

# HOSPITALITY

Summer 2007, Volume 5, Issue 2



Des Moines Area  
Interfaith  
Hospitality  
Network™

An Affiliate of Family Promise™

## IHN Board of Directors

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## Host Congregations

Walnut Hills UMC *Des Moines*  
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Faith Lutheran *Clive*  
Grace West *West Des Moines*  
St. Paul AME *Des Moines*  
St. John & Paul Church *Altoona*  
West Des Moines Christian  
Lutheran Church of Hope *WDM*  
Our Lady's Immaculate Heart *Ankeny*  
St. Stephens Lutheran *Urbandale*  
Aldersgate UMC *Urbandale*  
Urbandale UCC  
Ankeny First UMC

## Support Congregations

Hope UMC *Parrish Yale*  
Oakwood UMC *Pleasant Hill*  
Sacred Heart Catholic *WDM*  
St. Catherine of Siena *Des Moines*  
St. John's Lutheran *Des Moines*  
Tifareth Israel Synagogue *Des Moines*  
Valley Evangelical Free *WDM*  
Westminster Presbyterian *Des Moines*

## FROM JIM CAIN, NETWORK DIRECTOR

Typically, fall is considered the season of change as the leaves turn color and fall from the trees. While not fall, the DMIHN has been going through its own "season of change" beginning with the departure of the Network's first director, Kelsey Parker and ending with the recent departure of Day Center Supervisor, David Hudson. Kelsey, with the assistance of Mary Jo and David Hudson, implemented and worked out the wrinkles of a somewhat complex program. Not only was there a guest services component that needed to be implemented and fine tuned but there was also a host congregation component that included the training of volunteers and the logistics of moving up to 14 people from congregation to congregation each week. While Kelsey focused on these areas, Mary Jo and David, in their roles as Day Center Supervisors, insured that activities around the Day Center ran smoothly.

For the first few weeks after my arrival last October, I would periodically call Kelsey with a list of questions. Kelsey would end each conversation with, "but do it however you wish". I ended our third conversation with, "the program runs great as it is, I just want to know what you did so it will continue to run in the same manner." The true test of an agency's programming is the ability of the programming to maintain its quality despite changes in leadership. With the foundation laid by Kelsey, Mary Jo and David, the DMIHN has passed this test and the families served are better for it.

David leaves us after almost two years of covering the Day Center on weekends. David was a gentle presence around the Day Center, a good empathetic listener and a positive role model for the children.

On July 7th, Thomas Willis became our new weekend Day Center Supervisor. Thomas and his family were guests at DMIHN last fall. Thomas, who is working on an associate degree at DMACC in heating and air conditioning installation and maintenance, is a real people person and full of encouragement for the families. Welcome!

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To mobilize our community to help homeless families achieve and sustain their independence through compassionate care, shelter, meals and case management.

## SUMMIT INTERNS AND DMIHN YOUTH "GOT GAME"!

KID'S  
CORNER

On the afternoons of June 25 and 27, five young adults from Westminster Presbyterian's Summer Mission Team program (SUMMIT) helped us bring a special ending to the day for the young people at the DMIHN. From 3:00pm-5:00pm each of the afternoons, SUMMIT program members Collin, Alisha Caroline, Tyler and Soren matched wits and skill with Damon, Jerrell, Marcus, Skylard and Sidney in games of Monopoly and a round of basketball. The last afternoon was topped off with a movie in the Westminster youth room.

Thanks for helping us break up the summer doldrums!

Damon, Sidney and Marcus ham it up with SUMMIT program members Tyler, Soren, Alisha, Caroline and Collin



Thanks to a United Way of Central Iowa Emerging Leaders Initiative grant received by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Iowa (BGCCI), Damon, Jay, Jerrell, Kayanna, and Sky have been able to attend Boys and Girls Clubs programming for free.

In addition, the United Way grant funds make it possible for the BGCCI to pick up the children at our Day Center each morning as well as to assist in purchasing athletic shoes, if the children don't have them, so they can fully participate in all program activities.



On a lazy June afternoon, Melena and Aquaria decided to give their four month old brother, Nehemiah, a school bus ride around the Day Center.

Joining them in this photo are their brothers Xavier (far left) and Ramon (far right)

## 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 is the Primary Coordinator.



Recently, Lu Anne and Ron stepped down as Primary Coordinators at their respective congregations. We wish to thank them for their service to DMIHN and to the families assisted by their congregations.

## FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Over the last three months, DMIHN's quality of service and importance to the community were reaffirmed with the receipt of grants from three funders. A big THANK YOU! to the Iowa Finance Authority, Polk County Board of Supervisors and the Principal Financial Group Foundation for their support.



DMIHN received \$14,415 from IFA through the federal Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESGP). The ESGP is a program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from whom IFA receives an annual allocation of funds.

Grant funds from IFA will be used to cover a portion of general operating expenses at our Day Center, as well as a portion of the salary costs of the Day Center Supervisor and a part-time case manager we plan to bring on board later this summer.

DMIHN received \$4,500 from the Polk County Board of Supervisors through their Community Betterment Grant Program.

Grant funds from the Community Betterment Grant Program will be used to purchase a computer to assist guests with their employment search, to provide limited transportation assistance to guests in their employment and housing searches as well as to cover a portion of the salary costs of a part-time case manager we plan to bring on board later this summer.



**Principal Financial Group  
Foundation, Inc.**



DMIHN received \$3,000 from the Principal Financial Group Foundation.

Grant funds from the foundation will be used to cover a portion of the salary costs of a part-time case manager we plan to bring on board later this summer as well as to cover a portion of other program costs.

## **Garden Party & Wine Tasting**

Fundraiser for  
Des Moines Area Interfaith Hospitality Network



**Friday, August 10**

(Rain Date August 11)

**7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Bob & Becky Shaw Residence**

13921 Lakeshore Drive, Clive

Street Parking

**\$25**

Silent Auction

Wine Tasting Sponsored by MJ Distributing

Music Provided by Bellissimo Ragazza String Quartet

## **For Tickets**

Contact the DMIHN  
business office at

**277-7051**

or

**[jcain@westpres.org](mailto:jcain@westpres.org)**