

# THE HOUSE OF PEACE

By John and Carrie Schuchardt

In 1990, the House of Peace, a therapeutic community founded by John and Carrie Schuchardt, opened its doors to victims of war. During the 18th century, Rogers' Manse at 1 High Street offered protection for the religiously persecuted, and hospitality for those seeking a "Great Awakening". For the past 26 years, that local spiritual history has provided a deeply meaningful setting for the welcome given by the House of Peace to hundreds of individuals from more than 30 countries who have fled war in need of the healing streams of community life.

As uncounted and unknown civilians suffer and die in the vast regions of current wars, a constant stream of families and children have received care, protection, strength of community, and warmth of love right here in Ipswich. Most of the refugees who find their way to the House of Peace are referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), various refugee resettlement agencies in Boston (Catholic Charities, International Institute, etc.), multiple area hospitals, and the Iraqi Children's Project. This last group sends children suffering from burns and other severe war injuries. Accompanied by a relative, they receive care at Boston hospitals, especially Shriners Burn Hospital, and eventually return to their country.

Numerous Ipswich High School students and adult members of the community have volunteered to assist in serving the multiple needs of these children and families. Such wonderfully generous helpers become part of the House of Peace, sharing a variety of activities, and participating in the life that is experienced within a community that includes adults with special needs, who are a vital part of offering special care to those who have fled war.

Just as Nathaniel Rogers of Rogers' Manse called for a moral awakening, so does the House of Peace community strive toward a new "culture of peace", uniting its efforts with groups such as the North Shore Coalition for Peace and Justice, Veterans for Peace, the New England Peace Pagoda, Fellowship of Reconciliation, and other groups that work both nationally and internationally. At the local level, the House of Peace is frequently asked to collaborate with church groups, schools, and other organizations to identify and access resources for those in need. All these efforts, surrounded as they are by the goodwill and sharing of so many Ipswich residents, provide an exciting and encouraging response to the critical needs of this world.



The House of Peace, Inc. is a 501(c)3 Massachusetts tax-exempt charitable and educational corporation supported by voluntary financial contributions, with the warm-hearted support of Ipswich schools, churches, and neighbors. A wide circle of people, from Ipswich and beyond, offer donations of food, furniture, clothing, money, and professional support, which has sustained the work of providing safety, sanctuary, and services to uprooted, traumatized members of our human family who have been driven from their homes and arrive in Ipswich seeking simply to survive.

JUNE 2016

# IPSWICH

N E I G H B O R S