

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

Interfaith Hospitality Network helps to keep families together during their time of homelessness and works to keep a stable environment for the children through the help of caring volunteers.

The families follow this routine (presented in the previous article) 7 days a week through their entire stay at IHN. The only reason the routine changes depends on the parent's work schedule, children's club or sports schedule or permission (granted by the Director) to attend a function.

### **Benefits for the Children**

- The children can remain with their parents during this homeless period. There is no need to uproot children since the churches provide a safe and secure home.
- Healthy meals are provided for the children each night.
- The children (especially the younger ones) enjoy being entertained by the volunteers.
- Volunteers help make the church feel like Home.
- Because the parents receive counseling in the area of parenting, job coaching and resources to help them find housing, the children benefit well after they leave the program.

The only way this works is through the help of volunteers who are asked to just give a few hours during a Host Week. This program keeps our Homeless children out of hotels and motels. It keeps the children safe and with their parents. To find out how you can help or volunteer at Saint Mary of the Lake please contact Pat Rainer at 732-300-8288 or email at [lanokaharbor@hotmail.com](mailto:lanokaharbor@hotmail.com)