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70 East, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003 ■ 856-261-3464 or 609-238-8885 ■ www.ih

IHOC Monthly News

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Our Mailing Address
 1989 Route 70 East
 Cherry Hill, NJ 08003



Contact:
 Ruth Morgenroth
 856.261.3464
 ihoccasemgr@aol.com
 For more information

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Final tabulations are in for the 14th annual Mall Walk, and it is exciting to share that with money received afterwards we took in an unprecedented \$42,325. With expenses of \$4,242 this netted us \$38,083 for our work this year. The superb combined effort of so many individuals, teams, sponsors, volunteers, donors and walkers made this possible, for which we are so grateful. Changing demographics, moving to new locations, and the current medical situation will continue to make this a very difficult year, but having the support of so many people makes a huge difference. Without the usual follow-up meeting to review things, if you have suggestions or other input for next year you are encouraged to contact Carol and Fred as we look to the future. Sending thanks to everyone for a job well done just doesn't seem to be enough.



WE DID IT!
 Thank you
 everyone!

Honoring Ruth Morgenroth, IHOC Executive Director

Ruth's dinner is postponed. We do not have a replacement date yet.

If your money has not yet been returned, please contact

Tom Martin at kennedyper@aol.com 856 308 6992 and if he's in a good mood, you'll get it.

MENTOR NIGHT UPDATE

We are still seeing 3 local IHOC Vets every Wednesday. We don't get together but we still drop off a meal to Bill, Miguel and the recently moved to the area Chris Thomas.

They are all doing well and laying low and waiting this thing out.

Tom Martin

ADOPT A BOX UPDATE

In the interest of limiting the spread of COVID-19 within our communities and in adherence with the "shelter in place" orders by the state of NJ DOH, we will be postponing the IHOC shoe box program for April.

If you need to be in touch, email ihoc_info@aol.com

Please stay safe and be well.

Regards, Fran Green, Committee Member



If you are not already helping and would like to...please contact Ruth Morgenroth at 856.261.3464 or email at lhoccasemgr@aol.com.

IHOC NETWORK SCHEDULE & UPDATE 2020

We have 4 men in the Network and they are staying at St. Andrew's. This is a really great group of guys!

Bryant and Charles are working with Kevin (the Landscaper). Mike & Darryl are spending the day at St. Andrews.

St. Andrew's has a full kitchen, showers and laundry facilities which has made it very easy to accommodate the men. I will continue to stop by to check on them.

The plan is to move the men to Fellowship Church (Haddon Hts.) on April 5th. They have similar accommodations, so the men will be OK.
Sonya

NETWORK SITES 2020

March 22 - April 5	St. Andrews UM - Cherry Hill
April 5 - April 19	Fellowship UM – Haddon Heights
April 19 - May 2	St. Michael's — Cherry Hill
May 3 - May 16	Open



Lutheran Church of Our Savior
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN HADDONFIELD

LUTHER MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Volunteering For the Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council

As Executive Director of IHOC, I spend a lot of time writing grant applications in which I extol the accomplishments of IHOC and, in particular, the accomplishments of IHOC's Homeless Hospitality Network. I work hard writing these grant applications because I believe that IHOC's programs have been instrumental in changing the lives of both the men who have been served by them and of the volunteers who have participated in the Network.

However, what I want to talk about here are the things that IHOC's programs cannot accomplish. Yes, it is true that many of the men who participated in the Network obtained jobs and are now living sober, productive lives. But it is also true that some of the men who participated in the Network have relapsed and are back living on the streets, are in prison, or have died as a direct result of their addictions. It is also true that IHOC's programs have not eliminated homelessness. In fact, the thousands of volunteers who have participated in IHOC's programs do not appear to have made any impact on the number of individuals who are homeless in Camden County today.

To be brutally frank, many of the clients housed, fed, clothed and counseled in IHOC's programs leave without one word of thanks for all our efforts. When I was young and hoping God had some really important task in-store for me, I would have focused on these failures and been disappointed. I would have asked myself whether my efforts were worthwhile. Today, if I were one of the federal or state administrators in charge of monitoring IHOC's programs for their "measurable impact" on the homeless problem, I would probably have a similar question.

I am often asked by people who look at these "disappointing" accomplishments, how I can spend so much time working with IHOC and or the Network without experiencing "burn out". My answer to that question is simply that I have avoided burn out by learning to focus on things I can do and to rely on God to accomplish what I cannot.

I have been fortunate in my life as a volunteer to have had the guidance and example of the other volunteers who understood that we, the volunteers, were not being called to change lives or society. We are simply being called to shelter, feed and care for the men in the Network and we have to trust that God will use our efforts to accomplish what we cannot. Looked at from that perspective, every night of shelter provided by participating congregations, and every meal served and every kind word spoken by volunteers becomes a success story.

When my congregation's Adult Forum studied the life and teachings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, I was struck by something he said which I feel captures the way I feel about being a volunteer. Bonhoeffer said that when you become involved in helping people you "throw yourself into the arms of God". I can't imagine a better, safer place to be.

Ruth Morgenroth