

PIHN Outreach Efforts - Can You Help? ***Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network Update***



Hello from PIHN! As OMC has been such a loyal supporter of our work, we wanted to let you know what we are up to lately. Covid-19 made our normal model of housing families (together in church facilities with host congregations to provide meals and overnight support) almost immediately unworkable as lockdown conditions began and many families were headed by essential workers. We were able to make some quick adjustments, securing new housing facilities to accommodate families so that parents could continue to work and attend to their children as needed, and switching to providing grocery gift cards to support families with food needs. We have also evolved our programming to meet the ever-growing needs among families, both in our alumni and in our current clients. Highlights of this expanded mission work include:

- ◆ Working as a community food and diaper distribution network, serving 70 to 90 families a week,
- ◆ Expanding our work in homelessness prevention, by helping over 120 families to date impacted by the coronavirus shutdowns with utilities and other related housing expenses
- ◆ Moving our family support programming online with a professionally led parent support group and children's art classes up and running

We have been able to do all of this thanks to the generosity and continued investment of our supporting congregations and benefactors. The costs of keeping our shelter families has increased with this new model as we see a growing need for our programs with their proven success in setting families on the road to self-sufficiency and success. PIHN is continuing to evolve the ways in which we as a parish can support their work in this new model- we will share future updates in parish bulletin and communications but please help us continue this vital work now. Currently we are helping a local mom settle into her home with her two children, ages 1 and 5. If you can assist in this effort, the needs are as follows: fall clothing for girl (12-18 months) and boy (size 6/7), grocery needs like paper towels and toilet paper, baby wipes, and gift cards for ShopRite, Walmart or Costco.

We also have a request from an alumni family who asked for gently-used clothing for her family: Girl age 6, (clothes size 10, shoes size 1), boy age 9 (clothes size 12, Shoes size boys 7 ½) and Girl age 16 (size women's medium, shoes size women's 10). If you are able to help with any of these requests or just have questions or want to find out more, please contact our parish coordinator for this mission (Anne McGoldrick, email or text: 610-716-6893 or anne_mcgoldrick@yahoo.com) or Keyonnee Thalia at PIHN (Keyonnee@philashelter.org). You can also support PIHN online (and with matching gifts) at www.philashelter.org.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.