



Interfaith Hospitality Network of Warren County

Community Impact Report 2017

“Our mission is to provide meals, hospitality, and support for homeless families. Our goal is to maintain the integrity & dignity of the family during this critical time as they seek to build a better life.”



An affiliate of Family Promise®

Since the fall of 1998, IHNWC has successfully housed 678 families. These families included 1105 children, 711 of which were less than 7 years old. The urgent need these families have for housing is the driving force behind IHNWC. The shelter program is designed to guide these families to housing while sustaining and nourishing family bonds that are strained under the difficulties of homelessness. IHNWC has also identified additional needs of the community and evolved to meet these needs, many of which also tailor to guests who obtain housing from the shelter. **In addition to providing solutions for homeless families, IHNWC provides:**

- ◇ Homeless Prevention & Rapid-Rehousing
- ◇ Case Management
- ◇ Transportation
- ◇ Free Tax Preparation
- ◇ Heaven & Hearth Furniture Ministry
- ◇ Ohio Benefit Applications

Family Shelter

In 2017, 40 families inclusive to 105 individuals were successfully housed through the IHNWC family shelter. Additionally, 16 more families composed of 45 individuals called IHNWC home for some period of time in 2017. This totals 56 families and 150 persons, 83 of which were children. This led to the accumulation of 4,194 bed nights in the IHNWC network, which represents the number of nights an individual stayed in shelter who was otherwise unable to do so.

Homeless Prevention & Rapid Rehousing

In 2017 IHNWC also offered another solution to those facing homelessness in the Homelessness Crisis Response Program. The program provides rental assistance to qualified applicants, which in 2017 quickly rehoused 113 individuals in Warren County. Inherent to the program are incentives for employment, as income is mandatory for a client to qualify. Of the 113 served in the Homeless Crisis Response Program, 43 were children.



Referrals: measuring the community's need for critical services

IHNWC provides services to the Warren County Community in numerous ways. An individual may enter the shelter and need an immediate roof over their head, and IHNWC case managers will ensure this person is guided to shelter. A family may be reported to be going without food, and IHNWC staff will investigate and seek to remedy the issue. Each time an event such as this results in allocation of services, the event is recorded as a referral.

In 2017, IHNWC answered the community need with 1,102 referrals.



Free tax preparation and access to State & Federal benefits are provided through the Ohio Benefit Bank.

The Ohio Benefit Bank

Every tax season, IHNWC and The Ohio Benefit Bank team up to prepare free tax returns for local individuals. These services are available for individuals earning less than \$65,000 annually, and households earning less than \$95,000 annually. In 2017, IHNWC prepared 340 returns (TY 2016), totaling \$397,606 in returns. These funds found their way into local households where every dollar is needed.

The Ohio Benefit Bank also enables IHNWC with the ability to submit client applications for State & Federal Benefits. This both assists the client and eases the workload on overburdened State Case Managers.



Heaven & Hearth

The Heaven & Hearth Furniture Ministry serves to furnish the homes of formerly homeless families. Additionally, the H&H Ministry serves community members who are in need and cannot afford their own furnishings. The cost of items at H&H is not monetary; goods are available to all Warren County residents who are in need.

In 2017, Heaven & Hearth

1. Furnished all 40 households graduating from the IHNWC program.

Heaven & Hearth repurposes over 1,000 large furniture items annually that may have otherwise become a community burden.

Services of the Heaven & Hearth Ministry are made available to all Warren County residents who are in need.

Heaven & Hearth obtains its furniture from philanthropic community members who wish to donate their gently used furniture.

Case Management

Every family in the shelter program works with the IHNWC case manager. Case management is a critical component for a timely and successful rehousing. The IHNWC case manager identifies the unique challenges facing each family and develops a case plan tailored to their needs. Each family receives at least one hour of Case Management daily. In 2017, IHNWC provided 3,596 hours of Case Management to sheltered households, and 501 additional hours to program graduates.

Transportation

During a family's stay in the shelter, transportation is provided to work, school, and all other necessary outings. Transportation services are delivered sometimes as a necessity, but also enable financial savings. For this reason, use of IHNWC's transportation is encouraged regardless of a family's vehicle status. In 2017, IHNWC vehicles totaled over 25,000 miles. Periodically, sheltered families will present an extraordinary need of reliable transportation to be successful upon graduation. One family demonstrated this need and was provided with vehicle in 2017.



A family buckles up in the IHNWC van

Other Community Initiatives

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Warren County is not restricted to hospitality within the boundaries of the programs summarized in this report. For example, two times per year IHNWC hosts holiday events in which gifts are given to the children of current and former houseguests. One of these events, Christmas in July, is held before the school year begins in order to supply local children with the necessary supplies to complete a school year.



Each summer, the event is coordinated by Resurrection Lutheran Church member Jennifer Keezer, and held the last weekend of July. The event is externally funded. A December Christmas event is also held where local families receive a wholesome Christmas, which is also made possible by community philanthropists. When supplies are available other ministries exist at IHNWC, such as food, clothing, and cold weather ministries.

IHNWC Fast Facts:

- ❖ The average age of a Warren County individual is 6 years
- ❖ In 2017, IHNWC housed its 1,100th child and 650th family
- ❖ The average time a family spends in shelter is just over one month
- ❖ Over half of families graduating from the IHNWC shelter never enter homelessness again
- ❖ Warren County's largest homeless population are families including children
- ❖ The last three years represent the busiest 3 year stretch ever in IHNWC's 20-year history



Network Congregations

Volunteers at network host congregations and their associated support churches make IHNWC possible; it is their selfless efforts that provide the hospitality IHNWC is known for. Their congregations house sheltered families, prepare hot meals, and donate their time daily to ensure all Warren County families can sleep under a roof. Many network congregations have support congregations which assist with meal preparations and volunteer duties.

2017 Network Host Congregations

- 1) Heritage Presbyterian Church (Mason)
- 2) Lebanon Presbyterian Church
- 3) Lebanon United Methodist Church
- 4) St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
- 5) Resurrection Lutheran Church (Lebanon)
- 6) Sycamore Presbyterian Church
- 7) Lifehouse Church (Lebanon)
- 8) Our Lady of Sorrows (Monroe)
- 9) North Cincinnati Community Church (Mason)
- 10) Springboro First United Methodist Church
- 11) Northeast Church of Christ (Cincinnati)
- 12) Cobblestone Community Church (Lebanon)
- 13) New Freedom Church (Lebanon)
- 14) Impact Church (Lebanon)

2017 Support Congregations

- ❖ St. Susanna Church
- ❖ Pleasant Plain Presbyterian
- ❖ Lakeview United Church of Christ
- ❖ Tru Kingdom Ministries
- ❖ St. Mary Magdalene
- ❖ Nexus Church
- ❖ Bethany United Church of Christ
- ❖ Monroe United Methodist Church
- ❖ Monroe Presbyterian Church
- ❖ Mason United Methodist
- ❖ Church of the Latter Day Saints
- ❖ Hope Church
- ❖ Compass Christian Church
- ❖ Pilgrim South
- ❖ Springboro United Church of Christ
- ❖ Living Water Lutheran Church
- ❖ First Church of God
- ❖ The River Church
- ❖ Mason City Schools

Members of Lebanon Presbyterian Church during a night of volunteering with IHNWC families. Lebanon Presbyterian Church has been in the network since IHNWC opened.



Thank you for making 2017 a year of terrific service.

