

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

- Mar 15 **Board of Directors: 7:00 pm**
April 19 St. Francis Episcopal Church, Dunellen
- April 24 **Silent Auction/Benefit Concert: 3:00 pm**
auction items for bidding throughout the day
Christ United Methodist, Piscataway

SERVICE STATISTICS

(January 1 – December 31, 2015)

Persons sheltered – 61 Family units – 24
Sheltered Adults – 25 Children - 36
Bed nights provided – 4,487

PLEASE USE AMAZON SMILE for your Amazon purchases go to www.smile.amazon.com sign up and designate FISH Hospitality Program as your charity

GUEST'S CORNER

My name is Keisha. I am a 40 year old single parent of three daughters, and I suddenly had fallen into a hardship. I was calling different programs, and every time I had called them they had no openings. I had one day left to find somewhere for me and my kids to go. On May 1st I had called FISH Hospitality Program and spoke with Ashley; and then I was turned over to Mrs. Theresa. She told me to come in that day for a screening. And that day, me and my kids came into the program. It was something very different for us but Mrs. Theresa made me feel very safe and comfortable for me and kids. I was very happy that we had a place to sleep at nights.

The staff at FHP made me and my kids feel welcome into the program. They were very supportive and helped me through my hard and rough time I was having. When we went to the night church they also made us feel welcome as well. Everyone was so nice and respectful and didn't look down on us. I would like to say that when I met Ms. Emily she was so helpful and pleasant with me and my kids. Every day she came by the Day Center to check up on me and to

see how I was doing. Emily always went out of her way to make sure we had the things that we needed.

I met with Mrs. Theresa once a week to do one-on-one sessions and at first I felt that she was mean. But as time went by and I got to know her, and how she runs the program, I learned that she wasn't mean after all.

From my experience being in the FISH Hospitality Program I felt that God had put an angel in my path and that was Mrs. Theresa. The reason I say this is that she went out of her way to accept me and my kids in the program, and there were times that Ms. Theresa had met with me twice a week. She made sure that I was doing what I needed to do to better my situation for my kids. Mrs. Theresa never turned her back on me even when I was down and upset. She would always tell me that she was here for me if I needed someone to talk to. I strongly feel that Ms. Theresa is my angel because anytime I called her or went to see her for help, she had to stop what she was doing and address my situations and give me her advice and her opinion.

If she didn't have the answer to my question, she would tell me that she would look into it and get back to me as soon as she could. So I was very blessed to have her in my life at the time of me hitting rock bottom. I felt that I wasn't alone. When I had no one to turn to, she always made me feel special and made me think that there was hope for me. Mrs. Theresa always said to me "Keisha it's going to get better for you. Just keep your head up and just strive for what you want in life, and never give up."

****See over for continuation of Guest's Corner****

MANY THANKS to:

Rose of Sharon Community Church, Plainfield for hosting our Children's Christmas Party. Everyone had a great time and a yummy meal!

Our Lady of Mt Virgin Church, Middlesex for the many donated gift cards; **Middlesex Women's Club** for gift cards for all the children in our program; **First Presbyterian Church of Cranford** for the 12 buckets of household and personal items from their Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Project

WISH LIST

GIFT CARDS: Costco Cash 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.

MARCH 2016

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

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You can make a donation on-line using Paypal at:
<http://www.fishhospitality.org/donate>
Thank you!!!!

GUEST'S CORNER

I feel that FHP helped me out a lot and in more than one way. One day I went to Mrs. Theresa and told her I needed her help with my twin daughters getting counseling. She looked into it; and thanks to her my daughters are getting the help they needed. I just want to say thank you to Mrs. Theresa.

I would like to let everyone know that I have a special angel in my life and her name is Mrs. Theresa. God has put her in my path for a reason and that was because I was struggling and Mrs. Theresa was there to help me and lift me up. I am so thankful that I was accepted into FISH Hospitality Program. There's no other program that I would have wanted to go to.

I want to give many thanks to the Coordinators and Volunteers at all the churches, the Board of Directors, and to the FHP Staff.

Former Guest Keisha

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

Who's in the program now?

(Kid's age in parenthesis – County)

Mom & one boy (3) – MC
Two Single Women - MC & UC
Mom & two girls (2 & 9) - UC
Mom & three girls (girl 3; 15 & 17) – MC
Mom & two girls (4 & 12) – MC

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