

# The WIHN*d*ow of Opportunity

A Publication of Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network  
*A Community Response for Homeless Families*



Volume 16, Issue 1

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Over this past year we have seen an increase in the need for extended services by the families we serve. We have seen the positive impact of expanded services provided by the Aftercare Program in helping families maintain self-sufficiency. WIHN recently acquired a new property to again expand services and begin a Transitional Housing Program. We are requesting funding for the property from the City of Raleigh and Wake County, and we need your support. We are on the agendas for the Raleigh City Council meeting and the Wake County Commissioners meeting, both on Tuesday, September 7th. Please take just a minute or two to contact your Councilor and/or Commissioner and voice your support of the WIHN ministry.

Working together with our partners, we demonstrate the power that individuals working in groups can leverage toward improving the quality of life for the community and its members. By demystifying "homelessness" for the neighborhood, we promote understanding of the causes and realities of homelessness. Please let your elected officials know you believe in and are a part of this shared ministry. You can email the entire City Council at [citycouncilors@raleighnc.gov](mailto:citycouncilors@raleighnc.gov) or write to any City Councilor at PO Box 590, Raleigh, NC 27602; Wake County Commissioners can be reached at [commissioners@wakegov.com](mailto:commissioners@wakegov.com) or PO Box 550, Suite 1100, Raleigh, NC 27602.

Thank you for your continued support of WIHN! If you have questions or need more information, contact me at 832-6024 or [execdir@wihn.org](mailto:execdir@wihn.org).

*Lisa Williams*

## Special Thanks To...

Saint Paul AME Church for providing Easter baskets for our WIHN children.

Edenton Street UMC middle school group for cleaning three units in the apartment building that WIHN recently purchased.

Forest Hills Baptist Church middle school group for cleaning the two WIHN vans and trailers.

All who responded to The Stewards Fund challenge grant for 2010, which resulted in donations of \$24,605.73. Many thanks to The Stewards Fund for their generous gift.

## Did you know?

There are 12 Interfaith Hospitality Networks serving North Carolina families.

Cabarrus County  
Charlotte  
Durham  
Forsyth County  
Fayetteville  
Gastonia  
Greensboro  
High Point  
Moore County  
Onslow County (under development)  
Wake County  
Wilmington

There are 158 IHNs operating in 41 states and the District of Columbia, plus 39 more under development.

## WELCOME!

We would like to welcome a new member to the WIHN family. Douglas Campbell, CPA, MSA is the newest member of the WIHN Board of Trustees. He is the owner of Campbell CPA, PC, a growing Certified Public Accounting firm in the Raleigh Area. His wife Nancy Campbell is a partner at Hughes Pittman and Gupton, LLP, and they have two beautiful daughters, Kacey (6) and Kylee (4).

Douglas's background as a CPA and Controller position him well to integrate into the growth we have planned at WIHN. This is his first Board position and when asked why he chose WIHN to start his life of community involvement, he replied, "For me, it's about the kids.

"When I was first asked to join the Board by a friend, I was told that WIHN helps the homeless. I had been looking for a place that helps people who are trying to help themselves, not just begging for a handout. I was also hoping to find an organization that works with children. I have two wonderful daughters, and if I was going to take time away from them, I thought that helping an organization whose focus is on children would be a good tradeoff.

"I found out that many of the participants in the WIHN program are children, and that WIHN is the ONLY place where a 10- or 11-year-old child can stay with a parent of the opposite sex. If a single mother takes her teenage son to any other emergency shelter, he cannot stay with her; he would be put into the segregated area with other men. TEN YEARS OLD!! I think that's unacceptable! At WIHN, families stay together and are surrounded by caring people. My last thought before accepting the position on the Board was, 'Looks like I found a home, helping the homeless.'"

### Comments from Guests:

I was scared but you were there to pick us up and give us a second chance.

Thank you to the WIHN staff. You all have truly been a blessing to us and helpful with our children, schooling and referrals. God bless you, and keep being a blessing.

Thank you for providing a family to people who had no family.

### Comments from Volunteers:

The families have made a real impression on the kids who volunteer.

Best program for families in transition; nice to see the whole family together.

Hosting is a family event for kids and parents.

### Did you know?

Of the 66 families that WIHN served in 2009, 13 included two parents and one was headed by a single father.

### Update on a WIHN Family

Life continues to improve for Melvin and Jennifer. Their children are doing well in school. Melvin has graduated from Barber College and is preparing for his licensing exam this winter by giving free haircuts at both WIHN and the Raleigh Rescue Mission. Jennifer is continuing her nursing studies.

Their relationship with Athens Drive Baptist Church is enhancing their lives as well as improving their property. See the story on the next page. Athens Drive Baptist Church and WIHN now provide a larger family to this family who once had none.

As Jennifer said, "Thank you all so much for helping us break the curse of poverty and homelessness for our children. They now have a chance to be whatever their hearts desire and not what their environment says they are."

## Spotlight on Volunteers



**Denise Bates**, a member of Sacred Heart Cathedral, has been a faithful Day Center volunteer for the past four years. On the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, Denise is here to open the building, greet the families, answer the phone, and interact with the adults and children.

As a former “shelter resident” herself, Denise understands well the frustrations and difficulties the families face. As someone who is now fully self-sufficient, she has advice, encouragement, and an example to share. She likes to pass on job openings to the guests and demonstrate good parenting skills through her interactions with her young son.

During the weeks when Edenton Street UMC hosts the families, Denise helps prepare meals and enjoys interacting with the guests there too.

**Many thanks, Denise!!**



**Athens Drive Baptist Church** has taken on the task of providing home improvements for a family that graduated from the WIHN program. Through operation “In As Much,” several experienced construction workers converged at the home of Melvin and Jennifer to remove mold from heating ducts, make carpentry repairs, and paint. Youth from the church cleaned the yard and did some landscaping. Special thanks go to SERVPRO of SW Wake County for providing equipment for this project.

Athens Drive also helps WIHN by providing weekend volunteers at the Day Center each month.

**Many thanks to Athens Drive Baptist Church!!**

**Hope Community Church** is a congregation that does things in a BIG way. With over 7,000 members, they can and do make a real impact in the community.

The congregation recently replaced traditional weekend worship with two days of service in the community. WIHN was one of more than a dozen agencies benefiting from their efforts. The 60+ volunteers worked at both the Day Center and the building next door that will be used for our Transitional Housing Program. Their tasks included sorting linens, fixing a hole in a Day Center wall, and doing major outside cleanup and landscaping at both buildings. Neighbors on Method Road were excited to see that so many people cared enough to clean up the area. Thanks to all who helped, including Bartlett Tree Service who provided heavy equipment for tree trimming.

Two other groups from Hope Community have since returned to continue the unending job of grounds maintenance.

Hope Community Church typically hosts our WIHN families for two consecutive weeks in the summer because their building is so heavily used during the school year. Their hosting experience is a family event with parents and children volunteering together with a sure knowledge that, “It could be us at any time.”

**Many thanks to Hope Community Church!!**





## SAINT FRANCIS BRASS BAND

is hosting its annual benefit concert for WIHN.  
Saturday, September 25, 2010 at 4:00 pm  
St. Francis United Methodist Church  
2965 Kildaire Farm Road  
Cary, North Carolina

Different musical groups will participate,  
and the audience will be invited to join  
in a sing-along of songs from "The Music Man."

The brass players' repertoire ranges  
from secular to sacred to classics.

Admission and a nursery are free,  
and donations will be accepted to benefit WIHN.

This is always an entertaining and fun concert,  
so please join us.

Information: Doug Amaxopulos 460-0888  
damaxopulos@nc.rr.com

## Shop and Search for WIHN

Have you set up your Wake Interfaith toolbar? Once added to Internet Explorer or Firefox, each time you shop at more than 1300 stores (from Amazon to Zazzle), a percentage of your purchase will automatically be donated to WIHN at no cost to you. You may even save money, as the toolbar provides coupons and deals too! The toolbar also has a search box, and each time you search the Internet, a penny is donated to WIHN.

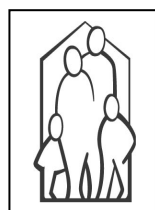
Please pass this along to all of your friends. The two minutes it takes to add this toolbar to your browser can make a lifetime of difference! Get the toolbar -

<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/wake-interfaith-hospitality-network>

### Did you know?

There is no city or county anywhere in the United States where a worker making the minimum wage can afford a fair market rate one-bedroom apartment.

**If you would like to be removed from our mailing list,  
please contact us at 919-832-6024 or [adminasst@wihn.org](mailto:adminasst@wihn.org).**



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