

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

- June 30** FISH Hospitality Advocacy Initiative
7:00pm Rose of Sharon Community Church, 825 West 7th Street, Plainfield NJ
- Sept 1** Coordinators Meeting 7:30 pm Trinity Reformed Church, 401 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, NJ
- Sept 15** Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 pm Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ

THANK YOU TO...

The following scouts for preparing and serving dinner to our guests:

Girl Scout Troops # 80424 Piscataway, # 81800 Kendall Park, Boy Scout Troop # 5 Plainfield.

Special thanks go to Girl Scout Troop # 80424 Piscataway and their leaders Linda Vogel and Beth Ann Boff for purchasing and setting up at our day facility a wonderful Children's Resource Centre and for planting the beautiful flowers at the day facility. Great job!

All the wonderful volunteers who helped at the annual Flea Market and Yard Sale. Thank you also to those who donated items to the FHP tables.

"Keep Christ in your heart and you will recognize His Face in every person." - Pope John Paul II

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." - Sir Winston Churchill

VOLUNTEER VIEW

The New Dover UMC is in their third year of partnering with the Dunellen Presbyterian Church. We volunteer three nights during the week that Dunellen is the host church. Partnering with Dunellen has been one the most rewarding things that I have done. I have met so many new people including both the guests and volunteers. Emily is one person that I am so blessed to have met. She works so hard and always has the guest's best interest at heart. It seems like no matter what she is asked to do she does willingly and with a smile on her face. She makes all feel welcome with her warm smile. I am also the coordinator for our church and Emily always calls me the week prior to our serving to let me know if there are special needs for our week's guests to ensure that all get what they need. She reminds us of guest's birthdays so we can have a celebration with them. It is great to have cake and join in the celebration. We always try to bring a gift for their special occasions or at Christmas to let all of the guests know that they are important and loved.

I remember the first week that we served at FISH Hospitality. I was both excited and a little anxious to be there. On the Thursday night, which was our last night of the week, I was getting ready to go home and I was saying my good byes to the guests. When I got to one of the woman she told me that she would not see me the next time and I was at first confused. Where would she be? Then the light bulb came on just as she told me that she had found an apartment and would be moving into it on Saturday. I was moved to tears to see she had found a home. FISH Hospitality performs a huge service to those that are in need and I hope to be serving here for many years to come.

Paulette Harland

SERVICE STATISTICS

January 1, 2009 – April 30, 2009

Persons sheltered – 28
Family units – 16
Number of adults sheltered – 17
Number of children sheltered – 11
Bed nights provided – 1235

GUEST SUCCESSES

Dear Susan and Everyone involved with FISH Hospitality, Inc.

I just wanted to say a few words to thank you all for everything you did for me and for everyone who passes through.

Losing a job and home is an extremely stressful and devastating situation. You are an extraordinary group of people that makes things easier.

The moving of everyone's beds and belongings weekly is a remarkable feat in itself.

I learned so much by talking to you about resources available, budgeting, and in weekly meetings. Through driving in the van I also found new roads and shortcuts I hadn't known about.

I am currently working two part-time jobs with no benefits and am seeking one good data entry job with benefits.

I hope in some way I will be able to repay your kindness. I think of you often.

God Bless You,
Mary Anne

Dear FISH Hospitality Program,

I am writing this letter to thank all volunteers and staff at FISH Hospitality for all your help. Thank you Susan, Emily and Frank for all your unfailing support and compassion that you showed to myself and family in our time of need.

Thank you to all the volunteers from the churches of which we were guests. While commuting from church to church all the volunteers made us feel welcome and comfortable. Everyone went above and beyond to make sure we had what we needed during the course of our stay.

Thanks to all at FISH Hospitality. My family and I have been able to get back on our feet and take the steps toward being self sufficient again.

We could never say enough "thank you's" that would convey how heartfelt they really are. God bless all of you and continue to do all that you do. You are greatly needed and appreciated.

Love, Erika, Heaven and Jady

Fourth Annual Concert A Success

On Sunday, February 22, concert-goers visited Trinity Reformed Church in North Plainfield for an afternoon of music ranging from church choirs to jazz, all in support of FISH Hospitality Program. This was the fourth such concert and it is always enjoyable and filled with musical surprises. The concert was coordinated by Brock Haussamen who serves on the FISH Hospitality Board of Directors, and Joan Beil, Ministry of Music, Trinity Reformed Church. Trinity's Rev. David Taylor extended his enthusiastic greetings to the guests.

Our thanks go out to not only those who came to listen but also to those who came to play, sing and help out. Darren McCann's choir from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Bound Brook led off with beautiful liturgical music. Then the music turned to soothing jazz guitar and vocal with Larry Barbee and Christy Colato. Next, the Reverend Jack Zamboni, vicar at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Dunellen, a splendid operatic tenor and dressed in his formal tuxedo, sang songs from the *Mikado*, *South Pacific* and *La Boheme*. Then the host choir from Trinity Church, under Joan Beil, who accompanied on both piano and organ, sang. Next up the aisle came Ted Schlosberg with a twelve-foot long Swiss alphorn over his shoulder. Ted described the incredibly powerful and sonorous instrument and treated us to several numbers. Finally, Don Zolkowsky and others from the church provided some surprise gifts and delicious refreshments to everyone.

Thanks to all at Trinity Reformed Church for their hospitality, to all the performers for their time and beauty of their music, and to the audience for attendance and support of FISH Hospitality Program.

WISH LIST

**LAUNDRY DETERGENT FABRIC SOFTNER
DRYER SHEETS MOUTH WASH
PLASTIC SHOWER CAPS BABY POWDER
BODY WASH SKIN LOTION
PLASTIC LAUNDRY BAGS WITH ZIPPERS**

You may leave these at the FISH Hospitality Office or at a Host Church

FISH Hospitality Advocacy Initiative

Members of the FISH Hospitality Advocacy Initiative met on April 19 at Bound Brook Presbyterian Church for a session of writing letters and e-mails to their legislators in support of a fairer housing market in New Jersey. To guide us, Melissa Bellamy explained current housing legislation in Trenton and Washington D.C. and members used that information in their written comments to their representatives.

This contact with legislators is a supporting voice for so many homeless and at-risk families in the tri-county area. FISH Hospitality advocates speak up for fair housing choices that the homeless, struggling day to day, can't speak up for themselves.

Please come join us for another letter-writing session on Tuesday, June 30, at 7:00 pm at Rose of Sharon Church in Plainfield. Contact Brock Haussamen at haussamenb@yahoo.com or 908-063-9729 if you have any questions.

Quotes from our guests

"The FISH program always made you feel like you were part of a family. With all the caring and support you received from them and the churches."

"I would rate the FISH Program as being an excellent program except for the weekly moving."

"The volunteers were very nice people."

"The people at the host churches accommodated everyone's personal eating habits and choices were available."

"The volunteers were very kind, considerate and caring. Some went out of their way to accommodate us."

"Moving didn't bother me because I like change."

"Some churches were excellent, some were poor, some were good."

"I have and would recommend this program to anyone. You should have a TV commercial. God bless and thank you FISH Hospitality for rescuing me."

"Words can't describe how you saved my life and brought new meaning and outlook on my life thank you again FISH Hospitality."

"Special thanks to all the hosts for caring and taking time out to open your doors for me and others. I will never forget you."

"Thank you FISH Hospitality for everything I couldn't have done it without you."

A Poem **by Frank the Van Driver**

I have a phone,
It's called a cell,
It makes my life
A living hell

When I drive,
And get calls from Susan,
The traffic... the instructions...
It sure gets confusin'

When in New Brunswick,
Home of Rutgers U,
The cell phone rings
I say, "Boo-Hoo"

When in Dunellen,
And Emily calls,
I'd like to throw it
Off Niagara Falls

Yes, I have a phone,
It's called a cell,
Maybe we could trade it
For a church bell!

JUNE 2009
FISH Hospitality Program, Inc.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. STANDARD
MAIL
DUNELLEN, NJ
PERMIT NO. 24

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

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

Board of Directors

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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
St Paul's United Church of Christ, Milltown - n
Trinity Episcopal, Woodbridge - n
Trinity Presbyterian Church, East Brunswick - n
Trinity Reformed N. Plainfield - 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