



### SAVE THE DATE:

- 2019 IHN Golf Marathon : 20 MAY 2019

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# Winter Newsletter

## IHN of Greene County

NOVEMBER 2018

### Shari's Success Story

My name is Shari Chestnut. Four years ago, I suffered an acute illness that led to the loss of my job at Compunet. At the same time, an unhealthy relationship of 13 years came to an end. I became homeless and was responsible for the care of my granddaughter. I turned to Interfaith Hospitality Network for help for me and my granddaughter.

We became guests at the Schneider House of Hope.

Being at the shelter gave us a safe place to be and allowed me time to reflect on some past mistakes and grow from them. I was also able to complete the financial literacy classes that were offered and the information I gained in those classes is still helpful to me today in helping me remain stably housed.

I was able to move into a house in Bellbrook and have only moved one time in four years since

leaving the Schneider House of Hope. I have applied for and received Social Security Disability assistance because of a chronic heart condition—I had my first open heart surgery at the age of 4; the most recent surgery was a year ago. However, I choose to supplement my disability income with work because work makes me feel good about myself.

I first became a volunteer at the Schneider House of Hope because I wanted to pay it forward. When the opportunity came about to become a paid staff person at the shelter, I was happy to accept a position as part-time weekend staff. I enjoy helping others, especially the children.

It has not all been smooth sailing the last few years after leaving Schneider House of Hope as a guest, but I have

had lots of encouragement from family and friends, and find strength in my faith in God. I worship with a local congregation and attend Women's Groups. I am looking forward to the Christmas programs and Cookie Exchange.

Most of all, I keep a positive attitude, because negativity gets you nowhere!

# Big Changes at IHN!

## Announcing the new Director of IHN, Beth Holten .

Beth has a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary, a Master of Business Administration from Wright State University and a Bachelor of Business Administration from University of Cincinnati. She has a wide range of experience working in both pastoral and homeless environments. Beth brings knowledge and expertise in business management and

social services delivery to our shelter. We believe Beth has been specifically prepared and called to serve as our Director.

The IHN Board of Trustees would like to extend our sincere thanks to Gail Simpson for serving as interim director.

**Welcome to our new Case Manager, Susan Armstrong.** Susan has a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work

from Wilmington College, and an Associates of Applied Science in Chemical Dependency and Social Services from Southern State Community College. Susan's education and experience brings a new dimension to the services we are able to provide our guests at IHN. Stop in and greet Susan, you will get a big smile in return!



Beth Holten  
IHN Director



Susan Armstrong  
IHN Case Manager

## The Fourth Gift

**Do you give the fourth gift at Christmas?** In this materialistic society, sometimes it is difficult to 'limit' the amount of gifts we give at Christmas. In recent years, several people have adopted the 3-gift rule, give a gift the person wants (Gold), a gift to strengthen the person spiritually

(Frankincense), and a gift the person may need (Myrrh). Many times, a 4<sup>th</sup> gift is added or substituted by giving a gift to others in need (i.e. charity). A check or online (visit the 'donate now' tab of our website) contribution to IHN can be a meaningful way to honor someone with your gift

giving. You can support IHN even with many of your online gift purchases by designating us (search for Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greene County Ohio) before purchasing items through Amazon Smiles.



## 1st Annual Cornhole Tournament

The Schneider House of Hope's next door neighbor, Devil Wind Brewing, and Thrivent Financial co-sponsored our 1st Annual Cornhole Tournament on September 29, 2018 held in Devil' Wind's parking lot. This fun-filled fundraising event was in conjunction with Devil Wind's an-

nual Oktoberfest and raised over \$2,600 through registration fees, a silent auction and donations. The competitors engaged in spirited and friendly matches while bantering with each other and enjoying the picture perfect fall weather. We look forward to an even bigger event in 2019. Stay

tuned for information announcing next year's 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament.



# Got Chocolate 5k Run/Walk

The Schneider House of Hope recently had the pleasure of hosting our "Got Chocolate Run" on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Xenia Bike Hub. We added new events this year including a family fun run and a 10K. The Schneider House of Hope would like to say a special thanks to *Skull Dollz* for the beautiful face painting activity they provided. Also, we would like to thank Cinderella, Supergirl, Wonder Woman, Meredith, Anna and Frozone from *The Royals Project* for donating their time. We

had 94 people register for the 5K and 10K. We want to extend our appreciation to all of those who volunteered and provided sponsorships. A special thanks to Collett Propane, Edward Jones, Sue Mortsof, Lori Riley, the Krakowiak Family, Jamestown Lions Club, Tim and Jenny Kiggins, John and Nimfa Simpson, Barbara Mills, Read Between The Wines Bookclub, Ben Simpson, Kenneth Moran (Epm Aerospace Advisors LLC), Cardiologists of Greene County,

Thrivent Financial and Woodforest Bank.



## Cookie Jars 4 Hope 2018

Cookie Jar Sales for IHN will begin Thanksgiving weekend and continue through Christmas. This year's flavors include **Three Wishes**, with *M&M's*, *white and chocolate chips*; **Cranberry Delight**, a blend of *white chocolate chips*, *oatmeal*, and *dried cranberries*; and the NEW flavor **Salted Caramel Chocolate Chip**, which is *just as*

*delicious* as it sounds! The dry cookie mixes come in mason jars with attractive holiday fabric. Each jar costs \$10/each, with **all** proceeds benefiting IHN. To order your cookie jars, please contact Brian/Alison Allport at 937-554-5983 or email [cookiejars4hope@gmail.com](mailto:cookiejars4hope@gmail.com).



## Empty Bowl

A variety of tasty soups from a number of area restaurants, biscuits and desserts were enjoyed by all those who attended to our third Empty Bowl Dinner and Silent Auction on October 12th at Faith Community UMC in Xenia. Soups were donated by the Cherry House Cafe, Chuy's, Archer's Tavern of Kettering, Christopher's, Mead-

owlark, Wellington Grille, Olive Garden, Milano's of Beaver-creek, Peach's, Rooster's Xenia, Ellie's at Mills Park Hotel, Nick's, One Bistro, Trinity Community, The Pub, Los Mariachis, T J Chumps, and biscuits from Tudor's Biscuit World. We are grateful to Bruce Grimes of Yellow Springs and Decoy Art of Beaver-creek and their volun-

teers who created the unique bowls for our event for a minimum cost of their materials. Special Thanks to our sponsors Woodforest Bank, Thrivent Financial, Bigger Road Automotive, Colin and Nancy Kowalski, Cardiologists of Greene County, Joseph and Margaret Siegfried. We also are thankful for the many businesses who donated items to our silent auction.



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For over 20 years, IHN has served as a central hub for the local community, churches, and businesses to invest finances, resources and time in the shelter, care, and training of client families. IHN assists client families in achieving sustainable independence, through temporary housing, daily meals, and training on sustainable living. Through these efforts we are able to reach the children and adults in our community to build a better tomorrow.

We have a variety of opportunities for individuals, groups, businesses and churches to be involved. We have a continuing need for volunteers to provide meals, overnight hosting, job and life skills training and much more. If you are interested in getting involved, or want to know more, please call 937-372-0705.

Interested in joining the Board or Trustees. Contact IHN at 937-372-0705.

**Helping Greene County homeless children and their families work toward sustainable independence.**

## **Because of You!**

As we approach the end of the year, we look back and see the number of lives that have been changed thanks to IHN's staff, volunteers and donors. The meals you bring, the nights you host, the donations you make, the fundraisers you attend and all the other things you do, help our children and their families to change their lives. "We couldn't do it without you" is said lightly at times, but it is with our heartfelt gratitude that we say this to you with meaning.

Although you may not see it, what you do for our families does make a difference.

Many, many thanks for continuing your much needed support.

We send you our warmest wishes for a wonderful and blessed holiday season.

## **Standard Ways to Give**

IHN accepts direct cash donations, pay-pal, the Kroger Rewards Program (RJ353), Amazon Smiles, United Way, and CFC (65597) contributions.