

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Essex County

# 2013 Annual Report



guiding  
**FAMILIES**  
towards

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# HOME

# Mission Statement

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Essex County is a not-for-profit organization that provides shelter, professional support services, and housing assistance so homeless families can find and sustain their own homes. We do this with help from an extensive network of volunteers, generous individuals, and other partners throughout our community.



## IHN Staff

Leslie Brown, *Interim Executive Director*  
 Brenda Myrick, MPA, MSW,  
*Director of Housing & Social Services*  
 Danita Hinant, *Case Manager*  
 Ellen Donker, *Development Associate*  
 Novilette Grier, *Receptionist*  
 Sidney Edwards, *Van Driver*

## Board of Trustees

Peter Abdill, *President*  
 Robert Shannon Conaway, *Treasurer*

Aida Anderson	Bruce Levitt
Elizabeth Cohen	Lennon Register
Jacqueline England	Kathy Stine

## IHN Dream Team

The IHN Dream Team is a group of individuals who make a five-year pledge of \$1,000 or more annually to provide IHN with sustainable non-designated funding. Being able to count on this pledged income allows IHN to plan for the future of the organization. Our goal is to build the Dream Team to 100 members by 2014.

**Won't you join us? Simply contact Ellen Donker at: [ellen@ihnessexnj.org](mailto:ellen@ihnessexnj.org)**

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Dear Friend,

IHN is known in our community for its emergency shelter program because of the amazing number of volunteers who help provide hospitality to homeless families every year. But I'd also like IHN to be known for so much more. When I speak with individuals and groups about the many facets of IHN, it's almost like I can see a light bulb go off at the moment when they "get it." Because that's when it all makes sense – that IHN provides services to a family whether they're homeless or when they have a home but are still in need. Offering holistic services means that a family has a safety net allowing them to continue working with IHN until they are completely self-sufficient.

The relationships that families forge with IHN over time mean that parents aren't passed from one agency to the next. They have a place to come for help where they are known and where they don't have to retell their story a dozen times before they get the assistance they need. That kind of service model not only makes good sense, but it's also a humane way to help lift families out of the hopelessness of poverty.

During 2013 – an exciting year of transition – IHN continued to provide emergency shelter through our congregational network. We were also the proud recipient of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program Grant. As the only agency in Essex County to receive this grant from HUD, IHN was able to help prevent families from becoming homeless and to help those already homeless with rental assistance. Based on the premise that it costs more for society to provide emergency shelter than resources for housing, I believe this grant was a responsible and worthwhile way to address poverty and homelessness.

We are acutely aware that IHN would not exist were it not for generous friends like you who participate with their wallets, their time, and their hearts to help ensure families in our community have a safe place to lay their heads. Thank you for not looking the other way, but instead finding a way to change lives for the better.

Sincerely,

*Peter H. Abdill, CFA*

Board President



# Host Congregations

B'nai Keshet  
Congregation B'nai Israel  
Congregation B'nai Jeshurun  
Congregation Shomrei Emunah  
Central Presbyterian Church  
Elmwood West, Elmwood  
Presbyterian Church  
First Presbyterian Church of Verona  
First Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
Glen Ridge Congregational Church  
Grace Presbyterian Church  
Morrow Memorial Methodist Church  
Mount Hermon Baptist Church  
New Hope Baptist Church  
Notre Dame R.C. Church  
Our Lady of Sorrows

Park United Methodist Church  
Prospect Presbyterian Church  
Saint Andrew and Holy Communion  
Saint Cassian's Church  
Saint George's Episcopal Church  
Saint Joseph Church  
Saint Mark's AME Church  
Saint Paul Baptist Church  
Saint Philomena's R.C. Church  
Saint Stephen's Church  
Temple B'nai Abraham  
Union Congregational Church  
United Presbyterian Church  
Vincent United Methodist Church  
Wyoming Presbyterian Church

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# Support Congregations

Berean Seventh Day Adventist Church  
Caldwell United Methodist Church  
Christ Church in Short Hills  
Christ Church Montclair  
Church of the Holy Spirit  
Congregation Beth Ahm of West Essex  
Congregation Beth El  
Congregation Oheb Shalom  
First Baptist Church of South Orange  
First Congregational Church of Montclair  
First Unitarian Universalist  
of Essex County  
Franklin Reformed Church  
Grace Episcopal Church Nutley  
Presbyterian Church of Livingston

Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair  
Redeemer Church of Montclair  
The Religious Society of Friends  
Saint John's Episcopal Church  
Saint Peter's Church  
Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
South Orange-Vailsburg United  
Methodist Church  
Temple Emanu-El of West Essex  
Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel  
Temple Sholom of West Essex  
Union Baptist Church  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
at Montclair  
United Presbyterian Church of  
West Orange

# Thank You!



# Dear Friend,

As Interim Executive Director for Interfaith Hospitality Network of Essex County (IHN), I have had one of the most inspiring and rewarding experiences working for an organization that has helped so many families.

I witnessed our mission to help homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence, in action. I watched the positive transformation of many families that started their journey in our Congregational Shelter program as they ultimately triumphed by finding employment and moving to permanent housing.

IHN could not be successful in its mission without our donors and the tireless help of our partners – the more than 50 host congregations that provide the emergency shelter for our families, support congregations and volunteers that help us where and when needed, and our community partners who provide the additional support services for our families.

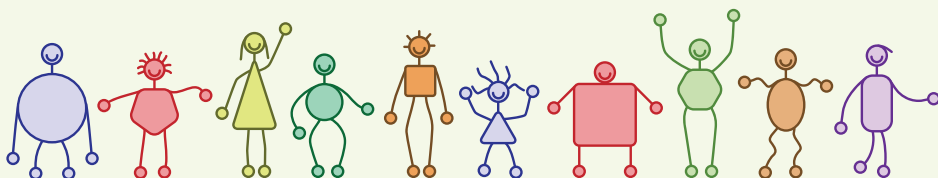
Finally, without our staff there would be no IHN. They are the backbone of this organization. Their compassion, empathy and understanding of our families have been immeasurable.

Even though my time at IHN is temporary, I have been proud to be at the helm of an organization that is so important to the community. I thank the Board for their assistance in my journey as Interim Executive Director and I look forward to turning over the Directorship to the new incoming Executive Director in 2014.

Kind regards,

*Leslie Brown*

Interim Executive Director



# A temporary HOME

- 25 families comprised of 85 individuals were given shelter in 2013
- 31 host congregations provided temporary homes
- 27 support congregations provided volunteers
- 2,600 volunteers showed hospitality to our families
- More than 5,000 dinners served



# The Congregational Shelter Program

Homelessness – it usually stems from job loss, a natural disaster, family tragedy, childhood trauma, or illness – something that puts an already fragile family over the edge. These families come to us in crisis mode, needing to find a solution, at least temporarily, while they try to find a permanent home. Over and over this scenario plays out in a county that has the distinction of having the second highest rate of family homelessness in New Jersey.

For 26 years now, IHN has provided homeless families with emergency shelter through its unique model of utilizing congregational space and their volunteers. Opening their church or temple for a week at a time, volunteers set up makeshift bedrooms for our families, cook meals, play with the kids, and lend a listening ear to whoever needs it. This compassionate response not only can help change the lives of our families for the better, but can also change the lives of volunteers. One such moment played out when a Board member and volunteer, Kathy Stine, caught on video the first steps of baby Sinay. Being able to provide the video to Chantenay, the mother, as a keepsake is something that does not happen in your ordinary shelter. But it happens at IHN.



*Prospect Presbyterian Church has been hosting IHN families for 26 years.*

While families are in the shelter program, they receive case management services to help put them on the right path toward permanent housing. We assist them with housing and employment searches; childcare; referrals to appropriate resources; credit repair; savings strategies; educational opportunities; and more.

## On The Road To Stability

Naomi and her sons were in our congregational shelter program for over three months. During the summer of 2013, they were able to move to a new apartment that they could afford in the same district where her son Alturique was already going to school. 3-year-old Malachi was able to be enrolled in preschool while Naomi set her sights on furthering her education. Truth be told, we all missed seeing Malachi play in the Family Resource Center, but we're happy to see the family progressing so well.

Through the IHN Home for Good program, we will continue to guide Naomi as needed -- until she and her family are self-sufficient.



# A permanent HOME

- 140 individuals received assistance after moving to their permanent homes
- 55 children received camp scholarships
- 21 adults attended workshops
- 50 families received Thanksgiving baskets
- 60 families received help with Holiday gifts



# The Home For Good Program

We want to make sure that families who move into permanent housing never become homeless again. But for those living in poverty, life is often full of complications and the road to self-sufficiency can be long. Parents face uncertainties relating to job security, safe housing, transportation and unexpected events.

The IHN Home for Good program provides moms and dads with a safety net when difficulties arise. They can continue to work with their case manager to access needed resources such as help with groceries, utility bills, childcare, continuing education and workshops, and camp scholarships. Having this program in place helps parents make progress towards long-term success for themselves and their children.



*Moses and his mother enjoy the Halloween Party put on by Liquid Church.*



*"Minnie Mouse" enjoys her first IHN Halloween party.*



*Sara D'Andrea of the Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills provides Brenda Myrick, IHN Director of Housing & Social Services, with turkey dinners for IHN families.*



*Children like Jordan benefited from summer camp scholarships.*

# AN afternoon HOME

25 children attended the Afterschool Program and benefited from:

- Homework assistance
- Tutoring
- Fun Friday activities such as yoga, clowning demonstration, art projects, dental clinic, financial workshop
- Holiday celebrations for birthdays, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Halloween, Christmas

# The Afterschool Program

Children who are or have been in the Congregational Shelter Program are eligible to join the IHN Afterschool Program. Typically, 10 to 15 children meet at our Family Resource Center in Montclair where the children spend the afternoon doing their homework and receiving tutoring when needed. On Fridays, children participate in a fun activity, whether it be yoga, a birthday celebration, a museum visit or an art session.

The Afterschool Program not only helps children who suffered academic setbacks from the trauma of homelessness but it also limits the cost of aftercare for working parents. We are grateful for volunteers from the Seton Hall D.O.V.E. program, Montclair High School, Montclair State University and the community at large who make the children feel welcome and safe while sharing their talents.



*Sasha and Stephen perform with Samantha in her musical show performed for the Religious School at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun.*



*Moses and Zion show off their Mother's Day cards*



*TD Bank teaches children in the Afterschool Program the benefits of saving*



*KinderSmile Program Coordinator Ayanna Bradshaw-Sydnor, MPH, DDS teaches children good habits of dental care.*





# 2013 Donors

To each and every one of our donors...please accept our heartfelt **THANK YOU** for your continued support!

## \$10,000+

County of Essex  
- Community Development Block Grant  
(Montclair Township)  
- Emergency Solutions Grant  
- Homeless Prevention & Rapid Rehousing  
- Social Service for the Homeless Grant  
FEMA Emergency Food & Shelter Program  
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# Financials

## Statement of Activities

Year ended December 31, 2013

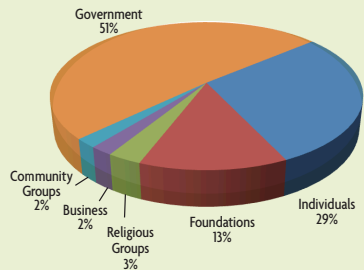
### SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

Contributions:	
Individuals	\$205,758
Foundations	\$96,107
Religious organizations	\$22,595
Business and industry	\$12,549
Community groups	\$15,576
Government Grants	\$360,144
Gifts in-kind	\$4,160
Program service revenue	\$15,087
Investment income	\$12
Miscellaneous income	-
<b>Total support and revenue</b>	<b>\$731,988</b>

### EXPENSES:

Program services	\$585,604
Supporting services:	
Management and general	\$63,140
Fundraising	\$83,751
Total supporting services	<u>\$146,891</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$732,495</u>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>-\$507</b>
<b>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$487,853</b>
<b>Net Assets and End of Year</b>	<b>\$487,346</b>

### 2013 Revenue



## Statement of Financial Position

Year Ended December 31, 2013

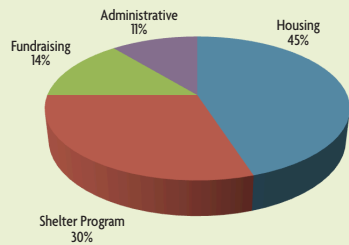
### ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$37,674
Pledges receivable, net	\$315,693
Grants receivable	\$142,704
Rents and other receivable	\$7,878
Prepaid expenses	\$11,373
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation of \$71,452 - 2013 and \$60,316 - 2012	\$12,614
Security deposit	\$9,850
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$537,786</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$50,440
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>\$50,440</b>
Net Assets:	
Unrestricted	\$476,880
Temporarily restricted	\$10,466
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$487,346</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$537,786</b>

### 2013 Expenses





# How to help...

Support the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Essex County and help provide families with emergency shelter and housing services in our community. Established in 1988, IHN has been keeping homeless families together and guiding them towards home and self-sufficiency.



Interfaith  
Hospitality Network<sup>®</sup>  
of Essex County, Inc.

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