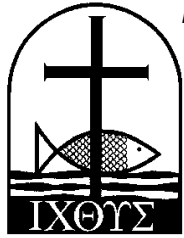


The mission of FISH Hospitality Program is to serve homeless women and families by providing shelter and meals, and such other assistance as we are able, in order to give them a new opportunity to live independently in their communities as respected families and individuals. FHP does assist and enable our guests to obtain housing, jobs, medical services and other assistance to which they are entitled, as far as resources allow. FHP serves people in need without regard to race, religion, national origin or disability.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 21 **Board of Directors Meeting**
7:30pm Wesley United Methodist Church 1500 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ
- October 12 **Coordinators Meeting**
7:30pm Rose of Sharon Community Church, 825 West 7th St., Plainfield, NJ
- November 7 **Volunteer Recognition Dinner**
4:00pm First Presbyterian Church 218 Dunellen Ave., Dunellen NJ
COME AND CELEBRATE FHP 20th ANNIVERSARY
- December 11 **Children's Christmas Party**
1:00pm Our Lady of Fatima Church 501 New Market Road, Piscataway, NJ
- December 12 **Festival of Carols**
2:00pm Trinity Reformed Church 401 Green Brook Road, North Plainfield, NJ

SERVICE STATISTICS

January 1, 2010 – June 30, 2010

Persons sheltered – 44
Family units - 23
Number of adults sheltered - 24
Number of children sheltered – 20
Bed nights provided – 1,812

VOLUNTEER VIEW

The first time I heard about the FISH organization was when I visited a friend, who was herself, a volunteer in the program. Coming from the Bronx, I had no idea there were organizations like it, but when I saw it in action I knew I wanted to help. But I wasn't quite ready to step out of my comfort zone on a personal level, so I started small with donations of food and monetary support.

But that changed when I became a Deacon at Bound Brook Presbyterian where I went from Deacon Liaison to our church coordinators to a full-fledged member of the coordinating team. It has been, and continues to be, a blessing to spend a few hours with our guests sharing a meal, some conversation, maybe a laugh or two or space on the couch to watch TV.

Our guests are just like you and me and I know it's a hard time for them to go through, so if I can make it just a little bit easier I'll continue to do what I can, like this time, and this is a first for me, I'm preparing a dinner. On Sunday morning when it's time for our guests to leave us for their next host church it's comforting to know that there are other volunteers to continue the support. Are you one of those volunteers? If not, consider stepping out of that comfort zone, you'll be glad you did.

Patricia Kelly
Bound Brook Presbyterian Church

GUEST'S FEEDBACK

"The volunteers were all nice. However there were some who interacted with us more than others."

"Some accommodations were very nice, and some were not as pleasant. However, I do believe every church tried to provide the best accommodations possible for them."

"We've had some excellent meals, and some awful ones. Overall the food was okay."

"I have never been in any other shelter programs. From what I've heard you can't ask for much more than what we receive at FISH Hospitality."

My First Few Days in the FISH Hospitality Program

"The program has taught me a lot. More than I could ever explain. The past two months have been the best and worse times of my life, but I wouldn't change it for the world. I'm glad to be moving on, but I'm thankful for all I've gained."

"Just keep on providing guests with the support they certainly need during harsh time."

"At some of the churches the floors, kitchens and bathrooms need to be cleaner."

"This program has helped me very much and not just with a roof and meals."

"Thank you with all of my heart. Your program has done so much for me that my own family has never done."

"This was nothing like a shelter -- good hospitality."

"Had to adjust to the moving otherwise the stay would have been excellent instead of good."

"The churches could be cleaner."

"The volunteers were very nice and understanding."

"This program is much better than other shelters."

"I had a very good experience. I learned a lot from this program."

GUEST SUCCESSES AND UPDATES

Stephanie and Azmeriah moved into a comfortable apartment of their own. She thanks everyone at FHP for their help

Raeshell and Juprell and their sons moved into a large apartment. They were very grateful for the help they received from all at FHP

Kenisha and Nasiar recently moved into their own apartment. She too was thankful for all the help she received.

Joan moved into her own rented room. She said FHP was a blessing to her when she needed it most.

Jonelle- who was in the program with her Mom (Sheryl) is soon to leave for college in Florida.

Mona gave birth to a daughter one month earlier than expected. Her name is Ariel Keyva and she weighed 6lbs 12 oz at birth.

Frank, who provides transportation for FISH Hospitality Program, picked me up at the train station because I had no way to get to the FISH office for a scheduled interview with Susan, who was just wonderful. After she explained the FISH Hospitality Program to me my fears disappeared and I was able to look forward towards the future. When I arrived at my new temporary FISH Hospitality church home I immediately felt welcomed. Everyone was kind and more than helpful.

I received tons of clothing, new sneakers, an appointment for new eyeglasses, and all the food anyone could eat. Not to mention free laundry money, transportation, counseling and so much more.

I think the FISH Hospitality Church Program is amazing and extremely generous.

God Bless Them !

A grateful FHP guest

HOW CAN I HELP ?

MONETARY DONATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO
FISH HOSPITALITY PROGRAM, INC.,
P.O. BOX 170 DUNELLEN NJ 08812
PLEASE PRAY FOR THE WELL BEING AND
SUCCESS OF OUR GUESTS
TO VOLUNTEER WITH THE PROGRAM CALL
732-968-5957

WISH LIST

women's and men's deodorant skin lotion
mouthwash conditioner body wash
fabric softener and dryer sheets

FISH HOSPITALITY ADVOCACY INITIATIVE (FHAI)

The FISH Hospitality Advocacy Initiative will meet on Monday, September 20, at 7:00 pm at Rose of Sharon Church in Plainfield. The address is 825 West 7th Street. Rose of Sharon is, as many of you know, a bustling and energetic church, and FHAI appreciates the opportunity to meet there. At our meeting, we will get an update on Family Promise's "A Place to Call Home" national campaign and will write some letters on that and other issues that are pressing at that time. Please don't hesitate to call or write Brock Haussamen at haussamenb@yahoo.com and 908-963-9729 if you have questions about the meeting or about the Advocacy Initiative.

FISH Hospitality Program Celebrates its 20th Anniversary

Confronted by the needs of homeless families in the area served by FISH Inc. a small core group of committed people got together with a determination to make a difference. They rolled up their sleeves and began the hard work of effecting real change—of marshalling resources and motivating support in the church community of our area. That in a nutshell is the genesis of the FISH Hospitality Program.

As we celebrate our 20th anniversary it would seem appropriate to remind our community of the wonderful work that the FISH Hospitality Program has done to help those in need.

Of equal importance is a resounding "thank you" to the hundreds and I dare say thousands of selfless dedicated volunteers who over the last twenty years have donated their time and expertise. They represent the thirty seven church communities who have participated in FISH Hospitality Program since 1990.

Also the myriads of generous benefactors comprised of foundations, local and beyond; individuals who freely share their good fortunes, and others whose giving

represent real sacrifice. They are all to be commended for their compassionate awareness of those less fortunate. Our communities, nation and our world society have undergone many changes in the past twenty years and FHP has adapted to meet the cultural and economic changes affecting our tri-county area. We work closely with many private and government agencies to provide the best possible assistance in helping our guests return as productive members of our communities. Since that cold February of 1990 when we provided hospitality to our first family we have hosted 631 families.

Dear friends of FHP, as we travel through life we find that the road we follow is never empty and our journey never solitary. Along the way we meet people who care for us, inspire us and lead us closer to God. They are our family, friends, teachers and religious leaders. Combined they guide us, console us and provide for our physical and spiritual needs. We in turn do the same for others—that's what FISH Hospitality Program is all about.

Come join us on November 7, 2010 as we celebrate our twentieth anniversary at our annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner at the First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen. Call FHP office - 732-968-5957- to make a reservation.

*Bob Spencer
President, Board of Directors*

THANK YOU TO...

The Junior Girl Scout Troop # 65133 from North Plainfield for preparing and serving dinner to our guests while at Friends Meeting

The Girl Scout Troop #80567 from Piscataway who prepared and served dinner to our guests while at Christ United Methodist Church. They also gave the guests care bags.

SEPTEMBER 2010

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
web site: www.fishhospitality.com

Board of Directors

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Vice President	David W. Casterline
Secretary	Patricia Klatt
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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 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 John the Evangelist R. C. Church, Dunellen
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

