

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

- June 16 **Board of Directors: 7:00 pm**
St. Francis Episcopal Church, Dunellen
- Nov 15 **25th Anniversary Celebration: 4:00 pm**
Volunteer Dinner
Dunellen Presbyterian Church

SERVICE STATISTICS

(January 1 – April 30, 2015)

Persons sheltered – 26 Family units – 12
Sheltered Adults – 12 Children - 14
Bed nights provided – 1,448

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION VOLUNTEER DINNER

ALL VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Sunday, November 15th at 4:00 p.m.

Dunellen Presbyterian Church
218 Dunellen Avenue

More information coming soon

Who's in the program now?

(Kid's age in parenthesis – County)

Single woman – MC
Mom & son (13) – MC
Mom & daughter (4) – MC
Mom & daughter (11) – MC
Mom & two children (girl 4; boy 3) – UC
Mom & three daughters (twins 11 and 4) - MC

GUEST'S CORNER

When I first started at FISH Hospitality I had no idea how much it was affecting change in my life. I have been in and out of shelters most of my life ... *chronic homeless*, if you may.

It is hard when you have kids and they are going through all this with you. You pray for things that you may never see coming your way. Housing is everyone's priority in life for themselves and their kids.

When I came to FHP, they gave me more than shelter. They focus on you as an individual and focused on my needs, one on one. They work on you goals - helping you towards a better life for you and your kids.

To Theresa and all the volunteers, and the churches that house and fed us, thank you for caring about us and for taking your time out to help us.

Theresa, I would like to give you a special thank you for focusing and paying attention to all the individual help I needed with big and small goals. I believe that my Dad in heaven knew who to put in my life when I needed help. That is what it takes, a very strong and determined woman, to do everything you do to help us. You are truly an Angel on earth. God put you on this earth to help others like my son and me.

Former Guest M

My name is Keri; I am a 34 year old single parent of a six month old. I became a first time parent, and suddenly went through an unexpected setback. I was all alone and scared and everything that I had planned suddenly was gone. Even though I was in a low situation in my life, I knew that I wanted better for my son and I. I was determined to get back on my feet and prevent being homeless, and to have a healthier, more prosperous blessed life for the both of us. I called 211, who then referred me to the FISH Hospitality. I called and called, spoke with Kathy who took my information to be given to Theresa and be placed on the waiting list. I had hope and I believed that I would be accepted into the program.

Then one amazing day Kathy called and told me there was an opening. The program was explained to me, and I was so happy to have this new beginning for both my son and I. Once I came into FHP I felt welcomed, as if I had a new support system. I had experienced mothers who offered help and friendly advice, who helped to make me feel as if I was no longer a single parent. I went to the Night Churches, all made me feel welcome and the volunteers were nice and helpful. Then I gained a new sense of worth and my diminishing self-confidence was restored. Upon meeting Frank, he was always a helping hand, sounding board and a wonderful person all-around. Emily was like the helpful aunt who showed me how to budget, save more money and plan financially for a better life.

READ MORE - over -

JUNE 2015

FISH Hospitality Program, Inc.

A program for homeless women and families serving Middlesex, Union and Somerset Counties NJ

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Board of Directors

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Director

Theresa Donatiello Neidich, MSW/LSW

GUEST'S CORNER

Theresa is an angel, who gave me great advice on how to organize my life and gaining control over certain situations. She gave me the motivation to look for permanent placement. With that motivation, she was my partner throughout the search; she gave me the strength to be independent. I appreciate her wisdom, and encouragement on how to get me back on the right track.

Frank and Emily were angels to me, going the extra mile for the two of us unlike anyone else; now making them making them apart of my family. The day center hostesses were protectors, watching over all the guests making sure that nothing ever happened to us on their watch and making sure that all of the guests' wants and needs were taken care of. The volunteers were sets of angels in disguise, who were patient and kind to all that they encountered; which I will always be thankful for. I became stronger as a single parent and I now know that I can do this on my own, with the help of God and others.

My son and I gained weight with the abundance of food, making us healthier. The joyful moment of my son turning seven months here and experiencing many milestones here in the program; allowing me to share the joy with others and not do it alone.

Thank you FISH Hospitality Program for opening the doors for my son and I to get back on track with everything and turning a new leaf.

Former Guest Keri

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
Second Reformed Church, New Brunswick
St. Francis Episcopal Church, Dunellen
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
The Rescue House of Prayer, S. Plainfield
Trinity Reformed Church, N. Plainfield
Wesley United Methodist, S. Plainfield

WISH LIST

Many Thanks to Johnson & Johnson – we received a large donation of personal items.

GIFT CARDS: Walmart, Target, Kohls, 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.

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