

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.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 19 **Board Meeting 7:30 pm**  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
South Plainfield
- May 5 **Volunteer Dinner 4:00 pm**  
First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen  
218 Dunellen Avenue
- May 14 **Coordinators Meeting 7:30 pm**  
St. John's Roman Catholic Church  
315 No Washington Avenue, Dunellen
- May 21 **Board Meeting 7:30 pm**  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
South Plainfield

## SERVICE STATISTICS

(January 1 - December 31, 2012)

Persons sheltered - 51  
Family units - 27  
Number of adults sheltered - 30  
Number of children sheltered - 21  
Bed nights provided - 3393

## A BIG THANK YOU TO:

*Rose of Sharon Community  
Church in Plainfield*

For providing a much needed life-line to our program. ROS is temporarily serving as our day center facility. We are now a **program without a home** for our Guests during the day. **Please help and spread the word to find a church or other comfortable facility to serve as our day center.**

## FISH Hospitality Advocacy Initiative

By Brock Haussamen

Here is information on two legislative proposals—one in New Jersey, the other in Washington--designed to grow the supply of affordable housing.

In Trenton, Governor Christie vetoed the New Jersey Residential Foreclosure Transformation Act. This Act would have established a state program to purchase foreclosed residential properties from institutional lenders so that municipalities and non-profits can convert the properties to very-low, low, and moderate income homes. The Governor said he vetoed it because housing supporters should be looking to available federal funding for assistance, not state funding.

In Washington, the National Low Income Housing Coalition, with the support of Family Promise, the network of agencies that FISH belongs to, is backing a proposal to reform the mortgage interest tax deduction to help pay for more affordable housing nationwide.

Currently, homeowners can deduct the interest on their mortgage as long as they earn enough to itemize their deductions and, at the wealthy end of the scale, as long as their mortgage amount is less than \$1.1 million. The proposal would make the following changes.

First, the mortgage interest deduction would be changed to a tax credit. As a tax credit, low-income home owners, who don't earn enough to itemize their deductions, would be able to benefit tax-wisely from their mortgage for the first time.

Second, the upper limit for the size of the mortgage that a homeowner can take a deduction on would be reduced from \$1.1 million to \$500,000. That change would mean that an upper-income earner with a mortgage of, say, \$700,000 would not be able to deduct the interest and thus would be paying more in taxes.

Finally, this increased tax revenue would be directed mostly towards the construction of affordable housing under the National Housing Trust Fund. The idea is 1) the mortgage deduction as it presently works has been a big government benefit for those who can afford to own homes; and 2) it is time some of that funding should go instead to helping those who cannot afford a home of their own.

For more about the mortgage deduction changes go to [www.housingtaxreform.com](http://www.housingtaxreform.com)

## MARCH 2013

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

*Please note our new email address:  
[fishhospsw@verizon.net](mailto:fishhospsw@verizon.net)*

#### Board of Directors

President	Robert J. Spencer
Treasurer	David Walter
Vice President	David W. Casterline
Secretary	Patricia Klatt
Members	Carole Cook Marjorie G. Hall Brock Haussamen Sharon J. Hunt Claudine Lewis, MSW/LSW Emily Mlinarovich Kathryn J. Riss William Schultz Margo Seaman
Executive Director:	Theresa Donatiello Neidich MSW/LSW

*Welcome new board members:*

*Carole Cook*

*Margo Seaman*

*Claudine Lewis, MSW/LSW*

## **WISH LIST**

Liquid Fabric Softener; laundry detergent, Purex baby detergent; baby wipes; body lotion, body wash and mouthwash. **Gift cards are welcome:** *Grocery Stores, CVS; Walgreens, Target, Walmart, Kohls, Payless shoes; Famous Footwear, TJ Maxx, & Lane Bryant*

## 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, Cranford - n  
First Presbyterian, Dunellen - n  
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  
The Presbyterian Church in Westfield - n  
Trinity Episcopal, Woodbridge - n  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, East Brunswick - n

### Support Congregations:

Community Presbyterian Church, Edison  
Grace Alliance, Piscataway  
New Dover United Methodist Church  
Our Lady of Fatima R.C. Church, Piscataway  
Our Lady of Mount Virgin R.C. Church, Middlesex  
Pilgrim Covenant, South Plainfield  
St Cecelia's R.C. Church, Iselin  
St Francis Cabrini R.C., Piscataway  
St Luke's R.C. Church, North Plainfield  
St James R.C. Church, Woodbridge  
St John the Evangelist R. C. Church, Dunellen  
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**

## **WE NEED YOU**

**Yes – we need your help to increase the number of volunteers on our floating volunteer list. We need volunteers to help with meals at our night hosting churches as well as overnight volunteers. Please call Kathy with any questions and to add your name at 732-968-5957.**

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