

# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



## OUR MISSION:

SERVING FAMILIES AND PREGNANT WOMEN WHO ARE  
TEMPORARILY HOMELESS OR AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS BY  
PROVIDING RESOURCES IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE,  
STABILIZATION, AND PREVENTION.



United Way of the  
Greater Chippewa Valley

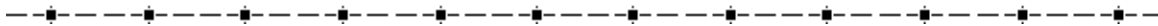


## Introduction

Eau Claire Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc. began serving area homeless families in 1995. Founded by a dedicated group of community members, the organization became a local affiliate of the National Interfaith Hospitality Network now known as Family Promise. The premise was churches hosting homeless families by providing meals and shelter each week. With the vision of providing more stability to families and especially the children, the staff, Board of Trustees, volunteers and concerned citizens established a permanent shelter, Beacon House, in 2001. 2010 saw the expansion of the agency again as a Transitional Housing duplex was opened providing safe, affordable housing for families, giving them extra time to become stable. The Eau Claire Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc. truly is a team effort requiring the combined talents of the staff, volunteers, congregations and Board of Trustees.

2013 saw the demand for services continuing to exceed our capacity as the agency turned away 585 individuals. The average length of stay decreased from 55 days in 2012 to 46 days in 2013. It was discovered that the adults were securing employment, mostly minimum wage service industry work. Many families struggled finding affordable housing as the vacancy rates are very low in Eau Claire, similar to the state and across the country.

ECIHN will continue to maximize its resources to provide quality services in 2013 through the use of volunteers as well as partnering with other agencies.



### **2013 Board of Trustees** (December 31, 2013)

Daniel Brandt, President  
Jerilyn Kinderman, Vice President  
Tom Gillett, Treasurer  
Penny Graham, Secretary  
Beverly Wickstrom  
Dana Smetana  
Ellen Higley  
Jen Conaway  
Katie Zook  
Paulette Magur

### **2013 Administrative Staff** (December 31, 2013)

Kelly Christianson, Executive Director  
Michelle Russell, Administrative Assistant

## 2013 Congregations

First Lutheran  
Grace Lutheran  
Immanuel Lutheran  
Lake Street UMC  
St. Olaf Catholic  
First Congregational UCC  
First Presbyterian  
Trinity Lutheran  
Sacred Heart of Jesus-St. Patrick's  
Faith Lutheran Mission

Immaculate Conception  
Newman Parish  
Peace Lutheran  
Hope Lutheran  
St. James the Greater  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
Christ Church Cathedral  
Hope United Methodist  
University Lutheran  
Saving Grace Lutheran

## 2013 Partners

LSS Women's Way  
Bolton Refuge House  
Catholic Charities  
Chippewa Valley Free Clinic  
City of E.C. Housing Authority  
Community Table  
E.C. Area School District  
E.C. County Dept. of Human Services  
& Job Center  
UW Extension  
Career Development Center-FSET Program  
Western Dairyland, EOC  
Family Resource Center  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
LSS-Positive Avenues  
Big Brothers Big Sisters

Workforce Resources  
E.C. County Housing Authority  
City/County Health Department  
Feed My People  
Goodwill Industries  
Stepping Stones Shelter - Menomonie  
Salvation Army  
Starting Points – Chippewa Falls  
University of WI-Eau Claire  
Boys & Girls Club  
St. Francis Food Pantry  
McKinley Charter School  
Aging and Disability Resource Center  
Hope Gospel Mission Bargain Center  
YMCA

## 2013 Financial Support

United Way of Greater Chippewa Valley  
City of Eau Claire  
FEMA-Emergency Food and Shelter Program  
Contributions  
    Individual  
    Church  
    Corporate  
    Groups/Organizations  
Eau Claire County  
Wisconsin Department of Administration-Bureau of Housing  
Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

# EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAM

With the incredible volunteer efforts of over 20 area faith based organizations, emergency shelter, meals, and hospitality are provided to families and single pregnant women for up to 30 days. Extensions beyond 30 days are granted if families are working on their goals and need extra time. Families are accepted from all counties although priority is given to current county residents and those showing a strong intent to remain in the area.

## Funding Sources

United Way of Greater Chippewa Valley  
Emergency Food and Shelter Program  
State of Wisconsin Department of Administration-Bureau of Housing  
Housing and Urban Development-HUD  
Donations

## Staff

### Case Managers (12/31/13)

*Ryan Graham*  
*Lisa Mercer*  
*Nancy Vang*  
*April Unterberger*

## During 2013

41 families received shelter  
57 adults received shelter  
78 children received shelter  
5,615 nights of shelter were provided at Beacon House  
7,872 volunteer hours were provided  
16,051 meals were served  
585 individuals turned away

## 2013 Targets and Outcomes

95% of families are accepted into the shelter within 48 hours of application.	<b>2013 Actual</b> <b>100%</b>
90% of eligible families stay at the shelter for up to 30 days until housing is in place.	<b>89%</b>

## Transition Program

The Transition Program assists families as they secure housing and employment through case management, rental assistance, and transportation assistance. Families review goals and accomplishments at least twice each week.

### Funding Sources

United Way of Greater Chippewa Valley  
Eau Claire County Department of Human Services  
State of Wisconsin Department of Administration-Bureau of Housing  
Housing and Urban Development-HUD  
Donations

### Staff

#### Case Managers (12/31/2013)

*Ryan Graham*  
*Lisa Mercer*  
*Nancy Vang*  
*April Unterberger*

### During 2013

Assisted families with 7 bus passes  
Assisted families with 58 gas vouchers  
137 bags of food were distributed  
25 families received rental assistance  
8 families received security deposit assistance  
22 rental application fees paid  
66 vouchers for clothing at Goodwill and Hope Gospel Mission store distributed  
19 families received donated furniture after securing housing  
12 adults pursued their GED/HSED

### 2013 Targets and Outcomes

70% of families will have stable housing after leaving ECIHN.  
70% of families will have stable employment after leaving ECIHN.

**2013 Actual**  
**84%**  
**83%**

## Support Program

The Support Program assists families for up to six months after they leave Beacon House. Case management, including home visits, is key to breaking the cycle of homelessness. Assistance in the areas of employment and transportation needs is also available.

### Funding Sources

United Way of Greater Chippewa Valley  
Eau Claire County Department of Human Services  
State of Wisconsin Department of Administration-Bureau of Housing  
Housing and Urban Development-HUD  
Donations

### Staff

Case Manager (12/31/2013)

*Amy Giani*

### During 2013

48 families were served  
158 individuals were served [60 adults and 98 children]  
6 families received public housing assistance  
274 gas vouchers were issued  
36 bus passes were issued  
22 families received assistance with employment needs  
150 families were sponsored at Christmas  
6 adults were assisted in continuing their education  
5 families received transitional housing through ECIHN

### 2013 Targets and Outcomes

	2013 Actual
60% of families remain in stable housing 6 months after leaving the shelter.	81%
60% of employable parents retain their employment 6 months after leaving the shelter	74%
70% of families in Transitional Housing will obtain permanent housing	75%

**Eau Claire Interfaith Hospitality Network, Inc.**

**309 E. Lake Street**

**P.O. Box 2063**

**Eau Claire, WI 54702-2063**

**(715) 834-4357**

**FAX (715) 834-1886**

**[ecihn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ecihn@sbcglobal.net)**

**Kelly S. Christianson, Executive Director**

**[www.beacon-house.org](http://www.beacon-house.org)**