

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

June 18 **Board Meeting 7:30 pm**  
July 16 Wesley United Methodist Church  
South Plainfield

## SERVICE STATISTICS

(January 1 - May 31, 2013)

Persons sheltered - 21  
Family units - 11  
Number of adults sheltered - 11  
Number of children sheltered - 10  
Bed nights provided - 1845

## A BIG THANK YOU TO:

*Rose of Sharon Community Church  
in Plainfield*

For providing a much needed life-line to our program. ROS has been temporarily serving as our day center facility since February. We are still 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.**

## Coordinator's Corner

By Margo Seaman and Carole Cook  
First Presbyterian Westfield

Recently we heard the author, Kate Braestrup speak, a Unitarian minister and the chaplain for the Maine State Warden Service. She told her own story of losing her first husband, a Maine State Trooper killed in the line of duty. "When I am called in, there has been a death." Her job is to support the families and wardens through terrible times of grief. Her message (and theology) is "God is Love." Through this lens of "God is Love" we can view all things. . .

We can see it in our work at FISH -the volunteers, and, most of all, the Guests. God is Love. We see it every time - volunteers set up the space - making sure every room feels like a home for each Guest. Volunteers host (sometimes for more than one shift), coordinate meals, prepare meals, buy and gather food, play with the children, talk with the Guests, listen, learn, stay overnight, take down the space when the Guests leave, deliver the Guests' belongings to the next host church, do laundry, take Guests to look for apartments, get clothes for interviews, mine their own resources for job possibilities for Guests, provide necessities like strollers and diapers, and give generous gift cards for holidays and birthdays. When Guests have secured housing, volunteers give furniture and other needed supplies. There have also been times when hosts have taken Guests to the emergency room.

Recently one of the Guests, told us as she was leaving our church "it feels like family here". Yes, we have seen "God is Love" on our end.

But mostly 'God is Love' is our Guests and their situations. These are stressful, difficult times for these families, whatever the reason for their displacement from a home. "God is Love" is a mother struggling to keep the family together even in a temporary shelter. "God is Love" is a mother trying to support her family and find childcare through a labyrinth of agencies and paperwork. "God is Love" is the community formed between the Guests who look out for each other and each other's children.

"God is Love" is the work Theresa, the Director of FISH, does to support these families on the road to home. "God is love" is Frank, the wonderful van driver, who drives the Guests to work, to school, to job interviews, to various Social Service agencies, all on the quest for home. "God is love" is the FHP office that makes it all happen. "God is love" is the tears, the frustration, the joys, the community of it all. "God is Love" is when a home is found and families are together again. God is Love in the hard times and the good.

Thank you all again for your many contributions to make this program run and making it work for these families during this time of displacement.

**JUNE 2013**

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

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

Mailing: PO Box 170, Dunellen, NJ 08812  
Union Cnty: PO Box 5440, Plainfield, NJ 07061  
Office: 456 New Market Road, Piscataway  
Phone: 732-968-5957  
Fax: 732-968-2870

*Our new email address is:*  
***fishhospsw@verizon.net***

*Please visit our newly updated website*  
***www.fishhospitality.org***

### **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

## **WISH LIST**

Liquid Fabric Softener; laundry detergent tabs,  
Purex baby detergent, baby wipes, feminine  
products, body lotion, and mouthwash

**GIFT CARDS:** *Grocery Stores, CVS, Walgreens,  
Target, Walmart, Kohls, Payless shoes, Famous  
Footwear & 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  
First Congregational Church of Westfield  
Friends Quaker Meeting House, Plainfield  
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 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.