

HOSPITALITY

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Jordan Creek Church, *WDM*
Lutheran Church of Hope, *WDM*
Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, *Ankeny*
Ss. John & Paul Parish, *Altoona*
St. Paul AME, *Des Moines*
St. Stephens Lutheran, *Urbandale*
Urbandale United Church of Christ
Walnut Hills UMC, *Des Moines*
West Des Moines Christian
Windsor Heights Lutheran
Zion Lutheran Church, *DSM*

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St. Theresa Catholic Church, *DSM*
Valley Church, *West Des Moines*
Westminster Presbyterian *Des Moines*

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Amy Knudsen, *Day Center Spvrs.*
Tammy Horvath, *Day Center Spvrs.*

THREE GUESTS AWARDED GEDs



Desiree Koger (pictured at left), Kristen Thompson and Rob Horvath all received their GED's while in the IHN program. A significant achievement when you consider they were also looking for employment and housing at the same time!

Reflecting back on the experience, Desiree stated, "My favorite subject while attending GED classes was math".

Desiree is currently working part-time and attending DMACC. For now, she's taking general requirement classes until she decides on a major.

It was a proud moment for Kristin when she received her GED having completed an important goal in her life. Kristin is currently working and attending DMACC. Unsure of what she wants as a major area of study, Kristin is taking general requirement classes for now.

Rob recalls dropping out of high school in the 11th grade because, "I thought I would miss out on something exciting at my Dad's aerospace company". Rob has been blessed with high degree of natural intelligence which was illustrated when he went to take his GED assessment test and scored so high that all he had to do was show up on successive Fridays and test out of each subject area covered in the GED. Rob received his GED in less than thirty days; that's an IHN record! Rob is currently working part-time and will begin college in early 2011.

WHAT IS FAMILY HOMELESSNESS?

Approximately, 3.5 million people, 1.35 million of them children, are likely to experience homelessness in a given year (National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, 2007). In Polk County, 1,732 persons in families were homeless in 2009; 61% were children (Iowa Institute for Community Alliances, 2010). These children are hidden from our view, but they are living in shelters, cars and campgrounds. They are young and scared, and their parents and families are frustrated and desperate.

Family homelessness is caused by the combined effects of lack of affordable housing, extreme poverty, decreasing government supports, changing demographics of the family, the challenges of raising children alone, domestic violence and fractured social supports. As the gap between housing costs and income continues to widen, and housing foreclosures increase, more and more families are at risk of homelessness.

Even a seemingly minor event can trigger a catastrophic outcome and catapult a family onto the streets. Take for example, former IHN guests Rob, Tammy and Ava Horvath. Rob was V.P. and partner of a very successful aerospace company and the family's days were filled to the brim with the best of things that this world had to offer. Yet all this wasn't enough when their world came to a body jolting halt. Rob had lost his health. The doctors couldn't even confirm what was killing him. Over the next seven years, they lost everything they'd worked for their entire 17 years of marriage and arrived at IHN with only \$20 to their name.

2010 DMIHN GARDEN PARTY: A HUGE SUCCESS

More than \$14,000 was raised at the fourth annual Des Moines Area Interfaith Hospitality Network Garden Party, a total that is greater than the money raised from the previous three garden parties combined. With the increased demand for families needing services, the outpouring of support from the community came at an opportune time.

This year's garden party, held on Friday, June 25 from 7-9 p.m. in Drs. Bob and Becky Shaw's gardens, could not have been a success without planning. Four members of the community helped us spread the word about DMIHN and the garden party. Claudette McDonald, Charlotte Noble, Sharon Holz and Paula Hart spent countless hours visiting local businesses requesting donations for the silent auction as well as contacting numerous individuals to purchase tickets to the event.

More than 140 individuals attended the garden party. Nearly seventy items were up for bid in a silent auction. Goods ranged from \$25 gift certificates to framed art to University of Iowa football tickets and season Symphony tickets. A complete list of silent auction items and donors can be found at www.dmihn.org.

The beautiful Shaw gardens were the perfect setting for the evening and the comfortable temperature and clear skies further contributed to the evening's suc-

cess. Despite having nearly 700 people visit the gardens the previous weekend and battling one of the wettest years on record, the Shaw's had their gardens in perfect condition.

It was a perfect evening to stroll through the garden with a glass of wine and relax after a



busy week. With trees providing shade and privacy, the streams and ponds of water adding sparkle, and the plants and flowers creating a rainbow of colors, it was easy to forget the gardens are located in the backyard of a residential neighborhood.

A tradition at the annual Garden Party is to have local musicians perform background music while guests enjoy the gardens. This year Paul Wilson from Ye Olde Guitar Shop set the tone with his classical guitar acoustics. Pickerman's

Deli provided tantalizing sandwiches, fruit and vegetable arrangements as well as delicious cheesecake desserts. A short program familiarized attendees with DMIHN's services and a current DMIHN guest shared his family's story and how DMIHN has helped them.

The first garden party was held in 2007 and raised \$4,189. In 2008 and 2009, the numbers stayed fairly steady. This year's grand total was an amazing **\$14,259**. We would like to thank our sponsors for this event: Family Communication Associates and Paula and Pat Hart.

Again, special thanks to our community committee, silent auction donors, Bob and Becky Shaw, Paul Wilson, Pickerman's Deli, the wine expert – Ron Roberts, our sponsors, and everyone who attended and purchased silent auction items.

We hope you will join us in 2011 for another wonderful evening and help support our mission - "To mobilize our community to help homeless families achieve stable housing and income through compassionate care, hospitality and professional support."

GRANTS RECEIVED

We wish to thank the following funders for investing in the lives of our guest families through grants awarded to DMIHN.

Bank of the West—\$500
 Given Back Des Moines—\$3,289
 Iowa Finance Authority, Homeless Assistance Program—\$13,000
 MMIC Group—\$4,000
 Polk County, Community Betterment Fund—\$3,500
 Principal Financial Group Foundation—\$2,500
 Variety- The Children's Charity—\$3,117
 Wells Fargo—\$1,000

THANK YOU COORDINATORS!

Volunteers put the “hospitality” in the Des Moines Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (DMIHN) through their kind deeds, their attitude of acceptance and their genuine warmth. The volunteers who take overall responsibility for ensuring that their congregation’s program runs smoothly are the Primary Coordinators.



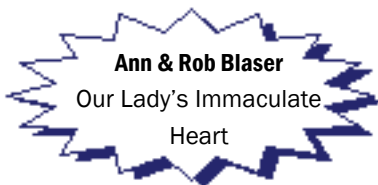
Gloria Wilson
St. Paul AME



Sylvia Nelson
St. Stephen Lutheran



Kathy Borlin
West Des Moines
Christian Church



Ann & Rob Blaser
Our Lady's Immaculate
Heart

Gloria, Sylvia, Kathy, and Ann and Rob have stepped down as Primary Coordinators at their respective congregations. **We wish to thank them for their service to DMIHN and to the families served by their congregations!**

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Sam Gelb is one of the newest members of the DMIHN board of directors. About to finish his

first year, Sam became interested in the organization after hearing Network Director Jim Cain's passion for the organization and the work that it does.

“The fact that a non-profit organization with only a minimal number of paid staff can recruit and organize church congregation volunteers to serve nearly 10,000 meals a year and provide over 3,000 night's lodging is exciting to me,” said Gelb. “Of course that is also a tribute to the congregations and volunteers as well.”

When asked about a volunteer moment that is particularly memorable, Gelb recalls a Sunday morning when he was helping clean the parsonage at the end of a host week. “One of the families included a mother, 9 year old son and perhaps 2 year old. When I arrived the families were preparing to leave and the 9 year old was making lunch for himself and his sister. This included making sandwiches and packing chips, cookies, etc. His responsibility for that age astounded me. I didn't even know how to make a sandwich at that age, let alone help take care of a younger sibling.”

Gelb's vision for the board in the coming year is to continue to focus on the strategic plan that was developed last year. “That would include continuing to expand the number of members on

the board, increase the members of our Garden Party committee and bring on additional host and support congregations so that we can raise significantly more funds. If that occurs we can possibly expand our staffing to include a full time case manager or day center supervisor (and of course someday both). That would allow us to serve our guests far more effectively than we already do.”

While not a member of a specific faith community, Gelb was raised in the Disciples of Christ denomination he says he attempts to live in accordance with the moral instruction Jesus gave in his Sermon on the Mount. “To me that is the ideal blueprint for living a life as an honorable and decent human being one day at a time.”

DMIHN IN THE NEWS

Des Moines Sunday Register (July 11, 2010) - Guests Jomeisha, DaMariyon and J'Airrah Gochett were profiled in the article, “Baseball's Sandberg's humbly help the homeless” highlighting their night of Iowa Cubs baseball as guests of Margaret and Ryne Sandberg.

Beaverdale Living Magazine (June 2010) - The work of DMIHN and our partnership with Westminster Presbyterian church (site of our office and Day Center) were featured in the “Faith” section of the magazine.

Des Moines Register, Des Moines Homestyle Magazine (October 2010) - DMIHN's annual garden party fundraiser and hosts Bob and Becky Shaw were profiled in the article, “Party for A Cause” which offered tips on hosting a fundraising event at your home.

Van and Bonnie Show (November 17, 2010) - DMIHN director, Jim Cain, was a guest on this popular WHO Radio morning show discussing family homelessness and DMIHN's response to this growing problem in the Des Moines area.

WISH LIST

- Laundry detergent
- Bleach
- Tall kitchen trash bags
- Kleenex
- Dish soap
- Sponges with scouring pads

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*A Community Response
for Homeless Families.*



An Affiliate of
Family PromiseSM

Mission Statement:

To mobilize our community to help homeless families achieve stable housing and income through compassionate care, hospitality and professional support.

As you make your year-end charitable contributions, please consider Des Moines Area Interfaith Hospitality Network in your giving.

**You can donate online too
by going to our website:**

www.dmihn.org/how-to-help/donations.html