

Host Church Update/East Goshen Mennonite Church

by Mindy Schlegel



Nearly 16 years ago, GIHN board member Moses Beachy invited a guest speaker to share at his home congregation about a new organization in the community and an outreach opportunity for the church. Shortly after, East Goshen Mennonite Church became a host congregation for GIHN and has been welcoming guests ever since.

Thanks to the leadership of faithful coordinators and volunteers, East Goshen has provided a regular place for guests to call home, at least for the week. Current coordinators, Ken and Sheril Mullett, have served for 10 years and are the third couple to fill this role. They were drawn in by the church's sense of mission and outreach they saw happening through their work with GIHN.

"So many times people in the church are giving, but don't see exactly where it's going." Ken Mullett shared. "Mission is a strong trait of East Goshen and GIHN is a very tangible way to be involved." Ken and Sheril are committed to being at the church each evening as the guests arrive. They introduce guests to the hosts for the evening and help guests feel a welcome and consistent presence.

Over the years, there has been a strong core of volunteers Sheril noted, "When we first started it was more difficult to get volunteers, but now we have regular volunteers and that is very helpful." One such volunteer is Kathy Holsopple. Ken feels that she has been a real inspiration as they work together.

Each week Kathy sets up the space and creates welcoming signs and messages for guests and volunteers. "She just comes up with really neat ideas," Ken said.

Kathy also serves guests the Sunday evening meal, which is provided by the same Sunday school class each week. Many other classes and small groups in the congregation have a "regular" evening during hosting week that they sign-up for providing the meal and overnight hosts.

Miriam Schrock coordinates the food each week by calling small groups or Sunday school leaders to let them know how many guests are there for the week, as well as any special dietary needs. Miriam and her husband Orie also stay overnight Saturday, wake guests Sunday morning and help get rooms cleaned and ready for Sunday school.

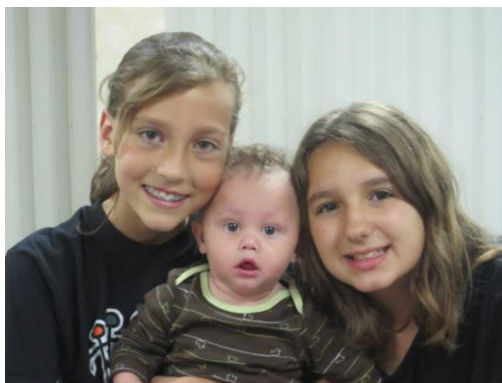
Several other members of the East Goshen congregation support GIHN by making bowls for the Empty Bowl fundraiser. Fred Driver, Suzy Bishop and Bruce Bishop are members of the Clay Artists Guild and are just a few of the artists represented at the annual event.

East Goshen is privileged to be a part of hosting and supporting GIHN guests. Ken shared, "By the end of the week you really feel like you've touched someone. And often it's amazing how you've been touched as well."



Our Host Churches

Assembly Mennonite
Berkey Ave. Menn. Fellowship
College Mennonite
East Goshen Mennonite Church
Faith Mennonite
First United Methodist Church
Goshen City Church of the Brethren
North Goshen Mennonite
Silverwood Mennonite
St. John the Evangelist Church
St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox
Trinity Lutheran Church
Walnut Hill Mennonite
Waterford Mennonite Church
Woodlawn Amish Mennonite
Yellow Creek Mennonite
8th Street Mennonite



SMILE!

*Please visit our website at...
gosheninterfaith.org*

Needs List

Immediate needs:

- Children Socks & Underwear
- Stroller
- Sheet Sets New or Gently Used (Twin)
- Hair Brush
- Diapers Size 6
- Baby Wipes
- Deodorant
- Conditioner
- Bathroom Cleaners (such as Clorox or Scrubbing Bubbles)
- Kitchen Size Trash Bags
- Multi-Purpose Spray Cleaners
- Dusting Spray
- Fabric Softener Sheets
- Bleach

On-going needs: Cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items of all kinds

We also appreciate **gift cards** from grocery stores, Wal-Mart or Target, drug stores, and gas stations. These are useful when we have a specific need.

GIHN Staff Members

Tim Thorne	Leah Lehman
Lark Klinge	Daisy Gaspar
Erin Helmuth	Annalisa Harder
	Denise Reesor

GIHN Board Members

Lois Bare	Mindy Schelgel
Mitch Day	Sandra Schneider
Ron Good	Rose Shetler
Len Harms	Vic Stoltzfus
Linda Hochstetler	Sheldon Swartz
Marcy Kisseberth	Tim Thorne
Rose Mwangi	Evelyn zumFelde

Advisory Board Members

Brian Campbell	Carol Miller
Gordon Dyck	Peter Salvesson
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Anne Miller	