

# Becoming an IHNWC Support or Host Organization

## Definitions

**IHNWC Support Organization.** A church, synagogue, other house of worship, or civic group that provides volunteers or meals to assist the IHNWC host organizations.

**IHNWC Host Organization.** A church, synagogue, other house of worship, or civic group that provides meals, private sleeping space, and volunteers to create a "home away from home" for homeless families. Hosts serve on a rotating basis up to five times per year.

## How to Become a Host Congregation

To become a host organization, you will need the following capabilities:

1. Designated space to host up to 5 families (up to 14 individuals) for a week at a time, 3-4 times per year. (See next section for living space requirements.)
2. The ability to provide all meals. Meals should include simple breakfasts, supplies for sack lunches, and nutritious cooked dinners.
3. The ability to provide utilities, linens, and basic items such as soap, but IHN will supply beds, pillows, and mattress covers.
4. A volunteer to serve as Primary Coordinator for the host. The Primary Coordinator recruits the needed volunteers for the week, attends scheduled meetings, and acts as the main contact with IHNWC headquarters.
5. Two to six volunteers, as needed, who have attended an orientation session and who can live onsite during the hosting week.

To become a host organization you will also need to

1. Make a minimum one-year commitment in writing,
2. Publicize and promote the Family Promise Program within your host organization,
3. Promote and support IHNWC fund-raising events, and
4. Consider budgeting annual contributions to support our mission.

## Living Space Requirements

Accommodations should be as homelike as possible and include the following areas:

- A private sleeping area such as a religious education classroom. Alternatively, if only one large room is available for multiple families, installed partitions can provide privacy for each family.
- A living area or hospitality room separated into an adult lounge and a children's activity area. The adult lounge should include a sofa, chairs, tables, and a TV.
- Two bathrooms, one for women and one for men; both with baby changing stations. Note that the IHNWC Daycenter will provide the shower facilities.

- A kitchen and dining area with a refrigerator, food staples, and necessary clean-up items for meal preparation. The dinners may be cooked onsite or just brought in and heated.
- A designated outside smoking area at least 20 feet from any building entrance.
- Space for overnight volunteers to sleep. Any available spaces that are acceptable to the host volunteers, such as offices or hallways, will do.

Since a host provides hospitality to families for a whole week, the guest areas should remain set-up and secure for that whole period. Hosting will occur from approximately 6:00 p.m. each evening until to 7:00 a.m. the next morning. The hosting period will begin on Sunday evening and continuing until the following Sunday morning.

If you possess or can develop the above requirements and would like to participate in the IHNWC, please call Executive Director, Linda Rambolt at 513.934.5250 or email [Larihnwc@go-concepts.org](mailto:Larihnwc@go-concepts.org). Thank you.

## **Current IHNWC Support and Host Organizations**

### **Support Organizations:**

Bethany United Church of Christ, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Cross Point Church, Faith Bible Fellowship, Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lakeview United Church of Christ, Mason Grange, Monroe Presbyterian Church, Monroe United Methodist Church, Nexus United Church of Christ, Order of the Eastern Star, Pilgrim South, Pleasant Plain Presbyterian Church, Southwest Church, Springboro United Church of Christ, St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, St. Susanna Roman Catholic Church, The River Church, Tru Kingdome Ministries

### **Host Organizations:**

Cobblestone Community Church, Epiphany Lutheran Church, Faith Community United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church of Mason, First Church of God, Heritage Presbyterian Church, Lebanon Presbyterian Church, Lebanon United Methodist Church, Living Water Lutheran Church, North Cincinnati Community Church, Northeast Church of Christ, Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Springboro First United Methodist Church, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, St. Patrick Episcopal Church, Sycamore Presbyterian Church