



BIRMINGHAM HOSPITALITY NETWORK



P.O. Box 531233 / Birmingham, AL 35253 • www.BirminghamHospitalityNetwork.com • (205) 918-0246

June 2011

Board Members

Greta Hogg, President
Brenda Tidwell, Vice President
Paula Williamson, Treasurer
Pam Moore, Secretary
Bill Carroll
Jeff Creel
Glenn Davis
Jim Davis
Neil Eggars
Jessica Germany
Ben Goldman
Susan McAlister
Kenneth Moore
Phillip Prince
Neil Roth
Randy Sellers
Adele Stockham
Ronald Williams
Keith Windle

Host Congregations

All Saints' Episcopal Church
Baptist Church of the Covenant
Canterbury United Methodist Church
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Huffman United Methodist Church
Mountain Brook Baptist Church
Saint Luke's Episcopal Church
Saint Mary's Episcopal Church
Saint Peter's Anglican Church
Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church
Southside Baptist Church
South Highland Presbyterian Church
Temple Emanu-El
Trinity United Methodist Church
Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church

Support Congregations

Beloved Community Church
Saint John's United Methodist Church
Shades Crest Baptist Church
Temple Beth-El

Letter from the Board President

Dear Friends,

This is my first newsletter and I am very excited to serve this amazing community along with Brenda Tidwell (Vice President), Paula Williamson (Treasurer), and Pam Moore (Secretary). In addition to our new team of officers we have some new Board Members too. Ben Goldman joins us to represent Saint Luke's Episcopal replacing Randy Sellers. Phillip Prince is the new congregation Board Member for Southside Baptist. Keith Windle will represent Canterbury UMC and Neil Eggars joins us from Vestavia UMC replacing Cheryl Cobb. And, we are sad to say good bye to Laura Nichols At-Large member from Vestavia UMC. Welcome new Board Members and thank you to Randy, Cheryl, and Laura for serving on the board and your continued support of BHN.

While many things are new and exciting with the BHN Board our hearts continue to break for all the families who lost their loved ones and homes in the April tornados. Most of you know or have seen the destruction and devastation throughout our state and we will continue to need help and assistance with clean up and recovery. The loss of a home and all things familiar is very difficult and add to that the loss of a loved one – it is just overwhelming. Organizations like BHN will be needed for shelter and we will also be needed to lend a hug and a smile to help those families whose resources and emotions are exhausted.

Just in case you have not heard this year's 10th Host Reception and Silent Auction will be held in a new different location. I hope you can join us on Thursday, July 28th, Ted's

Garage, 6pm, 2309 5th Avenue South, for an evening of food, music, and fun. This is our main annual fundraiser and we hope you will attend. There are also other ways you can help and participate. If you can provide an auction item or a sponsorship, or be an event volunteer please call 936-2095, or email me, gjhogg@bellsouth.net. You can find event forms and details on the BHN website, www.birminghamhospitalitynetwork.com. Thank you to all those who volunteer and support us year after year – it would not be possible without you.

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email? We want to keep you in the know and report our progress but if you would like to receive this newsletter via email it would save us printing and postage costs. Please email Meredith Showacre at bhnadmin@earthlink.net with "EMAIL ME NEWSLETTER" in the subject line to be added to our newsletter email distribution list.

Thank you for your support and service to BHN and our guests. We are most grateful to you all for your time and gifts to this ministry. With your help we will make a difference and continue to provide a community response for homelessness.

Greta Hogg
BHN Board President

Words of Encouragement From a Volunteer

Dear BHN Family,

Since I work in the field of social work and deal with people who are mentally ill and often homeless on a daily basis, I was not sure if volunteering for BHN was a good fit for me. I generally am not interested in volunteering for something that is similar to my work. It is easy to get burned out professionally in the caring field and this is certainly also true when volunteering with people who have such great needs. My husband Jim and I have been members at Trinity UMC for about 11 yrs and we have always wanted to donate our time and services to the church and the community. During my years at Trinity, I have served on several committees and been involved with various ministries but I have never really felt “on fire” about any particular area. Reluctantly, several years ago, Jim and I started to occasionally volunteer with BHN during the evening dinner shift. My husband was a natural especially when it was time to go to the gym and play with the kids. It gave him an excellent excuse to play basketball which just happens to be one of his passions.

During this time when the children were playing or working on homework, I found myself engaging in conversations with the parents. I never disclosed my line of work but I found myself feeling comfortable and at ease with the families. I said to myself, “I still don’t want to do this regularly but we can volunteer every once in a while”. As time went on, I found myself thinking more about BHN. I started to have a new respect for the ministry because, unlike my job, the mission of BHN was simply to make families feel welcome in a warm environment. I realized that I did not have to “fix” or “counsel” anyone. All my duties really required was listening and offering hospitality. Around this time I took a spiritual gifts class at Trinity and found out that “hospitality” was one of my spiritual gifts. Do you think God was trying to send me a message? I slowly began to feel God tugging me in the direction of BHN. I was not sure if this meant remaining a volunteer or stepping up to a larger role in the ministry but, in time, God answered that for me.

Fast forward to the beginning of 2011; I received an e-mail from our lay involvement staff member who asked if my husband and I would be the Trinity UMC BHN Coordinators. I now understood the preparation and nudging that I had felt from God. We of course said yes to the task. I will talk about BHN to anyone who will listen. I feel very strongly about how BHN provides the utmost respect to the families. I am also so moved by how BHN keeps family units together. This is a tremendous blessing for the families in times of crisis. I now know that God wanted me to volunteer with BHN the whole time. He knew when I was ready to make a commitment to the ministry. The truth is that BHN is nothing like my job. Instead of being draining, my time with BHN families and volunteers is energizing. I was trying to shy away from the very thing where I could be useful to others through sharing God’s love. It’s a good thing that God knows what he is doing in my life. He, and all of you, have shown me that BHN is “my thing” and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve beside each of you!

Peace,
Martha Furio

News from the Day Center

The hot summer months are practically here and everything at BHN is running smoothly. In the past few months we have had three families successfully relocate into their own homes. With last year’s 94% success rate we are happy to see the continued success of our BHN guests. We are currently hosting a mother and her two teenage children. When they entered into BHN the mother was unsure and did not know what to expect. However, they are all quickly becoming accustomed to our schedule and enjoying the comfort of a warm bed at night and three meals.

With each new day they accomplish another goal and put themselves one step closer to being in their own place again. It is the moment when they are handed the key to their new apartment that they are finally able to take that sigh of relief. BHN is glad to be the helping hand that they need. BHN could not be possible without the hundreds of volunteers that have come through BHN through the years. We are eternally grateful for each and every one of our supporters. If you would like to be a part of a family’s fresh start please contact us. BHN is always looking for eager volunteers and supporters.

We look forward to hearing from you!

“A Community Response for Homeless Families”

Please join us for the

**10th Annual
Host Celebration
Reception and Silent Auction**

to benefit the

BIRMINGHAM HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Thursday JULY 28, 2011

Ted's Garage
2309 5th Avenue South

*Doors open at 6:00 pm
\$30.00 DONATION

FOR TICKETS : CALL 918-0246

Food & Drinks
Business Casual Attire

****VALET PARKING****

5 levels of sponsorship for this event are also available!

Bronze	\$125.00 - includes 2 tickets
Silver	\$250.00 - includes 4 tickets
Gold	\$500.00 - includes 6 tickets
Platinum	\$1000.00 - includes 8 tickets
Double Platinum	\$2000.00 - includes 10 tickets



Birmingham Hospitality Network
“A community response for homeless families”



**The Shelter
Always
Needs....**

- **Cleaning Supplies**
- **Laundry soap**
- **Paper towels**
- **Gas gift cards**
- **Birthday cards**
- **Clear book bags**
- **Long distance phone cards**
- **Trash bags**
- **AA batteries**
- **AAA batteries**
- **Hygiene products**
- **Blank note cards**
- **Wal-mart gift cards**
- **School supplies**
- **Stamps**
- **Computer paper**

The Clothing Connection

Recently BHN has formed a partnership with a new ministry in Birmingham, The Clothing Connection. Their focus is to work directly with Social Service agencies that are dealing with the homeless, the chronically mentally ill, recovering addicts, and released prisoners, however they are open to helping anyone in need. Not only do they work with BHN but they have connected with many other social service agencies in the Birmingham area. Agencies such as Aletheia House, First Light, Fellowship House, and many others are also beginning a partnership with the Clothing Connection. Unlike My Child's Closet whose main focus is children, the Clothing Connection's main focus is men and women. They want Birmingham men and women's clothing needs



to be met. The Clothing Connection provides everything from casual to interview appropriate. Since this is a new ministry they are entirely dependent on clothing donations, volunteer labor, and donated workspace. If you are interested in donating your gently used clothing, your time, or your

congregation might be interested in becoming a drop off location for the Clothing Connection please feel free to contact any of their team members:

Lou Hollingsworth, loubh@mindspring.com, John Hollingsworth, jlouh@mindspring.com, or Jerry Harris, shadycoveharris@att.net. We are excited about our future with the Clothing Connection and we hope that you can be a part of it too.

*“A Community
Response for
Homeless Families”*



*Use your
SmartPhone's
QR Code Reader
and click here for
more information.*



*Would you rather have an electronic copy next time?
Email us – bhndmin@earthlink.net*

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