

*RAIHN

RAIHN Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network 34 Meigs Street -- Rochester, NY 14607
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A Day in the Life of the RAIHN is comprised of three main components:

- The guests
- The volunteers from the Faith Communities
- The RAIHN management and Day Center

The National IHN has provided a very good overview brochure of what a "Day in the Life" of the guest families looks like. You can [VIEW](#) that brochure or [DOWNLOAD](#) a copy of it in MS-Word.

Homelessness is a HOUSING crisis. Families are referred to RAIHN from a number of social service agencies in our area (Monroe County). A family coming into the RAIHN program is pre-screened and sign a pledge to abide by the rules of the program before they are accepted into the IHN program.

A typical schedule for guests of the RAIHN program involves moving weekly from one host faith community to the next; typically spending four to six weeks in the IHN program while they seek new housing through the professional counseling the guest families receive from RAIHN and other agencies.

Each day starts with breakfast at the host facility, provided by the volunteers from the hosting or support organization. The guests then transported to a Day Center where they can receive their mail, meet the school buses, do their laundry, bathe/shower, and most importantly, receive counseling on jobs and housing.

At the end of their day, the guests return to the host faith community (a different hosting congregation each week), where they are provided with dinner and support (if needed) from the host volunteers. The evening hours are relaxation times, as they would be for any family. The day ends with a private place to lay their heads together as a family, under one roof.

Karen Olsen is the managing director of the National IHN and the "genesis" behind this initiative. She "choose" to be displaced. The IHN program provides temporary shelter and keeps families TOGETHER while they seek housing and employment. Each day, the guests from the host church go to a Day Center, where they receive counseling, housing assistance, and can take care of their personal needs such as laundry, mail, school pick-up. RAIHN van brings the families to the host churches. One church acts as a host for one week, four times per year. Once at the host church, the families are greeted by volunteers from the host church and other supporting churches. The guests receive dinner, fellowship, networking, and comfort. The guests then pack-up a lunch for the next day before retiring for the evening. Each Day in the Life of a RAIHN guest ends with quiet time and much-needed sleep for each family. Thanks to the RAIHN program, they're all sleeping in a safe, private place together.

The families are referred into the RAIHN program by a variety of social service agencies in the Rochester area. They are pre-screened by the referring agency and then again by the Director of the RAIHN organization. There are strict policies for accepting FAMILIES including no alcohol, no drugs, etc.