



GIVING KIDS A HEAD START

For a child, summertime can be an exciting time away from school but it can also get quite boring. It is often said that kids can experience a “brain drain” during the summer due to the lack of engaging activities.

To combat the boredom, IPH created the Summer Youth Program aimed to keep kids active and safe. The program offers recreational activities, craft sessions, and educational field trips. To ensure that no kid goes hungry, every day ends with a healthy lunch. For some, the most exciting day of the program is Backpack Day, where backpacks full of school supplies are distributed for the upcoming school year.

This program is not successful without volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help run activities to keep the kids active. Activities in the past have included kick ball, face painting, cookie decorating, and soccer. It is a fun and meaningful experience for both the children and the volunteers.

ELIMINATING HUNGER WITH CONGREGATION BETH EMETH

It is no secret that there is a lack of access to nutritious food for those in low- income or homeless situations. Many of these communities are experiencing what is now known as “food deserts” in which there is little access to supermarkets, grocery stores, or farmers’ markets. One group is seeking to provide a solution to food deserts in Albany.



Congregation Beth Emeth started a volunteer garden called Diane’s Farm in which locally grown organic produce goes directly to organizations that feed the hungry. Fresh produce in a homeless shelter is hard to come by, and expensive when serving four meals a day. Being able to give our guests healthy, pesticide free, fresh vegetables means that our guests are full and satisfied with high quality, nutritious, locally grown, fresh, and tasty food that helps to take on daily challenges.

Diane’s Farm is run by volunteers. Lucky for us, Congregation Beth Emeth has invited us to work hands on in the garden with their volunteers. IPH is looking for volunteers who have a passion for gardening or just want to learn a few new skills. Indeed, no knowledge of gardening is needed. And what better way to support IPH than to bring fresh veggies and herbs to our tables, to help our guests stay healthy and focused?

TOP 6 WISH LIST ITEMS

This is a list of items we use every single day. Interested in having your group host a donation drive? Contact Adriana today.

LIQUID LAUNDRY DETERGENT

BLANKETS/SHEETS

DEODORANT

SILVERWARE

GROUND COFFEE/SUGAR

SPICES & SEASONINGS

UPCOMING...

JUN 30 Summer Youth Program begins

AUG 25 Stomp the Plate 7PM Tri-City ValleyCats Game

AUG 6 Breakfast Tour 8AM Albany Emergency Shelter

SEP 10 Breakfast Tour 8AM Albany Emergency Shelter

VOLUNTEERS HELP THROUGH BRUTAL WINTER

Most of Albany would agree that this winter was a particularly brutal one, but no one felt the weather quite as much as the homeless in our community. To ensure that everyone stayed safe this winter, IPH extended services to accommodate those left out in the cold.

Opening our Sheridan Hollow Drop-In Center as an overnight emergency shelter meant all hands on deck for our staff and volunteers as well as finding resources for food, clothing, and care.

Volunteers heard the call and came to our rescue bringing in a multitude of blankets, pillows, boots, and other supplies needed to run this operation. Feeding extra guests is costly but with the help of volunteers we were able to provide 38 meals in the first 30 days of this new initiative. Everything from tuna noodle casserole to St. Patty's day inspired stew came through our door daily to make sure our guests never went hungry.

Every donated meal and wish list item reaffirmed that we were doing the right thing. To know that we have the support of our volunteers made the extra challenges completely worthwhile and we cannot thank you enough!

BECAUSE OF YOU

With the help of volunteers, this winter we were able to provide...

Emergency Shelter to 151 people

58 DONATED MEALS
for our Emergency Shelter

38 DONATED MEALS
for our Extended Shelter Service

136 COATS

94 GLOVES

42 WINTER BOOTS

3,327 CLOTHING PANTRY ITEMS

VOLUNTEERS
268

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS
1,129.25

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Warren, Washington & Albany Counties Chapter of NYSARC, Inc. (WWAARC). Here at IPH we know that volunteers are the backbone of our organization and we have many who stand out due to their passion for service and their positivity.



One group that has been spreading joy through our organization is WWAARC. They have dedicated three days a week dropping off important donations to our Albany Emergency Shelter. Their reliability is a comfort for our guests who know that they will be bringing fresh produce, bread, and even some sweet treats.

The most anticipated day of the week is when WWAARC brings in our Trader Joe's flower donations. Both the flowers and the group's presence bring lots of smiles to the faces of both our staff and guests, and the positivity is contagious!

STOMP OUT HOMELESSNESS

The Stomp Out Homelessness game series brings youth groups, local businesses, and sports fans together in a fun and interactive way to fight homelessness. Enjoy local sporting events and dance the Cha Cha Slide at halftime in a symbolic effort to end homelessness.



Groups may purchase Game Day Packages that include admission to a designated game, official Stomp Out Homelessness t-shirt, food vouchers, promotional items, and more.

Stomp Out Homelessness 2014 game dates will be released soon. Contact Adriana to sign your group up or learn more!

CONTACT US

Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless (IPH)

Albany Emergency Shelter & Administrative Offices

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VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

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