

**Introduction:** Each month on the back of the parish calendar, one or more Prince of Peace parish ministries are highlighted. This month, August 2010, we highlight the Interfaith Hospitality Network(IHN-soon to become Family Promise) ministry at Prince of Peace. It is one of the few shelter programs in Summit County that includes children.

### **Interfaith Hospitality Network(IHN)**

IHN of Summit County has been in existence in Summit County for about 10 years. Since the beginning IHN has served many families with children under the age of 18. IHN serves a very diverse group of families: Black, White, Hispanic, Asian, and multi-racial. The average stay for a family is about 6 weeks. Families are pre-screened to ensure they will be able to function in the program.

The mission of Interfaith Hospitality (IHN) is to "help homeless families achieve and keep their independence." IHN of Summit County is a network of more than 30 churches who work together to give support, care, food, shelter, and time to families while they are in crisis. IHN gives families "a place to call home," when they have none. Families spend the evenings at individual host churches, and the day at the Family Center on Miller Avenue in Akron working towards permanent solutions. IHN enables the families to have a permanent address and phone number while they are looking for housing and employment. IHN provides a safe place for the children during the day. During the school year IHN transports children to and from school. IHN of Summit County currently has more than 600 volunteers.

Lakeview United Methodist Church, Barberton is the "Host Site" every several months. The next hosting will be Sunday August 1 to Sunday, August 8. St. Augustine, Prince of Peace, and Temple of Israel are the support congregations for Lakeview. Support congregations provide meals, transportation, and laundry assistance during the week that families are there.

How can volunteers help at the Barberton site? Volunteers are needed in various capacities: welcome host/hostesses each evening; help with laundry; help with setup at the site; donations of laundry soap and cleaning supplies, etc.

For more information please contact Bill/Anita Buskey 330-825-0037