



InterCoordinator

e - NEWSLETTER

Happy Holidays!

I recently started a practice of keeping a gratitude journal as a way to take time to reflect on the good that does still exist all around.

Here are a few of my gratitudes that I want to share with all of you:

- In gratitude for being able to keep the whole family together during this pandemic. A couple who had been living on the streets with their 2 dogs were afraid to enter shelter because they did not want to have to split up - one person to the woman's shelter, one person to the men's shelter and the 2 dogs to ...? Instead, this family of 4 is sleeping comfortably and safely in a hotel room and is working on their case plan to find safe, stable, affordable and pet-friendly housing
- In gratitude for new community partnerships. Each week, La Soupe providing 30 frozen, individual microwaveable meals for our families in shelter and in our housing assistance programs. They are ensuring that food does not go to waste and instead, it is cooked with love, frozen and given to those in need.



Helpful Links

[Guest Rights and Responsibilities](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[Volunteer Sign Up](#)

[IHNGC Wish List](#)

[Check us out on Facebook](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)

A Message from Stacey

Hello Coordinators, Volunteers, and Supporters-

As 2020 (finally!) comes to a close, we find we are getting two primary questions here at IHNGC:

1-What are we going to do next year?

2-How can we continue to help while we are not able to host families?

These are both great questions! The answer to the first one is not an easy one. The truth is we do not know for sure what 2021, even though it is right around the corner, will look like. As the pandemic continues and for now, worsens, we will continue to shelter families in hotels. This is the safest way we can provide emergency shelter while infection rates are so high. Families are able to practice social distancing, as is the staff with whom they interface.

We are also working very closely with our partner, Churches Active in Northside (CAIN), to bring Grace Place online for a least a portion of the families we serve when infection rates come down a bit. Part of this work includes, with support and assistance from the Homeless Coalition, the County, and the City, making some upgrades to the Grace Place facility that will discourage disease transmission. We will provide updates as we have them on this process, because once we are hosting families there, we will need volunteers for meals and other services.

We asked all of you to consider signing up for host weeks in 2021 to create some semblance of a normal schedule that we could activate once conditions were right. Some of you have done that and some of you were not able. That is okay! It is our hope that we can return to normal hosting rotations starting in July, 2021, or sooner. This will depend upon a lot of variables that are outside of our control here at IHNGC. This includes the state of the coronavirus and vaccine, as well as where each of your individual houses of worship are in your own decision-making processes about new re-opening your buildings, hosting groups, etc. As you have that information, please communicate with Meghan Snyder about your availability for the last half of the year, or, your lack thereof. This will be important for us to know.

Question number two is a lot easier! Many of you have been consistently providing support since March in the form of supply drives, monetary donations, and general well-wishing. Many of you have also worked very hard to cover the costs of shelter—hotel, food, supplies—for the weeks you would have normally hosted. I cannot possibly describe how important all of this has been both to our ability to continue emergency shelter without interruption, as well to the morale of families in need and IHNGC staff. So we need you to continue all of that, but we know it is not easy to keep making the same asks to your friends and fellow congregants week after week.

Here are some new ideas individuals or groups can take on to assist IHNGC families:

1-Host a social media fundraiser. Westwood United Methodist has one going now. I have shared it with my friends and family online!

2-Watch the IHNGC Facebook page and share our posts when we ask for help, specific items, or just when we have cool updates. (This means if you are not following IHNGC on FB, you need to!) You would be amazed the way hitting 'share' spreads our message and enhances our circle of support to new people.

3-Get in the holiday spirit! Check our Meghan's Holiday Giving updates elsewhere in this newsletter for ideas.

4-See more ways to help below.

Again, there is no way to aptly describe how vital your continued support and partnership has been throughout this most unexpected of years. While we cannot say for sure how 2021 will go, we do know your continued investment in Cincinnati families, who are hit especially hard by the economic consequences that COVID-19 has brought, will make the difference between housed and homeless, between being cast out of community, or welcomed in with open doors and hearts.

THANK YOU.

Stacey Burge,
Executive Director



Help Families This Holiday Season!

Every holiday season, IHNGC is fortunate to receive generous donations from community members which allow us to continue our mission of helping families who are experiencing homelessness. Here are some great ways you can help brighten the holiday season for families at IHNGC:

- **Holiday Gift Giving:** One of the great joys of the season is finding that perfect gift for someone who means the world to you. You can help ensure that Moms and Dads are able to purchase something special for their kids by donating gift cards! **We are asking for \$50 gift cards from Target, Meijer, Walmart or simply Visa gift cards. Our goal is to have a gift card for each person in shelter.**
- **Wrapping Gifts:** Purchase wrapping paper, bows, ribbon, tape and scissors to give our families the chance to have some fun wrapping their own gifts.
- **Make Christmas Morning Bright:** Every year, we give our guests the opportunity to stay with family and friends over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Those families who do not have someone to stay with are offered the chance to remain at the hotel. You can sponsor a family by covering holiday hotel and food costs. **Sponsoring a family for one day is only \$170, or you can sponsor a family for the full holiday for \$510.** Celebrating the holiday safe, warm and together means the world to the parents and children in our shelter and your generosity can make this possible. Thank you!
- **Santa's Workshop:** Moms and Dads have the opportunity to visit Santa's Workshop where they can pick out new toys or other small items for their children, and items for each other. Items for all ages including adults are appreciated.

Bring unwrapped gifts and gift cards, wrapping supplies, stocking stuffers and holiday sponsorship funds to the Day Center during our drop-off days. Please contact us to arrange an alternate time if needed.

Location: The IHNGC Day Center – 990 Nassau Street, Cincinnati 45206

Date & Time: Monday - Friday between 10am and 2pm. Please call or email Meghan to make an appointment to bring your donation.

If you have any questions about holiday giving, please contact Meghan Snyder, Shelter Operations Coordinator:

meghan@ihncincinnati.org or 513-328-2746 (work cell) or 513-471-1100, ext. 110 (office line)



How You Can Help

Donations can be dropped off at the Day Center from 10am - 2pm, Monday - Friday.
We ask that you make an appointment for all donation drop-offs.

For Questions or to Make Donation Arrangements,

contact Meghan, Shelter Operations Coordinator

meghan@ihncincinnati.org

513-328-2746 (work cell, call or text)

Help Raise Funds for the Hotel Costs

It costs \$633 per family per week to provide extended stay - style hotel accommodations. You can donate online here: <http://ihncincinnati.org/take-action/give/> or talk to us directly

Provide Gift Cards

At this time, we are not accepting donations of household items or clothing due to limited storage space.

To serve IHNGC families, we are asking for donations of gift cards to the following places:

- Best Buy – in order to purchase any electronic or technology based products that our students may need when they return to school
- Kroger/Amazon/Target/Walmart/Meijer – in order to purchase any items our families may need while they are in shelter and when they move in to their new home. They will also be used for

Create Hygiene Kits for Families

- Family Kit: 1 per family for a family of 4. Each family will receive one of these plus an additional kit for each family member based on age and gender:
 - Shampoo
 - Conditioner
 - Toothpaste
 - Lotion
 - Body Wash or Bar of Soap
 - Nail clipper
 - Q-tips
- Adult and Teen Male Kit
 - Razors and shaving cream
 - Deodorant
 - Toothbrush
 - Comb/Hair Brush
 - Socks
- Adult and Teen Female Kit

IHN to purchase any products we need for Grace Place when we transition back to congregate living and work to ensure the health and safety of our families.

Help Stock Our "Pantry"

We have created a pantry of food items to give to shelter families and to families in housing assistance programs.

- Lunchables - no pork
- Frozen breakfast sandwiches/burrito
- Frozen meals (must be able to heat in microwave)
- Individually packaged snacks (chips, cookies, crackers, fruit snacks, etc.)
- Juice boxes/pouches
- Prepackaged muffins/pastries
- Microwaveable rice, mac and cheese, and mashed potatoes
- Fruit cups and applesauce
- Microwaveable Food Cups - Ramen, Mac-n-Cheese, Chef Boyardee
- Breakfast bars
- Tuna and Chicken Salad kits
- Sliced cheese and lunch meat for sandwiches (pre-packaged kind - not from deli)
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Pop Tarts
- Hot dogs (beef) and buns
- Condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, hot sauce) and Salad Dressings (Ranch, Italian)
- Breakfast Cereal

Non-Food Items:

- Disinfecting spray
- Disinfecting Wipes
- Paper towels

- Razors and Shaving Cream
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush
- Comb/Hair Brush
- Hair ties
- Socks
- Child Kit
 - Children's toothpaste
 - Children's toothbrush
 - Children's shampoo and body wash
 - Socks
 - Comb/ Hair Brush
- Baby Kit
 - Baby lotion
 - Baby shampoo/body wash
 - Socks
 - Baby bath towel and washcloth
 - Teether
 - Pacifier
 - Bottles
 - Swaddling Blanket and Burp Cloths
 - Baby nail clipper
 - Wipes
 - Diaper Rash Cream
- Hair Care that Suits the Needs of our Families,
 - Note: if you are shopping at Target, these items can be found in the textured hair care area
 - Bonnet or Head Wrap
 - Wide Tooth Comb
 - Bristle Brush
 - Small black rubber bands
 - Hair Beads
 - Hair Barrettes
 - Head Bands
 - Shampoo and Leave In Conditioner (examples

- Ziploc Bags (sandwich, pint, gallon and larger)
- Baby wipes
- Hand soap
- Dish soap
- Chargers for phone (Android or Apple)
- Family game or puzzle
- Mini First Aide kits

- of brands:
- SheaMoisture, Cantu, African Pride)
 - Hair/Scalp Conditioner

Amazon Wish Lists

An easy way to help any time of year is to buy a gift from Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati's Amazon Wish List.

Click on the links below to access the different Wish Lists:

[IHNGC General Supplies Wishlist](#)

[IHNGC Client Support Wishlist](#)

[IHNGC Children's Programming Wishlist](#)

[IHNGC Pet Program Wishlist](#)

Thank you for your support of IHNGC



2021 IHNGC Hosting Schedule

As Stacey noted in her message, it is our hope to return to normal hosting rotations in July, 2021 or sooner. The reason to create a schedule now is so that once conditions are right to return to hosting at

congregations, we are ready!

Thank you to each congregation that submitted their Host Schedule Information forms. I am continuing to work on putting together the 2021 schedule to account for the congregations that have submitted their forms and leaving space for those congregations who are waiting to submit their forms.

My plan is to put together a "rough draft" by Friday, December 18th and send out the tentative dates to the congregations that submitted their hosting forms.

Once I get confirmation on these dates, I will send out a "for now, finalized" version.

There will be spots left open for other hosting congregations to fill in as they are able to.

I imagine that as we move into 2021, we will all have more clarity on how we are moving forward but as I have learned this year, flexibility will be key. I know that I can count on all of you to work with me and communicate with me as changes occur.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Meghan Snyder, Shelter Operations Coordinator

meghan@ihncincinnati.org

513-328-2746 (work cell - text or call)

Resources for Your Congregations

[The ReSource Store](#)

Good Low Priced office furniture and other assorted office and home items

[Good 360](#)

Great site for non-profits to purchase everyday items such as diapers, soap, laundry detergent, office supplies, electronics, etc.

[New Life Furniture](#)

This is an organization that we utilize for our families to help with furniture once they have received housing. If you are moving, cleaning out your house or congregation, give them a call to see if they may be able to use your furniture.

[Cincinnati Community ToolBank](#)

Have a project but no tools to complete the project? This is a great resource to rent tools at a fraction of what they would cost new or to rent most other places. We have used them multiple times in the past and have always had a good experience.