



RAIHN Inc.

Weather Report

ROCHESTER AREA INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK, INC

34 MEIGS STREET, ROCHESTER NY 14607

PHONE: (585) 506-9050

EMAIL: INFO@RAIHN.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.RAIHN.ORG

Letter from the Director



It's all about the children.

There are lots of reasons children don't smile. They might be sick, tired, or in "time out" for something they did wrong. When children come to the RAIHN

program because they don't have a home and it has robbed them of their carefree smile, it can be heart wrenching.

RAIHN serves families with children under 18 years of age. I talk to a lot of adults that are homeless, and try to find them other programs or shelters that serve single adults. But RAIHN serves children and their parents or guardians.

It's all about the children.

I hope we don't lose sight of why we do what we do. The children are the innocent parts in this process of helping families find their way back to their own homes. Yes, they sometimes do naughty things that irritate us. They break things, spill their drinks, make messes and disobey rules. Can we look past all of that and remember that children should have lots of opportunities to smile during their childhood? Even during the period of homelessness they are going through, I want us to try to

keep an atmosphere of cheerfulness and upbeat attitudes.

Some of the children that come to us have been treated poorly and seen people they love treated poorly. That stays in a child's mind and affects their behavior. They may wet the bed, try to hurt others, or have trouble paying attention in school. There are always reasons for the way they (and we) act. Although we cannot fix the children's prior life experiences, we can show support and unconditional love for the short time they are with us.

I am tremendously touched when I hear from a host or support congregation weeks in advance of their RAIHN week, that they are planning a craft or activity for the children. I know sometimes it doesn't work out as planned, but when it does, those children's smiles are so worth it!

Because...it's all about the children.

Written by: Nancy Elliott



THE FALL JEANS COLLECTION GOT OUT OF HAND! (ABOVE- WANDA GETTING THINGS ORGANIZED.)

RAIHN Director:

Nancy Elliott, LMSW
Email: director@raihn.org

Board of Directors:

President: Nancy Frank
Vice President: Joanne Ligtenberg
Treasurer: Rev. Ruthellen Hoyle
Secretary: Alain Perregaux

Rev. Roderic Frohman
George Gray
Donna Nasca
David Poland
Wendy B. Rose
Michele Saccente
Susan Stanger
Liz Taylor
William Tierney
Helen Vanderbilt Tiss
Kathy Weber
Michael Williams*

*medical leave

 **UNITED WAY DONORS CAN DESIGNATE**
ROCHESTER AREA INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK
AS THEIR OFFICIAL DESIGNEE BY USING ID #2435

RAIHN Newsletter CREATED BY:

STEPHANIE KETTERL
STEPHANIEKETTERL@GMAIL.COM

A letter from **The President**



Dear Friends of RAIHN, did you know:

RAIHN is an affiliate of Family Promise which has a total of 163 affiliates. Family Promise has affiliates in 41 states and the District of Columbia.

In 2010, all affiliates in Family Promise served 49,533 individuals (RAIHN served 87 of those individuals).

In 2010, Family Promise average length of stay was 65 days (RAIHN average length of stay was 47 days).

Family Promise now involves more than 5000 congregations as hosts and supports (RAIHN now has 40).

Family Promise records over 135,000 volunteers. (RAIHN proudly has 1,800 volunteers).

In addition to serving 40 guests in the program to date in 2011, we've had lots going on:

The Clergy Lunch was beautifully planned and hosted by First Presbyterian Church in Pittsford. Our host and support congregations' clergy were invited to a scrumptious lunch and a program by RAIHN's part time case manager for RAIHN graduates, Kim Hunt-Uzelac.

The Pampered Chef fundraiser event brought 40 people together for a fun

evening of kitchen talk, laughter, RAIHN cookbook preordering and food sampling. Thank you to Liz Taylor and Helen Tiss for organizing the evening. You may continue to order Pampered Chef items with 25% of proceeds going to RAIHN by going onto the RAIHN website to connect to the proper link!

The RAIHN Cookbook is almost ready to go to the printer. Many thanks to the Committee! The Committee includes Sarah Singal, Liz Taylor, Carole Teegarden and Marti Eggers, Ida Mangione and Sandi Scott! Thank you!

Thank you everyone for all you do for RAIHN.

Nancy Frank, President

Finger Foods for Helping Hands

Thursday May 19, 2011



A visit with a former RAIHN guest...



Veronica was introduced to the RAIHN program back in 2008 when she and 2 of her children, as well as 1 grandchild entered the program for approximately 3 weeks. A fire in her apartment forced her family into homelessness; this was the first time Veronica had experienced being homeless. The family lost most of their belongings in the fire, including nearly every piece of furniture and all their clothing.

Upon graduating from the RAIHN program, Veronica moved into a rental house for 1½ years before moving to her present address, where she has lived for nearly

1 year. When Veronica entered the RAIHN program, she was working as a family mentor at the Mental Health Association's Better Days Ahead Family Support Network. She continued to work there until 2009 when various health issues, including diabetes, became more severe and sadly, she was unable to continue with her job. Since leaving her job, Veronica has concentrated on her home, her family and improving her health. She was recently approved for Section 8 and is waiting for her house to pass inspection. She is proud that she has been able to sustain a stable housing situation for her family and she enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Over the past few years, RAIHN has helped Veronica and her family with furniture, clothing, food and case management support. Her daughter, age 13 will be attending camp this summer through a summer camp collaboration between RAIHN and various host and support congregations. I met Veronica the 2nd month of my employment as a case manager with RAIHN. I was immediately struck by her graciousness and appreciation for everything RAIHN has done for her and her family. I also quickly learned that Veronica is a wonderful advocate for herself and her children/grandchildren. Her years spent as a family mentor have translated into an ability to encourage and support her children/

grandchildren in a positive and loving, yet firm manner. When I asked her to sit down with me for an "interview" to be included in the next RAIHN newsletter, Veronica was enthusiastically willing to share her memories and thoughts about the RAIHN program.

She first talked about Nancy, stating "Nancy was always so supportive. I had an accident in my car one morning while living at RAIHN. Nancy quickly came to my aid, telling me to take deep breaths and that she would make sure my kids were picked up from school." (Of course Veronica's first thoughts after the accident were her children!) Veronica went on to explain that her son is deaf and that RAIHN was very supportive of him. She explained, "RAIHN helped my son. All the staff and volunteers loved him. They loved all my children/grandchild. My kids had never taken a bagged lunch to school before in their lives. The volunteers from the church made my kids lunches to take to school and you should have seen the size of the ham sandwiches!! It made my kids feel so good." Veronica went on to say, "I love RAIHN. Moving around from church to church was hard on me because I like to stay in one place, but I love RAIHN. I would recommend RAIHN to any family that really desires to better themselves."

Veronica particularly remembers one host congregation because the volunteers gave her a Bible at the end of the week stay. Veronica treasures this Bible, which is inscribed with a message from the volunteers. We ended the interview with Veronica stating, "RAIHN helped my family when we were in need and I don't want RAIHN to think I will ever forget them!" **Well, Veronica - RAIHN will never forget you either!**

Written by Kim Hunt-Uzelac

Veronica is doing great, but still needs a twin bed and box spring for her grandchild. If you know of anyone who would like to donate a bed, please let us know and we can get it to Veronica. Thank you so much!

High School Student Serves RAIHN



As part of the graduation requirements, seniors at Webster Schroeder High School plan their own community service project. We were very fortunate to have Amber Spencer choose RAIHN. With Nancy Elliott as her mentor, Amber's plan was to volunteer each month at Day Center, to learn about social work as a career, and to organize a Benefit Dinner in the Spring with proceeds to go to RAIHN. In Amber's words: "I chose this project because I wanted to

do something for my senior project that benefits other people. My future plans for my life involve helping others, therefore I thought that this would be a productive way to put my goals into action. Also, having my mentor be a social worker gives me the opportunity to fully understand the job of a social worker and see if it is something that I want to do in my future".

While carrying a full load at school, working part-time and keeping up with dance lessons, Amber planned out all the details of the Benefit dinner in her "spare" time! She was able to hold the dinner at her own church, Trinity Reformed Church on North Landing Road.

Many of her church family and friends donated their time to help her as cooks, servers and as the after-dinner entertainment. She had a dance demonstration by members of the church and the afternoon wound down with a performance by the choir. With excellent planning and great participation by this vibrant faith community, Amber raised approximately \$700.00 for RAIHN!

As Amber prepares for graduation, she looks forward to starting college this fall at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Amber, we wish you every success in your future!

Written by: Nancy Elliott

RAIHN Cookbook

We are proofreading the content now and will send it in by July first for typesetting, final proof, and printing. The books should be available in the fall.

Preorders: **For the month of June the price is \$13;** (\$8 is tax deductible). Great as thank you gifts during the holidays, stocking stuffers, teacher gifts, and for awareness building. As of July 1 the price will go to \$15. One of us will contact you or a representative from your congregation by early June to drop off a sales packet to include instructions, sample recipes you could serve as a promotion at coffee hour or other event, letter sized poster, and booklet of receipts.

-The Cookbook Team



LEFT: NANCY ELLIOTT WITH AMBER SPENCER AND HER PARENTS



RIGHT: JUDY WHITFORD AND HER HUSBAND

RAIHN by the numbers...

Dates	Number of families in program	Number of individuals served	Number of children	Average Stay	Families placed permanent housing	Clients enrolled MCC	Clients enrolled in vocational education	Discharge d	Adults placed in employment	Clients on permanent disability	Families placed in other shelters	Families placed with relatives	Families returned to homelessness (1yr)	Volunteers trained	Families remaining in housing for one year minimum
5/1/04-12/31/04	36 families; 100 persons	100	56	32	24	6	11	7	18	5	2	3	2 of 24 families	600	22 of 24 (92%)
1/05-12/05	30 families; 97 persons	97	57	41	18	2	5	5	16	7	1	6	1 of 18	550	17 of 18 (94%)
1/06-12/06	36 families; 123 persons	123	74	28	26	0	0	1	20	11	0	7	0 of 26 families	130	25 out of 26 (96%)
1/07-12/07	27 families; 90 persons	90	51	41	22	2	5	2	13	10	0	4	0 of 22 families	120	22 out of 22 (100%)
1/08-12/08	35 families; 111 persons	111	66	32	18	0	0	11	3	4	2	2	1 of 18 families	80	11 out of 18 families (60%)
1/09-12/09	28 families; 84 guests	84	50	56	14	0	1	3	6	1	0	2	1 of 14 families	181	11 out of 14 families (78%)
1/10-12/10	26 families; 87 guest	87	52	47	14	3	0	8	13	4	3	1	6 out of 14 families	82	Data available January 2012
1/11-4/11	9 families, 29 guests	29	17	25	5	0	0	1	1	1	0	0		41	
Aggregate 6-year statistics	223 families; 721 persons	721	423	38 average	141	13	22	38	32% of 286 adults	43	8	25	11 of 136 families	1,784	2009- 108 out of 122 (88% of families)

Coordinator spotlight:

Dean Brown



What is your involvement with RAIHN? I've been with RAIHN at First Unitarian since late 2005 when First Unitarian decided to join the RAIHN organization and become a host church. I was very involved in planning the implementation of the program and have been a co coordinator since it started at First Unitarian. We had our first hosting experience in May 2006.

What have been some of your most rewarding experiences volunteering for RAIHN? It has been a joy for me to watch the volunteers (myself included) grow in many areas through our experience with

people different than ourselves in some ways but not different in other ways. We continue to learn to be more flexible. We have all also learned to focus on the task at hand, that of providing shelter and a safe environment for our guests for the week. We have learned that judging is NOT a part of the program and we have learned that acceptance is. We are learning to be consistent with the rules and to seek help when necessary. We have also learned how important it is to share information and to help each other understand.

What is your favorite memory with RAIHN? Several years ago, we were supposed to have a hot dog Saturday supper. The volunteers had brought all the fixings in and were going to cook the meal at church. All was set to go when one of the guests decided that she wanted to cook a different meal. She wanted to go to the grocery store and buy the food. This was heartily endorsed by the other guests. I happened to be at the church at the time and started to get very frustrated because things weren't going as planned. The two wonderful volunteers who had provided the food said "no big deal", packed the food into the freezer, took one of the guests to the store to purchase the food she wanted to prepare, came back to the church and helped her cook the meal. The food was wonderful (although a bit late – nobody starved) and everyone had a great time. I learned a huge lesson in flexibility that night.

What do you do outside of RAIHN? I am an RN and work part time as a nurse consultant for St. Ann's Community. I also am a grandmother very involved every school day in the care of our local grandsons, both before and after school. I love to read, listen to classical music, play the piano, work out at the gym and, having just purchased a new bike, ride when the weather is good.

Thank you Dean for all that you do!

Interview by: Stephanie Ketterl

Mission Madness



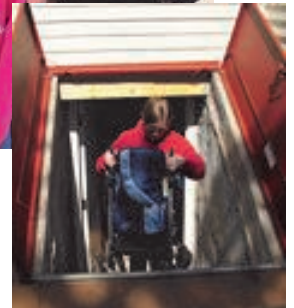
Happy Spring! The warm temperatures and blooming gardens give all of us a positive outlook.

On April 30, 2011, RAIHN participated as a host site in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley Youth Mission Madness Event.

The group of four youth from Mission Madness were given two full hours of supervised work such as cleaning shelves, stocking shelves, and making kitchen kits. Starter kitchen kits are used for families when they are moving into new apartment, they often do not have kitchen items.

The energized group learned more about the RAIHN organization, and we appreciated their participation through the Youth Mission Madness event.

Written by: by Rosana Guity, MSW Intern



Lifebridge Program

On May 18 & 19th, RAIHN had 2 representatives from Mass Mutual come to Rochester to invite the community to participate in a FREE life insurance policy program, designed to help low income families provide for some of the educational needs of their child(ren).

It is called **Lifebridge**, and it is geared toward parents between the ages of 19 and 43, that are in good health, employed (must have family income between \$10,000-40,000), with children under 18 years old. This is a \$50,000 10 year term policy that would cover education expenses for the children. Absolutely free.

Mass Mutual has been giving these policies away since 2002, and will continue until they are gone. If you know someone who could benefit from this opportunity, there will be a sign up/screening event this summer (mid-July), in collaboration with the Salvation Army and Wilson Commencement Park. Call 506-9050 for more info.

Written by: Nancy Elliott

Volunteer Training
Mon June 6 @ 7pm
Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church
 1200 Winton Rd S

August (Time: TBD)
Trinity Lutheran Church
 East Rochester

Please contact Nancy Elliott
(director@rainn.org) if you plan on attending.

THE ROCHESTER AREA INTERFAITH
HOSPITALITY NETWORK, INC.

NEW YORK NOT-FOR-PROFIT
CORPORATION WITH 501(C)3 STATUS.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

RAIHN INC

UNITED WAY DONORS CAN DESIGNATE
ROCHESTER AREA INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK
AS THEIR OFFICIAL DESIGNEE BY USING **ID #2435**



Host CONGREGATIONS

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 CONGREGATIONS

FAITH COMMUNITIES THAT PROVIDE IN-KIND
AND VOLUNTEER SUPPORT TO ONE OF THE
HOSTING ORGANIZATIONS

Baber AME Church
Baptist Temple
Christ Episcopal Church
Church of the Epiphany
Church of the Transfiguration
Episcopal Church of Incarnation
First Baptist Church of Rochester
Greece Baptist Church
Good Shepherd Church
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

Clergy Luncheon— Photo Memories

