



IHOC Monthly News

Volume IX, Issue V



Great News! IHOC is one step closer to obtaining another Transitional House. A transitional house is critical to IHOC’s mission and program. Without a transitional house we have no place to accommodate sick clients. When we had the Dambly House sick clients were never a problem but not having this resource is the main reason IHOC has been unable to restart the Hospitality Network. However, transitional housing also gave clients in the Hospitality Network the time needed to complete all the work needed to move from homelessness to permanent housing and a new transitional house will fill this need as well.

While I cannot provide final information about a new transitional house at the time, I believe I will be able to do so in January. So “stay tuned” and keep IHOC’s mission in your prayers.



MALL WALK



It’s official! There will be a Mall Walk in 2024 on Sunday, February 25th at the Voorhees Town Center. In the next few weeks, you will be receiving information from us about registration and sponsorships. So be sure to open and read any correspondence you receive from us.

If you want to help get out the word, please join us for a Mailing Party 6:00pm, Tuesday, December 12 at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, Cherry Hill. We plan a double mailing so we will need extra help. However, as an incentive, we will be serving a selection of delicious pizzas and soda.



Every year IHOC tries to have a holiday party for our program participants and volunteers. When we have the Hospitality Network, the hosting congregation usually plans and hosts the party. For several years Congregation M’kor Shalom was the hosting congregation for the last two weeks in December and they threw amazing parties. Those of us who attended those parties have wonderful memories of delicious food and hospitality. The Network participants were showered with special gifts and an opportunity to include family members in the festivities. The IHOC board can not compete with those parties but is still hosting a holiday party for program participants and volunteers. We plan to serve a buffet dinner, bake Christmas cookies and play a few games while listening to holiday music. **Everyone is welcome to join us.**



Saturday, December 16th ~ 3 - 5 pm
Location: St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, Cherry Hill
RSVP: Sonya Jacobs, 609-238-3929 by Monday December 11
****Help Needed: Rides for some of the men. ****



The IHOC dinner held on October 21st provided a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to get together to celebrate our accomplishments and to learn about IHOC's plans to purchase a house to replace the Dambly House which will enable IHOC to once again offer transitional housing to men in our Hospitality Network. While attendance at the dinner was smaller than in prior years, those of us who attended had a lovely time. Caterer Gary Miller returned and provided a delicious buffet. New this year was entertainer Randy Ruffin who sang golden oldies in a voice reminiscent of Tony Bennett. Even though the dinner was planned as a celebration, rather than a fund raiser, we still managed to net over \$1,600. Thank you to everyone who attended. I hope to see you again next year!

Our sincere thanks to the Catholic Church of St. Mary for hosting our event each year!



IHOC's November Mentor Night was held at The Big Event in Cherry Hill. Although participants sometimes enjoy bowling there, the November get together was held in the pool room. Everyone enjoyed a game or two and some great snacks. IHOC's past board president, Harry Porter, who recently moved to Ireland, surprised everyone by showing up with his daughter, Cora. Although Cora said she had never played pool, she turned out to be a fast learner and held her own against the more experienced pool sharks.



You can join the fun! Mentor Nights are generally held on the first Wednesday night of the Month and include movies, bowling and miniature golf. So far it is a small group, but we know that more men would be interested in participating if they could get a ride. Contact Tom Martin at (856)308-6992 or at kennedyper@aol.com if you are interested in having a good time and be sure to let him know if you are willing to provide transportation.

IHOC is an interfaith, volunteer, collaborative effort of Camden County area congregations and individuals, inspired by the word of God, to provide resources, opportunities, and encouragement for homeless people as they strive to improve their lives.

