



# BIRMINGHAM HOSPITALITY NETWORK



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

May 2009

## Board Members

Paula Williamson, President  
Randy Sellers, Vice President  
Glen Davis, Treasurer  
Jeff Creel, Secretary  
Bill Carol  
Lynn Coffey  
Jim Davis  
Jessica Germany  
Don Hortberg  
Greta Hogg  
Sam Johnson  
Joyce Kent  
Kenneth Moore  
Pat Owen  
Brenda Tidwell  
Mary Roebuck  
Neil Roth  
Shelli Saxton  
Jim Starnes  
Adele Stockham  
Ronald Williams

## Host Congregations

All Saint's Episcopal Church  
Baptist church of the Covenant  
Canterbury United Methodist Church  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
Huffman United Methodist Church  
Mountain Brook Baptist Church  
Saint John's United Methodist 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  
Shades Crest Baptist Church  
Temple Beth-El

## Letter from the Board President

Dear Friends,

In March the Board approved a new slate of Officers for the coming year. I am honored to be named Board President and very grateful to have Randy Sellers, Glenn Davis, and Jeff Creel to work with. The entire Board extends it's thanks to our previous Officers, Don Hortberg (President), Neil Roth (Treasurer) and Lynn Coffey (Secretary) for their hard work and continued service.

As we move forward through these challenging economic times we feel blessed by those that continue to support us with their time and money. Although jobs are hard to find and housing goals are even harder to meet, our families are lifted and encouraged by all that our Congregations bring to their lives. For this we give thanks to all of you!

The Board is enriched to have new members, Kenneth Moore of Huffman United Methodist and Brenda Tidwell of Southside Baptist Church. Their commitment and passion for BHN is evident in their enthusiasm to serve. Welcome to you both!

The Board is seeking new ways to find funding for our expanding mission through grants and fundraisers. Recently, a volunteer at Trinity brought a grant opportunity to our attention. Although we have a list of organizations to which we can apply for grants, this was unknown to us as it was for employees to request for

their favorite charitable organization. We always appreciate help and guidance from our volunteers and supporters.

Our biggest fundraiser is the annual Silent Auction and Reception. This year's event will be held Thursday, July 23rd at B & A Warehouse. As many of you know, last year we were gifted "auction" software which was a huge success. With the help of some very patient volunteers we were able to complete the check in and check out processes in record time. We hope to receive some wonderful items for the auction which should make this year's event even better. We are actively seeking sponsors that can help us defray the cost of this event. If you would like to sponsor this year's auction, please go to our website and scroll down to the sponsorship form or call Lynn Coffey (Auction Chair) at 999-0354.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend an invitation to those who share our interest to serve the homeless families in Birmingham. Board meetings are held at 6pm the 4th Monday of every month, excluding July and December. We welcome visitors, suggestions and ideas!

Sincerely,

Paula Williamson, President  
Board of Directors

## News from the Day Center

Management program has moved forward, past the planning stages, and is now in progress. Our director Rana Cowan is currently working with three families that have moved out of our program and into their own housing. The main goal of this new program is to assist families with housing retention, and to gain statistics to help shape additional BHN programs. Rana makes it a priority to spend at least one hour either in the home or on the phone with each family every week. Through the Extended Case Management program BHN hopes to teach these fami-

lies how to build a strong financial foundation in order to prevent homelessness in the future.

Although we are still in the learning stages of this process we have already seen its' positive effect on these families. BHN's hope is that the program will continue to flourish and eventually blossom into something much larger. As always, it is because of your constant support that we are able to continue our work with homeless families in Birmingham.

## Point in Time Homeless Survey Birmingham 2005, 2007, and 2009

Population	Emergency	Transitional	Unsheltered	Total
I. Number of Households <b>with</b> Dependent Children	(45) 31 {31}	(135) 122 {86}	(85) 75 {118}	(256) 228 {235}
Ia. Total number of Persons in these Households (adults and children)	(130) 72 {85}	(409) 335 {228}	(187) 168 {315}	(726) 575 {628}

In January, the Metropolitan Birmingham Services for the Homeless (MBSH) organized the Point and Time Homeless Survey. This project requires hundreds of volunteers and many hours of training but, it is something that needs to be done. At the end of January 2009 for a 24 hours period these people went out to the soup kitchens, under the overpasses, and behind buildings looking to make contact with a community that many pretend don't exist. However, this ever growing population does exist and over the past five years the number of unsheltered homeless families has consistently increased. The survey is about 18 questions long and is extremely important to our community. The responses that are gotten help guide the development of any new programs and help change longstanding programs to best fit the needs of our homeless citizens. It is important to recognize and understand these changes in our homeless population so that BHN can evolve our program to help lower the number of unsheltered homeless families in years to come.

### A Playroom Worth Playing In



Another huge thank you goes out to the Girl Scouts!! Troop 48 is made up of 4th and 5th grade girls from Rocky Ridge Elementary School. This busy group, along with their troop leader, Beth Hines are always looking for a good cause. How to spend the money collected from their Girl Scout Cookie Fundraiser is an important decision for them. Between preparing and serving a meal at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, collecting hygiene products for BHN, and donating board games to the After Care Program at Rocky Ridge

Elementary School they have managed to find the time and money to give our playroom a little boost as well. The playroom at our Day Center is a cozy room with a desk, TV, and three bookcases with books and movies but, no games. What's a "playroom" with nothing to play with? Thanks to their donation of brand new board games our kids will have a place worth playing in. Due to Troop 48's generosity our Day Center can feel a little more like home for the kids living here.

BHN is part of a nationwide organization called Family Promise. Every year they compile the numbers and deliver our annual statistics. In 2008 over half of the families served where able to secure permanent housing. It is the contributions like yours that make it possible to continue our work with homeless families. 45,247 individuals served, the numbers are mind blowing! Thank you for enabling us to lend a huge helping hand to the families of Birmingham.

### Across The Nation The Numbers Are In

#### 2008 PROGRAM SERVICES REPORT (January 1, 2008 - December 31, 2008)

##### Census

Number of IHN Affiliates Reporting	131
Individuals served (guests)	10,386
Families served	3,226
Number of children	6160
Percent of total who are children	59%
Number of children age 5 and under	2,848
Percent of total children age 5 and under	46%
Average length of stay (days)	58.3

##### Housing Status at Exit

Percent of families securing permanent housing	60%
Percent of families securing transitional housing	17%

##### Family Composition

Two-Parent Families	26%
Female Headed Single Parent Families	63%
Male Headed Single Parent Families	6%
Other Family Composition	5%

##### Racial Background

African-American	42%
Asian	1%
Caucasion	39%
Latino	10%
Native American	2%
Other	6%

**Total individuals served 42,247**

*Please join us for the*

**8th Annual  
Host Celebration  
Reception and Silent Auction**

*to benefit the*

BIRMINGHAM HOSPITALITY NETWORK

**Thursday JULY 23, 2009**

B&A Warehouse  
1530 1st Avenue South

\*Doors open at 6:00 pm - Live Auction begins 7:15\*  
\$25.00 DONATION

FOR TICKETS : CALL 918-0246

LIVE MUSIC      FOOD & DRINK

4 levels of sponsorship for this event are also available! Please visit our website - [www.birminghamhospitalitynetwork.com](http://www.birminghamhospitalitynetwork.com) for a sponsorship form!

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

# Everyone Wants A Place To Call Home

**“It was nice to know that all of these people actually cared for my family and were willing to go out of their way to help us”**

Many families quickly find themselves in a situation where they have nowhere to turn. That was the case with Veronica and her family. Within a few short months’ time, Veronica had major life changing events. She took two of her sister’s children into her home, and then lost her home.

She was scared but, she said, “BHN was the only shelter able to take me and my five boys.” Veronica’s initial fears quickly faded when she realized how welcoming the congregations were with each coming week. She told me that during her stay “it was nice to know that all of these people actually cared for my family and were willing to go out of their way to help us.”



Veronica and the children had a positive experience with BHN. They have gotten back on their feet and are glad to be in their own place again. While at the shelter Veronica and her family made connections with BHN staff, volunteers and even other families

with whom they are still in contact with today.

It’s the little things like a birthday card for her kids or a phone call from a volunteer to check on her that lets Veronica know that she is loved and appreciated by BHN. Veronica

now has a job and home for her children and BHN is grateful to have been a part of Veronica’s family’s life in their time of need.

*“A Community Response  
for Homeless Families”*



*Would you rather have an electronic copy next time?  
Email us – [bhndmin@earthlink.net](mailto:bhndmin@earthlink.net)*

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