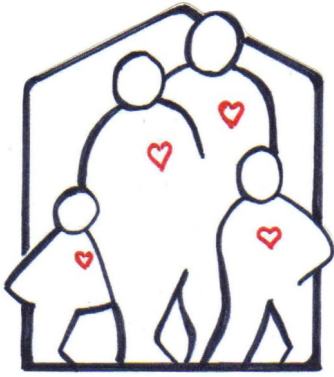


April 2011 Vol. 15 Issue 2



Good News

The Quarterly Publication of Interfaith Hospitality of Spokane

Our Mission... One Child — One Family at a time, with our community of faith, we strive to make a difference in their lives through providing shelter, support, and the means to sustain their independence.

PRAYERS OF HOPE

Lifting in Prayer
the Families of Interfaith Hospitality of Spokane

May 3, 2011 – 7 p.m.

at

St. Aloysius Catholic Church
(330 E Boone)

Ecumenical Service

Mass Choir

“O God, You Give Welcome” & “Don’t Get Sick”
(Come at 6 p.m. to be a part of the Mass Choir)

Our Families Sharing their Stories

Impact of Legislative Decisions

A Time of Prayer

Free Will Offering for Interfaith Hospitality



For more information, call Susan at 747-5487.

Supplies Needed

Diapers . . . We are almost out of diapers due to the number of younger children at Interfaith Hospitality this year. Disposable diapers of any size would be greatly appreciated.

Gift Cards . . . We can always use gift cards from Fred Meyer, Safeway or Costco. These help our current and former families with gas and other needs.



Interfaith Hospitality kids going to Summer Camp

We truly appreciate Spokane Valley United Methodist Church for donating \$2,000 to cover costs of some of our current and former Interfaith Hospitality kids going to summer camp this year. Their generosity is helping make these summer dreams come true.

Check out April's edition of *The Fig Tree*

We are advertising monthly in *The Fig Tree*. Look for our ad on page 7. On the back page is an article about Cindy Algeo, Executive Director of the Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium (SLIHC). We are a member of SLIHC, and Cindy will be speaking at our "Prayers for Hope."

Fundraising Updates

Souper Bowl of Caring — \$3,903.02

Thanks to these participating Churches & their generous congregations:

Opportunity Christian Fellowship
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
Manito Presbyterian Church

Audubon Park, Manito & Spokane Valley United Methodist Churches
St. Joseph (Colbert), St. Joseph (Otis Orchards) & St. Mary's Catholic Parishes

Wine Tasting Event & Play at Interplayers — \$979.43

Thanks to all who came to this event. We are looking forward to doing it again next year. See you then!

Perry Street Fair — July 16

Please come & support the Perry Street Fair.
Interfaith Hospitality, Grant Elementary & South Perry Business Association
will be sharing the proceeds from this event.

Applebee's Pancake Breakfasts

South — July 23

Valley — August 20

North — September 10

Cost is \$7 per person. Call 747-5487 for more information.

Interfaith Hospitality & *The Fig Tree* shared the Freewill Offering from the Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service



Madelyn Bafus, Executive Director of Interfaith Hospitality of Spokane, attended and spoke at the Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service on April 24. Madelyn shared these thoughts:

Easter shows the great love God has for humankind. Jesus knows us and still loves us in spite of all he knows, is always ready to forgive and restore and never discards anyone.

Families are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. Over 40% of the homeless populations are families with children. One out of every 50 children or 1.5 million children are homeless. Children experiencing homelessness have increased health problems, increased mental problems, struggle in school and have an estimated graduation rate below 25% . . .

In the spring of 2006 Michelle was admitted to the hospital. When she was released after an extensive stay she found that she had lost her house and all her belonging. In August she was living in a tent in a friend's back yard with her son and daughter. Michelle had major health issues, her son had mental health issues, she had no income and she was homeless. That is when Michelle entered our shelter. Michelle has come a long way. She dealt with her issues and with each advance and each set back became stronger. Today she coordinates the Homeless Choir, is an AmeriCorps Vista leader at SNAP, has successfully maintained her housing, is part of Leadership Spokane, speaks wherever she can about being homeless and helps others who find themselves in this humbling situation. Michelle will tell you that she is where she is today due partly to Interfaith and the caring churches that opened their doors to her family.

Each day I see the community of faith providing compassion, care and hope to families. They share a love that accepts in spite of what it knows. This love is a decision on the part of the church to work for God's best in someone else's life . . .

Family Promise, our parent organization, has announced a new hymn now available to churches.

“O God, You Give Welcome”

by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

*O God, you give welcome; you care and provide. You cherish each person with love reaching wide.
We're made in your image and so hear your call to humbly reach out with a welcome to all.*

*Yet near us are families with no place to stay and children who won't have a good meal today.
Your will is for justice where everyone thrives; may we build communities, strengthening lives.*

*Bless children who wish for a permanent place and youth who are longing to have their own space.
Bless parents who feel that they're struggling alone; may we share their journey to find a new home.*

*Bless houses of worship we use a new way, as classrooms are turned into places to stay.
Bless kitchens where suppers are gladly prepared and each sacred space where your welcome is shared.*

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Our Wonderful Host & Support Churches

Our families are helped through the generous support of these churches!

Host Churches *(our families stay at these churches)*

Audubon Park United Methodist Church
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist (& Support, too!)
Covenant United Methodist Church
First Evangelical Free Church
Manito Presbyterian Church
Millwood Presbyterian Church
North Hill Christian Church
Opportunity Presbyterian Church
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
St. Mary's Catholic Church
Spokane Friends Church
Whitworth Presbyterian Church



Support Churches *(Volunteer support to Host Churches)*

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Manito Ward
Country Homes Christian Church
Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church
Liberty Park United Methodist Church
Manito United Methodist Church
Opportunity Christian Fellowship Church
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
St. Aloysius Catholic Church
St. Anthony's Catholic Church
St. Augustine Catholic Church
St. David's Episcopal Church
St. Joseph's Catholic Church (Colbert, WA)
St. Joseph's Catholic Church (Otis Orchards, WA)
Shadle Park Presbyterian Church
Southside Christian Church
Spokane Valley United Methodist Church
Starr Road Baptist Church
Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ

We are currently sheltering four families.

**There are five adults and
eight joyful & active children.**

Our Board of Directors

Ken Moore, IHS President; Bruce Baldwin, IHS Vice President; Michael Wiser, IHS Secretary
Rob Stephens, IHS Treasurer; Michael Currin, Attorney; Wendy McIntyre;
Randy Goss & Jenniffer Cooke