



## Volunteer View

When I joined Bound Brook Presbyterian Church, one of the first things I signed up for was to volunteer with the FISH Hospitality Program. I had volunteered at a similar program at my church in Cranford and knew the importance of having this type of program to serve homeless families. It is my way of putting my faith in action in a very real way. To paraphrase the Bible, whatever you do for any of my people, you do for me.

Each group, and therefore each experience, has varied every time my wife and I volunteer. We often take the later evening and overnight shifts. Sometimes there are many younger children present and we can give the parents a needed break by playing games or helping the kids with homework. Other times there are older teens or almost no children, just single women. Some guests are very independent and self sufficient. Other guests become a big extended family, watching each other's kids. Some guests keep to themselves, while others can be quite talkative and engaging. One evening there was a very spirited "debate" on who should be bounced from American Idol that night.

Over the years, we've met many different people in many different situations, which illustrates that homelessness can happen to anybody. When people ask me why I volunteer, one example I use is of a woman who was in the process of finishing her last months of nursing school to provide a better life for her and her teenage daughter, who now have a home to call their own. Another example is a family who relocated to our area for the father to have a better job opportunity, only to see him become a victim of downsizing. Without a support system of family or friends in the area, they were able to turn to FISH to help them become self sufficient again. These are just two of the stories of how the FISH Hospitality Program has brought hope and positive results to difficult situations. I'm proud to be even a small part of this process.

Keith Bellamy  
Bound Brook Presbyterian Church

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 10 - Children's Christmas Party**  
12:30pm Bound Brook Presbyterian Church, 409 Mountain Ave  
Bound Brook N.J. 08805
- December 11 - Festival of Carols 2:00pm**  
2:00pm Trinity Reformed Church  
401 Green Brook Road,  
North Plainfield N.J.  
FREE CONCERT and refreshments  
ALL are welcome - young and old -  
Come and enjoy some carol singing.
- January 17 - FISH Hospitality Program Annual Meeting 7:30 pm**  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
1500 Plainfield Ave,  
South Plainfield NJ  
EVERYONE WELCOME !!!
- February 7 - Coordinator's Meeting 7:30 pm**  
First Presbyterian Church  
218 Dunellen Ave., Dunellen NJ  
08812
- February 26 - FHP's Seventh Annual Concert 2:00 pm**  
Trinity Reformed Church  
401 Greenbrook Road,  
North Plainfield, NJ  
Tickets on sale January 4  
Call FHP office at 732-968-5957

## SERVICE STATISTICS

January 1, 2011 – September 30, 2011

Persons sheltered – 58  
Family units – 23  
Bed nights provided – 2,778  
Average stay (days) – 64  
Average daily census – 10.2

## SERVANT OF HOPE AWARDS 2011

### MARK HUDDALL

Mark's first mission 'experience' was in 1967 (or there about), when the youth group of a Methodist church in Pennsylvania went on a mission trip to work in a food bank in Richmond Virginia. The trip surprised the young teenager - learning that unlike him, some people don't know where their next meal will come from, or where they will sleep that night.

The experience in Richmond did not exactly ignite his activism, and throughout college and as Mark started a career and family, he did not attend church. Children Emily and Nathan thrived in school, and after moving to Bound Brook, Mark thought back on his experiences in the Methodist church and encouraged Nate to participate with his new friends in the Presbyterian youth group. Nate attended several mission trips to Appalachia, and just as his father's trip to Richmond, these trips changed his view of the world.

Mark started volunteering for the Hospitality program at the Bound Brook Presbyterian church in 2000. He recalls his first night sleeping over as a bit uncomfortable... the wooden beds encouraged staying awake and listening to rumblings from the heating system of the 100 year old building.

When the Presbyterian church was asked to rejoin FISH Hospitality, Mark served on the Board of Deacons and was pleased to find the church Session and congregation eager for the opportunity to help our neighbors find their way into apartments and homes of

their own. He has helped to coordinate the program for almost 10 years.

Mark explains that FISH is very kind to recognize him as a volunteer, but believes that co-coordinators and the congregation at Bound Brook Pres are responsible for building and sustaining their role in the Hospitality program. The Presbyterian Church gave him an opportunity to work with the Hospitality program, and find a way to support this inspiring and successful mission. Over the years, coordinators Diane, Tammy, Dave and Pat have built a commitment to FISH among our congregation. During his years of experience with FISH, Mark has had the privilege to meet brave families and beautiful children. Over those years; Susan, Christie, Emily, Frank and Kathy have set the bar high – showing him and all of us what it means to serve as we have been taught by Christ to serve. Mark thanks you for this honor, but more so – thanks you for the chance to join his church, FISH and all of you in helping so many families into homes of their own.

### BROCK HAUSSAMEN

Brock Haussamen grew up in New York City and attended Columbia College and Rutgers University. He was a professor of English at Raritan Valley Community College from 1968, when the College opened, until his retirement in 2006. In addition to FISH Hospitality, Brock volunteers with the United Way in Somerset County and assists low-income students at RVCC. He is a member of Somerset County Homeless Trust Fund Task Force that oversees a fee-based trust fund to support affordable housing in the county. He also advocates for reducing poverty in sub-Saharan Africa through ONE, the global anti-poverty advocacy group, and on Facebook.

Brock and his wife, Nancy Jordan, started as volunteers with FISH Hospitality about ten years ago. Brock joined the Board of Directors in 2004. For the last six years he has organized the FISH Hospitality winter benefit concert at Trinity Reformed Church. Brock recalls vividly one moment at a concert when one of the performers, a man who plays the long Swiss Alphorn, had to arrive after the concert began. When it was time for his performance, Brock, unsure whether he had arrived or not, arose to introduce him, turned to face the audience and saw, with a shock, a tall gentleman in full Swiss mountain dress, with leather shorts and mountain hat, striding down the aisle carrying a 12-foot long horn on his shoulder. His performance was wonderful and the resonance of this

traditional instrument, so long that one end rested on the floor, shook the rafters. Every concert has held delightful musical surprises.

Brock also chairs the FISH Hospitality Advocacy Initiative, which encourages communication with leaders in Trenton and Washington D.C. about homelessness and affordable housing legislation. All in all, Brock is grateful for the opportunities he has received from FISH's staff, volunteers, and guests to meet and assist people who need help with housing.

## **Wish List**

NEW pillows face cloths shampoo  
conditioner body wash Dove soap  
Gift cards from Sears, Target  
or grocery stores

You may leave these items at the FISH Office or any participating Congregation.

## **Meet New Jersey's Fair Share Housing Center**

The Fair Share Housing Center (FSHC) was founded in 1975 by a group of the litigants in the famous Mount Laurel case that established New Jersey's affordable housing law. Ever since, FSHC has been advancing and defending the Mount Laurel doctrine of fair housing. Based in Cherry Hill, FSHC has sought, in their words, to "end discriminatory or exclusionary housing patterns which have deprived the poor, particularly those presently living in inner cities, of the opportunity to reside near employment and educational opportunities." For more on the Fair Share Housing Center, visit their web site at [www.fairsharehousing.org](http://www.fairsharehousing.org).

The Center has been making news for challenging Governor Christie's efforts to dismantle the state's Council on Affordable Housing (COAH). Most recently, on October 21, in a case filed by FSHC, a New Jersey court ordered a halt to procedures that would have let the Christie administration temporarily take control of municipal compliance with affordable housing regulations. The court also accelerated a full hearing on the administration's plan to abolish COAH. We will be hearing more about FSHC's legal challenges on behalf of affordable housing in the months to come.

Brock Haussamen  
Chair FISH Hospitality Advocacy Initiative

## **How can I help?**

Monetary donations should be sent to:  
FISH Hospitality Program, Inc.  
P.O. Box 170  
Dunellen, NJ 08812

To volunteer with the program call 732-968-5957

*Seventh Annual  
Benefit Concert for FISH  
Hospitality Program  
Sunday February 26, 2012 at  
2:00 pm  
At Trinity Reformed Church  
401 Greenbrook Road  
North Plainfield, N.J. 07063  
Tickets \$15. in advance, \$18.  
at door  
Call FHP office for tickets  
732-968-5957*

Please pray for the well being and success of  
our guests

**DECEMBER 2011**

## **FISH Hospitality Program, Inc.**

A tri-county program for homeless women and families serving Middlesex, Union and Somerset Counties in New Jersey

Mailing Address: PO Box 170  
Dunellen, NJ 08812  
Union County: PO Box 5440  
Plainfield, NJ 07061  
Office: 456 New Market Rd.  
Piscataway, NJ  
Phone: 732-968-5957  
Fax: 732-968-2870

e-mail: [fishhospsw@aol.com](mailto:fishhospsw@aol.com)

web site: [www.fishhospitality.com](http://www.fishhospitality.com)

### **Board of Directors**

President	Robert J. Spencer
Treasurer	David Walter
Vice President	David W. Casterline
Secretary	Patricia Klatt
Members	Dorothy Blae, MSW
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	Sharon J. Hunt
	Emily Mlinarovich
	Kathryn J. Riss
	William Schultz

Exec. Director: Susan E. Baybutt, MSW, LSW,  
C-ASWCM

Thank you to **VERSATILE printing applications** of Bound Brook, NJ for their continued support of FHP by donating their services to print this newsletter.

## **PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS**

### **Host Congregations (night and/or day):**

Bound Brook Presbyterian Church - n  
Christ United Methodist Church, Piscataway - n  
First Baptist, Sewaren - n  
First Presbyterian, Avenel - n  
First Presbyterian, Dunellen - n  
Friends Quaker Meeting House, Plainfield – n  
Middlesex Bible Chapel – d  
New Beginnings Church of the Nazarene, Edison- n  
Rose of Sharon Community Church, Plainfield – n & d  
Second Reformed Church, New Brunswick – n  
St John the Evangelist R. C. Church, Dunellen - d  
St Paul's United Church of Christ, Milltown -n  
Trinity Episcopal, Woodbridge – n  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, East Brunswick - n  
Wesley United Methodist Church, S. Plainfield - d  
Woodbridge United Methodist Church - n

### **Buddy Congregations:**

New Dover United Methodist Church  
St Cecelia's R.C. Church, Iselin  
St James R.C. Church, Woodbridge

### **Support Congregations:**

Grace Alliance, Piscataway  
Our Lady of Fatima R.C. Church, Piscataway  
Our Lady of Mount Virgin R.C. Church, Middlesex  
Pilgrim Covenant, South Plainfield  
St Francis Cabrini R.C., Piscataway  
St Luke's R.C. Church, North Plainfield  
St Paul's Episcopal Church, Bound Brook  
The Rescue House of Prayer, S. Plainfield  
Trinity Reformed Church, N. Plainfield

Affiliate of Family Promise  
Affiliate of FISH, Inc. Dunellen, NJ  
Member of New Jersey Alliance for the Homeless

**A United Way Agency**

