



Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network

A Community Response to Homelessness

Providing Families Shelter with Warmth, Hospitality and Respect



Network News Nov 18, 2011 Edition of the MIHN Newsletter

Chair Chat – A Note from our Board Chairperson

Hello friends,

As this is my first opportunity to address to you via the Chair Chat, I would like to begin by thanking each of you for joining with me in our mission to serve homeless families. Because of your time, talents and resources, we are making a difference in the lives of our neighbours. And we are making a difference in our lives too. Every time I serve during a host week, attend a MIHN event or walk out of a Board meeting, I feel better about myself and the life I live. I hope your service makes you feel the same way.

We have come so far over the past few years. The foundation for our continued service is strengthening and I believe that we are well prepared for the challenges and opportunities ahead of us. As we enter our 4th year, we are focused on expanding our services and improving our success rates. I trust that we will be able to count on your continued support. Please generously respond to our Holiday Appeal and sign up a team for our annual Walk Away Homelessness event schedule for February 4, 2012.

In closing, I would like to recognize and thank former Chair, Candace Sutcliffe, for her years of service on behalf of our network. She has done an extraordinary job in a variety of roles and I am very glad that she continues to serve on our board. Thank you very much for your guidance, insight and hard work Candace.

Best regards, Mike Donoghue

Director's Letter

As we enter our 4th year of service to families in need, I would like to offer special thanks to Pastor Nancy Hitt and the members of the First Baptist Church of Natick. Through the kindness and generosity of Pastor Nancy and her congregants, our families have had a home to come to everyday for the past 1,134 days since we welcomed our first family. The stability and familiarity of the day center is so important to our families as they navigate this incredibly stressful time in their lives.

It is heartwarming to witness the kids getting off the school bus in the afternoon, running in the back door of the First Baptist Church, slinging their backpacks on a chair, grabbing a drink and something to eat from the fridge and sitting down at the kitchen table to have their afternoon snack. They are home.

On many afternoons, I can hear James (13) and Alex (10) call out to their mom, "We're going to go play football with our friends." and off they run across the street to the park. They return later, panting and laughing, have yet another snack and take a shower. They are home.

Joana tells her daughter Yaiki (8), "Don't forget to do your chores." And off Yaiki trudges to take the trash out while her younger brother Kayden (3) follows her down the hall in his Little Tikes' car. They are home.

We are so grateful to the First Baptist Church for providing this wonderful gift.

As many of you may know, the First Baptist Church has had to make the difficult decision to cease and desist as a congregation. It has been an emotional journey for all of FBC's members. Through this turmoil, Pastor Nancy and FBC's Board of Directors not only made sure that the day to day operations of MIHN were not disrupted, they offered us additional space and donated furniture for that space.

Three members of the FBC's Board of Directors continue to manage the building and its tenants as the American Baptist Leadership begins its search for a leader of a new congregation to take its place.

We are so grateful for the First Baptist Church's continued service to our families.

With Appreciation, Beth

Network Congregations

MIHN Day Center

First Baptist Church, Natick

MIHN Host Congregations

Christ Lutheran Church, Natick

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Holliston

Congregation Or Atid/Peace Lutheran Church, Wayland

Crossroads Community Church, Framingham

The Dover Church

Federated Church of Ashland

First Congregational Church, Natick

First Parish in Framingham

First Parish in Wayland

Fisk United Methodist Church, Natick

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

Charles River Vineyard, South Natick

Christ Church, United Methodist of Wellesley

Eliot Church of South Natick

First Baptist Church, Framingham

First Congregational Church, Holliston

Fisk United Methodist Church, Natick

Holy Spirit Catholic Community, Wellesley

Memorial Congregational Church, Sudbury

Most Precious Blood Church, Dover

Needham Congregational Church

Newton Highlands Congregational Church

Parish of The Good Shepherd, Wayland

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Framingham

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Wellesley

St. John Lutheran Church, Sudbury

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Holliston

St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Sherborn

Sha'arei Shalom, Ashland

Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley

Temple Beth Shalom, Needham

Temple Beth Torah, Holliston

Temple Shir Tikvah, Wayland

Westgate Church, Weston

* Fisk United Methodist Church serves as both a support and a host congregation.

Our Current Families:



Joana and her two children, **Yaiki** (8) & **Kayden** (3), have been with MIHN since the end of July. During that time Kayden has been attending Headstart and Joana has found employment while she continues to study for her GED.



Jan and her children, **Jocelyn** (6), **Alex** (10), and **James** (13) came to MIHN the middle of September. Jan is seeking employment as an office assistant/receptionist.

Rosemene, Jack and their two children **Kerlinda** (20) and **Habacuc** (4) have been with MIHN for a short time. Rosemene and Kerlinda have begun ESL (English as a Second Language) tutoring and Habacuc is now attending Headstart. Jack is currently seeking employment as a bus driver or Home Health Aide.

Moving On:

Charles, Jenn and **CJ**, moved into their own apartment in September. Charles recently stopped by the day center to visit and share the news of his job promotion—Congratulations Charles!

Also in September, **Philomene** and her girls, **Whitney** and **Shak** settled into their own apartment.

Miriam is now working full time in the field of higher education and she and her children, **Gabby** and **Jonathan**, are currently residing in Metrowest.

Visits with Past Families

We have the pleasure of visiting with **Katory** when he joins Jack on his Saturday morning volunteer shifts at the day center. With Jack's help, Katory turned himself into a mean looking pirate for Halloween!



Aloris and **Amelia** stopped by for a visit last month. Amelia is looking so grown up! Aloris reports that the family is doing well and Amelia and **Jack** continue to do well in school.



The Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network

Welcomes its Newest Support Congregation!

Westgate Church in Weston

Fundraising Updates

SWIM-A-THON

Kudos to **Eliza Chemini**, a member of FCC in Holliston for organizing a **successful swimathon, receiving more than \$3,000 in pledges for MIHN!**



SWEETSOUNDS VI was a magical evening of music, dancing and sweets, thanks to the many talented musicians, dancers and delectable deserts. The event raised more than \$6,000 to help MIHN Families!



The MIHN AUCTION Raised \$7,000 in September!

Many thanks to the all who donated items to help support the families of MIHN and congratulations to the successful bidders!

Winter Housepins are in!

Housepins sell for \$15 each with \$7.00 of the proceeds going directly to MIHN. Call or stop by the Day Center to purchase your pins!



Visit or volunteer with us at

BARNES & NOBLE

on Thursday December 8, Saturday December 10 and Thursday December 15

For more information contact Marcia at marcia@metrowestihn.org or 508-318-4820

MIHN Blackboard

Upcoming Training Dates:

Thursday November 17
Tuesday December 6
Thursday December 15
Tuesday January 3
Thursday January 19

*All volunteer trainings run from 6:30 to 8:00pm. No pre-registration required—just show up on the date that is best for you! Please check the Wiki site for locations at:

www.mihn.pbwiki.com

Day Center Volunteers Needed for Weekend Shifts!

Shifts are Saturday & Sunday
9:30 to 12:30 and
12:30 to 3:00

To sign up or for more information
Please call 508-318-4820 or email
Director@metrowestihn.org

Host Rotation Schedule Nov 2011— Jan 2012

11/13	UU Area Church—Sherborn
11/20	Federated Church—Ashland
11/27	UU Society of Wellesley Hills
12/4	The Dover Church
12/11	St. Paul's Church—Natick
12/18	First Congregational Church— Natick
12/25	First Parish Wayland

2012

1/1	Christ Lutheran Church- Natick
1/8	Wellesley Hills Congregational Church
1/15	UU Society of Wellesley Hills
1/22	To Be Determined
1/29	Pilgrim Church—Sherborn
2/5	UU Area Church—Sherborn
2/12	St. Paul's Church—Natick
2/19	First Parish—Framingham

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Homeless Families through the

Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network

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