

GAIHN News

Volume 3, Issue 3, Fall 2004



Bob Snyder (R) presents GE check to GAIHN Director, Tony McDade

GAIHN Coordinator Receives GE Volunteer Award

Bob Snyder, GAIHN host coordinator for St. Giles Presbyterian Church, has been honored with GE's most

prestigious award for volunteers, the Gerald L. Phillippe Award. Phillippe Awards are made only every other year and are meant to honor those special individuals who couple their community concerns with exceptional levels of commitment, creativity and achievement.

The awards are named for Gerald L. Phillippe, who served as GE Chairman in the 1960s, a period of turbulent social change. He rose to national prominence as a business leader who stood out for his efforts to help the underprivileged and advance higher education for minority students. Each GE business is allotted just two awards. From among the forty-one employees nominated within GE Energy, Dawn Fuller and Bob Snyder, both from Greenville, have been selected as Phillippe Award recipients.

Bob Snyder is a Sourcing Quality Engineer with GE Energy Services in Greenville. For over ten years he has devoted himself to fostering community service efforts in Greenville. He is active in a number of GE's Elfun projects and through his church has participated in Habitat for Humanity builds, Boy Scouts, and teaching Sunday School.

Among his many community activities, Bob has been the Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (GAIHN) coordinator for his church, St. Giles Presbyterian, for the past three years. GAIHN is an inter-faith organization dedicated to making a difference in the lives of homeless families in the Upstate by providing housing, meals and other forms of support. Each congregation in the 18-

church network shares shelter, meals and activities with homeless guest families for a week at a time about four weeks each year. Bob has organized and managed all facets of the program for his church.

In addition, Bob is a 5-gallon blood donor with The Blood Connection. As an O-negative donor, Bob is aware of the value of the "gift of life" and encourages others to give blood regularly. As an engineer, Bob participates in the GE Greenville Elfun Student Design Challenge, fostering student interest in science and engineering by working with high-school sophomores in

hands-on science projects.

Bob's attitude tends to be infectious as evidenced by what his pastor, Dr. Robert Taylor has observed: "Bob, you have been a leader both through your actions and the example you set. You have done all this with a wonderful spirit, and an attitude that makes others want to participate as well."

Bob's \$2000 Phillippe Award grant is split between GAIHN and The Blood Connection, each receiving \$1,000.

"Through IHN, a portion of the Greenville church community has made a commitment to do something about homelessness in our midst - and we have stood by that commitment for three years now. I have seen the positive impact that the program has made. I am very proud of my church's effort in this, and I am forever grateful to God for leading me to this opportunity to serve."

~ Bob Snyder

Our Mission

To assist local congregations to share hospitality (in the form of emergency food & lodging) with homeless families, & to help those families achieve self-sufficiency & self-fulfillment.



GAIHN
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Volume 3, Issue 3

Our ultimate goals at GAIHN are to reduce homelessness and promote family integrity among Greenville County resident families.

Did You Know?

Over one-fourth of those who are homeless in the US are children. Many of these children are under six years old.

Families with young children now comprise 40% of America's homeless.

Seven of our guest families have obtained permanent housing this year; four other families have moved into our transitional housing duplexes in Judson; and three families have been welcomed into the emergency shelter.

Nationwide nearly 100 IHN affiliates utilize the grace and generosity of almost 100,000 volunteers in two thousand congregations to share hospitality (emergency shelter, meals, comfort and care) with homeless families who have children.

Volume 3, Issue 3



Give GAIHN for the Holidays!



Can't think of what to give that special family member, neighbor, colleague or friend this holiday season? Why not beat the holiday rush, avoid the crowds at the mall, and give GAIHN this year?!

Greenville Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship is again sponsoring their Alternative Gift Fair, making giving GAIHN for the holidays easier than ever. Here's how it works: Compose your holiday shopping list for those hard-to-buy-for folks in your life. Then, stop by the Fellowship on Saturday, December 4, from Noon until 4pm. GAIHN, along with more than a dozen other local, national and international non-profit organizations, will have informative displays about our charitable services. Select a group, make a donation, and volunteers will help prepare cards to be sent to the recipients, telling them both of your gift and the purposes to which it will be applied.



Can't get to GUUF on December 4? No problem!

Just log on to www.GreenvilleUU.org to access a veritable shopping extravaganza right from your home or office. Or check out www.GAIHN.org and click "Donate Now!" where you'll find a handy list of GAIHN gifts ranging from \$10 to \$100. Annual memberships are also available. Use the convenience and security of PayPal to pay online or mail in your check (along with the addresses of the recipients)—and that's it. We'll take it from there, including sending your loved ones and friends a GAIHN holiday card acknowledging your gift and our generosity. You'll even get a receipt for your tax-deductible donation. What could be easier?

With a donation to GAIHN's ministry of hospitality with homeless families you will honor your friends and family while serving the needs of the less fortunate. Every gift to GAIHN is invested in the lives of Greenville's homeless families (with children) who are in need of emergency food and shelter.

Thanks to you, homeless families can find home, healing and hope through the efforts and love shared by members of congregations across Greenville County. Thanks to your Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa generosity, children of all ages and their families are finding a place of their own to call "home." That's real hospitality. Won't you share your holiday joy with our GAIHN guests this year? Thanks!

Schedule of Host Churches for September - December 2004

August 29-September 5, St. Matthew UMC
September 5 -12, Messiah Lutheran Church
September 12-19, Trinity UMC
September 19-26, Buncombe Street UMC
September 26-October 3, Springwell Church
October 3-10, First Presbyterian Church, Greer
October 10-17, Bethesda UMC
October 17-24, John Knox Presbyterian Church
October 24-31, Lee Road UMC
October 31-Nov. 7, Trinity Lutheran Church
November 7-14, St. Giles Presbyterian Church
November 14-21, Trinity UMC
November 21-28, Covenant UMC
November 28-Dec. 5, Messiah Lutheran Church
December 5-12, Buncombe Street UMC
December 12-19, Greenville Unitarian-
Universalist Fellowship
December 19-26, Springwell Church
December 26-January 2, 2005, Bethesda UMC

*Thank you for your vital ministry
with our GAIHN guest families!*

Thanks, GAIHN Donors!

...for making hospitality happen in Greenville

Foundations

Sisk Foundation

Civic, Business & Education Groups

Bradshaw, Gordon & Clinkscales CPAs

North Greenville Rotary Club

Pleasantburg Rotary Club

Congregations

Buncombe Street UMC

BSUMC classes & mission groups

Camp Prism 2004

First Baptist Church, Statesville, NC

Foothills Presbytery

Fourth Presbyterian Church

Greenville Friends Meeting

Lee Road United Methodist Church

Messiah Lutheran Church

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

St. Giles Presbyterian Church

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity United Methodist Church

Unity Church of Greenville

Westminster Presbyterian Church

GAIHN Host Congregations Make all the Difference in the Lives of Homeless Families...

First Presbyterian Church, Greer

Buzz DeWeese and his wife, Jeanne, have four children (2 sons & 2 daughters), 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They have been members of the First Presbyterian Church in Greer since 1998, where Buzz serves as an Elder.

"Our church became involved with GAIHN in the fall of 2002 and committed to be a host church at that time and we would host our first guests upon completion of our new addition in early 2003. The new addition would allow us to host our guests as we would have facilities to handle up to 5 families and a total of 15 guests during our week of hosting," says Buzz.

Our first guests stayed with us in March 2003 so we will be completing our second year in the GAIHN program the end of this year. Our congregation has really stepped forward to support this program with volunteers from the Boy Scouts, Sunday School classes, Women's Circles, Choir, Men's Breakfast Group, Fellowship Groups in the church and members in general of the congregation.

We are proud to be providing a safe environment of shelter as well as food for our guests and hopefully a warm smile and a good listening ear to our guests as they spend their time with our members. Our members have spoken often as to how much they have received from our guests as being more than they have no doubt given."



"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you...."
~ John 13:34

FPC Greer Church Staff

Dr. Kyle Allen (Pastor),
Rev. Wayne Cole (Christian Education),
Lisa Dillard (Music), Susan Tompkins (Program Administrator), Pamela Tonneson (Administrative Assistant), Rachel Holliday (Financial Secretary).



Church Office: 864/877-3612
Web Address: <http://GreerFPC.org>



Fourteen dynamic congregations from across Greenville County serve as GAIHN Host Churches.

Four other fine congregations provide assistance with meals and overnight hosting in serving as GAIHN Support Churches.

GAIHN churches have been hosting homeless guest families for three full years now.



Buzz DeWeese

A Visit from the Founding Mother

Karen Olson, who founded the Interfaith Hospitality Networks (now FamilyPromise) in 1986, visited the GAIHN Day Center in August. The newly renovated facilities and private "living rooms" for guest families provided the perfect backdrop for our board members Doug Brown (L) and Jerry Kerns (R) and Trinity Lutheran Church coordinator Melinda Matthews (R) to give Ms. Olson the grand tour!



"I am impressed with the creative ways that GAIHN is making a real difference in the lives of homeless families. Keep up the good work!"

~ IHN founder and president,
Karen Olson

Pendleton Street Baptist Church serves as the site for our Day Center.

Each day our GAIHN guests devote their time and energy to seeking permanent employment and affordable housing opportunities.

"Is not this the fast that I choose... to share your bread with the hungry, and to welcome the homeless poor into your house?"

~ Isaiah 58:6-7

We minister in partnership with many other Greenville agencies, including...

www.salvationarmysouth.org



Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network

Annual Membership Application

Yes!

I would like to become an Annual Member in support of the Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, an emergency shelter for homeless families with children.

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____
Telephone () _____
E-mail _____

(Please add me to the GAIHN e-Newsletter list)

Please send me more information about volunteer opportunities with GAIHN.

Levels of membership (Check one, please)

- Charter \$100+
- Individual \$25
- Business/Civic \$100
- Seniors \$15
- Family \$50
- Student \$10
- Other \$_____



Want to Donate a Car to Help Homeless Families? GAIHN makes it easy! Call 271-3424.



Thanks, from a GAIHN Family!

"GAIHN was there for our family just when we need them the most."



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Volume 3, Issue 3

Please detach and return top portion to GAIHN, P.O. Box 2083, Greenville, SC 29602. Thank You!

CARRIAGE RIDES MAKE THE HOLIDAYS SPECIAL!



To Help the Homeless

Sip steaming apple cider as you and your friends and family enjoy the magnificent beauty of downtown Greenville bedecked in its holiday glory.

Make reservations now for a Holiday Carriage Ride

Monday-Friday evenings (6-9:40pm), November 29-December 3,
December 6-10, 13-17, & 20-24 (2-6pm on Christmas Eve).

Log on to www.GAIHN.org or call 271-3424.

Can't think of what to give your colleagues this holiday season?
Why not a Carriage Ride?!

It's the perfect gift, for your family and friends and for GAIHN!

SPONSORS

