



Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati

The Community's Interfaith Response to Family Homelessness

2020 Annual Report: Getting Through Together



While Keeping Ourselves Apart

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Staying Healthy

Dear IHNGC Community,

2020 was a year of intense challenge. Suddenly, for the safety of IHNGC volunteers, families, and staff, it was necessary to re-think shelter. Overnight, we moved into an extended-stay-style hotel where families experiencing homelessness could practice social distancing in the same way housed families were able to do.

This change required so many logistics from PPE, to food, to overnight staffing. It required us to figure out how to do what so many of you have done for nearly 30 years; plan dinners, keep kids confined to small spaces happy and entertained, be available in the middle of the night to a mom that is struggling, transform unfamiliar places into home. We have never had such an appreciation of what truly hard work all of this is! And all of you figured out how to adapt and keep helping even when you could not do it in person. We are so thankful for the amazing support both financial and in time that we have received from our supporters and volunteers. The outpouring of time—to do drives for needed supplies, to bake cookies and assemble gifts for shelter guests, to package and deliver meals, to make hand sewn masks—made this difficult time not so bad after all. IHNGC staff and families felt incredibly supported and loved.



The pandemic did not hold us back from continuing to assist families in finding stable housing. In our housing programs, staff became expert at the front stoop meeting, where we provided support and resources at a safe distance. We delivered food, PPE, and other needed items to families throughout the pandemic. We also, as a part of our effort to help the community build more affordable housing options, received our first tax credit award to develop Melrose Place, which will offer twenty-six units of new housing in Walnut Hills.

We did not forget the furry members of the family either. Our pet program finished upgrades to its facilities allowing us to serve more families experiencing homelessness in this most unique way that we do. We also partnered with PetSmart Charities on a Covid-19 relief grant that allowed us to help members of the community impacted by the pandemic with pet-related costs such as veterinary bills and pet housing deposits.

We accomplished all of this and more, when things were at their most challenging, because we continue to be supported by each one of you. Thank you for being there.

Sincerely,
Brian Kershner
Board President

Stacey Burge
President & CEO

Emergency Shelter

IHNGC kept families experiencing homelessness sheltered and safe throughout COVID-19. From March through December 2020, volunteers and supporters changed with the agency as we responded to the needs of families within a global pandemic. Operations included moving shelter to an extended-stay style hotel where each family had their own kitchen, bathroom, and sleeping quarters to allow parents and children experiencing homelessness to practice social distancing and remain healthy.

March 2020 was a very scary time for us as we navigated uncharted territory. Our generous and supportive community kept us going. We were able to quickly establish an alternative approach that relied heavily on our supporters. Snack bags, gift cards, board games, art kits, and at-home school supplies, as well as funds to support hoteling families are just a few of the ways our community stepped up to help.

During this time, IHNGC established new partnerships in an effort to meet the needs of families. We strengthened existing partnerships with fellow service providers by convening regularly to collaborate on ways to serve families within these changing times. The impact of the pandemic has been devastating to many families and businesses, but because of our strong network, IHNGC increased capacity from eight to twelve households year round to support vulnerable families throughout COVID-19.



The IHNGC Day Center playground was transformed into storage to accommodate the overwhelming generosity of donated goods from our community of supporters



Army National Guard brought emergency pantry items from the FreestoreFoodbank at the beginning of the pandemic

Did you know?

Despite IHNGC's increased daily capacity in emergency shelter, longer lengths of stay per family meant that we served fewer families overall. Finding safe, affordable housing for families amid a pandemic has been one of the biggest challenges we've faced. While identifying housing was difficult, fortunately, 81% of families that exited shelter are still housed.

Staying Positive

Client Story

June and her pre-teen daughter, Daisy, lost their home in 2020, only months after getting their new puppy, Scout. For the next year and a half, the family struggled to find a safe place for all three of them to live. Scout was their family, and they couldn't leave him behind. They wound up living with a family friend, but that situation quickly became unsafe. Finding themselves with nowhere to go, June reached out to the Central Access Point (CAP), where she learned about IHNGC. At IHNGC, we understand the importance of keeping *all* family members together. June, Daisy, and Scout were homeless for over a year and a half. Yet, after only a month with IHNGC, they were able to move into their own apartment. After so much uncertainty, the three of them are now home.



Scout, the third member of a family IHNGC recently served in shelter

Volunteer Appreciation

IHNGC did not host an in-person appreciation event in 2020, but we were able to virtually acknowledge the essential work of our volunteers during the Faith in Action Breakfast.

These were our award winners:

Coordinators of the Year

Marianne Hoekzema, Shelly Karle, Larry Kramer, Chris Schell
St. Columban Church

Day Center Volunteer of the Year

Wendy Weil

Pet Program Volunteer of the Year

Geof Wyght

Donna Corrington Lifetime Achievement

Sally Dessauer, Westwood UMC

Support Congregation of the Year

Temple Shalom



Sally Dessauer of Westwood UMC

Our Shelter Community Served:

69 households:
199 individuals,
including
100 children

Resulting in:
85% of Families
Obtaining Housing

And 81% of
Families Maintaining
Housing

"Staff made me feel
loved and like I was
at home."
-Shelter Guest

Interfaith Action Breakfast

The unlikely of pastors, Lenny Duncan, shared insights from his part manifesto, part confession, *Dear Church*. Formerly incarcerated and homeless, he is now a black preacher in the whitest denomination in the United States: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Shifting demographics and shrinking congregations make the all headlines, but Duncan sees something else at work—drawing a direct line between the church's lack of diversity and the church's lack of vitality. The problems the ELCA faces are theological, not sociological. But so are the answers.



Guests gather at Esoteric Brewing to watch

Dear Church offers a bold new vision for the future of his denomination and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. *Dear Church* rejects the narrative of 'church decline' and calls everyone—leaders and laity alike—to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice.



Pastor Lenny Duncan

The Staff & Board of IHNGC extend a very special THANK YOU to the following individuals, organizations, & congregations for their support in 2020

Gifts of \$50,000 +	Gifts of \$1,000 - \$4,999 cont'd	Gifts of \$500 - \$999 cont'd	Gifts of \$250 - \$499 cont'd
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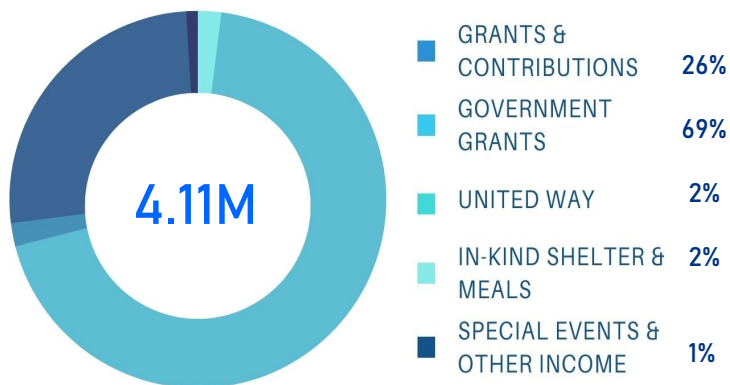
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Knox Presbyterian Church	Kaylee Moore	Rebecca Schaefer	Sandra Wearne
Jonna Koenig	Chris and Carley Moran	Glenna Mae Schiering	Westwood UMC
Kroger	Tommy Morris	Seventh-Day Adventist Church	Amy and Steve Whitlatch
Kari Lambrou	Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church	Shiloh Seventh Day Adventist Church	Christine Whittaker-Thompson
Kristi Lee	Judy Murray	Jasmine Smedley	Irvin and Kathy Wise
Cheryl Leksan	New City Presbyterian Church	Mira Sorrels	Barbara & Mike Wood
Debbie Lempert	New Riff Distillery	Sri SaiBaba Temple of Greater Cincinnati	Peggy Wyatt
Jane & Bill Lichter	North Avondale Montessori School	St. Barnabas Episcopal Church	Deborah & Geoffrey Wyght

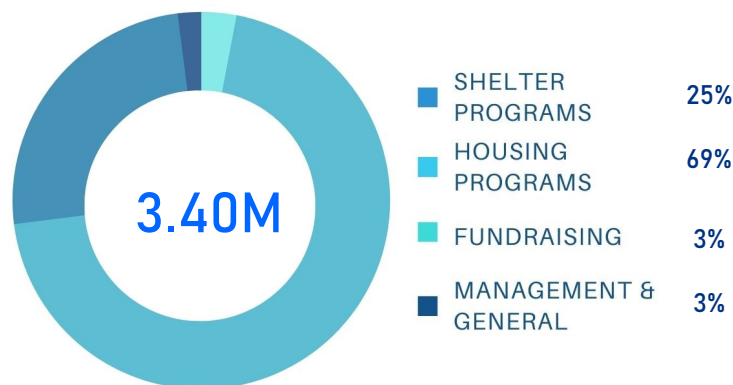
2020 Financials

Year-end net assets: \$1,690,816

Revenue Summary



Expense Summary



IHNGC undergoes a third-party audit annually. The figures above are audited. For more detailed statements and full audits, visit our website, www.ihncincinnati.org.

The generous and useful donation of an industrial-sized refrigerator allowed us to increase storage for donated and purchased perishable items during the pandemic. It took a team effort to get it into place in the back of the Day Center. Pictured right is the group of IHNGC staff members feeling accomplished. They strategized and muscled the appliance through the low-clearance doorways, across several types of flooring, and hoisted it on its side, and back upright several times to get it into its final destination.



Staying Connected

25 Host Congregations

Adath Israel · Anderson Hills UMC · Armstrong Chapel UMC · Church of the Advent/Walnut Hills Baptist · Church of the Redeemer · Christ Church Cathedral · Christ Church Glendale · Clifton Seventh Day Adventist · College Hill Presbyterian · First Unitarian · First United Church of Christ · Friendship UMC · Grace Place · Hyde Park Community UMC · Indian Hill Church · Isaac M. Wise Temple · Ihsan Community · Knox Presbyterian · Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic · St. Monica-St. George · Sharonville UMC · St. Columban · St. Paul CUMC · St. Timothy Episcopal · Westwood UMC

62 Funding Congregations

Adath Israel Congregation · All Saints Catholic · Anderson Hills UMC · Armstrong Chapel UMC · Ascension and Holy Trinity Episcopal · Bellarmine Chapel · Calvary Episcopal · Cheviot UMC · Christ Church Cathedral · Christ Church Glendale · Church of the Nativity of Our Lord · Church By the Woods · Church Women United of Greater Cincinnati · Eastminster Presbyterian Church · Epiphany UMC · Episcopal Church of the Redeemer · First Baptist Church West College Hill · First English Evangelical Church · First Presbyterian Church Glendale · First Unitarian Church · First United Church of Christ · Forest Chapel UMC · Franciscan Sisters of the Poor · Good Shepherd Catholic Church · Good Shepherd Lutheran Church · Groesbeck UMC · Heritage UU Church · Hyde Park Community UMC · Indian Hill Church · Isaac M. Wise Temple · Kennedy Heights Presbyterian · Knox Presbyterian · Ladies of Charity at St. Gertrude · Lutheran Church of the Resurrection · Messiah Lutheran Church · Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist · New Jerusalem Baptist · Our Lord Christ the King · Prince of Peace Lutheran · Rebekah Circle of Sharonville UMC · Second Episcopal District of CME · Seventh Day Adventist · Sharonville UMC · Southern Baptist Church · St. Anthony · St. Barnabas Episcopal · St. Clare Church College Hill · St. Columban · St. Columban Knights of Columbus · St. James Episcopal · St. Luke's Church · St. Paul UCC · St. Paul UMC · St. Timothy's Episcopal · The Gathering · The Ohio Kentucky Chapter of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross · The United Church of Christ Mission · Unity of Garden Park · Walnut Hills Christian Church · Westwood First Presbyterian · Westwood UMC · Westwood UMC Women



Long-time IHNGC supporter, Laura Warren, of Hyde Park Community UMC, updated the day center entryway with seasonal decorations and landscaping

Radical Hospitality

The leveling experience of the pandemic, when all of us felt vulnerable, combined with the new ways in which we had to tackle shelter, led us to explore the concept of *radical hospitality*. Building upon the long history of hospitality shown by partner congregations that open the doors of their houses of worship to all neighbors in need, radical hospitality simply asks us to dig even deeper.

It begins in each of our hearts. It begins to bloom when IHNGC volunteers spend time with IHNGC guests. It creates a space of belonging to something bigger than ourselves, something that is holy and sacred where all are accepted and deeply valued. It is a space of hope in relationship where we collaborate to meet the deepest needs of those who come to us.

We meet people where they are at instead of where we think they "ought" to be. Radical hospitality is the breaking down of barriers that prevent people from fully participating in community. It is without an expectation that people will have to conform to join. In short, radical hospitality states, "we see you, we want to join you, wherever you are, whoever you are. How can we be with you?"

This concept has motivated staff as we temporarily moved into roles normally performed by volunteers, and continued to guide Coordinator/Congregational Meetings into 2021.



Volunteers from Sri Sai Baba Temple of Greater Cincinnati drop off hand sewn masks

Staying Thankful

100 Support Congregations

All Saints Catholic · Ascension and Holy Trinity Episcopal · Atonement Lutheran · Bellarmine Chapel · Bethany UMC · Bread From Heaven Outreach Ministry COGIC · Calvary Episcopal · Cherry Grove UMC · Cheviot UMC · Church of the Nativity of Our Lord · Church of the Savior · Christ the King · Cincinnati Mennonite Congregation · Clifton UMC · Congregation Beth Adam · Consolation Baptist · Corinthian AME · Daysprings Church of God · Eastside Christian · Epiphany UMC · First Baptist of West College Hill · Faith Community UMC · Faith United Church of Christ · Faith Works Fellowship · Fifth Christian Church · First Presbyterian Church Glendale · Freedom Church · Gaines UMC · Gloria Dei Lutheran · Good News Church of God in Christ · Good Shepherd Lutheran · Good Shepherd Catholic · Grace Episcopal · Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist · Greenhills Community, Presbyterian · Groesbeck UMC · Hartzell UMC · Heritage UU · Hilltop Methodist · Holy Name Catholic · Horizon Community Church · Immaculate Heart of Mary · John Wesley UMC · Joy Community · Kennedy Heights Presbyterian · Loveland UMC · Lincoln Heights Missionary Church · Lutheran Church of the Resurrection · Madeira-Silverwood Presbyterian · Messiah Lutheran · Montgomery Community Baptist · Mount Auburn Presbyterian · Mt. Washington Presbyterian · Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist · Nativity of Our Lord Parish · New City Presbyterian · New Mission Missionary Baptist Church · Northstar · Northern Hills UU Fellowship · Northern Hills Synagogue · Norwood Presbyterian · North-Church/World Outreach Christian Church · Prince of Peace Lutheran · Quinn Chapel AME · Rockdale Temple · Resurrection Community · Second Baptist of West College Hill · Southern Baptist Church · Springdale Church of the Nazarene · St. Andrew-St. Elizabeth Seton Parishes · St. Anne's Episcopal · St. Barnabas Episcopal · St. Clare Roman Catholic · St. Gabriel Roman Catholic · St. Gertrude · St. James Episcopal · St. John the Evangelist Catholic · St. John's UU · St. Marks Christian Fellowship COGIC · St. Mary's Catholic · St. Maximilian Kolbe · St. Michael Church of Sharonville · St. Paul United Church of Christ · St. Simon of Cyrene · St. Therese Little Flower Parish · St. Thomas Episcopal · Temple Shalom · The Hive · The Gathering · Trinity Lutheran · Trinity UMC · Tri-State Freethinkers · Truth and Destiny Covenant Ministries · Valley Temple · Walnut Hills Christian · West Cincinnati Presbyterian · West Chester Nazarene · Westwood First Presbyterian · Whitewater Cross-ing Church · Zion Global Ministries



IHNGC staff members receive donations from Indian Hill Church

Total Impact



96% obtained or maintained housing



81% did not return to homelessness

376 families made up of 1,244 individuals, including 728 kids were served



122 pets were helped to stay with their humans during homelessness



Client Story

Before Frances and her son and their two dogs came to IHNGC, they had been living in a broken down car for six weeks. Unfortunately, they were unable to keep living in the house they were renting for 12 years. After too many years of their landlord not fixing what needed fixed, the house was condemned. This was after Frances and her family were living in the garage of the house for months because of the mold issues. Frances, her adult son Charles, and their two dogs did not know where to go after losing



Frances & family at the hotel where IHNGC is hosting during COVID-19

their housing. They were told by too many that there was nowhere their entire family could go and get help. Fortunately, Frances and her family were able to access shelter through IHNGC. Frances is able to safely recover from her injuries sustained in a recent fall. Her son doesn't need to sleep in a car anymore. And their dogs don't need to be surrendered to an animal shelter and instead can be neutered, groomed, and vaccinated through IHNGC's Pet Support Program. After feeling unsafe for far too long, Frances and her family feel safe and can start to rebuild.

Staying Focused

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing was a hot topic in the news this year. It is a problem communities across the country are facing, as wages have not kept pace with the rental market, among other challenges. It is a problem compounded by the pandemic and at IHNGC, we have seen this expressed in ever-growing shelter lengths of stays. Just five years ago, on average, it took families 30 days to get through shelter at IHNGC and identify a stable housing option. In 2020, that number climbed to 51 days. This is not because of any changes in shelter services; it is because it is that much harder to find affordable, habitable, available units. The longer it takes to find housing, the less families we can shelter in a year, which further taxes households in need and clogs the homeless services system.

IHNGC's experience is reflected in the data from the *Housing Affordability in Hamilton County* report completed by LISC Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky in partnership with Xavier University and the United Way of Greater Cincinnati. The study identifies a 40% increase in poverty in the county since 2000 and finds that, "for every 100 of the lowest income households in Hamilton County, there are only 28 units of housing that are both affordable and available. This equates to an approximate gap of 40,000 units for those households making \$14,678 or less (30% of Hamilton County's median income)." (LISC, 2017) The lowest income households referred to are the very same families that IHNGC is seeing in shelter.

To begin to address this scarcity and provide more options for families, IHNGC began the following in 2020:

Did you know?

IHNGC Housing Case Managers and Social Workers help identify safe, affordable housing options, provide financial assistance, and support families in achieving their personal goals around education, work, and mental and physical wellness. Programs include After-care, Child and Youth Services, Pet Support, Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing, KEYS, and Shelter Diversion.

Melrose Place



Sketch of IHNGC's new Permanent Supportive Housing site-based program, being built one mile from the IHNGC day center in Walnut Hills, coming online in late 2022

Housing Coordinator-we developed a new position at IHNGC which focuses exclusively on building relationships with property owners and keeping close track of when units become available.

Housing Development-IHNGC sought and was awarded its first Low Income Housing Tax Credit project to develop 26 units of permanent supportive housing. With additional partners including the Model Group, the City of Cincinnati, and Hamilton County, among others,

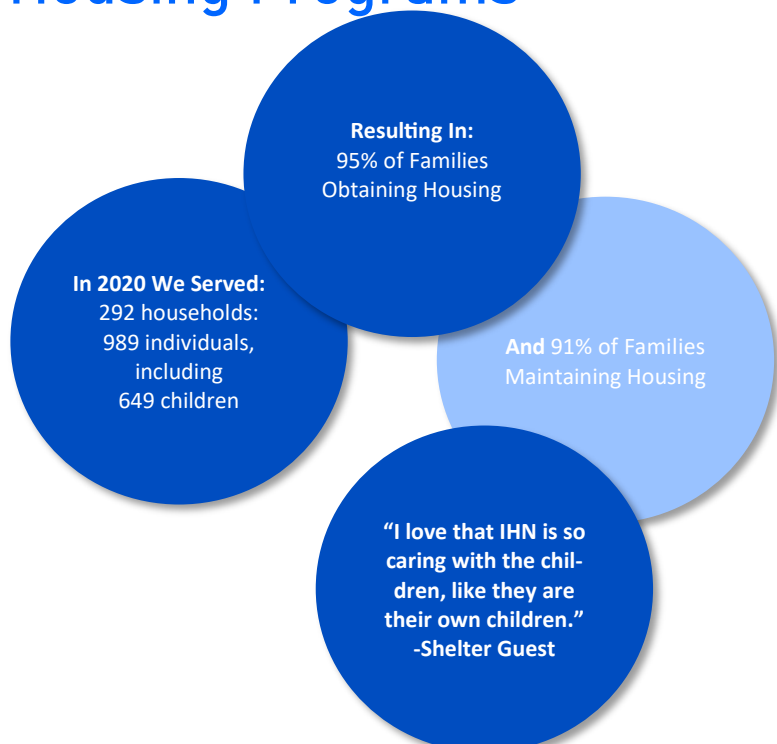


Housing Coordinator, Melissa Spencer, keeps track of successfully helping families find housing with a paper house village in her office

Melrose Place will be open for families in late 2022. We hope this will be the first in an on-going effort to be part of the strategic production of more affordable units.

Housing Advocacy-IHNGC continued to work with both the Homeless Coalition and the Human Services Chamber in advocacy efforts around support and funding for IHNGC families, as well for affordable housing investment across the county. More work is needed!

Housing Programs



Resulting In:
95% of Families
Obtaining Housing

In 2020 We Served:
292 households:
989 individuals,
including
649 children

And 91% of Families
Maintaining Housing

**"I love that IHN is so
caring with the chil-
dren, like they are
their own children."
-Shelter Guest**

Staying Committed

How to Help

IHNGC is grateful for the on-going generosity of our community of supporters. We would not have made it this far through COVID-19 without your encouragement and commitment to families in need. As we continue operations out of a hotel, families could use your help with the following:

- \$25 gift cards to Kroger, Target, Walmart, Amazon
- Cleaning supplies: paper towels, all purpose cleaning spray, hand soap, hand sanitizer, dish soap, sponges
- Microwaveable foods and meals: canned ravioli and spaghetti O's, ramen noodle cups, rice pouches
- Individually packaged snacks: chips, cookies, crackers, pretzels, fruit snacks, fruit cups
- Breakfast to-go options: Pop Tarts, prepackaged muffins/pastries, breakfast bars
- Juice boxes



Donated hand sanitizer from New Riff Distillery was vital at a time when this staple was largely unavailable at the start of the pandemic



The Impact of COVID-19

One lost job, one missed paycheck, one medical crisis. So many of our neighbors are one-step away from homelessness. Add the COVID-19 crisis and its direct economic impact and the number of families seeking assistance greatly increased. More families experienced job losses and extended furloughs, cut hours, and loss of childcare options.

Homelessness is a “lagging indicator” which means that the impact is felt some time following an economic crisis or national emergency. As eviction *moratoriums* lift and pandemic assistance comes to an end, many more people may find they are not be able to afford their rent. Most people who lose their housing do not immediately become homeless. Instead, people double-up by staying with friends or family for as long as possible. It is only after they are asked to leave that last couch and are out of options that they call for help. The number of families seeking assistance greatly increased due to COVID-19. Families are staying longer in shelter because of limited affordable housing options. Housed families need additional financial and supportive services for longer periods, and at higher levels of intensity, in order to stabilize and maintain housing. We expect to continue to see a rise in families facing homelessness over the next year or so, as impacts of the pandemic continue to be felt.

IHNGC will continue to support families through whatever new challenges may come. Operations may look different and family needs may change, but we remain committed to the constant of being there for vulnerable families in times of crisis.



Did you know?

The IHNGC Pet Support Program provides services to families and individuals across the community who are experiencing homelessness, or other kinds of housing insecurity, by providing a safe place to go while humans access services. Once housing is obtained, the whole family is reunited in housing. Want to help with pets? Email garrett@ihncincinnati.org or see the back page of this report.

Join Us

*Be a part of the impact that IHNGC makes across the Greater Cincinnati community.
There are many ways to support families in need!*

Volunteer

Visit our website at www.ihncincinnati.org/take-action/volunteer and complete a volunteer application today.



facebook.com/IHNGC

Donate

Your generosity has allowed IHNGC to provide services since 1991. Visit our website to give securely, or donate by check made payable to IHNGC and mailed to 990 Nassau Street, Cincinnati, OH 45206.

Kroger Plus Card & Amazon Smile

Register IHNGC as your charity of choice through Kroger Community Rewards and Amazon Smile!

The mission of Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati is to provide homeless families emergency shelter and hospitality through interfaith communities and to work with families to find and retain stable housing.

Please detach and mail to IHNGC

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email & Phone: _____

I would like to make a donation:

- One-time donation in the amount of: \$ _____
- Pledge \$ _____ per year for _____ years for Total gift of \$ _____.

My donation is designated for:

____ Unrestricted (use as needed) ____ Melrose Place
____ Emergency Shelter ____ Other _____

I am interested in connecting in the following way:

- ____ Participate with a congregation providing hospitality to IHNGC families
- ____ Organize a fund-raiser or join the Development Committee
- ____ Become a Pet Support Program Volunteer or Foster Home
- ____ Provide connections to prospective corporate donors, grant foundations, and community partners
- ____ Other _____



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MerryBeth McKee • *Vice President*
Jamie Green • *Development Director*
Jessica Mount • *Compliance Director*
Kelly Myers • *Services Director*
Eara Nixon • *Services Director*
Kristie Roberson • *Services Director*

Support Staff

Peggy Scherer • *Data Coordinator*
Wendy Weil • *Day Center Volunteer*

Program Staff

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Daniele Blackwell • *Shelter Aide*
Faith Bridgett • *Shelter Aide*

Jewel Dailey • *Housing Case Manager*
Tyressa Davis • *Housing Case Manager*
Sophia Ehiobuche • *Housing Case Manager*
Cheryl Flores • *Housing Case Manager*
Justin Fox • *Facilities Coordinator*
Nolana Miller • *Housing Case Manager*
Chycora Millhouse • *Housing Case Manager*
Ebony Mincy • *Shelter Aide*
Rebecca Neuberger • *Housing Case Manager*
Garrett Parsons • *Pet Support Coordinator*
Shelia Russell • *Shelter Aide*
Suzanne Scott-Ludeman • *Housing Case Manager*
Meghan Snyder • *Shelter Operations Coordinator*
Melissa Spencer • *Housing Coordinator*
Kennedy Williams • *Housing Case Manager*
Janika Woods • *Housing Case Manager*

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