

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

Sept 18: Annual Meeting & Board of Directors: 7:15 pm  
St. Francis Episcopal Church, Dunellen

## SERVICE STATISTICS

(January 1 – May 30th)

Persons sheltered –33	Families – 10
Sheltered Adults – 11	Children - 22
Nights of Shelter provided – 1,775	

## Box City 4.21.18

On a cold April night, the lawn of the Presbyterian Church in Westfield was covered with boxes for the very first FISH Hospitality Program Box City event. Forty people braved the cold and slept in the boxes, simulating what it might be like for people who live on the streets. It was a night of reflection and understanding of the conditions that our brothers and sisters who are homeless, live with daily. We thank the Presbyterian Church, Coldwell Banker, and the many volunteers and participants who made our premier event such a success. Thanks to our sponsors and donors for supporting FISH Hospitality Program. We invite everyone to participate next year!

## GUESTS' CORNER #1

I wonder how my situation would have turned out if my daughter didn't find and push me to call this organization.

After a long debate, I decided to call the shelter "FISH Hospitality". This is where my situation and fear of shelters changed. While there I learned to budget, paid off some bills and brought my other ones up to date.

Now, my kids and I are at our new home. We are thinking of everything that was done to make our stay pleasant and smooth from Thanksgiving dinner with University scholars, the celebration of my daughter's birthday (twice) and a buffet-style Christmas dinner with

white tablecloths! Bound Brook Presbyterian shared their church with us for Christmas week – including decorating a tree and Santa's gifts. I would like to thank BBPC for their warmth and generosity.

For all of this and so much more, to the caring and attentive coordinators and volunteers at the host churches, Emily, Frank, Pat, Kathy, the chairpersons and Theresa – THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Former Guest U

## From my children:

I am very thankful for everything you have provided for me and my family. Because of your shelter and volunteers, we could've not been able to be where we are now. I would like to say thank you very much for everyone and everything.

Girl age 11

We've been through a lot in our lives and never have I expected one of those things to be homelessness. When I first found out that we had to live in a shelter, I was heartbroken, anxious, and disappointed. However, all of these fears went away when I joined FISH. The program really helped me through this all because not only were the volunteers extremely nice and comforting, but they provided for our every need in a humble fashion. I'll never forget Emily who was extremely nice and caring and Frank who was funny and cheerful. I'll never forget a few other guests who have also inspired me in my time of sadness to remain happy and learn from the experience. I'll never forget FISH, and I thank you for Theresa and everyone else at the board who chipped in. May God Bless you all.

Girl age 13

It was a rough start being homeless. But entering your program really helped my family. From the amazing volunteers, to the phenomenal director. FISH not only gave us a place to stay, they made us feel welcomed, like they cared. To the generous coordinators, the nice guests, the amazing volunteers and the phenomenal director. Thank you.

Boy age 16

## WELCOME NEW HOST CHURCH:

**Community Bible Church, Dunellen**  
**first hosting: July 8th**

## MANY THANKS to:

**St. Francis Episcopal, Dunellen** for filling in as Night Host Church when no host church was available in the last week of May. IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

