
Network News

The newsletter of the
Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network

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February 2008

Join us for breakfast!

Winter has come full force to Salem and I am sitting here thinking about spring – I am sure ready for it! Of course, springtime brings with it our annual fund-raising breakfast. It is coming up on Thursday, April 3rd this year, again at Mission Mill Museum.

However, I'm getting ahead of myself, let me share with you what has happened since our last news-letter. This was my second Christmas season with Salem IHN and again, I am so thankful for the generous hearts of our supporters. The families we cared for over the holidays were very thankful for the gifts. We also finished the year fiscally strong, with December being one of the highest income months in our history. Thank you all!

Thanks to a substantial grant from the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency, we were able to hire Greg Kornspan as our full-time Family Case Manager. This let us expand our ministry beyond helping families that are already homeless. The best way to treat homelessness is to *prevent* it, and over 70 families have benefitted from Greg's work at preventing homelessness. He does this in a number of ways: reconciling families, working with "second-chance" landlords, as well as helping people use the resources they do have.

As I looked back on the list of families that did enter the network, I am pleased to see that over three-quarters of them are still self-sufficient in their own place. Several of them have come back for additional help, which we were able to provide. It is such a pleasure to have a former guest drop by the Day Center and catch up on what is new for the family.

It's easy to get caught up in the statistics and forget about the human side. When I think back over what we did in 2007, I don't see numbers, I see people. I see Derrick—the most upbeat person I've ever known—and his dedication to provide for his family and be a good father. I see Dina and her five girls having a chance to build a better life. I think of the kids—Ivy, who's now in school and has a safe, warm apartment to come home to. Kids who have a chance to be kids again and have their own rooms. We don't just provide rooms and shelter. We don't just provide meals and a place to sleep. We help the least among us. Together, we change lives.

Looking forward, I sense it is going to be a foundational year for Salem IHN. The Board of Trustees is working on a five-year vision to set our course, the Day Center will, hopefully, get the renovation it needs, and I am pursuing the additional congregations we need to make a second rotation possible. I invite you, once again, to partner with us as we change lives. Plan on attending our fund-raising breakfast, April 3rd to hear what we are planning for the year.

Thank you for all your continued support!

Richard R. Zielke
Executive Director

Put it on your Calendar
The Salem IHN Annual Fundraising Breakfast
Thursday April 3rd, 2008 – 7:00am
Mission Mill Museum

Helping Communities Help Homeless Families

2007 in Review

Thanks to our volunteers and supporters, we continue to grow and serve the community better every day! Here's a few of the things that blessed us this year:

- ❖ Greg K., our Family Case Manager, went from part-time to full time, working not just to help the families in our Day Center, but also working to prevent homelessness.
- ❖ We got new computers for staff, and our resident geek (Robert G.) set up computers for our families at the Day Center with internet access. Families can now search for work, housing, stay in touch with friends, and even do school work on-line! Thanks to the **Walton Charitable Trust** for funding these efforts.
- ❖ We have a new fence for our backyard so that kids can play outside during the summer. Thanks to the **Salem Foundation – Kubin Fund** for the money to do this.

Day Center needs

Next time you're out shopping with some extra room in the cart, here's a few items we can use for our Day Center:

- ❖ Coloring books—*please*, no crayons! We've got 30 boxes of crayons and nothing to color!
- ❖ Coffee & coffee creamer
- ❖ A case of 40W two-prong fluorescent light bulbs. Half of the lights in the office are burned out, and we're more in the dark than usual!

And we've got something *you* might want: a genuine 70's vintage electric organ! Mostly works. Great for a retro rock band with weight-lifting roadies. Call Richard Z. for details and to arrange pick-up.

Foundations Support Salem IHN

The following foundations have recently given us grants that support our mission:

Salem Foundation – Kubin Fund (\$5,000), the **St. Mark Lutheran Endowment Fund** (\$1,000), and the **Thrivent Lutheran Fund** (\$1,750).

Do you have a few hours to spare?

Richard is putting together a team of volunteers to be the welcoming face, both in person and on the phone at the Day Center, as well as performing some clerical tasks. Let Richard know if you are willing to help us out.

Welcome to...

With a new year, we have some new board members and some changing positions. Welcome to the ever-elegant **Heidi Wold**, who serves as President this year (and mondo huge thanks to **Jinx Brandt** for her service as president in 2007!).

A giant huge stack of thanks to **John Eastman**, who's been paying bills (and paychecks!) since the beginning—*eight years ago*. You rock, John!

And welcome to **Margaret Oscilia**, who'll be our new treasurer this year, and will take over the bill-paying and paycheck writing. Margaret attends Trinity Covenant Church.

Also, **Judy Klausen** joins the board as our newest member. Judy works at Salem Hospital and attends Salem Alliance Church. Welcome, Judy!

Family statistics

Category	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
# Families	25	32	26	39	36
# Adults	33	47	36	59	52
# Children	51	65	55	73	75
# Total Guests	84	112	91	132	127
Avg. length stay (days)	49	37	48	29	34
% Occupancy (bed nights)	75%	80%	88%	75%	92%

Welcome to VISA & MasterCard!

Thanks to the tireless efforts of board member **Kurt Whitman**, we're now happy to say we can take VISA! And MasterCard!

If you want to charge your donation to us, we can now process credit cards over the phone or in person.

This capability was added just in time for us to be able to process several large year-end credit card donations.

Newsletter assembled by the staff of Salem IHN: Richard Zielke (Fearless Leader), Greg Kornspan (Mensch), Robert Gidley (Geek), and Jim Dougherty (The Kid).

