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.
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.

The average length of stay at the Beacon House decreased from 46 days in 2013 to 37 days in 2014. This was mostly attributed to HUD’s commitment to Rapid Rehousing and making dollars available for security deposits and short term rental assistance. Families continue to find employment quickly but housing is often the biggest barrier. Household income is such that many families are paying 50% or more towards housing. Vacancy rates are low thus driving up the prices of apartments. Although 46 families received shelter, another 668 individuals were turned away due to lack of space.

ECIHN is looking forward to 2015 and a change in philosophy. Housing First will be the focus, essentially getting families into housing then wrapping services around them rather than the other way around.

We are thankful for the support of the Eau Claire community and will continue to maximize its resources to provide quality services in 2015 through the use of volunteers as well as partnering with other agencies.

2014 Board of Trustees
(December 31, 2014)

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2014 Administrative Staff
(December 31, 2014)

Kelly Christianson, Executive Director
Vacant, Administrative Assistant

2014 Congregations

First Lutheran  Immaculate Conception
Grace Lutheran  Newman Parish
Immanuel Lutheran  Peace Lutheran
Lake Street UMC  Hope Lutheran
St. Olaf Catholic  St. James the Greater
First Congregational UCC  Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
First Presbyterian  Christ Church Cathedral
Trinity Lutheran  Hope United Methodist
Sacred Heart of Jesus-St. Patrick’s  University Lutheran
Faith Lutheran Mission  Saving Grace Lutheran

2014 Partners

LSS Women’s Way  City/County Health Department
LSS Intensive in Home  Feed My People
LSS Positive Avenues  Goodwill Industries
Bolton Refuge House  Stepping Stones Shelter - Menomonie
Catholic Charities  Salvation Army
Chippewa Valley Free Clinic  University of WI-Eau Claire and Stout
City of E.C. Housing Authority  Boys & Girls Club
Community Table  St. Francis Food Pantry
E.C. Area School District  McKinley Charter School
E.C. County-Dept. of Human Services  Aging and Disability Resource Center
Job Center  Hope Gospel Mission Bargain Center
UW Extension  YMCA
Career Development Center-FSET Program  WestCap
Western Dairyland, EOC  Literacy Volunteers
Family Resource Center  Paws & Claws
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  Eau Claire County Probation & Parole
Big Brothers Big Sisters  Eau Claire Children’s Museum
Workforce Resources  King’s Closet
E.C. County Housing Authority  Sojourner House

2014 Financial Support

United Way of Greater Chippewa Valley  City of Eau Claire
FEMA-Emergency Food and Shelter Program  Eau Claire County
Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  Wisconsin Department of Administration-
Contributions  Bureau of Housing
  Individual
  Church
  Corporate
  Groups/Organizations
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 (12/31/14)
Ryan Graham
Lisa Wilson
Brenda Plahuta

During 2014

46 families received shelter
71 adults received shelter
88 children received shelter
6,015 nights of shelter were provided at Beacon House
6,741 volunteer hours were provided
16,717 meals were served
668 individuals turned away

2014 Targets and Outcomes

2014 Actual
95% of families are accepted into the shelter within 48 hours of application. 100%
90% of eligible families stay at the shelter for up to 30 days until housing is in place. 88%
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 (12/31/2014)  
*Ryan Graham*  
*Lisa Wilson*  
*Brenda Plahuta*

During 2014

- Assisted families with 52 bus passes/tokens  
- Assisted families with 63 gas vouchers  
- 151 bags of food were distributed  
- 21 families received rental assistance  
- 12 families received security deposit assistance  
- 20 rental application fees paid  
- 54 vouchers for clothing at Goodwill and Hope Gospel Mission store distributed  
- 20 families received donated furniture after securing housing  
- 11 adults pursued their GED/HSED  
- 36 educational info sessions provided

2014 Targets and Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>2014 Actual</th>
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<tr>
<td>70% of families will have stable housing after leaving ECIHN.</td>
<td>76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>70% of families will have stable employment/income after leaving ECIHN.</td>
<td>88%</td>
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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 (12/31/2014)**
*Amy Giani*

### During 2014
- 52 families were served
- 184 individuals were served [73 adults and 111 children]
- 14 families received public housing assistance
- 214 gas vouchers were issued
- 6 bus passes were issued
- 18 families received assistance with employment needs
- 92 families were sponsored at Christmas
- 5 adults were assisted in continuing their education
- **6 families received transitional housing through ECIHN**

### 2014 Targets and Outcomes

<table>
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<th>2014 Actual</th>
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<tr>
<td>60% of families remain in stable housing 6 months after leaving the shelter</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% of employable parents retain their employment 6 months after leaving the shelter</td>
<td>84%</td>
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<tr>
<td>70% of families in Transitional Housing will obtain permanent housing</td>
<td>100%</td>
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