



Guilford Interfaith Hospitality Network
707 N. Greene Street
Greensboro, NC 27401

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Greensboro, NC
Permit #601

Friday, May 29
Golf Marathon
Oak Hollow, HP
Saturday, May 30
Benefit Concert at
West Market UMC, GSO
Saturday, Oct 24
Banquet & Silent Auction
Embassy Suites, Airport



If you did not get a copy by mail,
please visit
www.GIHN.org
and click
Keep Me Informed



Former guests Francesca (c), Louisito, & Christian with newcomer Flor!



High Point Coordinators Edward & Carolyn Lawrence and Ken Gulledege (r).

What Interfaith Means to Me!

by former guest Sharon A. Johnson

I often wonder what life would be like if we love our neighbors as we love ourselves. So many painful things happen in life, we sometimes forget the little things that make us happy. Like a cup of coffee, good conversation, the “I love you’s”, children playing, and fellowship.

I’m in a shelter called Interfaith. The staff there keeps me focused for goodness sake. I like the staff and the volunteers because they provide me with a support group. There’s a lot of positive energy in this place.

Each one of them treats me as an individual. I appreciate that so, because they don’t belittle me, they want me to grow. They see beauty in me when I don’t see it in myself. They show me love so I can get strong and help myself.

I appreciate the volunteer’s activities for the kids. It gives the parents here time to escape from the worries of the world.

Each one of the staff members and volunteers will have a place in my heart because each one of them believed in me from the very start.

I love their personalities, I love that they’re smart, caring, insightful, courteous people. I love the fact they share all of that with me.

Interfaith is a better you, a better me...

From the President



We Need Your Help

Since 1999 Guilford Interfaith Hospitality Network has been providing shelter, compassionate care, and counseling to homeless children and their families in Guilford County through a network of 55 local faith communities. Most of you know GIHN operates two day centers, one in High Point and one in Greensboro, staffed by social workers who assist the families as they seek employment, training, child-care, and housing. The goal for each family is to achieve sustained independence. The Network can host up to 28 guests at a time, the majority of which are children. Did you know that the average age of a homeless person in this country, the United States, is only 9 years old?! There are so many homeless children!

Like many nonprofit organizations today, GIHN is struggling financially. The demand for our services is greater than ever while the supply of funding is more restricted. The Board had made strategic decisions to keep GIHN open. We are confident in our Vision and Mission. We believe GIHN will thrive, but we need your help. Please pray about giving. Donations of any size are appreciated.

Speaking of Vision and Mission, the Board began a formal strategic planning process in March and hammered out a vision statement that first day. It and a draft of our mission statement are in the middle of the next page. Because the support of our constituencies, folks like you!, is so important to GIHN's work, the Board would like your feedback, especially on the mission statement.

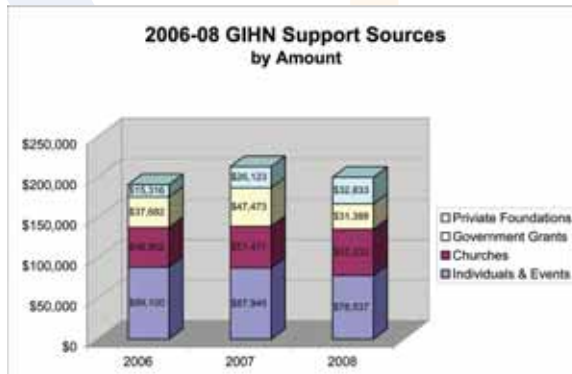
Your comments, concerns, and encouragements are valuable to our Executive Director Clarke Martin and to me. We consider you a huge part, a vested partner in the Network. Please contact us with any questions about Guilford Interfaith Hospitality Network, its work, or its finances.

Be sure to visit our web site, www.GIHN.org, to learn more about what we do together through Guilford Interfaith Hospitality Network and to see how you might get involved and get others involved.

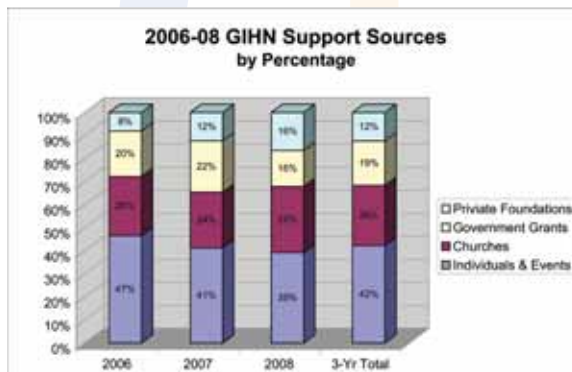
Finally, I thank you for the privilege of serving as your Network President.

Sincerely,

Gay Maness
336-454-1965
Maness@SmileGreensboro.com

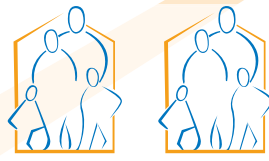


So far this year income has not kept up with any of the prior three years. We need a change now.



One area with great room for improvement is funding from local private foundations. Despite GIHN's compelling story, these funds, to a large degree, are driven by who you know. If you know someone at a local private foundation, please call me at home to discuss an introduction.

Guest Updates: Eugene & Latasha plus their 5 children graduated to a rental home May 1 as did Janice and her granddaughter! D'Angelo, his girlfriend, and their little baby were able to move in with his sister. By the way, D'Angelo was a guest in our Network about 6 years ago with his mother, so we've helped 3 generations of that family! Evelyn and her 3 teenagers are excited about moving into their apartment Mother's Day weekend. She said it's the best Mother's Day present she could have hoped for. Thank you, GIHN!



GIHN Hospitality Code

1. It's nice to hear your name, so learn the names of our guests, too.
2. Labeling people creates invisible barriers. Remember that guests are guests, not "the homeless." Labeling—whether spoken, or printed on a posted sign—creates divisions and can foster an "us" and "them" syndrome.
3. Personal questions can be tough to answer, so don't put guests in awkward positions by asking personal questions. If guests need to talk, give them the chance, but don't pry.
4. We all like to keep some things to ourselves. All information about guests is confidential. Don't discuss guests' situations with other people.
5. Everyone can use a little privacy. Our churches and synagogues become temporary homes for our guests. Knock before entering a guest's room.
6. Sometimes we need to spend time alone. Respect guests' needs for quiet times alone or with family.
7. We all have bad days. Depression, sadness, and hopelessness may come. Allow guests the space to deal with their emotions. Be prepared to forgive outbursts without judging guests ungrateful.
8. We understand and care for our children. Allow guests to do the same. Avoid contradicting guests' instructions to their children. Always ask parents' permission before giving things to children.
9. Parents need a break. Offer to tutor, play with, and plan activities for interested children while their parents take a break.
10. Adult guests should be treated like adults. Although our guests are in situations that may make them temporarily dependent on others, remember that they are adults who are capable of making their own decisions.



Past President Michelle McNair continuing her servant leadership at GIHN's first Strategic Planning session in March.

GIHN Vision

Guilford Interfaith Hospitality Network is a faith-based community that eliminates family homelessness.



Current President Gay Maness and Secretary Cathy Ingram exude hope and optimism during Strategic Planning.

Draft Mission

Guilford Interfaith Hospitality Network assists homeless children and their families by providing shelter, compassionate care, and counseling with the goal of sustained independence. We achieve this mission by uniting the faith community and those who support our mission.

New Executive Director

Executive

Summary

If I had my druthers, I'd druther have gotten this newsletter out to you on my 30th day instead of my 90th. The 55 local faith communities (54 churches plus UNCG Campus Ministries) and the two day centers may be the outward, visible signs of Guilford Interfaith Hospitality Network, but it's the thousands (yes, thousands) of people like you that make this ministry happen. Please know that the Board of Trustees, the staff, and I thank you for your faithfulness to GIHN, even if the guests sometimes forget that yours is a labor of love. Truly, we love because He first loved us!



This being the 21st century, a current and vibrant web site is a necessity for any business or ministry. We now have one that gets updated sometimes twice a day. Please visit www.GIHN.org today and look for these features:

- **Home** has links to coming events like those shown at the bottom of the page. See what's happening!
- **The Network** describes how GIHN works, lists the churches, and how to get involved.
- **For Potential Guests** gives them a different perspective on the Network, what GIHN success looks like, and will have links to other community resources. That particular page is still on the drawing board.
- **About GIHN** has a bit of history, contact information for the Board of Trustees, and our current IRS-990. Honesty and transparency are at the heart of the way we conduct ourselves. If we're faithful in small things . . .
- **Close Encounters of the Interfaith Kind** is one of my favorite projects. This will be a collection of stories about what GIHN has meant to you, the volunteers. There's only one up there now, but it's a good one! Please take a few moments to surf over to www.GIHN.org and give it a quick read. Then tell me your story.
- **Getting Involved** presents connection suggestions for individuals, families, clubs, and faith communities.
- **Directions, Keep Me Informed,** and **Contact Us** are pretty much what their names imply.
- **Support GIHN** restates our Vision and Mission, and then we ask you to pray. Please pray that the great truth of God's perfect provision will be manifested in GIHN. Pray that the Board, volunteers, and staff will be faithful stewards and ministers of His grace and goodness. Pray for our families that they, too, will know the truth and that it will set them free. The **Support GIHN** page also has links to process one-time and ongoing gifts using your debit/credit card or bank account via our secure server. If, in the past you've used payroll deduction through a local agency, we ask that you prayerfully consider this alternative. Some local agencies charge processing/administrative fees in excess of 15%, sometimes your gift arrives anonymously, and it may take 6 months to a year to get to GIHN. Our online method is almost instantaneous, is credited to your account, and has a fee similar to any debit/credit card transaction, about 2%.

Those are pretty much the bullets for this edition. Please call or email me if you would like to chat about GIHN, especially if you would like to know how to get involved or how to involve your faith community in this work.

In His Love,

Clarke Martin
Clarke@GIHN.org
336-339-4593 cell

Coming Events

Saturday, May 30 Benefit Concert
4:00 - 5:30pm at 302 W. Market St (West Market United Methodist Church), Greensboro

Featured Performers

- Christ UMC Flute Choir
- Sykes & Emmett Violin Duet
- Candice Burrows-Hemm & Jazz Friends
- Congregational Worship Choir

Saturday, October 24
Banquet & Silent Auction



Friday, May 29, Golf Marathon
www.GIHN.org or 336-574-0333

