

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

- Mar 15 **FHP Board of Director' Meeting/Annual Meeting** 7:30 pm at Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield N.J. 07080
- May 10 **Coordinator's Meeting** 7:30 pm at Bound Brook Presbyterian Church, 409 Mountain Avenue, Bound Brook N.J. 08805
- May 21 **Annual Yard Sale/Flea Market** 8:30 am until 3:00 pm Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church, 600 Harris Avenue, Middlesex, NJ 08846 Rain date May 28

## SERVICE STATISTICS

January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010

Persons sheltered -	75
Family Units -	34
Number of women -	34
Number of men -	2
Number of children -	39
Bed nights provided -	3,759
Average stay in program-	55 days
Average daily census	10.2

In 2010 we received 651 calls for shelter which was a 7% increase over the previous year.

We have been fairly consistent over the years in the number of people we serve. In 1990, which was the first year of the program, we served 73 guests which was 34 family units, of these 35 were women, 2 men and 36 children. In 2000, we served 73 guests which was 30 family units of these 30 were women, 2 men and 41 children.

## Volunteer View

Several years ago a friend asked me to serve on the Board of Directors for the FISH Hospitality Program. At that time I had never heard of the FISH Hospitality Program, and had no clue as to its purpose.

I began attending the quarterly meetings on a regular basis and made small financial donations when I could. I supported their activities, but for the most part, my involvement was limited to attendance at the board meetings. That became my role for several years. About two years ago, Susan mentioned that the office could use some help. So, I decided to volunteer one afternoon a week. Mainly, I answer the telephone, complete a profile on the caller, and then pass the caller on to Susan.

Well, I must tell you, my eyes were opened. I answer a number of calls from all kinds of people in all kinds of different situations, all of them difficult. I began to understand just how FISH Hospitality Program impacts the lives of others. Being able to provide beds to a family, or to a mother or a father with children can be a difficult task to accomplish, and a great deal of effort is made to help as many as possible.

Many times when I answer a call, I can hear the desperation in their voice. I always hope that we are going to be able to provide a bed to the caller. Oft times we cannot help because space is not available.

All of us should be aware of how fortunate we are to enjoy the basic needs. We should not take things for granted. I am reminded of that so often when I have the occasion to interact with some of our guests. And when I see some of them or talk with them, I get a tremendous feeling of gratification when I know we have helped them. It's like you feel you have helped them get their lives back on track. I feel good about the time I give. I only wish I could do more.

Marjorie Hall  
Board of Directors

*Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility and patience.*

Colossians 3:12

## FISH Hospitality Program Honored by Piscataway Township Council

On October 12, 2010 FISH Hospitality Program was honored by the Piscataway Township Council for 20 years of service to the community. On behalf of all at FISH Hospitality Program board member Brock Haussamen accepted the award. The plaque reads:

WHEREAS, The FISH Hospitality Program is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of providing housing to the poor in the Township of Piscataway and surrounding communities and beyond; and

WHEREAS, countless men and women have selflessly given of their time to staff and administer the FISH Hospitality Program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Piscataway, hereby extends its heartfelt thanks to THE FISH HOSPITALITY PROGRAM for its work of providing housing to the poor in our area, and applauds the volunteerism of each individual who has in the past and/or is currently a volunteer at THE FISH HOSPITALITY PROGRAM

Thank you to Piscataway Township Council for this honor.

## Wish List

women's deodorant    disposable razors  
NEW pillows    gift cards to grocery store, mouthwash  
shampoo and conditioner  
You may leave these items at the FISH Office or any participating congregation.

## THANK YOU TO...

*Our Lady of Fatima Parish and Father Paul DeSilva for hosting the FHP Annual Children's Christmas Party. Special thanks to Lynn Hernandez and her team of volunteers for making this such a special event for our families.*

*Thank you also to Kathy Steiner for her help with this event and to all the wonderful organizations who donated items.*

## Guest Successes

*Jean moved into her own rented room.*

*Yonnetta, Chris and Chantel moved into their own apartment.*

*Felita, Aures and Vibert moved into their own apartment.*

*Ebony, Cheyenne and Eben moved into a house that they share with a friend.*

*Begelene, Gewell and Gianna moved into a transitional housing apartment.*

## FISH HOSPITALITY PROGRAM, INC. YARD SALE / FLEA MARKET

**Saturday May 21 at Our Lady of Mount Virgin  
R.C. Church - School Yard  
600 Harris Ave, Middlesex, N.J. 08846  
8:30am until 3:00pm  
(rain date Saturday May 28)**

### CALLING ALL VENDORS AND VOLUNTEERS

**Table Space is \$20.00 each Van Space \$25.00 each  
(Vendors arrive 7:45 am)**

**Donations for the FHP tables can be delivered to  
the school on Friday, May 20, 4:00pm to 6:30pm  
Volunteers are needed to set-up and clean-up  
also to sell items at FHP table.**

**Please call the FHP office (732-968-5957) to tell us  
how YOU will help in this fund-raising event.**

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE FROM  
PREVIOUS YEARS**

## GUEST'S FEEDBACK

*"The volunteers are so very kind hearted and nice."*

*"The staff and volunteers were wonderful."*

*"The volunteers were very, very good dealing with my son's lactose issue."*

*"All of the staff and volunteers give so much of themselves so that myself and children are well fed and clothed. What more can you ask for. My recommendation is keep up the good work."*

*"I was very comfortable in most of the churches."*

*"The volunteers were pleasant and helpful."*

*"Moving each week wasn't a hard process."*

*"The volunteers were very good to me and my kids."*

*"I enjoyed the meals."*

*"Susan helped me very much when I was in need of help."*

*"Emily is a great person and I couldn't have saved any money without her."*

*"Susan did so much for me I am very glad I had her in my life. Emily was very good to me. Frank is a very caring person. Thank you very much FISH for coming into my life. You have changed me so much to do better for my family."*

*"The volunteers are caring and really wanting the guests to feel as much at home as is possible."*

*"My Lord, it's so uplifting to eat so well."*

*"In comparison to other shelters there is no comparison. The program is excellent."*

## *Moving Mountains*

Family Promise

11<sup>th</sup> National Conference

September 23-25, 2011

Salt Lake City, UT

For more information call

908-273-1100 Ext. 20

### **Where Do I Even Begin ?**

I thank God for laying it on someone's heart to even begin this program. I started FISH Hospitality with a history of a broken marriage and as an active veteran who got fired for the first time in my life with two little children, a one year old son and a two year old little girl. I was a financial, emotional and psychological wreck. I moved in with a friend and things did not work

out so I had two weeks to find something safe and stable for my children and myself. And note I had no money.

I went to social services, I tried other shelters, I tried all the resources that I knew. I then came across FISH Hospitality Program. So I was taken into the program with my children. I had no money, no personal transportation, no food or clothes. I was so embarrassed and ashamed having to go so low for the safety of my children and myself.

My main focus was to get a job, save up enough money and get back on my own. Little did I know that FISH Hospitality was here to help me and support me mentally and financially a hundred percent.

The program helped me in so many ways. Everything was provided for me and my children. We only had the clothes on our backs and Emily took us to get clothes. We not only got more than enough clothes but every piece was surprisingly name brand and lightly worn or just straight brand new. I was assisted with job opportunities, day care and speech therapy for my daughter. I was a little disappointed at not being out of the program as fast as I wanted but this program comforted and consoled us every step of the way and made our journey as pleasant and comfortable as possible until we were out on our own. We were in the program for my daughters third birthday. It was a phenomenal birthday for her, one of the best she had. There were times when I was in a difficult emotional and mental state of mind. Susan was right there to help me and help me stay focused and mentored me every step of the way. And believe me the journey was not easy. But let me tell you, patience is a virtue. At the end of it all we are now in our own affordable apartment which is fully furnished and we have much more than my kids and I have been blessed with. I would like to give a special thank you to Susan for helping me stay focused on the more important things in life and teaching me to handle my situations and emotions a lot better. I also really want to thank the volunteers for having a passion for helping others. They will never be forgotten.

### **A very grateful guest**

*Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

**Romans 12:9-13**

**MARCH 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
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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 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**