



Network News

July 10, 2009 Edition of the MIHN Newsletter

MIHN Day Center

First Baptist Church, Natick

MIHN Host Congregations

Christ Lutheran Church, Natick

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Holliston

The Dover Church

Federated Church of Ashland

First Congregational Church, Natick

First Parish Church, Wayland

First Parish in Framingham

Pilgrim Church, Sherborn

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Natick

Unitarian Universalist Society of
Wellesley Hills

Unitarian Universalist Area Church,
Sherborn

Wellesley Congregational Church

Wellesley Hills Congregational Church

MIHN Support Congregations

First Baptist Church, Framingham

Fisk United Methodist Church, Natick

Holy Spirit Catholic Community, Wellesley

Newton Highlands Congregational Church

Peace Lutheran Church, Wayland

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Framingham

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Wellesley

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Holliston

St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Sherborn

St. Zepherin & St. Ann's Parishes, Wayland

Sha'arei Shalom, Ashland

Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley

Temple Beth Torah, Holliston

Temple Or Atid, Wayland

Chair Chat – A Note from our Board Chairperson

Summer is upon us now, or so the calendar would have us believe. Unfortunately, we have had only fleeting glimpses of the sun for the past several weeks. I hope that by the time this newsletter reaches you, the sun will have become a more familiar sight! When I catch myself whining about such things as the lack of lovely weather, I remember the situations that our guests face day in and day out, and am embarrassed by my "bourgeois suffering", to quote Pema Chodron. As you will see in our Director's note, we are very pleased that we have been able to offer assistance and respite to so many families with children, on rainy days and sunny days alike.

Our Board of Directors has grown by three members in the past few months. We welcome Carol Ann Sennott, Martha Mann and Marlene Allen to our Board and look forward to working with them. We are beginning to discuss a fund raising event of some type that will allow us to introduce volunteers, coordinators, directors and guests to each other!

In addition to the funding challenges faced by all small non-profits in this economy, we recently learned that our van is unsafe for highway driving. We have had to incur significant and unexpected expenses to restore it to service. We are now concerned about the remaining "life" of this older vehicle. If any of you have any connections or resources or advice to offer regarding a replacement 14 passenger van, please let us know at your earliest convenience.

I thank all of you for your service to our organization, and offer special thanks to those of you who have made recent financial contributions or have joined the "365 Club". Your continued assistance of every kind is greatly appreciated.

Peace and good health to you and yours during this summer season- *Candace*

Director's Letter

Hot meals, warm beds, and fellowship; these are the services IHNs promise to provide to their guests. MIHN is no exception. Our Network has provided these services to the 11 families that have dwelled in our program during the past 9 months.

But the generosity and kindness of MIHN's volunteers does not end with fulfilling these necessities. So many of you have gone above and beyond offering; GED, Math and English Tutoring; Resume Writing, ESL Classes, Parenting Classes and Clothing, to name just a few.

Connecting with community resources has enabled MIHN to also provide our guests with counseling, childcare, medical, legal, and dental services. And we continue to expand our resources to assist our families with all the support they need.

As a Network, we have come together to provide these services to 15 adults and 19 children. We have had no matter how brief, an opportunity to provide a positive experience to the 34 individuals who have been welcomed through our doors.

All the services and numbers I have listed above are the tangibles, the services we can quantify. And though they are undeniably vital, the most valuable assets of MIHN are the intangible ones. There are many examples to offer, but I think the following best sums up the value of those intangibles:

One of our 4-year old guests walked by my office at the end of the day, smiled at me said, "I'm going to sleep good tonight."

Warm Regards - *Beth*

Our Current Families



Lindsay and his 4 year old daughter have been with MIHN for 2 months.

Lindsay is actively seeking employment in food service management.

Our second family is a family of four with two children ages 4 and 6. The dad is currently a full time intern in the radiology department of a local hospital and will receive his radiology technology degree this fall.

Tammie and her 18 month old daughter have just entered MIHN this week.

Moving on ...

Georgia and her son have moved to Pennsylvania to live with family. Georgia is enrolling in a Certified Nurse Aide course in the area.

Yinett and her son have moved back to New York where Yinett's husband was able to find employment. They are living with family while saving for an apartment.

Our expectant mom and her 4-year old daughter moved in with family a few weeks before her baby was due.

We gratefully acknowledge the following grants provided to MIHN:

Framingham Rotary Club	\$2,600
Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club	\$2,125

MIHN now has 28 actively participating Congregations!

Please welcome our newest Support Congregations:

First Baptist Church, Framingham
Newton Highlands Congregational Church
St. Zepherin & St. Ann's Parishes, Wayland

2009 MIHN Volunteer Training Dates

All those interested in volunteering at a host congregation or the day center are welcome to attend. All trainings run from 6:30 – 8:30pm. Pre-registration is not required. **We encourage all of you who received training last fall to join one of the upcoming training dates below. We have learned much in our first year and look forward to providing you an informative and useful updated training.**

- Thursday, July 16 at St. Andrew's 3 Maple Street, Framingham
- Wednesday, August 5 at Fisk United 106 Walnut Street, Natick
- Tuesday, Sept 1 at Christ The King 600 Central Street, Holliston
- Thursday, Sept 17 at Village Church 2 Central Street, Wellesley
- Tuesday, Oct 6 at St. Andrews 79 Denton Road, Wellesley
- Thursday Oct 15 at Christ Lutheran 113 Union Street, Natick
- Thursday, Nov 19 at UU Area Church 11 Washington Street, Sherborn



***Special Volunteer Training* For Youth Groups - Sunday Oct 4 at Wellesley Hills Congregational Church**



We welcome Annette Porter to the MIHN driving team!

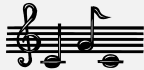
Sweet Sounds and Tastes

Please join us for an evening of melodious music and delicious desserts

Sat, October 3, 2009

Christ Lutheran Church 113 Union St, Natick.

All proceeds benefit MIHN. Tickets are sold at the door.



Please watch our MIHN's website for updates on this annual fundraising event at www.metrowestihn.org.



Natick Days



Natick Days is a festival of entertainment that celebrates our community by providing fundraising opportunities for Natick youth groups and non-profit organizations. It will be held on Saturday September 12th from 10am to 4pm on the Natick Common and the surrounding Area.

MIHN will have a table at Natick Days. Please stop by to say Hello and enter the MIHN raffle for a chance to win a handmade quilt, gift certificates from Brookstone, Mary Kay and more.

www.metrowestihn.org

Visit the MIHN website. While on the site you can connect to MIHN's Wiki. Simply click on "related links" and then click on "MIHN Wiki site". The Wiki provides information including; Volunteer training, Items needed for the day center, and Host rotation schedule.

MIHN's 365 CLUB

Thank you to all who responded to the MIHN's 365 Club this spring. We are pleased to recognize the 365 Club's first members.



Marlene Allen

Carl and Sue Bell

Kim Canning

Kevin and Jane Connolly

Audrey Colson

Ruth Colson

Mike and Klarina Donoghue

Bruce and Becky Epstein

Hope Hotchkiss and John Shea

Rufus and Liz King

Phil and Dottie Laughlin

Harold and Edie Lohr

Jim and Judy Mongiardo

Sue O'Malley

David and Laurie Otten

Ann Skipper

Ron and Linda Smith

Craig and Pam Stirrat

Arthur and Barbara Stock

Pam Weagraff



Become a 365 Club member today!

Simply complete the form below & mail it with your payment to:

MIHN PO Box 847 Natick, MA 01760.



Children Shouldn't Have to be in Shelters!

I will do everything I can to help homeless children and their parents.

Name: _____

Please use my gift to support homeless families in our communities.

Address: _____

Enclosed is:

City, Zip: _____

- \$730 to join the MIHN 365 Club for 2 years
- \$365 to join the MIHN 365 Club for 1 year
- \$ _____ (another amount) to help as much as possible

Email: _____

Please make your check payable to: Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network

Day Center Volunteers Needed

What does an MIHN Day Center Volunteer do?

Volunteers answer phones, assist guests as needed, read to guest children, collate training materials, and/or prepare mailings. We encourage volunteers to bring a book as often times a volunteer simply being at the Day Center is all that is needed ☺.

Volunteers are still needed. Please contact Beth at:
director@metrowestihn.org or
508-318-4820 if you are interested.

Day Center Updates:

The grant MIHN received from the Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club will enable us to install kitchen cabinets and a counter top in the guest lounge at the Day Center. We are planning on beginning the renovations soon and will provide photos of the completed project in our October Newsletter!

We are in need of 4 wooden kitchen chairs for the lounge and are looking for a slightly larger kitchen table than the one we currently have. Preferably a drop leaf table so that we can downsize it as needed. If you are able to donate any of these items, please call and speak with Beth or Marcia at 508-318-4820. We will be happy to pick up or schedule a convenient time to drop it off.

Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network

PO Box 847, 13 Common St, Natick MA 01760 (508)318-4820 * director@metrowestihn.org