

**Cohort Committee**  
**Addressing Homelessness**

Here in Ocean County we have a program called Interfaith Hospitality Network which is a nonprofit organization uniting the religious in Ocean County to provide shelter, meals, professional case management services and other assistance to homeless families.

This is where you can get involved and be a part of the solution. On a rotating basis, dinners are cooked, meals are shared, homework is done and encouragement and fellowship are lovingly given.

We here at Saint Mary of the Lake are one of the churches that provide shelter 5 weeks out of each year.

Homelessness is particularly devastating for children. Children who are homeless suffer more physical, psychological and emotional health problems than other children. These include stomach disorders, anxiety, depression, withdrawal, delayed development and behavioral problems. A major reason for these problems is because children are often separated from their parents when they become homeless. The children are often placed in foster care or with relatives or friends. This is where a program, such as Interfaith Hospitality Network of Ocean County, can help.

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Ocean County is part of a national organization called Family Promise. The Mission Statement for this Network is: The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Ocean County is a non-profit, interfaith ministry committed to providing shelter, meals and assistance to homeless families. Our well-trained volunteers reach out with compassion and acceptance, providing help, hope and a safe haven for our guests while they seek permanent employment and affordable housing. We increase community awareness and advocate responsible solutions to homelessness.

This is where WE can start to make a difference!  
TO BE CONTINUED...