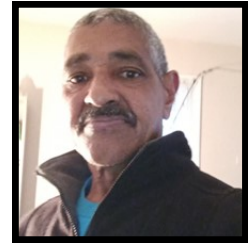




IHOC Monthly News

Volume IX, Issue I



This month the spotlight is on Miguel Rodriguez. Miguel was a guest in our 2013-2014 Hospitality Network and our 2014 -2015 Transitional Housing Program.

When Miguel first joined the Hospitality Network he was, to say the least, very skeptical about the program and suspicious about the motivations of our volunteers. However, Miguel eventually came to appreciate and benefit from our programs and is now a big supporter and ambassador for them.

Miguel has completed an Advocacy Training course at Rutgers University and is now busy volunteering for numerous nonprofits . At present, he is volunteering for The Camden Coalition’s “Ambassadorship “ programs and is helping to educate Camden residents about Covid and the importance of vaccinations. Miguel also volunteers for the Mental Health Association of Camden, the Community Self Help Center and several local church’s food pantries.

Miguel recently moved to Barrington where he is excited to have an apartment with a porch and a backyard.



IHOC Christmas Party. On December 17th , IHOC hosted a Christmas party for men who participated in one or more of our programs as well as volunteers from our participating congregations. Despite the cold weather 10 former guests and 8 volunteers came to St Michael’s Lutheran Church and shared a wonderful time catching up.

The party kicked off at 4pm with Christmas music and pizza (courtesy of Brooklyn Pizza) and sandwiches (courtesy of Carol Dann). The party then transitioned into a cookie bake off where five tables of participants mixed up batches of cookies under the supervision of Sonya Jacobs. After baking, all of the cookies were sampled. It took a lot of nibbling but the participants were unable to declare a winner. However everyone was able to take home a tin of extras so we may have a verdict in time for the February newsletter. However, we may have to schedule another bake-off... Stay tuned.





MallWalk 2023



Mall Walk 2023 is shaping up to be the best Mall Walk ever on Sunday, February 26th at the Voorhees Town Center.



First, the 2023 Mall Walk will be a **REAL** Mall Walk with fun activities, entertainment, and an actual Walk start time for EVERYONE!!

Walkers will be walking inside the Voorhees Town Center and will be walking the route four times with treats after the laps including special goodie bags after the second lap.

Some of the fun activities will be face painting, pet rocks decorating, tattoos, karate demonstrations, and fabric painting.

Second, for this year's Mall Walk, every Walker will need to register online at www.ihocsj.org. Registration will again be \$25 and will include a Walk T-shirt.

Sponsors can donate to their favorite Walkers by going to our website www.ihocsj.org. And, Benefactors can also donate online at our website.

Third, IHOC is hoping to restart the Hospitality Network in November 2023. In order to keep volunteers and our guests safe from COVID while the Network is operating, IHOC will need to pay for services that used to be donated. So, we need to raise \$70,000. To date, we have already raised \$5,000. This is a great start, and IHOC appreciates every donation that we have received so far.

For more information about the 2023 Mall Walk for the Homeless, please go to our website www.ihocsj.org or call 856.952.2367.

