Support Congregations are a Blessing*

June St. Lawrence from Christ the King Lutheran Church has developed an idea that will allow members of the faith community to make a contribution to the needs of our program. A wish list of items needed by families and the Anne Marie House is stapled to a paper bag, which is taken home by families, filled, and then is returned to the Anne Marie House. For more information, call June at 429-3157.

If you hear the sound of pool balls dropping into pockets, then you will know that we have a new gathering place. Thanks to a congregant of Temple Beth Abraham, a pool table has been installed in our family room. Paul Gestner made the delivery of the pool table and sent it up on the family room.

**Our miracle mechanic was able to find a car for Robert and Christine, and Christine is learning to drive. Two other cars have been donated and will need repairs prior to be put into service.**

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## *Family Support Coordinator to be hired*

The hiring of a Family Support Coordinator has been a dream of the Laurie and the Board. In February we started a search for candidates, and a sub-committee of the Board has begun to interview candidates.

The hiring of a Family Support Coordinator is necessary to expand the number of guests that we can serve.

When a person has been hired this information will be given to the key coordinators to share with their congregations.

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## *"This Place Rocks!..."*

...exclaimed one of our newest guest children, when he was shown the bedroom that he and his brother will share while at Anne-Marie House. Gauging from his reaction, I believed this was a positive statement – and it was! If something “rocks,” it is good, even great. So it goes here at Anne-Marie House – from a former Novitiate to a place that “rocks!” Please know that all of our guests think this place is good, even great. All of the challenges we have to maintain and sustain this program are worth it, when we know how affirming and appreciative our guests are for this wonderful place we call Anne-Marie House.

## *And So Does This Place...*

...but this place “rocks” literally, as in rocking chairs, lots and lots of rocking chairs...at St. Joseph Residence in Manchester. Thanks to the amazing resourcefulness of Marlene & Lin, the administrator and activities director of this nursing home / assisted living residence for the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual “rock-a-thon” occurred on April 29. If you think you are too old to participate, I invite you to rethink that thought. On this special day I witnessed dozens of nuns (from the ages of 70-100) and a few of their friends and Network guests rocking in their chairs for pledges collected for the benefit of Anne-Marie House. Over \$4,000 was raised on this special day thanks to the spirit of Mother Rivier who infused this event with her concern for those in need.

Yes, whether it is Anne-Marie House or the site of our next fundraising event, this program and all of its supporters are good – even great!



## *Fund Raising Activities*

We received in May a \$2,000 grant from TD Banknorth. This is a wonderful contribution from a bank where some of us do our banking.

One of our volunteers made a donation of stock to GNIHN. It was simple to do, saved the donor taxes, and gave him a tax deduction. We hope others who have appreciated stock might consider this way of helping.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have held our 3<sup>rd</sup> Spring concert. We owe Dana Marangi and Dana Foresman our thanks for the hours of planning that pulled together a wonderful fundraiser held at the Amato Center of the Boys and Girls Club on Milford.

There is an effort to involve young people in learning about homeless people and to participate in interpreting the local area needs. A “Box City” program was planned for June 10-11, and participation in a Walmart/Sam’s Club BBQ fundraiser.

We realize that sometimes helping another organization to be successful pays dividends. We helped at the Nashua Rotary West RibFest, held on the weekend of June 9-11, 2006. Nashua Rotary West will make a donation to GNIHN.

The Fund Raising Committee is in need of a person or a team to plan the children’s program in January. We had an excellent event last December, and would like to build a tradition of family fundraising events in our communities.

We are also seeking a person who will chair our Fund Raising Committee. Vern Trudo has tendered his resignation, but will be continuing with the Committee. Contact Linda Jeynes at 882-0731.

Ongoing fundraising activities...

Panera Bread has a food certificate program. First introduced by Vern Trudo, it has become a way to raise money that can be used to assist our guests. Coupons are purchased and spent like cash. Call Laurie if you would like to get more specifics and to have your congregation participate in this mini fundraising activity.

On our website <http://www.gnihn.org/howToHelp.php> we maintain a links for contributions, which can be made with a credit card or electronic check via PayPal. It is a secure way to give and support our work.

## *Rock Out Homelessness!!!*

Join us on Sunday, October 15 from 2:30 to 6:30pm at the Dion Center Reception Hall at Rivier College for a special family-style intergenerational FUNdraising event with DJ Willy spinning the tunes!

Ever wanted to learn the funky chicken, the swim, the hully gully, the cotton-eyed joe, do the limbo or dance in a conga line? Well here’s your chance to learn AND teach! I will be calling upon some of you to help show our youngsters how to do some dances from our “younger” days and in turn I will be asking youngsters to show us some of the current dance crazes! Once taught and learned, we will have a dance-off and prizes will be given for those who are bold enough to strut their stuff!

Refreshments and snacks will be available for the afternoon and a light supper will be available for purchase. This is a FUN event for the whole family and extended family, moms, pops, kids and grandparents!

Tickets will be \$25 for a family or \$10 for individuals. More news will be forthcoming on this event! Anyone who’s willing to help with this event, or has additional ideas, please call me via cell at 765-7482 or at home at 672-6122.

Helen J Gutekunst, Chair  
Email: [newelca@comcast.net](mailto:newelca@comcast.net)

# 2006 Rock-a-thon!!!



Greater Nashua Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc.  
180 Lowell Road  
Hudson, NH 03051-4907