



IHOC Monthly News

Volume IX, Issue III



Newsletter Annual Report for 2022

The Covid pandemic continued to present challenges for IHOC in 2022 but despite those challenges we were still able to make a difference for clients both past and present. We were able to provide housing and case management for six men at our Transitional House in Cherry Hill. During their stay with us our Case Manager, Sonya Jacobs, worked with the men to obtain the documents needed to apply for services and housing. Of the six men, one moved into permanent housing, one moved into a rehab program and three are still living in the house.

Last year our Housing Search Committee led by Craig Bickel found a property which we believe would be a wonderful addition to our Transitional Housing Program. We have made an offer on the property and are in negotiations with the owner. In February, IHOC held our 16th Annual Mall Walk. Because of Covid our 2021 Mall Walk was entirely virtual but in 2022 we were able to return to the mall for a scaled down walk although some participants still opted to participate virtually. Despite these challenges, walkers raised over \$53,500. The largest amount ever raised by this event! Thank you, Carol Dann and Fred Astmann for coordinating our efforts.

After a two-year hiatus, we were able to hold an in-person dinner. In October we returned to the Catholic Church of St. Mary to renew our friendships with present and former clients and other dedicated IHOC volunteers. We also enjoyed wonderful food by Gary Miller and entertainment by Kevin and Yvette Peterson. Although the focus of this event was fellowship rather than fundraising, we still managed to raise over \$2,000 for IHOC programs.

Our case manager continued to reach out by telephone and text to former clients and a core group of volunteers also called and wrote. We were able to hold two in-person get-togethers for men who participated in one of our programs. In August we held a "picnic" at Oaklyn Baptist Church and in December we held a Christmas party at St. Michael's Lutheran Church. Both events were well attended by both program participants and volunteers. IHOC was also able to continue our mentoring programs. Once a month Tom Martin organizes an activity like bowling, a movie or dinner and conversation for volunteers and former program participants. In addition, members of the Family Church launched a life skills mentoring program for former participants which we plan to make a part of the Hospitality Network when it resumes this year.

IHOC was able to continue our Adopt A Box and Pack A Sack programs. In April the Adopt A Box team lead by Rhoda Wus was able to collect and distribute approximately 900 complete boxes and bags of personal care items as well as numerous extra and sample sized items to Camden County Women's Shelter, Camden Rescue Mission, Caring Hearts, Co-Star, Mount Sinai Providence House, Anna Sample House, Camden Neighborhood Center, Catholic Charities, Extended Care Ministries, St. Paul's Episcopal Sisterhood, Cherry Hill Food Pantry and New Beginnings. In August under the direction of Alex DeFlavis we collected and distributed approximately 400 backpacks full of school supplies to Anna Sample House, Urban Promise, Camden Rescue Mission, My Brother's Keeper, Camden County Women's Shelter, Kids Alley, Camden Neighborhood Center and Afghan refugees at Fort Dix.

As I review the past year, I continue to be encouraged by the many ways IHOC was able to continue to help people in need despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. I am confident that we will also be able to meet and overcome any challenges that may be presented to us in 2023.

Mentor Night ~ February 2023



Our Mentor Night in February we got together to celebrate Hal and Myron's birthday! Hal loves to bowl, and loves sweets! Hal was looking forward to beating Matt at bowling- but Matt was out of town- so we improvised with masks of Matt's face. It was another great night organized by Tom Martin! Thank you to [Tis So Sweet Bakery](#) for donating the cake!

Mentor Night is Wednesday, March 8th from 7 to 9 pm Billiards at the Big Event. For more info contact Tom at 856.308.6992. Hope you can make it!



The Spotlight for March is on Gary Lindsay. Gary is currently a guest in IHOC's Transitional Housing Program. Gary was referred to IHOC by the Coalition of Health Care Providers because his health was being affected by an unstable housing situation.

Gary moved into 102 Chapel in April 2020. Gary has been a valued guest because he makes sure that our house is always in pristine condition. Living there made it possible for him to both address his medical issues and to obtain a full time employment. Gary works in the maintenance department of a senior housing facility where he is highly regarded for his work. Gary also regularly attends services at St. Michael's Lutheran Church. Gary has a daughter and grandson who are an important part of his life. Gary currently plans to move in with them sometime in the spring. We will miss him!

An Inspirational Story

Every now and then I meet or read about someone who is truly inspirational. That happened to me on February 14th when I happened to read the obituary of William Eisenhuth a man who made serving homeless people and people with mental illness his mission both as a volunteer and in a career working in various mental-health hospitals, shelters, and institutions. While working at the Philadelphia State Hospital at Byberry he helped create a volunteer program that brought local high school and college students into Byberry as volunteers to spend time with patients who rarely had visitors. According to Mr. Eisenhuth's family he would "spend many nights offering people experiencing homelessness whatever comfort he could: food, coffee or blankets bought with his own money."

Mr. Eisenhuth also became a passionate advocate for the individuals who ended up on the street after mental health facilities closed and people were discharged into "community based care" which never materialized. Mr. Eisenhuth once referred to this failure as "a subtle form of genocide." His wife said that one of the last things he said before he died from complications of Covid was "Can you imagine all of the people dying alone on the streets like this?"

I would like to believe that stories like this will inspire other people to work to end homelessness.

Submitted by: Ruth Morgenroth



Once again an OUTSTANDING Mall Walk.

Thank you to ALL of our Volunteers!

Tender God, Touch Us

Tender God, touch us.

Be touched by us; Make us lovers of humanity

compassionate friends of all creation.

Gracious God, hear us into speech; speak us into acting;

And through us, recreate the world.