

**MERRY CHRISTMAS\***

**HAPPY, HEALTHY 2021 🕒**

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 – Drive Through Children’s Christmas Party, Rose of Sharon Community Church, Plainfield

Jan 19, 2021 Annual Meeting & Board of Directors: 7:15 pm  
Via Zoom

### SERVICE STATISTICS

(January 1 – November 30)

Persons sheltered – 41	Families – 14
Sheltered Adults – 17	Children - 24
Nights of Shelter provided – 3,288	

**You can make a donation on-line using  
Paypal go to FHP website:  
<http://www.fishhospitality.org/donate>**

### ***WE’RE NOW ELECTRONIC!!***

In an effort to lower mailing costs, our newsletters for the Spring and Fall are being sent via email only and are available on our website [www.fishhospitality.org](http://www.fishhospitality.org). For those of you who are reading this on our website and would like to receive a copy in your email inbox, please send an email to our offices to [admin@fishhospitality.org](mailto:admin@fishhospitality.org)

Our Christmas and Mid-year newsletters are sent out via email. For those of you who do not have an email address, via US Postal mail. Please send your email address to our offices to [admin@fishhospitality.org](mailto:admin@fishhospitality.org) to help lower our mailing costs. THANK YOU!!!

### **Guest Corner #1**

My name is Jannikka Browning and I am completely grateful for everything FISH Hospitality did for my family & I, especially during the Pandemic. I almost gave up, but I got the call from Theresa. I was so happy to get the help. The driver, Marquis and his lovely wife Margie were also a blessing to me and my children. We will never forget any one of you.

Always,  
Jannikka, Amani, Jayceon & Kaylani

### **GUEST’S CORNER #2**

*First, I have to give thanks to God for directing our path to FISH Hospitality Program. I had been searching for help with housing for about a year and every time I called 211, I was told there wasn’t any assistance available at the time. Just when I was ready to give up, I received a call from FISH (Theresa) asking if I was still looking for housing. I did a phone interview with Theresa and she explained the program and asked me if it would be something that I would be interested in. Truthfully, I was a bit hesitant because of the moving from church to church each week and having a teenage daughter that was a senior in high school. I was concerned that she wouldn’t be able to abide by the rules of curfew. But I asked my daughter if we could at least give it a try, she agreed, and it turned out not to be what we thought it was going to be, it turned out to be doable because the hosting churches were very warm, kind and understanding of each families’ needs. They were also accommodating when possible.*

*I am most grateful for everyone that is a part of the FISH program. They all were very helpful in whatever capacity they played. I never felt judged and many times was given encouragement from each of them. I needed that at that time. Thank you all for the love and kindness you showed us.*

*I want to say a special thanks to Theresa for helping us develop a plan to be able to afford housing and a budget to save so that when the time came for us to stand on our own again, we actually have something for a rainy day.*

*Lastly, thank you to the FISH Board for the many times that you approved some of our special needs.*

*Thank you all, we will be forever be grateful for the love and kindness that was shown to us in our time of need. 🙏❤️ will be seeing you soon.*

*God bless and thank you!  
Carla, Kayla and Devuan*

**PLEASE USE AMAZON SMILE for all your Amazon gifts  
[www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) - sign up & designate FISH  
Hospitality Program as your charity**

## DECEMBER 2020

### FISH Hospitality Program, Inc.

Mailing : PO Box 170, Dunellen, NJ 08812  
Office: 456 New Market Road, Piscataway  
Phone: 732-968-5957 Fax: 732-968-2870  
Email: admin@fishhospitality.org  
Website: www.fishhospitality.org

*Affiliate of Family Promise  
Affiliate of FISH, Inc. Dunellen*

#### Board of Directors

President: Carole Cook; Vice President: Margo Seaman  
Secretary: Patricia Klatt; Treasurer: Jeffrey Rumen  
Members: David W. Casterline, Marjorie G. Hall  
Robert J. Spencer, Sharon J. Hunt, Claudine Lewis  
Director: Theresa Donatiello Neidich, MSW/LSW

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### COVID -19

From Carole Cook, the President of the Board of Directors "This has been a challenging time for everyone, but especially our most vulnerable populations. When the pandemic began we had to shut down our rotational shelter as the houses of worship we utilize were closed; our volunteers were scared for their own health and unable to commit to helping. We knew that it was imperative that we house our guests in secure, safe locations. We reached out to local area motels for shelter. The guests have been in safe housing while we continue to provide transportation and case management, in addition to our many other services. We are living in an unprecedented time but FISH Hospitality pivoted and then continued to do what we do best: serve our guests."

From Theresa Donatiello Neidich, our Executive Director "I am proud of the fact that as of this writing, we have been able to serve 14 families in 2020. Eight families moved into permanent housing so far, five of which made the transition since the pandemic started! This is due in part to the availability of Rapid Rehousing Rental Assistance from Middlesex County as well as CoVid-related rental assistance funding available from the Department of Community Affairs in both Middlesex and Union Counties."

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

(Kid's age in parenthesis – County)

Mom & 2 girls (17 & 14) & 2 boys (11 & 6) – MC  
Mom/Dad & boy (11) & 2 girls (14 & 11) – MC  
Mom & baby girl (1) – MC Mom & boy (17) - MC  
Mom & boy & girl (11 & 3) – UC

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS! ✨ HAPPY, HEALTHY 2021 🕒**

### **PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS**

#### Host Congregations:

Aldersgate United Methodist Church, East Brunswick  
Christ United Methodist Church, Piscataway  
Community Presbyterian Church, Edison  
First Presbyterian, Avenel  
First Presbyterian, Cranford  
First Presbyterian, Dunellen  
Rose of Sharon Community Church, Plainfield (day/night)  
Ruth Fellowship Ministries, Plainfield  
St. Francis Episcopal Church, Dunellen (day/night)  
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  
The First Presbyterian Church of Iselin  
Jack and Jill of America – Greater Union County  
Mount Olive Baptist Church, Plainfield  
Negro Women Council - Plainfield  
New Beginnings Church of the Nazarene, Edison  
New Dover United Methodist Church, Edison  
Our Lady of Mount Virgin, Middlesex  
Park Community Church, South Plainfield  
Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge  
St. Cecelia's Roman Catholic Church, Iselin  
St. Frances Cabrini, Piscataway  
St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Dunellen  
St Paul's Lutheran Church in Edison  
Stonecrest Community Church, Warren  
Trinity Reformed Church, North Plainfield  
United Methodist Church, Woodbridge  
YMCA, Metuchen Branch  
Zion Tabernacle, Piscataway

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### **WISH LIST**

***Household items:*** Laundry pods, cleaning products, toilet paper; paper towels, dish detergent, toilet bowl cleaner and sanitizing products

***Toiletries:*** disposable razors, lip balm, toothpaste (***NO toothbrushes PLEASE***); feminine pads: maxi, overnights; and panty liners; men's & women's body wash; and mouthwash

***Gift Cards:*** Costco Cash Cards, Walmart, Target, Walgreens, CVS, Rite Aid, Famous Footwear, Shop Rite, Acme, and Stop N Shop

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## FISH Hospitality Program, Inc.

P.O. Box 170, Dunellen NJ 08812

TEL: 732-968-5957 FAX: 732-968-2870

E-MAIL: fishhospsw@verizon.net

*Serving Homeless Women and Families since 1990*

*Administrative Office: 456 New Market Road, Piscataway NJ  
In Union County: 225 Watchung Avenue, P.O. Box 5440, Plainfield NJ 07061*

December 2020

Dear Friends,

On January 1, 2020, we started the year in much the same way we have started every prior year. We made resolutions, gave thanks for holidays spent with family and friends, and looked forward to the next gathering. Who knew that we would be facing a once-in-a-century pandemic that would knock us all back on our heels as we struggled to face the many challenges that it presented? Initially, we were all trying to understand the ramifications of Covid-19 and the messaging that told us to stay home, wear masks, and socially distance. As time passed, we learned of family, friends, and community members who were struggling or who had lost their battle with the virus. Our world was effectively turned upside down.

FISH Hospitality Program's mission is to house and serve people who are temporarily homeless. In response to the pandemic, we paused our rotational shelter and immediately put our families into local motels. This change enabled them to be in safe and secure housing, not in a communal setting; it also provided for the safety of our incredible volunteers who ordinarily staff the shelters. Our Executive Director, Theresa, stays in contact with everybody, providing them with case management services, food support and a view toward independent housing. Our driver, Marquis, continues to transport the families to work and school.

FISH Hospitality Program remains a light in the darkness for the families we serve, as we adapt to the local, national and global changes in circumstances. We will continue housing our guests in this manner until it is safe to re-open our shelter program. Unfortunately, all signs point to an increase in home insecurity this winter; we want to help as many families as we are able.

In this, our December appeal, we ask you to keep our families in your prayers and to please donate whatever you can to ensure that we can continue serving our homeless families.

With thanks,

Carole Cook, President  
Board of Directors

Vice President, Margo Seaman  
MEMBERS

Secretary, Patricia Klatt  
David W. Casterline  
Robert J. Spencer

Treasurer, Jeffrey Rumen  
Marjorie G. Hall  
Claudine Lewis, MSW/LSW

Sharon J. Hunt

*Affiliate of Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area and Family Promise  
Participant in the Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey*



A United Way Agency