

RACE OF GRACE 2008

Race Theme: Homelessness

The Race of Grace is a weekend-long event that will celebrate its 5th year in 2008. Every year, we select three recipient agencies located in the Raleigh District of the United Methodist Church that are focused on one particular need. This year the focus is on **homelessness**, and we made a deliberate effort to highlight the homeless that are often ignored: runaways, youth, victims of domestic violence, and families.

Events

The Race of Grace is the last weekend of April. The two-flight **golf tournament** kicks off the weekend on Friday, April 25, at Neuse Golf Club in Clayton. On Saturday, April 26, the 25 and 50 mile **bike ride** leaves Louisburg College and winds its way through scenic and serene Franklin County. Our cornerstone event occurring on Sunday April 27 is a family-friendly **5K walk/run** through downtown Raleigh. Each of these events has its own personality and each is so much fun. Please put these dates on your calendar!

2008 Race of Grace Recipients:

Haven House - A Place for Help, A Reason for Hope

Founded in 1973, Haven House is a private, non-profit agency that serves the urgent needs of young people in very difficult situations. Haven House provides loving shelter for runaway and homeless youth from ages 10 - 17. This is unique in that boys of this age are not able to accompany their mothers to women/children shelters and are too young for the men's shelters. Currently, there are over 1,500 homeless youth in Wake County alone. Haven House's programs prepare young people for independent living; they help youth become reengaged in learning; they help youth prepare for entering or re-entering the job market; they work with gang intervention; they counsel; and they help work out family issues.

Safe Space of Franklin County

One out of every four women in America are abused every year by husbands or partners. Domestic violence occurs among all ages, economic levels, and races. It's the single greatest cause of injury to women in America and can range from threats and intimidation to death. In the U.S., four women die each day as a result of this violence. Located in Louisburg, Safe Space Inc. had more than 2400 contacts, 778 new clients and helped 129 women and children find refuge at the local shelter in 2006. Remember, once a woman and children leave the home to escape the abuse, they are homeless!

Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network

The Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network (WIHN) is a ministry for families who are temporarily homeless. WIHN provides shelter, food, job search and money management training (if needed), and assistance in finding affordable housing. They are the only agency that serves complete families, regardless of the age of the children. Three or four times a year houses of worship host several families for a week at a time. They provide them with daily meals and the comfort and security of shelter in a loving environment. During the day, members of the families attend school or work or return to the WIHN Center to receive life-skills training and search for jobs. WIHN is also developing a program to house new mothers and their babies who have nowhere to go when they leave the hospital.