

Interfaith Hospitality Network

For almost two decades, Interfaith Hospitality Network of Somerset County (IHN) has been a successful permanent solution for many client families. IHN's primary objective is to break the cycle of homelessness through case management programs that include direct intervention services, physical and emotional health care services, good nutrition education, and educational and therapeutic parenting. The key to the program's success is the clients must cooperate and work hard to earn their way out of this cycle.

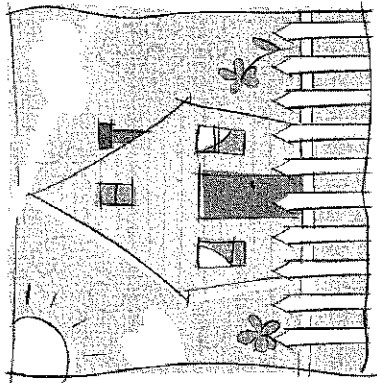
Our parish networks with other local religious and social service organizations to provide basic needs for these clients, including temporary shelter on a rotation basis, five or six times a year for one week. We have about 70 volunteers who perform a wide variety of tasks and services. But we can always use more helping hands. Many hands make light work -- so why not help?

There is good work for everyone who wants to help. Do you like to entertain children with reading or play activities? Can you and/or your family spare time in the evening, overnight or early morning hours to serve as hosts for our guests? Confirmation candidates and high school seniors, are you looking for community service hours? Do you like to cook or bake? Can you drive a truck?

Think for a moment, what a difference just a few hours of your time for one day or night can make for a family who is trying to live in a healthy environment like yours.

The satisfaction you get is priceless!

Interfaith Hospitality Network at St. Bernard



LINENS PICK-UP:

- Pick up the linens at Somerset Medical Center the week before we host and deliver them to the church (serve as a backup only; return delivery is not required).

Contact: *Jan Gunnis at 908-306-8845*

LINENS RETURN:

- At the end of each rotation, one person is needed to return the bags of linens to Somerset Medical Center. Linens can be returned on either Sunday or Monday (serve as a backup only).

Contact: *Flora Costantini at 908-526-1634.*

MOVING TRUCK DRIVER:

- For each rotation a volunteer is needed to drive the truck with the beds and guests' belongings to the next congregation site in the rotation.
- IHN Flynn Center requests a copy of your driver's license.
- Drivers must register and pick up the rental truck key before noon on Saturday at the Avis rental center, located at 400 Bridge Street, Bridgewater, next to La Catena restaurant.
- Arrive with rental truck at St. Bernard by the end of the first morning Mass on Sunday.
- Transport to the next host location and return the truck to the rental agency.

Contact: *Jane McElroy at 908-526-8949.*

Be sure to check out the parish website for more information and updates about IHN. Go to <http://www.stbernardbridgewater.org>

EVENING HOSTING: 5:00 to 9:00 pm.

- Prepare and share an evening meal with our guests, and provide companionship to the adults and organized activities for the children
- Package the dinner and dessert leftovers for van pickup the next morning
- Two hosts are scheduled each evening (if needed, families, couples, or individuals who can help for 1-2 hours after dinner are welcome!)

Contact: *Cynthia O'Connor 908-203-0345*

OVERNIGHT HOSTING: 9:00 pm to 6:00 am.

- For safety reasons we are required to have two hosts on site during the night. Since many of our guests are single women with children it is ideal to have at least one woman on site each night. There is limited interaction with the guests, but it is important to have sufficient manpower available throughout the week.
- Bring your pillow, sleeping bag (you may use the parish office couches or extra roll-away beds), and a good book or magazine.

Contacts: *Lois Czajkowski 908-534-9553*

Bob Craig 908-927-1128

MORNING HOSTING: 6:00 to 7:30 am.

- Relieve the overnight hosts at 6:00 am.
- See the guests off as they depart for the day.
- Transport packaged leftovers at van pickup.

Contact: *Cynthia O'Connor 908-203-0345*

GUESTROOM SET-UP:

- Volunteers meet the moving truck near the parish office entrance when it arrives at St. Bernard on Sunday morning after the first Mass.
- Help to transfer rollaway beds and guests' personal belongings from the moving truck into the guest rooms.
- Set up each guest's room with bedding, towels, and linens.
- Rooms set up is usually completed in 30-45 minutes.

Contact: *Michelle Adcock at 908-253-8950.*

GUESTROOM BREAK-DOWN:

- Volunteers meet the moving truck near the parish office entrance when it arrives at St. Bernard on Sunday morning after the first Mass.
- Help to transfer rollaway beds and guests' personal belongings from the guest rooms onto the moving truck.
- Collect and bag all bedding, towels, and linens.
- Rooms breakdown is usually completed in 30-45 minutes.

Contact: *Jane McElroy at 908-526-8949.*

Please Note: Any adult who wishes to volunteer as an evening, overnight or morning host on a long-term basis must be registered in VIRTUS, the diocesan children protection awareness program. The program requires your attendance at one training session, and electronic fingerprinting/background check. For more information, go to the website <https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus>.

COOKING TEAM:

- Do you like to cook? We try to provide our guests with a variety of nutritionally balanced, seasonal meals for both adults and children.
- There may be instances where meals are prepared to meet special dietary needs.
- There are established cooking teams for each night of the week, except for Saturday, which is Pizza Night.
- Each team has a leader, who plans the menu and calls the cooks.
- Individuals prepare one portion of the meal (entrée, side dish, salad, vegetables, etc.) and deliver it to St. Bernard at 5:45 pm.

Contact: *Tracy Liston at 908-725-4334.*

BAKING TEAM:

- Do you like to bake?
- Depending on the number of guests, we provide fresh homemade baked treats and breakfast breads two or three nights of the week.
- Occasionally we provide a birthday cake.

Contact: *Maureen Hurley at 908-722-2081.*

SHOPPING FOR SUPPLIES:

- We also need backup volunteers to purchase baby supplies (if requested from IHN Flynn Center), and IHN guest supplies (soda, snacks, cereals, utensils, plates, household cleaning products, etc.)
- Can you help order, pickup and deliver for Saturday evening Pizza Night?

Contact: *Bob & Eileen Bracale at 908-253-9372.*