

Safe Harbor Annual Report

For the first time we hosted Safe Harbor in our own UUCGT building from Saturday, November 26 through Friday, December 2. Over 110 volunteers gave over 600 hours of their time to help our UU Congregation provide shelter, food and fellowship to an average of 28 guests who were experiencing homelessness over the seven nights. During the week we had 40 different guests, some of whom were here all seven nights and some for only one night. Several of our guests mentioned how much they appreciated how welcoming our volunteers were, how good the food was and the comfortable atmosphere in our facility.

Volunteers prepared and served over 250 dinners during the week, provided fellowship during the evening, stayed overnight with our guests, served breakfast and cleaned up every morning. In addition several volunteers helped with set up on the first Saturday and clean up on the last Saturday. Special thanks go out to five groups: the Jewish Congregation, the Grand Traverse Humanists, the Grand Traverse Area Pagans, the UU Men's Group and the Vocal Ensemble. Each of these groups provided the majority of the volunteers for an evening. Also a special thanks to Bernie Hanchett, Chris Innes and Joan Sheard who served with us on the planning Task Force for our Safe Harbor effort.

In addition UUCGT provided all (18) of the volunteers for Safe Harbor on Monday, April 3 at another church location. Our congregation's willingness to pitch in for another night enabled Safe Harbor to stay open one more week this Spring. Hopefully, this year's effort will prepare us to serve at the new Safe Harbor building downtown for a week during the next Safe Harbor season.

Mike and Sandra McDonald, Co-chairs