



## Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati

*The Faith Community's Response to Family Homelessness*

### Congregations FAQ

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What can congregations do to help?

Interfaith Hospitality Network participating congregations provide overnight lodging, three meals per day, and volunteer help to house up to four families every night for a week, about four to six weeks per year.

What is a host congregation?

A host congregation provides the space, meals, and the bulk of the volunteer support for an Interfaith Hospitality Network hosting week.

What is a support congregation?

Support congregations work in conjunction with host congregations who need extra volunteer, meal, and monetary support.

How can I get an Interfaith Hospitality Network spokesperson to come to my congregation or service organization?

Please contact Beth Gottfried at [beth.gottfried@gmail.com](mailto:beth.gottfried@gmail.com)

What does a hosting week look like?

Several weeks before a hosting week, the Interfaith Hospitality Network Coordinator at the congregation will begin to round up volunteers for the upcoming week. There are all sorts of volunteer opportunities--in order to host Interfaith Hospitality Network for a week, volunteers are needed to prepare and serve meals, greet guests, stay overnight with the guests, do laundry after the host week, and plan and participate in activities with the guests. There are many opportunities for whole families in the congregation to volunteer; children in the program and children from the congregation often have a great time playing together and getting to know one another.

The host week runs from Sunday evening to the following Sunday morning. The Thursday before the host week, the coordinator will get a list of guests that will be staying with the congregation. The coordinator then can prepare the guest rooms, alert the meal preparation volunteers, and so on. From then on, the Interfaith Hospitality Network Coordinator makes



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sure that volunteers are at the congregation at all times, to greet the guests when they arrive around 5:30-6:30, to serve and eat dinner with the guests, to participate in any evening activities, and to be available during the night in case a rare emergency should happen in the night. The overnight volunteer also puts the families on the bus in the morning at 6:30am on weekdays, and 7:30 on weekends.

After the host week, the coordinator makes sure that volunteers are available to put the congregation's Interfaith Hospitality Network space "back to normal" and clean any linens used during the week.