

**SEPTEMBER 2011**

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

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

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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

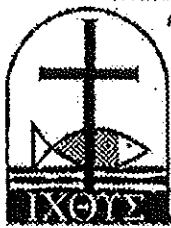
### **Support Congregations:**

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**

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 20 - Board of Directors Meeting**  
7:30 pm Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield N.J. 07080
- October 11 - Coordinators Meeting**  
7:30 pm New Beginnings Church of the Nazarene 80 Jefferson Blvd. Edison, N.J. 08817
- November 6 - Volunteer Recognition Dinner**  
4:00pm First Presbyterian Church 218 Dunellen Ave., Dunellen N.J.
- 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 Trinity Reformed Church 401 Green Brook Road, North Plainfield N.J. Family program, no charge and no tickets needed. Come and enjoy some carol singing.

## SERVICE STATISTICS

January 1, 2011 - June 30, 2011

Persons sheltered - 45  
Family units - 18  
Number of adults sheltered - 21  
Number of children sheltered - 24  
Bednights provided - 1,900

## Volunteer View

### A SERVANT'S HEART

Serving others and helping those in need has been a passion of mine throughout my walk with the Lord. I truly fulfill my day when I am able to give someone a drink to someone who is thirsty, buy a neighbor groceries who has just lost their job, or give a hug to someone who is going through hard times. So, for myself not only being a part of the FISH Hospitality ministry at New Beginnings, but also a volunteer has been a satisfying journey. I cherish the moments of sharing a meal, celebrating birthdays and some holidays, playing with the children, or just putting a smile on someone's face.

As I reflect on the words Jesus spoke in Mark 10:45, "For ever the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and give his Life as a ransom for many." When we serve others, we are taking on the very character of our Lord Jesus.

Let's open our hearts to serving the FISH Hospitality Program by either donating or giving of your time to volunteer. By doing so we can change a life and also please our Lord. Let's keep a Servant's Heart! Start today.

God Bless,  
Christine Funkhouser

I want to thank my family at New Beginnings Church of the Nazarene for their time and generous support of this program and may God continue to bless this ministry.

## Wish List

skin lotion mouthwash shampoo  
conditioner body wash

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

### Guest Successes

Mary Ellen and Lydia are settled into their own apartment and now have their dog back with them.

Melika and Saayah moved into a transitional housing apartment. She says she has settled in nicely.

Tia and her children also moved into a transitional housing apartment. She is happy to have a place of her own.

*Michael and his children moved into their own apartment.*

## FROM A FORMER GUEST

The day I entered the Fish Hospitality program, I was so stressed. I remember talking with Susan the day before about coming into the program. I actually called her and I was crying and the only thing I could say was "Susan I'm tired". She had already explained what the program offered prior to this, however I was still feeling scared and nervous about staying in different churches every week. I soon found out it was actually the best place for us to be. We arrived at the Fish building to load our things onto the van and also meet with Susan to get toiletries that we would need. Susan was very calm and easy going. Just by being in her presence, she made me feel like everything was going to be okay. And it was at that moment that I felt a weight lift off my shoulders. On the first ride to the church, where we would be staying, I realized there was someone I knew on the van. Someone I went to high school with. He was there with his wife. Seeing a familiar face was the beginning of realizing, I wasn't the only one with this issue. Even though I knew that, but to have a visual gave me a different type of acknowledgement. We arrived at the first church and it just so happen that this church was actually down the street from my job. How ironic is that. The people there immediately helped us get comfortable. They also prepared dinner for us. My daughter and I were able to quickly adjust. Throughout my time in the Fish Hospitality Program, we were required to start and maintain a strict budget, have one on one sessions with Susan once a week, maintain daily journals and attend weekly group meetings. The program also provides transportation if you have a job or if you're looking for one. These tools were put into place to help us make the necessary changes and become more responsible. I've never been one to hold on to my receipts after a purchase unless I knew there was a strong possibility I would be returning the item. In this program they taught us a guaranteed way of keeping track of your finances. At first this was a challenge to transition into, however after a few weeks went by it became routine. I've always been a writer. It's a form of therapy for me. So for us to keep a journal was a great tool at releasing my thoughts and understanding exactly how I ended up in this situation. Keeping this journal also helped me identify other childhood memories that I had suppressed for so many years. I can say that this was a great tool because it helped me figure out the real cause of why I was so reckless and irresponsible. Within our group meetings this was also the time to maybe share something that may have been bothering you. I used that time to express some of the pain I was actually feeling based on current and past situations. Unfortunately, I lost my home and my car in a near fatal accident, but the one thing I still had throughout it all was not only my life, but my daughter's life, my faith in God and the opportunity to move forward making better decisions for us. I stayed in the Fish Hospitality program for 40 days and 40 nights. This to me is biblical! My faith in God has been restored! Overall, my experience with the Fish Hospitality program was humbling. To be exposed to a program that offers help to people of all races and different struggles is a blessing within itself. The program helped me learn to deal with my emotions better. Actually to face whatever the problem is and deal with it head on. I also learned how to be more responsible with making sure I never put my daughter in this situation again. She depends on me

and I have to depend on me. Therefore it is my responsibility to do whatever is right for her and what will always benefit her in a positive and stable way. I will forever be grateful to the FISH Hospitality program for all they were able to provide for us! Thank you~Thank you~Thank you~!

A former guest

## Contacting your Representatives in Washington and Trenton

If the economic turmoil in New Jersey and the nation makes you want to sound off to political leaders about the impact on homeless families, this contact information for letters, e-mails, and phone calls will help. Remember that there are two sets of political districts, a state legislative district with one state Senator and two Assembly members, and a Congressional district represented in Washington by one member of the House of Representatives (in addition to the two Senators for the whole state). Names of towns here will guide you to the two districts you live in.  
In Washington D.C.

E-mails to the President and members of Congress must be sent to their web sites.

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
(Please include your e-mail address)  
202-456-1111 [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

Senator Robert Menendez  
One Gateway Center, 11<sup>th</sup> floor, Newark, NJ 07102  
856-757-5353 [www.menendez.senate.gov](http://www.menendez.senate.gov)

Senator Frank Lautenberg  
One Gateway Center, First Floor, Newark, NJ 07102  
973-639-8700 [www.lautenberg.senate.gov](http://www.lautenberg.senate.gov)

Congressman Frank Pallone, 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
67/69 Church St., Kilmer Square, New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
732-249-8892 [www.pallone.house.gov](http://www.pallone.house.gov)

Congressman Leonard Lance, 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
425 North Avenue East, Westfield, NJ 07090  
908-518-7733 [www.lance.house.gov](http://www.lance.house.gov)

Congressman Donald Payne, 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
333 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07208  
908-629-0222 [www.payne.house.gov](http://www.payne.house.gov)

Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
30 Schuyler Place, Second Floor, Morristown, NJ 07960  
973-984-0711 [www.frelinghuysen.house.gov](http://www.frelinghuysen.house.gov)

Congressman Rush Holt, 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
1250 Washington Road, West Windsor, NJ 08550  
609-750-9365 [www.holt.house.gov](http://www.holt.house.gov)

### In Trenton

Governor Chris Christie  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
609-292-6000 Send e-mail at [www.state.nj.us/governor](http://www.state.nj.us/governor)

District 16—MORRIS: Mendham Borough. SOMERSET: Bedminster, Bernards, Bernardsville, Bound Brook, Branchburg, Bridgewater, Far Hills, Hillsborough, Manville, Millstone Borough, Montgomery, Peapack-Gladstone, Raritan Borough, Rocky Hill, Somerville, South Bound Brook

Senator Christopher "Kip" Bateman  
36 East Main Street, Somerville, NJ 08876-2308  
908-526-3600 [senbateman@njleg.org](mailto:senbateman@njleg.org)

Assemblyman Peter J. Biondi  
1 East High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876-2302  
908-252-0800 asmbiondi@njleg.org

Assemblywoman Denise M. Coyle  
25 Mountainview Boulevard, Suite 208, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920-3453  
908-604-2372 aswcoyle@njleg.org

District 17—MIDDLESEX: Highland Park, Milltown, New Brunswick, North Brunswick, Piscataway. SOMERSET: Franklin

Senator Bob Smith  
216 Stelton Road, Suite E-5, Piscataway, NJ 08854-3284  
732-752-0770 senbsmith@njleg.org

Assemblyman Upendra J. Chivukula  
888 Easton Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873  
732-247-3999 asmchivukula@njleg.org

Assemblyman Joseph V. Egan  
100 Bayard Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
732-249-4550 asmegan@njleg.org

District 18—MIDDLESEX: East Brunswick, Edison, Helmetta, Metuchen, South Plainfield, South River, Spotswood

Senator Barbara Buono  
2 Lincoln Highway, Suite 401, Edison, NJ 08820  
732-205-1372 senbuono@njleg.org

Assemblyman Peter J. Barnes, III  
3 Stephenville Parkway, Suite 2E, Edison, NJ 08820-3061  
732-548-1406 asmbarnes@njleg.org

Assemblyman Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr.  
908 Oak Tree Avenue, Unit P, South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
908-757-1677 asmdiegnan@njleg.org

District 19—MIDDLESEX: Carteret, Perth Amboy, Sayreville, South Amboy, Woodbridge

Senator Joseph F. Vitale  
569 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ 07095  
732-855-7441 senvitale@njleg

Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski  
132 Main Street, Suite A, Sayreville, NJ 08872  
732-432-8460 asmwisniewski@njleg.org

Assemblyman Craig J. Coughlin  
569 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ 07095  
732-855-7441 asmcoughlin@njleg.org

District 20—UNION: Elizabeth, Kenilworth, Roselle, Union

Senator Raymond J. Lesniak  
985 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, NJ 07083  
908-624-0880 senlesniak@njleg.org

Assemblywoman Annette Quijano  
985 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, NJ 07083  
908-624-0880 aswquijano@njleg.org

Assemblyman Joseph Cryan  
985 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, NJ 07083  
908-624-0880 asmcryan@njleg.org

District 21—ESSEX: Millburn. MORRIS: Chatham Township, Harding, Long Hill, Madison. SOMERSET: Warren, Watchung. UNION: Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Garwood, Mountainside, New Providence, Roselle Park, Springfield, Summit, Westfield

Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr.  
425 North Avenue East, Suite C, Westfield, NJ 07090  
908-232-3673 senkean@njleg.org

Assemblyman Jon M. Bramnick  
251 North Avenue West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Westfield, NJ 07090  
908-232-2073 asmbramnick@njleg.org

Assemblywoman Nancy F. Munoz  
425 North Avenue East, Suite C, Westfield, NJ 07090  
908-232-3673 aswmunoz@njleg.org

District 22—MIDDLESEX: Dunellen, Middlesex. SOMERSET: Green Brook, North Plainfield. UNION: Clark, Fanwood, Linden, Plainfield, Rahway, Scotch Plains, Winfield

Senator Nicholas P. Scutari  
1514 East St. George Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Linden, NJ 07036  
908-587-0404 senscutari@njleg.org

Assemblyman Jerry Green  
17 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060  
908-561-5757 asmgreen@njleg.org

Assemblywoman Linda Stender  
1801 East Second Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076  
908-668-1900 aswstender@njleg.org

Brock Haussamen  
FHP Board of Directors  
Chair-FISH Hospitality Advocacy Initiative

## Annual Flea Market and Yard Sale

How blessed we were to get a break in the weather for our annual flea market that took place on Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>. The weather during the entire previous week was cold and raining. It was not until Friday late evening that the rain stopped and it began to clear. We woke up on Saturday morning to beautiful sunshine, warm temperature and clear blue skies. What a perfect day for an outdoor event! This year we were at the new location of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish in Middlesex, NJ, and we would like to thank Father Patrick Kuffner for hosting this event. This is a great location and we had lots of space and use of the school building. As well as all the tables loaded down with items for sale by FHP we had several vendors that had purchased table and van space. We also had a baked goods table. The event went very well with FHP making a little over \$1300.. Not only did we make some money for the program but we enjoyed a day of good weather and fellowship. Thank you to all the people who donated items to FHP. Thank you also to the following people who came to set up, clean up and sell items: Myra and Jim Efinger, Mary Lou Chingery, Eileen and Eric Schmitt, Karen Marble, Kathryn Riss, Pat Klatt, Dave Casterline, Bob Spencer, Bob and Susan Baybutt, Emily Mlinarovich, Jim Bilecky, Rosemary Walsh, Connie Espinosa, Dave Walter, Valerie Aldorondo, Edie Turi, Marsha Colby, Jennifer and Mia Spencer, Martha Egbert, Joan Marrin, Brock Haussamen, Tony D'Ovolino Mike Heffernan and Cheryl Listash (I hope no one has been left out of the "thank you's"!).