

Inter-Faith Hospitality Network

Overview

The IFHN is a cooperative endeavor between the religious community and social service agencies to combine cost efficient shelter with volunteer support services while developing community participation. The foundation of the IFHN program is the use of existing resources: churches and synagogues for overnight lodging, congregations for volunteers, social service agencies for screening and referrals, and existing facilities for day programs. Volunteers do simple but immeasurably important things. They talk to their guests. They treat them with respect. They listen. They provide a safe refuge. Personal engagement is manifest in the Network's philosophy of offering dignified and compassionate assistance.

Volunteer Areas

- **Meals**
- **Transportation**
- **Overnight stays**
- **Child care**
- **Laundry**
- **Coordination**

Our Commitment

St. Luke parish has agreed to work with the First Baptist Church of Glenside for **April of 2005**. First Baptist Church supplies the location and we supply most of the volunteers for the month.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I get more information?

<http://www.stlukerc.org/Hospitality.htm>

What types of families are served?

Families served by the Inter-Faith Hospitality Network are not the stereotypical homeless person. They are families with children. They are not chronically homeless. Extensive interviews are conducted before a family is considered. Typically their homelessness is due to a job loss or a relationship break up. If their family and friends could keep them longer they would. This could be the worst crisis of their lives.

How many volunteers are needed to staff the program?

Typically, a congregation will have an average of 75 different volunteers active during the month. Many people who are not able to participate in other programs at church can be involved in this one. Volunteers are not asked for an open-ended commitment. They are asked to be involved for one month a year doing specific tasks on specific days. The types of thing they are asked to do are things they are already comfortable with. They are asked to cook supper, drive someone to work, or stay overnight.

How to Volunteer

Fill in volunteer sheet on the back of this flyer and place in the red box in Church or the collection basket or the rectory OR e-mail us with the information at StLukeRC@aol.com

Inter-Faith Hospitality Network
St. Luke the Evangelist Church
Volunteer Sheet
April 2005

Check all that apply:

- I volunteer to cook and serve the supper meal once or twice during the month.
- I volunteer to provide transportation for guests two or three times during the month.
- I volunteer to sleep overnight two or three times during the month.
- I volunteer to assist with children one or two evenings during the month.
- I volunteer to launder sheets and towels once during the month.
- I may be able to assist at another church in Glenside during 2005.
- I am interested in finding out more information about being a coordinator in the program.
- I can't help this year, but keep/put me on mailing list.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

COMMENTS/RESTRICTIONS _____

If you have checked anything, return completed form to **Church** (in the red box or the collection basket) or the **Rectory** or E-mail the information to **StLukeRC@aol.com**