



Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network

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From the Director...

Taking the yardwork plunge

This spring I have been engaged in the activity many of us pursue at this time each year – the ritual of working in the yard. For some of us this requires much effort and even substantial expense—time and effort that may seem a little indulgent for our Christian taste. From my perspective, yardwork is a ritual that celebrates everything from new life to homeownership to the beauty of God’s good earth. This activity is at once physical, emotional and spiritual and brings satisfaction that is not matched in other ways.

This year I joined the huge number of folks taking the plunge into water gardening by fabricating a small mortar and brick pond. This is a project that I have wanted to do for years, and my wife’s only response when I’ve asked her where I should put it has been, “in the back of your mind.” Despite this underwhelming spousal encouragement – something I think is also common with yard projects – I have prevailed with this project, seeking counsel from many people who have been helpful in many ways. In short this has been an artistic pursuit, an artistic expression – a good thing for someone who has no other clearly defined artistic catharsis.

In today’s newsletter you will read the story of a family who with much help and prayer may also someday have an opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of spring yardwork. To be sure, homeownership is a luxury, one shared by only a small percentage of the world’s population. But it is a good thing, and it is a spiritual thing—part of the good news. And it is something that many good folks like you who support such organizations as GIHN, La Casa, Habitat for Humanity, the Housing Authority and others hope to pass along.

--Tim Thorne

GIHN Needs List

- Laundry detergent
- Dryer sheets
- Clorox (bleach)
- Cleaning supplies
Mr. Clean
Windex
toilet bowl cleaner
409
- Toilet paper
- Coffee (Maxwell House)
- Creamer and Sugar
- Diapers – sizes 3, 4, 5
- Baby wipes
- Feminine Hygiene supplies
- Light Bulbs
- Stamps
- Gift cards to replenish medical box supplies
- Phone cards, gas cards, gift cards for Kroger’s/Meijer’s/Wal-Mart

News and notes

Board terms end

GIHN’s Board calendar runs from July 1 to June 30. This year on June 30 the board say goodbye to three very important board members who together have given 15 years of service to this ministry. Connie Bickel, Brian Campbell and Marcy Kisseberth have served as officers of the Board and have given countless hours to the service of this organization. Their regular participation and contributions of time will be greatly missed. Thank you Connie, Brian and Marcy!

GIHN receives Goshen Health System grant

GIHN has received a grant through the Goshen Health System Community Benefit Fund to replace the cots used by our guests. This is an urgent need for our program and we are grateful that the hospital is supporting us with a grant this year. The Community Benefit Fund Grant was initiated by Goshen Health System Board Member Delmar Good in 1998 and has been used to meet many important needs since that time. This year \$107,000 was awarded to 17 local organizations.

In addition, the grant provides for a match of all health system employee donations made in calendar year 2005, up to \$1,000 per employee and \$5,000 per organization. If you are an employee of the Goshen Health System, please consider designating GIHN for a charitable gift – your contribution will be doubled!

“We want to live in Goshen”

by Gordon Dyck, based on an actual story; adapted from a presentation given at College Mennonite Church, June 5, 2005

Good morning, my name is Juan. Our family story with GIHN starts in Texas. I was having a hard time providing for my family because I couldn't find a good job. We heard from a friend of our family who lives in Elkhart, that jobs there were plentiful, and paid well. So my wife, Maria, and I packed up our three children, ages 15 to 10 and we came to Elkhart. We rented an apartment, but since we didn't find jobs right away, our money ran out; so we became homeless. It was a very scary time.

At LaCasa they told us about the Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network, that offers a place to stay and several weeks of help for homeless families to get back on their feet. We clearly needed help! No jobs, no home, no money, discouraged. The uncertainty and changes were more than our children—two of whom have ADHD—could handle.

So our family joined the routine of spending the daytime at the GIHN Center on 3rd Street, and going to eat supper and stay overnight in one of the churches that are part of the program. As we went from church to church each week, it became clear that there were many people in Goshen who cared for our disrupted family. At

the Center we all came to love Andrea—I guess you would call her the “house mother” there. She and Maria would cook together and talk and talk. Tim helped me find a job as a security guard at the mall, and helped Maria find work part time at Steak and Shake. But I think the main way they helped us was to become more patient and thoughtful in solving problems each day as they came.

Eventually, we were able to find an apartment in public housing in Elkhart. But we didn't feel safe there. About that time Maria's grandmother in Texas became ill, so we decided to move back South. After grandmother died, it seemed we were back to square one. What shall we do? The memories of the friendly people of Goshen kept calling us, so we decided to give Tim and Andrea a call to ask if we could come back to GIHN. Sure, they said.

Again we felt love and care from the people of the Goshen churches. They didn't really talk so much about God, I guess they showed us the ways of God. We learned new ways in GIHN. We learned responsibility and how important it is to help each other. We became more comfortable meeting new people—you

have to when there are always new people bringing supper, and staying overnight with us. We learned how to get along with other families in the program who are quite different than ours is. We learned that when our family has a problem we can sit down and talk and plan what to do. We learned to be more patient with our children. Andrea and Tim are great examples and teachers.

Today I have a good job at Acropac. We live in a small rented home on a quiet street in Goshen. The kids are doing OK in school. Our family is more settled. When we need someone to talk to, we still drop by at the Center to talk with Andrea or Tim. Our daughter just loves Andrea. They continue to give us courage. We are still shopping around about where to go to church. We have been going some to East Goshen Mennonite, where the people are so friendly, and where they know that we needed hugs, and continue to need hugs.

I hope that before long we will be able to move into a larger house where we are not quite so cramped. One thing is certain, our experience with IHN and the many friendly church people of Goshen has convinced Maria and me that we want to live, and raise our family here in Goshen.

First Annual Golf Outing

To benefit

Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network

Friday
June 17, 2005



GIHN will hold a golf fundraiser on Friday, June 17, 2005 at Spring Meadow Farm Golf Club in Middlebury. This is the first year for this event but the board is hopeful that it can become one of two annual fund raising events for GIHN. The second event this year – one already familiar to most of you – is the Annual Gala. Be sure to get this on your calendar for October 13, 2005.

Entry Fee is \$100 per
person, per team of four

Includes:

18 holes of Golf, with cart

Lunch

Cash Prizes and Giveaways

Equal Opportunities
for Fellowship
and Humiliation for All

Shotgun Start Florida Scramble

Start at 8:30