

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

- Dec 12 **Children's Christmas Party: 12:30 pm**  
Rose of Sharon Community Church, Plainfield
- Dec 13 **Festival of Carols 2:00 pm**  
Trinity Reformed Church  
Green Brook Rd, North Plainfield
- Dec 15 **Board of Directors: 7:00 pm**  
St. Francis Episcopal Church, Dunellen

## SERVICE STATISTICS

(January 1 – Oct 31, 2015)

Persons sheltered – 50                      Family units – 19  
Sheltered Adults – 20                      Children - 30  
Bed nights provided – 3,657

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

*A warm thank you to those who attended this joyous occasion.*

## GUEST'S CORNER

Before I entered FISH Hospitality Program I was battling the biggest crisis of my life. Unfortunately this all happened during the time when I just gave birth to my daughter, who is now six months old. I thought, "WOW! I never thought this would ever happen to me." The place where I was living became unsafe for my baby and me to stay there. The head of the household did not care about our wellbeing, unlike FHP. My hopes for a better life slowly starting going downhill day by day until I received a phone call from Theresa. She asked if I was still interested in coming into the program. I immediately said YES! And I was thinking: **Thank you, Jesus!**

At first I was nervous because I didn't know what to expect from living with people that I didn't know. All of that changed after getting to know the other guests, staff, and volunteers. Everyone accepted and treated me, and especially my daughter, with love, care, and

security -- something that we needed to keep us happy. I no longer felt alone because I wasn't the only one going through a life crisis. Being surrounded by others that were in the same situation as me helped me cope with the reality that it can happen to anyone. Even though I was still battling with getting back on my feet, the battle didn't last forever, thanks to Theresa and FHP.

FHP is a wonderful program for many reasons. One reason is that Theresa, Emily, Kathy, Frank, and all of the volunteers went out of their way to make sure that my daughter and I had everything we needed. FHP helped me save more money than I ever did before. Kathy went out her way to make sure that I had glasses to see. Frank gave me transportation whenever my car was getting repaired. Emily did very well with helping me budget my money and delivering items needed for my daughter. Last but not least the day center crew Ashley and Patricia. They were very kind, and I appreciate them for being available to cover the day center during those times that I called at the last minute. I want to thank Theresa again. She helped me find an apartment. She literally fought for me to get approved for an apartment that I initially got denied for AND negotiated the rent. Theresa is AMAZING!

Being in FISH Hospitality Program has changed my thinking into a positive way, and it also helped clean my heart. My daughter and I could've been sleeping out on the street somewhere. Instead FHP has taken us in and helped turn our lives around by providing us with a nurturing experience full of wonderful hospitality. Just like the "H" stands for in FISH Hospitality Program. I also want to thank the Board of Directors and Carole and Margo. I pray that this program will continue a million years from now. Thank you all and God Bless! *Former Guest T*

**\*\*See over for another Guest's Corner\*\***

## WISH LIST

**MANY THANKS to Seventh Day Adventist Church in Piscataway - we received a large donation of personal items.**

**GIFT CARDS:** Walmart, Target, CVS, Walgreens, Payless Shoes & Famous Footwear; Shop Rite & Stop N Shop

**We need gift cards to give to Guests for specific requests, birthdays and when they leave FHP for household items.**

## DECEMBER 2015

### FISH Hospitality Program, Inc.

Mailing 1: PO Box 170, Dunellen, NJ 08812  
Mailing 2: PO Box 5440, Plainfield, NJ 07061  
Office: 456 New Market Road, Piscataway  
Phone: 732-968-5957; Fax: 732-968-2870  
Email: fishhosp@verizon.net  
Website: www.fishhospitality.org

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

#### A United Way Agency

#### Board of Directors

President	Carole Cook
Vice President	Margo Seaman
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Marjorie G. Hall	Robert J. Spencer
Sharon J. Hunt	Emily Mlinarovich
Claudine Lewis, MSW/LSW	

#### Director

Theresa Donatiello Neidich, MSW/LSW

## GUEST'S CORNER

Thank you for all the help you gave to me and my two kids. After having little to no hope I finally heard about FHP. So I decided to take a chance and go for it; and I'm so happy I did! After speaking with Kathy on the phone my heart got warm because I just knew I was about to have other people on my side that understood my situation.

When I came into the program, I was a little skeptical and on the edge; but as the weeks went by going from church to church everyone was so kind and made me feel like I was at home. I literally didn't want for anything for myself, son or daughter. FHP made sure that our needs were met. Emily helped me to understand the importance of budgeting so I can move along more swiftly. Theresa helped me get through and vouched for me with the things I needed help with the most. I just know that without coming into FHP I would be back at the baseboard because I know now that I knew nothing about the resources available to me.

I truly and sincerely thank board of directors and Carole and Margo; FHP staff and all the volunteers.

*Former Guest L*

## PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS

### Host Congregations:

Bound Brook Presbyterian Church  
Christ United Methodist Church, Piscataway  
Community Presbyterian Church, Edison  
First Baptist, Sewaren  
First Presbyterian, Avenel  
First Presbyterian, Cranford  
First Presbyterian, Dunellen  
New Beginnings Church of the Nazarene, Edison  
Rose of Sharon Community Church, Plainfield (day/night)  
Second Reformed Church, New Brunswick  
St. Francis Episcopal Church, Dunellen (day)  
St Paul's United Church of Christ, Milltown  
The Presbyterian Church in Westfield  
Trinity Episcopal, Woodbridge  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, East Brunswick

### Support Congregations:

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  
Park Community Church, 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  
St. Stephen Lutheran Church JOT, S. Plainfield  
The Rescue House of Prayer, S. Plainfield  
Trinity Reformed Church, N. Plainfield  
Wesley United Methodist, S. Plainfield

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### ***Who's in the program now?***

(Kid's age in parenthesis – County)

Mom & one boy (3) – MC  
Mom & two girls (14 & 1) – MC  
Two Single Women - MC & UC  
Mom & two girls (9 & 2) - UC  
Mom & three children (girl 6; boy 12; boy 14) – MC

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