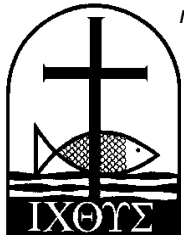


The mission of FISH Hospitality Program is to serve homeless women and families by providing shelter and meals, and such other assistance as we are able, in order to give them a new opportunity to live independently in their communities as respected families and individuals. FHP does assist and enable 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.



to race, religion, national origin or disability.

VOLUNTEER VIEW

Hello Everyone:

My name is Bill Schultz. I am a board member with the Fish Hospitality Program. In addition, I am also a floating volunteer. I serve as both a day and overnight volunteer and it is in this capacity that I am writing today. As a matter of fact, I am writing this article while on duty as a volunteer at the day facility on Sunday morning. Separately, I would like to thank the people of our new day facility for sharing your building with FISH Hospitality program. We really, really appreciate it!

I have found the volunteer experience to be very rewarding and I would recommend it to everyone. It sometimes involves just listening to guests and other times just getting involved in a conversation. But my favorite time is interacting with the children. I have helped a 4th grader with her math homework and later found out that we were the only one's that got the problem correct. I was treated to a fashion show when a colleague at work happened to have clothes that were a "perfect fit" for a girl in the program. She tried on every outfit and modeled them for me. Afterwards I received a thank you hug which I passed on to the lady at work. The girl liked one dress so much that she wore it for her class picture.

It is the small everyday things that add to the joy of being around the children. I was sitting with a youngster one day. She mentioned that she was 10 years old and that her sisters were 6 and 2 and her brother was 4. When I said "Wow 2, 4, 6 and 10 and that we need an 8." she blurted out that Mommy was 28. Everyone in the room including Mom had a good laugh. A separate time, I had fun just batting around balloons in the basement of another church. I would encourage anyone who is even considering becoming a volunteer to give it a try. You never know what joy you might experience.

There is one thing that I would like everyone reading this article to do. Since you are receiving this newsletter, you have already helped the FISH Hospitality Program in some way, either by providing services, or your time to the guests. I would like you to give yourself a big pat on the back. Feel good about yourself and please continue to support the program. What you contribute is important and needed. Keep up the good work.

Bill Schultz – member of FHP Board of Directors

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 16 **Board of Directors Meeting**
7:30 pm Wesley UMC
1500 Plainfield Avenue,
South Plainfield, NJ
- October 7 **Coordinators meeting 7:30pm**
New Dover United Methodist
Church, 687 New Dover Road,
Edison NJ 08820
- November 2 **Volunteer Recognition Dinner**
4:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church
218 Dunellen Ave, Dunellen, NJ
08812
- December 13 **Children's Christmas Party**
1:00pm at Our Lady of Fatima R.C.
Church, 501 New Market Road
Piscataway, NJ 08854
- December 14 **A Festival of Carols 2:00pm**
Trinity Reformed Church
401 Greenbrook Road, North
Plainfield, NJ 07063

GUEST SUCCESSES

Elbaliz moved into a rented room. She gave the following feedback about the program: "All the volunteers were very helpful and loving towards us. Always asking us if we needed anything. The meals were delicious. I kept looking forward to the next one. I am very happy I was able to be part of the program. I am going to miss it."

Mona moved into transitional housing after she left the program and is now very happy in her own apartment.

THANKS TO...

Girl Scout Troop # 320 and # 34 both from North Plainfield for preparing and serving dinner to our guests at Trinity Reformed Church.

Girl Scout Troop # 87 Dunellen for preparing and serving dinner to our guests at First Presbyterian Church Dunellen.

First Presbyterian Church for inviting our guests to attend the Mexico Benefit Dinner.

Longhorn Steakhouse and Toygar Akay for providing dinner to our guests while at Trinity Episcopal Church in Woodbridge.

Special Thanks

A special "thank you" goes to Richard Hoynes who has recently designed a web site for the FISH Hospitality Program. Richard is the son of the late Anita Hoynes who with Norma Elliott co-founded FHP. We are extremely grateful to Richard for developing this much needed resource. Please check out the web site at www.fishhospitality.com

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Heritage Show Choir, the 96 member choir based in Plainfield. The choir is made up of youngsters ages 7 to 17 years old. They were named McDonald's **GOSPELFEST BEST** competing with choirs from other parts of the US. The Heritage Show Choir has performed at the past two FISH Hospitality Program concerts which are held in February each year.

WISH LIST

Laundry detergent Fabric Softener
Shampoo Conditioner
Body Lotion
Zippered Laundry Bags

FROM A FORMER GUEST

The FISH Hospitality Program is the best program out of the ones I went to or called. The churches were very, very nice, I felt safe and comfortable. The volunteers were awesome. They were truly angels from God. There are good people in the world who go above and beyond to help others. The volunteers made sure you eat, have all your personals. They are patient, kind, sweet and very good listeners, they are just godly people. Susan Baybutt is a very good hearted person, she is caring with a heart of gold. She helped me when I thought there was no hope at all.

My stay with FHP was a blessing from God. People really go through a lot of problems, this sometimes can't be helped. But FHP is the best place to be. I love them all. Thank you to Susan Baybutt, Emily Mlinarovich, Kathy (Sec), all the wonderful volunteers, and Frank (the van driver) he is so awesome. Thanks to them I'm in my own apartment, doing better, feeling good. I want to go back to school, take courses, so I can help people too. Thank you FHP.

Former guest,

Juanita

And there are those who give and know not pain in giving, nor do they seek joy, nor give with mindfulness of virtue: They give as in yonder valley the myrtle breathes its fragrance into space. Through the hands of such as these God speaks, and from behind their eyes (God) smiles upon the earth.

Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet

Become an Advocate for the Homeless

Advocacy means the expression of one's support for a cause. All of us at FISH Hospitality Program are already advocates for helping the homeless simply by being a program volunteers. But advocacy also means expressing our views directly to our government representatives who make the laws about affordable housing and assistance to the homeless. Our representatives in Trenton and Washington want to hear from us, and we want them to know we are paying attention to the housing and homeless bills that they vote on.

To encourage FHP volunteers and the others in our congregations to contact our representatives, FHP will include an Action Alert in each newsletter about a piece of legislation under discussion in Trenton or Washington. Please take a few minutes to make a phone call or send an e-mail. Phoning the office of a Senator, Congressperson, or Assemblyperson is very easy to do. No need to be nervous; no one will ask you questions or put you on the spot. And you don't have to be an expert. Just tell the receptionist what your position is about the bill and that you urge the representative to vote the same way.

Karen Olson, the founder of Family Promise, the interfaith hospitality network of which FHP is a part, tells the following powerful parable about advocacy: You are standing by a river and suddenly, to your horror, you see a baby floating down the river. You rescue it and care for it. Then you see more babies floating down the river and you and other people rescue the babies. This is what you do as a volunteer. But one day, you begin to ask, "Who is throwing all the babies in the river? And what can we do about it?" That is what you do as an advocate.

We hope you will consider making your first phone call about a crucial subject familiar to all of us, foreclosures. The information on this bill is included below.

For further information contact Brock Haussamen at bhaussam@raritanval.edu or 908-963-9729, or Susan Baybutt at FISH Hospitality Program.

ACTION ALERT

In 2008, some 15,000 N.J. homeowners are likely to face foreclosure. THE HOME OWNERSHIP PRESERVATION ACT will raise about \$30 million to:

- Provide emergency financial assistance to homeowners facing foreclosure
- Require certain lenders to give homeowners a 6 month grace period to refinance
- Pay for counseling services
- Take other measures to preserve families and communities from the impact of foreclosures
- The Act will be funded by charging lenders and loan services a \$2,000.00 fee when they begin foreclosures on high-cost loans covered under the law.

Call your representatives! It's easy. Simply tell the receptionist that you believe the Senator or Assemblyperson should support the NJ Home Ownership Protection Act (identified by its numbers A.2517/S1599).

District 17

Senator Bob Smith (732) 752-0770
Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula (732) 247-3999
Assemblyman Joseph Egan (732) 249-4550

District 18

Senator Barbara Buono (732) 205-1372
Assemblyman Peter Barnes (732) 548-1406
Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Jr. (732) 757-1677

District 20

Senator Raymond Lesniak, Assemblymen Neil Cohen and Joseph Cryan all have the same office number (908) 624-0880

District 22

Senator Nicholas Scuteri (908) 587- 0404
Assemblyman Jerry Green (908) 561-5757
Assemblywoman Linda Stender (908) 668-1900

Unsure which district you live in? Go to

<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/municipalities.asp>

and click on your town.

SEPTEMBER 2008

continued support of FHP by donating their services to print this newsletter.

FISH Hospitality Program, Inc.

A tri-county program for homeless women and families serving Middlesex, Union and Somerset Counties in New Jersey

Mailing Address: PO Box 170
Dunellen, NJ 08812
Union County: PO Box 5440
Plainfield, NJ 07061
Office: 456 New Market Rd.
Piscataway, NJ
Phone: 732-968-5957
Fax: 732-968-2870

e-mail: fishhospsw@aol.com
web site: www.fishhospitality.com

Affiliate of Family Promise
Affiliate of FISH, Inc. Dunellen, NJ
Member of New Jersey Alliance for the Homeless

Board of Directors

President	Robert J. Spencer
Treasurer	David Walter
Vice President	David W. Casterline
Secretary	Patricia Klatt
Members	Dorothy Blae, LCSW Michael Danciak Norma A. Elliott Marjorie G. Hall Brock Haussamen Sharon J. Hunt Emily Mlinarovich Kathryn J. Riss William Schultz

Exec. Director: Susan E. Baybutt, MSW, LSW,
C-ASWCM

Thank you to **VERSATILE printing applications** of Bound Brook, NJ for their

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. STANDARD
MAIL
DUNELLEN, NJ
PERMIT NO. 24

PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS

Host Congregations (night and day):

Bound Brook Presbyterian Church - n
Christ United Methodist Church, Piscataway - n
First Baptist, Sewaren - n
First Presbyterian, Avenel - n
First Presbyterian, Dunellen - n
Friends Quaker Meeting House, Plainfield - n
Middlesex Bible Chapel - d
New Beginnings Church of the Nazarene, Edison - n
Rose of Sharon Community Church, Plainfield - n & d
St Paul's United Church of Christ - n
Trinity Episcopal, Woodbridge - n
Trinity Presbyterian Church, East Brunswick - n
Trinity Reformed N. Plainfield - n
Wesley United Methodist Church, S. Plainfield - d
Woodbridge United Methodist Church - n

Buddy Congregations:

New Dover United Methodist Church
St Cecelia's R.C. Church, Iselin
St James R.C. Church, Woodbridge

Support Congregations:

Grace Alliance, Piscataway
Our Lady of Mount Virgin, Middlesex
Pilgrim Covenant South Plainfield
St John the Evangelist R. C. Church, Dunellen
St Luke's R.C. Church, North Plainfield
St Paul's Episcopal Church, Bound Brook