

#040944

2/14/05

# Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Gainesville

*A Community Response for  
Homeless Families*



Post Office Box 880  
Gainesville, FL 32602-0880  
352-378-2030  
352-378-2720 fax  
[www.ihngvl.org](http://www.ihngvl.org)

### *Host Congregations*

- First Baptist Church
- First Church of the Nazarene
- First Presbyterian Church
- First United Methodist Church
- Highlands Presbyterian Church
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
- Pentecostals of Gainesville
- Trinity United Methodist Church
- United Church of Gainesville
- Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

### *Support Congregations*

- Bartley Temple United Methodist Church
- First Missionary Baptist Church
- Flemington Baptist
- Grace United Methodist
- Greater Bethel AME
- Kanapaha Presbyterian Church
- Holy Faith Catholic Church
- Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church
- Northwest Baptist Church
- P'nai Or Jewish Renewal
- Presbyterian Student Center
- Queen of Peace Catholic Church
- Seraphim Center and Chapel
- St. Michael's Episcopal Church
- University United Methodist Student Center

*Host and Support Churches and  
Synagogues needed*



*IHN of Greater Gainesville is a 501(c)3, Nonprofit Corporation*

*There are no requirements that anyone served by IHN  
participate in religious services or activities,  
though they may if they wish.*

Help:

church/synagogue  
Please call me.  
synagogue  
making a part of IHN.

Volunteering.

\$ 50.00  
\$250.00  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

...?  
hungry,  
ur house;  
him;  
own flesh?

## Interfaith Hospitality Network

The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) was created to provide shelter, meals, and comprehensive support to families without homes. IHN unites communities of faith in a collaborative effort to assist homeless families. "Host" churches and synagogues provide accommodations and meals for three to five families (up to 14 people), for one or two weeks every two to three months, on a rotating schedule.



Participating congregations furnish sleeping accommodations and a "hospitality room" where guests relax, socialize, do homework, or watch television. Guests arrive at the host congregation at approximately 5:30 each evening and remain overnight. The host congregation provides the evening meal, breakfast, and a bag lunch.

In the morning, children go to school and adult guests go to work or look for housing. Families are provided with the services of a professional case manager to help them with their quest for employment and housing, and future stability.



Volunteers in the IHN program provide homeless families with basic human needs of shelter, safety, and sustenance, with a spirit of warmth and hospitality. Congregations become temporary homes in which families are treated as guests and individuals are accepted as they are. In this environment, guests are able to maintain their dignity. The kindness of hosts helps to diminish the hurt of homelessness, and both volunteers and guests grow and learn from each other.

### How You Can Help

The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) is a tangible way many have joined together to provide real help and compassion to homeless families, working together toward permanent solutions. You can help by:

- Encouraging your church or synagogue to become a host or support church
- Volunteering your time to an existing host congregation, to provide meals, transportation, or overnight supervision
- Becoming a "Mentor" to a Guest family
- Providing employment opportunities to Guest adults
- Sponsoring a fund raising event
- Donating items on the IHN "Wish List"
- Making a direct financial contribution to IHN



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## Gainesville/Alachua County Local Homeless Housing & Service Providers

Agency	Type of Housing or Service Provided	Major Funding Sources
Alachua County Coalition for the Homeless and Hungry, Inc.	Information and referral	State, Donations
Arbor House, Inc.	4 emergency shelter beds for women with children; 16 transitional housing beds for women with children	Donations
Catholic Charities	Emergency services and food pantry	Donations, United Way
Chrysalis Community, Inc.	4 transitional housing beds for single women	State, Donations
Corner Drug Store, Inc.	20 emergency shelter beds for youths	Federal, State, United Way, Donations
Fire of God Ministries	Emergency services and meals	Donations
Gainesville Community Ministry	Emergency services, clothing and food pantry	City, United Way, Donations
GHA/Meridian Behavioral Healthcare "PATH"	32 permanent supportive housing beds for families with children	Federal, Fees
GHA/VETPORT	21 permanent supportive housing beds for veterans	Federal, Fees
Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc.	15 emergency shelter beds for families	City, Donations
Lazarus Restoration Ministries	Emergency supportive services	Donations
Malcolm Randall VAMC -- Veterans Outreach	7 transitional housing beds for veterans	Federal
MBH "HOPE" Program	7 transitional housing beds for men and women	Federal
Peaceful Paths, Inc. -- Gallenkamp Shelter	30 emergency shelter beds for women and children	Federal, United Way, State, Donations
Peaceful Paths, Inc. -- Transition House	10 transitional housing beds for women and children	Federal, United Way, City, Donations
Pleasant Place, Inc.	16 transitional housing beds for girls with children	Federal, United Way, State, City
St. Francis House -- Sunrise Apartments	33 permanent supportive housing beds for single men and women	Federal, Fees
St. Francis House, Inc.	Emergency services, meals and 30 emergency shelter beds	Federal, State, City, United Way, Donations
St. Francis House, Inc. -- Homes & Jobs	15 transitional housing beds for families	Federal, City, Donations
The HOME Van	Mobile emergency services and meals	Donations
The PRESERVE, Inc.	5 transitional housing beds for male youths	State, City, Donations
The Salvation Army	Emergency services, meals, food pantry, and 24 emergency shelter beds for single men	United Way, Donations
VETSPACE, Inc.	29 transitional housing beds for veterans	Federal, United Way, Donations

(11/16/04)

## Homelessness

Two trends are responsible for the rise in homelessness in America, the growing lack of affordable housing and the rise in poverty. Persons who experience poverty are more likely to experience homelessness. The number of homeless families with children has increased significantly over the past decade causing families with children to be among the fastest growing segments of the homeless population. It is estimated that families with children constitute approximately 40% of people who become homeless. These proportions are likely to be higher in rural areas. Additionally, research indicates that families, single mothers, and children make up the largest group of people who are homeless in rural areas. Stagnating wages and changes in welfare programs account for increasing poverty among families.



The Alachua County Homeless Coalition recently estimated that there are 900 homeless individuals in the Greater Gainesville area each day. They estimate that 28%, or 252 of these people, are homeless members of families, including 16% - or 144 - homeless children.

*But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.*

*Go, and do thou likewise*

*(Luke 10:33, 34, 37)*

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*I'd Like to Help:*

- I'd like to volunteer at my own church/synagogue \_\_\_\_\_ . Please call me.
- I'd like to discuss my church/synagogue \_\_\_\_\_ , becoming a part of IHN. Please call me.
- I'd like to discuss other ways of volunteering. Please call me.
- I'd like to make a donation
 

<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Is not this the fast that I choose?...*  
*Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,*  
*and bring the homeless poor into your house;*  
*when you see the naked, to cover him;*  
*and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?*

(Isaiah 58:6)

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