



## HOME ... FOR NOW

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

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### DIRECTOR'S CORNER



I sent out a prayer request when we welcomed our 19th family into our program on 11/27 and that would be that a vehicle would be donated, as this mom of 2 children (new born & 1 yr old) really needs a car. On 11/30, one of our afternoon volunteers came into my office and asked if anyone needed a car. "It just so happens" that he was talking to a neighbor of his who was telling him how he wanted to donate his mother's car to someone who really needed it, as there was still plenty of life left in the 1991 Volvo station wagon with 138,000 total miles on it. This makes the 7th car that has found a new home with one of our guest families.

Thanks to our relationship with Rivier College, we were able to receive several of their 3 year old computer systems that they were upgrading, which are light years newer than the donated ones we were using. They donated 5 CPU's, monitors, keyboards and mice. And with the grant from Rotary West that I had just received on 11/21 (our 2 year anniversary) we were able to purchase software upgrades for this equipment as well.

I spoke to a Women's Benevolent Association on 11/15 and mentioned what some of our immediate needs were as our guest families were getting younger than what we're used to serving. On 11/22 they donated 2 brand new toddler car seats / 2 new high chairs / 2 diaper genies and refills/ 1 walker and 1 activity center.

A club from Alvirne High School called to ask if they could adopt all of our families for their holiday stocking stuffer needs.

Through June's research, we are now connected with the Children's Orchard and are able to "donate" our unwanted children's clothing to their store in return for establishing a balance account that our families can use for their children's clothing needs.

Barnes & Noble notified me that the network will be the recipient of their next book collection drive - brand new children's books for our library!

Through one of our volunteers mentioning to her chiropractor (i.e., Spinal Corrective Center) about her involvement with GNIHN, her chiropractor decided to ask all of their patients to make donations to our program - on 11/30, about 25 bags of much needed paper products (and gift cards) arrived at our front door.

And the biggest news of all is that the family that had been with us the longest got word that there was an apartment waiting for them in Littleton, NH - exactly the community they wished to live in! Now the challenge was locating some sort of mover that could get their things from Hudson to Littleton. "It just so happens" that one of the attendees at our Key Coordinator / 2nd Anniversary celebration offered his company's box truck (if available) to move them. "It just so happens" it was available on the weekend it needed to be, and our family moved on 12/10.

And so the "rest of the story" of AMH continues...  
Laurie



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# Fund Raising



## The Raffle Results

Dennis St. Lawrence came up with the idea, and with support from a number of people our first raffle was a winner in a number of ways. Kerry Schneider was one \$1,000 winner. Another winner chose to remain anonymous, took the second \$1,000 prize. He asked that \$500 go to the SHARE program in Milford, and other \$500 be returned to the network. In addition Carol Kaplan and Sandee Goldberg of Temple Beth Abraham sold the most tickets, Vern Trudo of Congregational Church of Amherst was second in sales and third was Sue Stebbins of the First Baptist Church of Nashua. Each designated a \$500 donation to go to the education institute of their choice. What was left? \$6,300 for the work of the Hospitality Network. This was a winning program, and if we wish to continue this program, we could use volunteers to organize it in 2007. Let Linda Jeynes at 882-0731 know if you are interested.

## Other Upcoming Major Fund Raisers

**May 7, 2007**

**Golf Tournament  
Green Meadows in Hudson**

**To Be Decided**

**Rock-a-Thon  
Raising money in the rocking chair  
Pledges needed as well as rockers**

**September 29**

**Harvest Ball at the Crowne Plaza**

**These events are under the direction of  
Linda Jeynes, Fund Raising Coordinator. If  
you would like to help her call 882-0731**



## The Greater Nashua Interfaith Hospitality Network Donation Form

The Board of the Interfaith Hospitality Network is thankful for gifts of time and supplies that allow us to provide emergency shelter. We have an operating budget of over \$90,000 that comes from grants and the gifts of people who believe in providing shelter to the least of these our neighbors. Please use this form to make a financial donation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

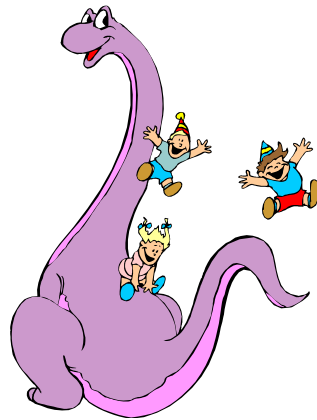
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of the Donation: (\$25) \_\_ (\$50) \_\_ (\$100) \_\_ ( ) \_\_

Does your employer match your donation? If so, check here \_\_\_\_\_

## The Dinosaurs Are Coming

If you did not get the message, The Dinosaurs are coming to Souhegan High School on Sunday afternoon, January 14, 2007. This is intended to be a children's program where Jim West and Fossil (a puppet dinosaur) acquaint young and old about these now extinct animals. Souhegan High School is on Boston Post Road, which is the first right turn after Home Depot in Merrimack. Tickets are available in advance by calling Linda at 882-0731..or Laurie Skibba at 883-7338 Tickets are \$9 in advance and \$10.50 at the door.



### **VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

**ON JANUARY 17, 2007 A SESSION TO TRAIN VOLUNTEERS WILL BE HELD AT ST. KATHRYN'S CHURCH IN HUDSON. THE TIME IS 6 TO 9 P.M. THE CHURCH IS LOCATED AT 6 DRACUT ROAD. TO SIGN UP PLEASE CALL THE NETWORK DIRECTOR, LAURIE SKIBBA, AT 883 -7338.**



## **The GNIHN Board Holds Elections**

**It is customary for the Board to go to dinner in January to have an evening of relaxation. This month the Board will have dinner at the Country Tavern.**

**The slate of officers is:**

**Rev. Tom Woodward, President; David Palance, Vice President; Brenda Hodgkiss, Treasurer; and Sr. Lorraine Arsenault, Secretary.**



## A Note From Tom Woodward



By the time this reaches you the Board will have elected me as the President. This is a huge step for me, as I have never been President of any Board. I have felt that the most effective leader is one that approaches the work from team perspective. To be an effective team each member must respect and value others, and they achieve success as they recognize that every person is a valuable team player.

I have served the Board for two years now, and have recognized the hard work that was necessary to get the Greater Nashua Interfaith Hospitality Network up and running. Over this period Linda Jeynes has worked effectively in overseeing the work of the Board, and to keep lines of communication open with our Network Director, Laurie Skibba. We have been moving up on the learning curve, and with help of congregational support coordinators and volunteers we have established a successful program.

At the end of November the Board and the Support Coordinators had an evening where we met with one another. It was a good meeting in that we listened to each other, and we learned the gifts each of us bring. One of the challenges that I see is continuing the dialogue and expanding it so that congregations will be recognized and so we can explore the richness of possible opportunities where people can give of their talent and energy. The Board has learned that Support Coordinators cannot do everything. The Board will need to find other ways to promote fund raising and uncover hidden sources of help by continuing to dialogue with the congregations.

To facilitate this dialogue several of us in leadership roles would be willing to speak at meetings on a congregational level. Laurie has done this, but we would like to add Linda Jeynes, myself and others who would share the “Good News” of the Hospitality Network. These opportunities will let congregations know the Board appreciates their support. They will also allow for conversations where we will become aware of new people and resources. A major project was handled by Professor Eric Drouart’s business class that has provided us a picture of who are the volunteers, and will help us learn whether or not they have had the opportunity to be fulfilled by participating in the program. As we are presently organized Laurie is the primary contact with volunteers. Please encourage your pastor or rabbi and other group leaders to request a visit by Board members or Laurie to enable others to know GNIHN makes a difference in the lives of people

I would like to mention one other area where we need to strengthen our organization. At this point we do not have a marketing committee. We have done a number of fundraisers, and more are planned for 2007. But if we are going to get the support necessary for a vibrant program, we will need to discover major gift donors and enlist corporate sponsorship. No one on the present Board has the gift of marketing as we envision it. I would welcome a few volunteers to meet with me to discuss how we can better present our organization to the community. I am personally taking time in my Presidency to speak with people about the care we give to our guests and the effectiveness it has on human life. I can be reached at 603-881-8206.