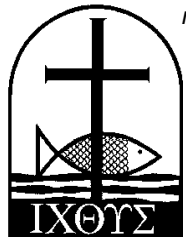


FISH Hospitality Program, Inc.

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

- 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
- January 6 **Coordinators Meeting** 7:30 pm at
Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church
650 Harris Ave, Middlesex, NJ 08846
- January 20 **FISH Hospitality Program Annual Meeting**
EVERYONE WELCOME!!
7:30 pm Wesley United Methodist
Church 1500 Plainfield Ave, South
Plainfield NJ 07080
- February 22 **Winter Concert** 3:00 pm
Trinity Reformed Church, 401 Greenbrook
Road North Plainfield, NJ

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks go out to a very dedicated group of people. Several workers from Verizon Business in Piscataway recently took on a renovation project. They repaired and painted the fire escape at our day facility. The team that worked on this project was Mark Torzewski, Tim Kirby, David Thompson, Jeff Fortmuller, Laura Platek, Luke Dhiman, Ketul Shah, Mark Stevenson and Johnny Sit. Thanks to everyone for such a great job.

VOLUNTEER VIEW

In talking with some of our loyal volunteers I discovered why they spend their time and energy with our FISH Hospitality guests.

Barbara Carroll: "It is my small way of helping others. Our guests, our brothers and sisters, rely on us for the traditional response to adversity – LOVE."

Elreta Blackman: " 'Here I am Lord... I will hold your people in my heart' my mission is to help others."

Ray Schmidt: "This is my way of serving. Laughter can quickly change to tears and prosperity to need. Our guests are not looking for unending charity, but a hand up."

Seymour Grey: "It is very rewarding to help some of our less fortunate brothers and sisters in our community."

Marisol Gutierrez: "I serve for one reason – to experience God. FISH Hospitality Program is not one of those ministries to which you simply give a tangible thing, like a donation. No – FISH Hospitality Program calls us to give more– to give ourselves. Time and again I have seen God in and through our guests."

Karen Griffith: "I would feel like a selfish person if I did not give my time to help those in need. I like getting to know the families and doing things with the children. I am happy to do what I can."

This cross-section of our volunteers sums up the joy we find in helping our guests who are in temporary unfortunate circumstances, with a hand up toward taking independent care of themselves and their families.

Fran Adams
Christ United Methodist Church

STATISTICS

January - October 2008

- Number of bed nights 3,284
- Number of adults sheltered 18
- Number of children sheltered 19
- Number of family units 17

GUEST SUCCESSES

Dieula and Frantso moved into their own apartment where they are very happy. Dieula recently sent a "Thank You" card to all the FHP volunteers expressing her gratitude for all that you did for her family.

Nana and her daughters Shiloh and Afua moved into their own apartment. She is still getting up early as she has a long commute to work but it is now easier for her because she is in her own place.

Angela moved into a rented room.

Yasmine, Ben and Marquiz moved into transitional housing.

Kelly and Junita moved into a spacious apartment in the community where they used to live.

THANKS TO...

Girl Scout Troop # 80019 Sayreville-South Amboy for preparing dinner to our guests, doing activities with the children, and donating lots of great bags filled with personal supplies.

Youth Group from Trinity Presbyterian Church who prepared and served dinner to our guests.

Girl Scout Troop # 491 Middlesex who prepared and served dinner to our guests.

Girl Scout Troop # 424 Piscataway who prepared and served dinner to our guests

Junior Girl Scout Troop # 118 Middlesex who prepared and served dinner to our guests.

Boy Scout Troop #5 Plainfield who prepared and served dinner to our guests.

REMEMBRANCE

Please pray for the family of this faithful volunteer who has gone to be with the Lord during this past year.

Bill Jennings (known to all as Uncle Bill) a volunteer at Rose of Sharon Community Church.

WISH LIST

Sheets & Pillows; Laundry Detergent; Fabric Softener;
Children's Toothbrushes

You may leave these at the FISH Hospitality Program office

FROM A FORMER GUEST

IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU

Drug addicts, thieves, and mentally challenged are some of the stereotypes that homeless people have been labeled as in today's society, but in all actuality the majority of individuals and families are hardworking upstanding citizens. There are various circumstances and reasons that cause people to become homeless and drugs or alcohol are not always the case. In today's economy everyone is really just a paycheck away. In today's society it is difficult for the average family to save a hundred dollars. In budgeting classes, saving is always the main topic, but how easy is it to save when there is rent, utilities, school tuition, school activities fees, food, car note, mortgage, medical bills, prescriptions and the list of bills goes on and on. I can continue but the list would take up the whole article. So one would ask how do you save and even make ends meet? Well, one thing that was stressed in budgeting class that actually made sense to me was: **LIVING WITHIN YOUR MEANS**. Budget your bills and expenses (necessities) based on your income and once you have paid all of your necessary bills, save at least ten or twenty dollars or more. Now, believe it or not, ten or twenty is difficult for some people to save but having a back up stash is a lot less stressful than not having any money when you need it. This method is actually working for me.

I am a thirty-five year old mother of a three year old child and I have recently been homeless. I am not a drug addict or an alcoholic. I am an educated woman with an associate degree and thirty credits away from receiving a bachelor's degree. My homelessness was the result of simply bad planning and bad decisions. I was in a financial rut prior to the birth of my daughter and have been struggling ever since. When I went to the Fish Hospitality program I was financially, emotionally and spiritually down and out. At that time I was seeking shelter but I ended up with so much more. The Fish program helped me more than I ever imagined. I was also in search of help, which is why I didn't turn to my family, but I never thought I would have ended up with not only help, but also self motivation and some lifetime friends. The Fish program provides you with not only shelter, but self awareness, pre-budgeting skills, resources, self motivation and guidance. Once I left the Fish program I was still somewhat in a rut but the help that I did receive helped me to reach the level that I am on now. My daughter and I are residing in a beautiful one bedroom apartment and I am employed. I am also scheduled to attend Rutgers University in January, 2009 to finish up my bachelor's. I can truthfully say that I am still not perfect when it comes to budgeting because I love to shop, but I've learned to prioritize all of my expenses, needs and luxuries.

Mona

ACTION ALERT

Urge your representatives in Trenton to support The County Homelessness Trust Fund Act

Trust funds are effective ways to support affordable housing because these funds are not paid for out of taxes and therefore they are separate from annual budgets and the political debates about them. This County Homelessness Trust Fund Act, A3101, allows counties to collect \$3 on each document of any kind that is filed with a county. The money collected must be used to:

- buy, construct, or rehabilitate permanent affordable housing in the county
- provide rental assistance vouchers for homeless families or those at risk of homelessness
- provide related services to support homeless families and those at risk of homelessness.

Call your representatives! It's easy. Simply tell the receptionist that you believe the Senator or Assemblyperson should support the County Homelessness Trust Fund Act, A.3101, and that if the representative already has supported it, you thank them for doing so (it's valuable to thank your representative when you agree with them!). Be sure to mention the bill's number, A3101.

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](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts/municipalities.asp)
and click on your town.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations go to Mary Lou Chingery, Nancy Magee and Bob Spencer who were this years Servant of Hope Award honorees. The Board of Directors and staff greatly appreciate the many hours of dedicated service they have given to help those most in need in our community.

Winter Concert

*Sunday February 22, 2009 at 3:00 pm
At
Trinity Reformed Church, North
Plainfield
(corner of Greenbrook Road and West
End Ave)*

*All genre of music including sacred
music, popular, jazz, classical,
humorous, choirs and solo performers*

*Tickets are \$12 per person if purchased
in advance
and \$15 at the door
Tickets on sale January 12, 2009*

*Send payment to: FISH Hospitality
Program, Inc
P.O. Box 170
Dunellen, 08812
Or purchase tickets at the door*

*If you are a seasoned performer and
would like
to take part in this concert please call
Brock Haussamen at*

732-356-5142

DECEMBER 2008

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

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

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

ORG.

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U.S. STANDARD
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DUNELLEN, NJ
PERMIT NO. 24

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

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