

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

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We will have the opportunity to open our doors to IHN guests again for the week of **July 1 – July 8**. The sign-up sheets for volunteers will be out in June, so we can be prepared to welcome our next group of guests with the warmth and friendliness for which Faith is known. Our hosting dates for 2012 are the weeks of July 1st and November 11th.



IHN was founded in 1986. Following a period of review and redevelopment, IHN is again continuing its mission in the Indianapolis area. IHN unites the religious community of an area in efforts to assist the homeless. Thousands of persons now volunteer nationwide through IHN to provide churches for overnight lodging, congregations as volunteers, social service agencies for family referrals and existing facilities for day programs. The local network also employs a local director, to assist guest families as they seek housing, jobs and education.

A basic tenet of the program is that faithful, supportive people can make a difference in the lives of homeless families. Participating churches provide overnight lodging and meals for families for a one-week period. The churches furnish clean, safe sleeping accommodations as well as a hospitality room where the guests can relax, talk, do homework or watch television. Guests are driven to the host church in the early evening and remain overnight.

The host church provides an evening meal, breakfast, and a bag lunch for its guests each day. Faith also has the ability to offer shower facilities. IHN provides the necessary folding beds, blankets and pillows for each host congregation. In the morning, guests are driven by van to the IHN day center. From that central location, children go to school and adults go to work, job hunt, or search for housing.

Volunteers from the congregations involved provide homeless families with basic human needs in a spirit of compassion and respect. In this environment, guests can maintain their dignity and self-esteem. The

ministry of IHN volunteers provides hope and comfort as guests work to regain their independence.