

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

- Dec 15 **Annual Carol Festival at 2:00 pm**
Trinity Reformed Church, No Plainfield
- Jan 21 **Board of Directors/Annual Meeting**
Wesley United Methodist, So Plainfield
- Feb 23 **FHP Silent Auction & Benefit Concert**
Christ United Methodist, Piscataway

SERVICE STATISTICS (Jan 1 - Nov 15, 2013)

Persons sheltered - 43 Family units - 19
Adults sheltered - 20 Children sheltered - 23
Bed nights provided - 3544

*As the holidays come and go over the next few weeks, please consider donating an item or two to the **FISH Hospitality Silent Auction**. The Auction, along with the annual **FHP Benefit Concert**, will take place on Sunday afternoon **February 23, 2014** at Christ United Methodist Church, Piscataway.*

*Concert tickets will be available at the office after **January 20, 2014**.*

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND

GUEST'S CORNER

My name is Tierney, and I am happy to share the amazing experience I had with my family, 2 boys, ages 3 & 13 and a girl, age 1. We came into FHP in Feb-2013 - our first time in a shelter and didn't know what to expect. I met Theresa who immediately was interested in learning about my goals for employment and housing. We met each week to discuss my feelings and progress. Whenever I had a hard time with the Board of Social Services, she always supported me & didn't hesitate to take the issue to the highest level to get it resolved. She pushed me to get the benefits my family was eligible for and anything we needed: clothing, food and even health screenings. Theresa works Monday-Friday, but always made herself available evenings, weekends and even holidays, if needed.

FRANK = Funny; Reliable, Awesome, Nice & Kid-friendly. I could be in the worst mood going through the worst thing (I thought it was at the time); and he would say the kindest things or make me laugh. He respected each Guest's privacy and treated everyone equally.

Kathy is a very nice lady. She was very helpful with planning events, making sure transportation needs were met and thoroughly relayed messages. FHP staff made me and my family feel comfortable, loved and respected.

Emily enjoys her job and smiles every time you see her. When we were at the Dunellen church, she was a great host and made wonderful salads!

I could talk about MANY great things about the hosts and volunteers at all the churches; but I will only mention a few. Let's see how many names I can remember. My son helped me remember the names: "Mom, be sure you talk about ..."

The first church in E Brunswick - Dave & Debbie and the volunteers were warm, caring & wonderful. They showed us love and respect and even went outside every day to greet the FHP van along with the volunteers' children. This is where the term 'kid-friendly' started.

My kids particularly enjoyed the play area at the Westfield church. Margo & Carole and the volunteers were wonderful hosts. They made sure all our needs were met in a warm, caring & comfortable environment. It was particularly awesome because the church we were able to stay there on the weekends. You could "sleep in" and have a great breakfast. They were available to help the Guests with finding employment and housing.

At Rose of Sharon Claudine, Sharon & Mother Mae gave great advice, had a wonderful sense of humor, and showed us love & respect. Mother Mae is an excellent cook!

Mark & Dave at Bound Brook were great hosts with caring volunteers - kid-friendly with lots of toys & games. We loved The Cave with the huge television! We were asked what we liked to eat everyday!

The kind and caring volunteers at the very well organized Edison Church were wonderful when most of the Guests were sick with a stomach virus. We were treated with love and respect.

Movie Night with snacks for the kids and even a Barbeque were the highlights at Pastor Doug's Church in New Brunswick.

I got along great with other Guests and have formed friendships for a lifetime. FHP disciplines your way of life; and I learned to do things in a timely manner. I am able to get along with others even if we have different lifestyles and viewpoints. My children have learned to adapt to different environments, making it easier for the transition from temporary to permanent housing.

DECEMBER 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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*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

Fabric softener; laundry detergent tabs, Purex baby detergent; feminine products including overnights; bedpillows; body lotion and body wash; Dove bar soap; **deodorant**; mouthwash; & disposable razors; Baby Items: lotion, shampoo, wash & unscented wipes

***GIFT CARDS:** Shop Rite, Target, Walmart, CVS, Walgreens, 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. Francis Episcopal Church, Dunellen - d
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, Edison
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, South Plainfield
Trinity Reformed Church, North 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 often need volunteers to help at our day center primarily on the weekends, and at our night hosting churches. Please call Kathy 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.