

The WIHN*dow* of Opportunity

A Publication of Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network
A Community Response for Homeless Families



Volume 13, Issue 1

Fall 2007

Success Times Ten !!

Early this summer we received a call from a family of ten. Tammy*, Harold*, their seven children and Harold's mother had come to Raleigh two days before. They left Michigan after loss of jobs and eviction with hopes of better opportunities.

Wake Forest UMC graciously welcomed this family their first week in the WIHN program. The warm, welcoming, safe environment provided by the churches during their eight weeks in the program allowed Tammy and Harold the opportunity to focus on achieving independence once again for their family.

Tammy and Harold eagerly began looking for employment, while Grandma supervised the children at the Day Center. Soon they both found full-time employment and began to accumulate a savings. WIHN staff worked with the local YMCA to secure seven scholarship weeks for each of the seven children.

Tammy and Harold were able to save enough to move into a market-rate rental home in Cary. Volunteers they encountered at several churches put together a team effort and helped the family furnish the four-bedroom home.

This family attributes their successful completion of the program to the stability and support provided by the volunteers and churches. Without the WIHN program this family would not have been able to stay intact during the process of regaining independence.

Both Tammy and Harold continue to work full-time, while Grandma is taking a vacation from babysitting spending time with family in New Orleans.

*Name Changed

Do Unto Others ...

It was a Saturday morning and the guests were preparing to celebrate Miss Janet's* birthday. The guests pooled their resources, rushed their children into strollers, and left for Food Lion to purchase the party items.

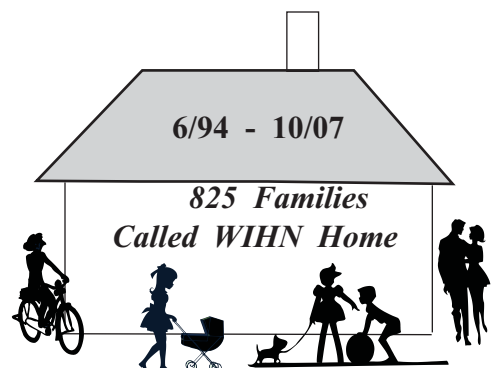
As they worked feverishly to season the foods, some swapped life lessons about how to survive once they "graduated" from WIHN. Others offered advice on child rearing, while some reflected on their own youth. Soon delicious smells began to emanate from the grill where Tim*, a professional chef, was preparing the meal.

As the final morsels of food were brought in from the grill, some neighborhood children approached and asked to sample what was causing the delightful aromas. The guests opened their hearts and happily fed the children.

Giving and sharing doesn't always come from the "likely sources" -- a person with lots of resources. It turns out that Janet's birthday was more of a celebration of a life legacy of giving than a celebration of the longevity of one's life.

What a celebration! What an act of love!

*Names Changed



2006 -- 62 Families (79 adults, 113 children)

From The President of the Board ...

The Board of Directors welcome new members of our staff. Lisa Williams (formerly a WIHN case manager) is our new Executive Director. Stepheria (Steph) Sallah is our new Volunteer Coordinator. Judith (Judy) Hyman and Katina Moring are our new Case Managers. Amy Huenemann who joined us in March, 2007 is our part-time Administrative Assistant. Their pictures and biographies are elsewhere in the newsletter.

Lisa, Amy, and Michelle Chiaramonte (who has left to pursue other interests) did a masterful job of keeping us going during the transition period. Thank you to Lisa, Amy, and Michelle!

This brings you and us "up to staff". All the new staff are up and running and the board (pant, pant) is trying to hang in there with them. We welcome each new staff member and are so glad to have you!

Harriette Finch, President Board of Directors

2007 Golf Tournament

On September 17, sixty-four golfers participated in the Golf Tournament at Eagle Ridge Golf Club and netted almost \$12,000 for WIHN. As the biggest fundraiser, Amy Massey won a golf package at St. James Plantation.

Hole Sponsors included:

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North State Bank

Omega Independent Living Services

Professional Care Management

Raleigh Downtown Lions Club

Right Direction, Inc., Mental Health Services

Phil Saunders (in memory of Sara Saunders)

Scott Madden & Associates

Michael D. Williams, DDS and M. Craig Williams, DDS

Dear Friends,

I would like to take the opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to the WIHN volunteers, congregations, Board of Directors and staff who give so freely of their time, talents and resources to support the mission of this program. The success of the program and the families is dependent on each of you!

After 13 years in operation, 825 families have been through the WIHN program. As of October 1st, WIHN has served 58 families in 2007; these families were made up of 187 family members, 111 being children. Of these 58 families, 25 would have been separated during their time of crisis had it not been for Wake Interfaith, due to being either a two-parent family or a family with teenage boys.

As you know, families are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. On any given night in Raleigh, there are over 550 homeless family members. Typically, half of the family members are children, most of whom are under 6.

I invite you to stop by the Day Center, meet the staff and see for yourself what a difference WIHN makes in the lives of our families.

Many Blessings,

Lisa Williams

Executive Director

Our Guests in 2006 -- 62 Families

Most recent residence :

Wake County 47

Other NC 7

Other States 8

Employed on WIHN entry 42%

Reason for homelessness:

Eviction/foreclosure 33%

Displacement (fire, flood, overcrowding, ...)

Other 27%

Family Composition

2 parent 25%

Single female head 69%

Single male head 2%

Other (ex. grandparents) 4%

Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network,

Inc. (an affiliate of *Family Promise*) is classified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a public charity and qualifies for deductible contributions provided in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Federal Tax ID Number: 56-184-3022

WIHN has been approved by the following campaigns to be a listed organization in the fall campaign drives. This means WIHN will be listed in campaign materials and can receive designated gifts through these campaigns:

Research Triangle Combined Federal Campaign

IBM Employees Charitable Contribution Campaign

Triangle United Way designated gift

Other corporate charitable campaigns also allow employees to designate funds to nonprofits. Thank you for any support you can provide to WIHN through your employer's charitable campaign.

SAS and Glaxo Smith Kline Beecham match employee donations to WIHN.

A work in process:

www.wihn.org



The 2006 audit of WIHN's finances was completed by Koonce, Wooten, and Haywood, LLP, Certified Public Accountants and is available in the WIHN office.



A special "tip of the hat" to Allkindsa Signs, Inc. for their generous signage donations.

WIHN 2006 Funding Allocation

Program Services	79.1%
Fundraising	8.7%
Management/General	12.1%



Newly Purchased Day Center Furniture

2006 WIHN Funding Sources

Program Services (Government)	47.2%
FEMA ESG	11.6%
NC DHHS	10.2%
Wake County	17.2%
City of Raleigh	8.2%
Individuals, Congregations, Corporations, Foundations	44.2%
Individuals	20.4%
Congregations	18.9%
Corporations	3.5%
Foundations	1.4%
Special Events/Fundraisers	7.5%
Other	1.0%

Asbury United Methodist Church



Matt Roughgarden carves the roast as Linda Kranendonk holds a pan to receive the meat.



Yes, the less glamorous jobs get done also. James Bernstein takes out the trash.

Asbury United Methodist Church began hosting in 1994 and is still hosting. Susan DuBois was the first coordinator assisted by her then-fiancee James Bernstein. After their marriage they became co-coordinators. Today, they alternate host weeks with another couple: Charles and Debbie Kaighn. Pictured above are Asbury volunteers working on a recent night. Front row (left to right): Kathy Litsas (cook), Susan DuBois, James Bernstein. Back row: Mike Brown (setup/takedown), Sharon Shehden (van driver), Linda Kranendonk (cook), Nancy Roughgarden (cook), and Matt Roughgarden (cook/dishwasher).

Hosting at Asbury is a family affair with several whole families taking part. The Kroeger family (Kim, Sharon, Carolyn, Brian, Allison) and the Barnett family (Steve, Debra, Kaitlyn, Stephanie) both participate in the setup and takedown chores. Kathleen and Scott Smothers are famous for their Friday night hamburger cookouts.

The pastor, Terry Bryant, is a frequent overnight host. See page 8 for experienced volunteer comments.



Beautiful Music

The Saint Francis Brass Band, directed by Doug Amaxopulos, raised over \$3,000 in a recent concert for WIHN.



The dinner menu this night consisted of roast pork tenderloin, baked chicken, green peas, scalloped potatoes, applesauce, rolls, and raw carrots with ranch dressing. Dessert was ice cream sandwiches.

Coordinator Meeting Held

At a volunteer coordinators' meeting on August 27, representatives of 25 congregations met. Plans solidified at the meeting include a quarterly volunteer coordinator newsletter, quarterly coordinator meetings, and church volunteer training.

Race of Grace

WIHN has recently been selected as one of three recipients of funds raised by the 2008 Race of Grace Events sponsored by the Raleigh District-North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church. Your support of this effort is appreciated. Events scheduled are:

- Golf tournament 4/2/2008 in Clayton
- Bike Race 4/26/2008 in Franklin County
- 5K Race 4/27/2008 (Location TBD)

Staff Additions



Hello, Everyone! My name is Judy Hyman and I am a new Case Manager at WIHN. I am very excited to be a part of WIHN. I moved to Raleigh, NC in October 2006 from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. I have both my Bachelor's degree and my Master's degree in Social Work. I have been working in the Social Work field since 1996. I began my career working at a shelter for runaway and homeless youth ages 14-18. I have also worked as a High School Drug Counselor where I provided individual and group counseling. Before leaving Florida, I worked for five years doing Hospice care where I visited terminally ill patients/families in their homes providing individual counseling along with many other services. I look forward to meeting many of you soon!

Judy Hyman, Case Manager



It is with extreme pleasure that I join WIHN as the Volunteer Services Coordinator. I come with a bag full of experiences from various parts of the country and dare I say the world. With each new endeavor and experience, I have gained a tremendous amount of growth from serving the community and working with agencies who serve various communities. I graduated from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro with my B.S. in Community Health Education/Public Health Education and I have completed some master's level course work from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. My husband, Pa, Sr. and I are the proud new parents of our son, Pa, Jr. born May 8, 2007. I look forward to working with the volunteers and churches, so that we can continue to provide seamless support, within this beautiful WIHN garment!

Stepheria Hodge Sallah
Volunteer Services Coordinator



Hello, my name is Katina Moring and I am very excited about working with WIHN as a Case Manager. I have lived in Raleigh, NC since August 2005. I received a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology and a Bachelors of Science in Computer Information Systems from North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, NC. I have worked with Wake County Human Services as a Senior Case Manager for the past 2 ½ years, and my case load included working with families that were homeless, families that have children with special needs, and families that have extenuating circumstances. I am very familiar with WIHN and have worked with families participating in the program for the past two years, connecting them with child care subsidy services and other valuable resources in the community. I will hopefully bring an abundance of knowledge, resources, and referrals to the families of WIHN. I look forward to working with you all. I am eager to begin this new journey and to enjoy the new opportunities this endeavor will bring.

Katina Moring, Case Manager



I joined the WIHN staff in March 2007 as the part-time administrative assistant. I also work part-time as the music teacher at our church's preschool. These are my third and fourth careers after being a computer programmer for many years and working at a plant nursery for several years. My husband Joel and I have two grown daughters, we're active at the Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian, and we enjoy playing golf together. I look forward to supporting the WIHN board, staff, families, and volunteers in any way I can.

Amy Huenemann,
Administrative Assistant



Pictured above and to the left are members of the Raleigh Parks and Recreation youth group who delivered and placed office furniture (3 desks, 3 office chairs, and 3 reception chairs) donated by J. Rex Thompson, president of Grubb & Ellis.



Thanks to both groups!

The combined youth groups from St. Luke The Evangelist Catholic Church and Passage Homes, as part of their weeklong community volunteer activity, painted the main room in the Day Center. Pictured above is the work group from the second of two afternoons' activity at WIHN.

These young people are part of a larger group of 140 local teens who took part in a mission experience that included overnight stays at Umstead Park.

The youth group from St. Luke The Evangelist Catholic Church returned later to paint hallways in the Day Center as well.

Thank you to all who participated!



WIHN's BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pictured (left to right) are Amy Tennant, Diane Racey (secretary), Mary Beth Deaton, Shirley Jones, Scott Shackleton, George Deaton, Rev. Joyce Pulley-Hinton, Dan Riddle (treasurer), and Harriette Finch (president), Not pictured are David Jackson, Larry Barther, Jim Bryant,



Host Congregations

Apex UMC	Greenwood Forest Baptist	St. Francis of Assisi Catholic
Asbury UMC	Hayes Barton UMC	St. Francis UMC
Benson Memorial UMC	Highland UMC	St. Mark's UMC
Cary First UMC	Hollands UMC	Trinity Baptist
Edenton Street UMC	Hope Community Church	Visio Dei Church
Fairmont UMC	Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian	Wake Forest Presbyterian
First Baptist Church Salisbury St	Millbrook Baptist	Wake Forest UMC
First Baptist Church Wilmington St.	Millbrook UMC	West Raleigh Presbyterian
First Presbyterian Church	North Raleigh UMC	Western Blvd. Presbyterian
Fuquay Varina UMC	Soapstone UMC	White Plains UMC
Garner UMC	St. Andrew's Catholic	Windborne UMC
Good Shepherd Lutheran	St. Andrews UMC	

Support Congregations

Athens Dr. Baptist Church	Juniper Level Baptist Church	St. Paul's Episcopal
Christian Faith Baptist Church	Macedonia New Life Church	The Glorious Church
Faith Missionary Baptist Church	Martin St. Baptist Church	Union Bethel AME
First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church	Pleasant Grove UMC	
Forest Hills Baptist Church	Raleigh Wake Missionary Union	
In The Beginning Missionary Church	Sacred Heart Cathedral	

A Special Appreciation:

To every volunteer who helped make the guests feel welcome and respected -- at the Day Center, in a congregation, or on a van. You are the heart of WIHN.

Thank Yous

Apex Park and Recreation Senior Group who donated handmade blankets	Numerous dedicated Day Center supervisor volunteers
Highland UMC for the benefit concert which raised \$1,200 for WIHN	Wake Forest UMC, Visio Dei, Edenton Street UMC, Forest Hills, and St. Paul's Episcopal for filling in a hole in the hosting schedule at the last minute.
Ed Turlington whose Birthday Party for a Purpose raised over \$1,000 for WIHN	The special Girl Scout whose Birthday Party donated gifts for the children at WIHN and the birthday girl who donated the stuffed animals from her party.
Students from Athens Drive High School who helped assemble WIHN newsletters	The cub scout who donated books for all the youth at the Day Center.
Service Raleigh who cleaned the WIHN Day Center and sorted donations	

Comments from Experienced Volunteers - Asbury UMC

I have learned so much about other cultures by asking the guests what they think about a song playing on the radio. (Gospel and rap are the overwhelming favorites among guests.) Driving down the road and watching all the heads in the back bobbing up and down in unison is a happy experience.

Before volunteering with WIHN I thought all homeless were “street people” with little or no ambition. I have learned that many homeless people are families with hopes and dreams.

Working with WIHN families is working with the “hopeful” homeless.

I was surprised when one of the children in the school where I teach was one of our WIHN guests. I now know that many families are only one or two paychecks away from homelessness.

The following interchange with a young guest watching people leaving an early morning worship service left a lasting impression on the volunteer:

Guest: “Why are all the people here?”
Volunteer: “They have come to talk to God.”
Guest: “Where does God live?”
Volunteer: “Here. This is God’s home.”

A number of elementary school age children were playing together when one asked the other where he lived. the second child (a WIHN guest) replied, “I live here.” The children continued playing as if nothing had happened.



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Staff:

Executive Director	Lisa Williams
Case Manager	Judy Hyman
Case Manager	Katina Moring
Volunteer Coordinator	Stepheria Sallah
Administrative Assistant	Amy Huenemann

Board of Directors:

Larry Barther	Shirley Jones
Jim Bryant	Rev. Joyce Pulley-Hinton
Mary Beth Deaton	Diane Racey, Sec.
George Deaton	Daniel Riddle, Treas.
Harriette Finch, Pres.	Scott Shackleton
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