

Rochester Area
Interfaith
Hospitality
Network, Inc.

RAIHN Mission

We are a not-for-profit, non-denominational group of faith communities helping homeless families achieve sustainable independence.

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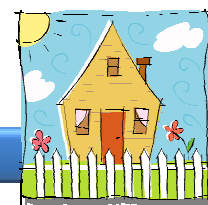
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RAIHN

Weather Report

Providing an Interfaith Solution for Homeless Families



A Letter from Nancy Frank **The President of RAIHN**

Since our last Newsletter, Nancy Elliott has been hired as our permanent Network Director and does she ever have plans for RAIHN.....I'm breathless!

Much is going on with RAIHN.....there is continued work toward a new website and we hope to "go live" on the new site soon. "Shop 'til You Drop" has new leadership. Nancy Elliott, Board member Joanne Ligtenberg and Danielle Straka, our MSW intern from Roberts Wesleyan are doing a weekly Life Skills workshop with the guests. Plans are being made for our November 8th fundraiser as well as an Interfaith Service next May 16 at 7 PM at Temple Sinai. Our Board is a wonderful group of hard working men and women and we are blessed by their commitment and dedication.

Financial donations from faith congregations have been slow this spring and summer. If you have influence in your congregation, please encourage the support of RAIHN! And a hearty thank you to those who have sent in supportive monies!

A Financial Committee is being formed for the management of the RAIHN finances under the direction of the RAIHN Treasurer, Ruthellen Hoyle and I welcome your suggestions of people with financial acumen who might serve on the committee.

Nancy Frank
RAIHN Board
President



RAIHN Hosts a Snazzy Jazzy Sunday Afternoon! **November 8th Fundraiser Planned**

We're all in for a musical and taste treat on Sunday, November 8, when the **JazzDawgs** will perform for our fall fundraising event at the beautiful setting of Temple Sinai from 3-6:00 PM. Please save the date now and plan to attend this important fundraiser for RAIHN. Sandra Holloway of **Tasteful**

Connections promises delicious appetizers and desserts, including a new signature fudge created just for this event! The Jazz Dawgs are a multi-faceted jazz quartet based in Rochester, NY. They play contemporary and classic jazz, along with their own original tunes and can be

often heard at Bistro 135 in East Rochester. They are excited about entertaining us, and the afternoon will be filled with standards as well as upbeat tunes.

Tickets are priced at \$50 in advance and \$75 at the door. Hope to see you there!

Director's News **From Nancy Elliott, Director**

It's been a whirlwind spring and summer as the new Permanent Director of RAIHN. I'm getting my feet wet with a splash!

We've had a full program for a while now, and unfortunately are still getting lots of calls while we are at capacity. There are now greater demands from homeless families to enter the RAIHN program-sometimes 3-4 calls daily. So, referrals to other programs and services are an important part of the work we do. **YOU CAN HELP:** As you are out in the community, and learn of programs for affordable housing, GED classes, job training, family enrichment, etc. it would be helpful if you pick up a current brochure and send it to me at the Day Center, 34 Meigs St. 14607. Programs come and go, and we need have current info to give to families.

We continue to receive wonderful donations of goods and clothing from our RAIHN friends. If you are dropping off a donation, please label it "RAIHN donation". We have many guest families that may leave a bag of belongings in the foyer storage and it is easy to get bags all jumbled.

Thanks for all you do for RAIHN!

Nancy Elliott
RAIHN Director



A Guest's Story

The first time our family came to RAIHN we only stayed for six days which was a blessing for us before I began working a full-time temporary assignment in Canandaigua which provided enough income to secure our own housing.

The second time our family came to RAIHN we stayed for approximately two weeks. The kind volunteers made all the difference in our crisis. We were able to again secure our own housing, but not without the assistance of the Day Centers' computer, fax and telephones. Nancy Elliott and Wanda have been a strong

support system in this time of re-settlement for our family.

We would like to thank every volunteer, in every church or temple, and within the Day Center. I feel like we have made friends, and I smile when I think of them.

RAIHN has been a RAINBOW after our storm. I THANK GOD FOR ALL YOUR GENEROSITY! Whenever you need a volunteer, just call me and I will be there.
With Love,
Lynn C.

New Board Member: Donna Nasca

We are delighted to welcome to our board a new member who brings new skills and experience; Donna Nasca. She is a medical social worker at Unity Health. She has worked in that field since 2001. Prior to Unity Health, Donna was an outpatient social worker for Via Health at Rochester General Hospital. She holds a BS in Social Work from SUNY Buffalo and a Masters of Social Work from SUNY Brockport. Fluent in Spanish, Donna has served as a Girl Scout Leader for



seven years. She is also a past Board member of the Rochester Diabetes Network."

We welcome Donna!



Guests staying with RAIHN over the last few months

Summer Happenings at RAIHN

It's been a busy spring and summer around the Day Center at RAIHN. In April, we had the pleasure of meeting a group of teens from around the area, in town for Mission Madness. The teenagers dove in to several clean-up projects around the house, giving a fresh coat of paint to our front entry porch and back porch (of course, there was paint in a lot of other places too, along the way). The students also did some trimming and weeding around our flower beds, all with

cheerful attitudes and a spirit of service.

When the morning was over, and the projects completed and cleaned up, the Day Center looked properly "spruced up" and our staff is still very appreciative!

In June, we hosted another youth group: this group, from First Baptist Church in Rock Hill, SC came all the way to Rochester, donating their time and energy to another round of

clean-up. With the same generous spirit, they did whatever they were asked, and windows sparkled and more peeling paint was replaced.

We are so pleased to witness the molding of a "service mentality" in the groups that have come to RAIHN. By setting the standard early, these young people are learning valuable lessons of selflessness and gaining an awareness of social issues

like homelessness that exist right in our community. Kudos go out to the leaders that are directing their efforts.

During the summer, the guest families have had several family outings. Promoting special family times, free from stress, is an important goal for RAIHN. We try to help the families maintain a certain degree of normalcy. Seeing the smiles on their faces I think we were successful!
Nancy Elliott

Karen Olson Joins RAIHN in Fifth Anniversary Celebration

Karen Olson, Founder and President of Family Promise, formerly called the Interfaith Hospitality Network, came to Rochester, NY on May 6, 2009 to help us celebrate RAIHN's five years of success. She spoke at the Clergy Luncheon at Asbury, attended by 40 local clergy, and at a reception held for volunteers and coordinators at St. Paul's in the evening.

Olson founded the Interfaith Hospitality Network in 1988 with the mission of helping low-income families nationwide to achieve sustainable independence. Family Promise helps mobilize religious congregations of all faiths to provide safe shelter, meals, and comprehensive support services for homeless families. As a marketing executive, Olson developed promotional campaigns for consumer products. She never anticipated that her

life would be changed through an unexpected encounter with a homeless woman in 1982. This incident led to the creation of a vast network of volunteers that has now touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of homeless and low-income families across the country. The organization Olson began in 1986 in her home state of New Jersey grew to become Family Promise, and has expanded to 39 states and involves more than 110,000 volunteers and 4,500 congregations of all religious faiths. It is recognized nationally for its innovative and effective work in mobilizing volunteers.

Under Olson's continuing direction, Family Promise has expanded its mission beyond providing immediate assistance to homeless families to include a family mentoring homelessness prevention program along

with initiatives to address the underlying causes of homelessness.

Olson serves on the Family Homelessness Task Force of the National Interagency Council on Homelessness. In 1992 she was awarded one of 21 National Points of Light Awards from a field of over 4,500 nominees for her work in mobilizing volunteers. She has been profiled in Family Circle magazine and The New York Times, and she is featured in the book *Courage is Contagious, Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things to Change the Face of America*, written in 1999 by Ohio Congressman John Kasich.



Karen Olson at the Clergy luncheon with Rev Rod Frohman and Rt. Rev. Prince Singh, Episcopal Bishop of Rochester



RAIHN by the Numbers – The Director's Report Through August 2009

Dates	Families Served	People Served	Children	Adult Females	Adult Males	Bed Nights	Meals	Avg Days Stay	# Enrolled MCC	# Enrolled in Voc. Ed.	Adults Employed	Clients on Permanent Disability	Families Discharged	Families Placed in Other Shelters	Families Placed with Relatives	Families Placed in Permanent Housing	Families Remaining in Housing for One Year	Families Returned to Homelessness	Volunteers Trained
2004	36	100	56	35	9	2,688	8,062	32	6	11	18	5	7	2	3	24	92%	2 of 24 families	600
2005	30	97	57	31	9	3,897	11,700	41	2	5	16	7	5	1	6	18	94%	1 of 18	550
2006	36	123	74	34	15	3,884	11,652	28	0	0	20	11	1	0	7	26	96%	0 of 26 families	130
2007	27	90	51	26	13	4,120	12,360	41	2	5	13	10	2	0	4	22	100%	0 of 22 families	120
2008	35	111	66	33	12	3,602	7,204	32	0	0	3	4	11	2	2	18	66%	1 of 35 families	80
2009 YTD	23	72	42	23	6	1,857	3,714	41.5	2	2	3	4	5	1	1	11	N/A	1 of 11 families	165
Totals	187	593	346	182	64	20,048	54,692	35.9	12	23	30% of 246	41	31	6	23	119	91%	5 of 119 families	1,645

Host Organizations

The hosts house and feed guest families for one-week periods, four times each year.

- Asbury First United Methodist Church
- Brighton Reformed Church
- Church of the Assumption
- Downtown United Presbyterian Church
- First Presbyterian of Pittsford
- First Unitarian Church
- First Universalist Church
- Irondequoit United Church Of Christ
- Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word
- St. Luke's & St. Simon – Cyrene Episcopal
- St. Matthias Episcopal/Trinity Lutheran
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Temple Sinai
- Third Presbyterian Church
- Trinity Emmanuel Lutheran

Supporting Organizations

Faith communities that provide in-kind and volunteer support to one of the hosting organizations.

- Baber AME Church
- Baptist Temple
- Buddhist Peace Fellowship & Zen Center
- Christ Episcopal Church
- Church of the Epiphany
- Church of the Transfiguration
- Messiah Lutheran Church
- Mountain Rise UCC
- New Life Presbyterian Church
- Pittsford Baptist Church
- Religious Society of Friends
- Seneca United Methodist
- St. Catherine of Siena
- St. John's Lutheran
- St. Joseph Catholic Church
- St. Louis Catholic Church
- St. Mary's Catholic Church
- St. Paul's Evangelical
- Summerville Presbyterian
- Twelve Corners Presbyterian
- Trinity Reformed Church
- United Church of Pittsford

The Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc. is a New York not-for-profit corporation with 501(c) 3 status. All donations are tax deductible.

RAIHN Celebrates Five Years In Operation!



Volunteer Gloria and crowd at the evening reception celebrating five years of successfully helping families



George Gray, Board Member with his wife serving wine donated by Constellation Brands



Guests at the celebration volunteer event



Karen Olson addresses the volunteers and coordinators



Bill Gage tasting the feast provided by Tasteful Connections



Clergy Luncheon

RAIHN is a United Way Agency

United Way Donors can designate Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network - RAIHN - as their official "designee". The official RAIHN ID number is # 2435.

Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network

"Bringing Faiths Together, Keeping Homeless Families Together"
presents a NEW Fund Raiser!

A Snazzy Jazzy

Sunday Afternoon



with the

Jazz Dawgs

Come dance in a fun, jazzy fall wonderland!

Sunday, November 8, 2009 3:00-6:00pm

Temple Sinai
363 Penfield Road Rochester, New York

Hors d'oeuvres & Dessert Gala
Beverages included

\$50 per person/\$75 at the door Silent Auction
RSVP by October 30th to RAIHN at 506-9050 or online at events@RAIHN.org
Limited Tickets Available