



# MID-YEAR REPORT CARD

TO SHARE WITH "FRIENDS OF FISH" - JULY 2014

FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwestern Connecticut  
332 South Main Street, Torrington, CT 06790 (860) 482-7300

It is always the season to be thankful here at FISH. And we recognize that you all make it possible for us to focus on our mission of providing the most basic of human needs – food, shelter and hope - to those neighbors in our communities in economic crisis and desperate need.

Please know how much we appreciate your financial contributions and food item donations. Some of you generously support FISH annually, and some of you choose to donate bi-annually, quarterly or monthly, yet please know that whenever you choose to help FISH with a donation, we are very grateful.

In fact, we find ourselves overwhelmed with the generosity of our communities, churches, organizations, fire departments, State Police Cadets, businesses, and schools (to name some) who have sponsored food and toy events and fund raisers to benefit area folks in need, our NW CT neighbors, through FISH.

We find amazing things happening under our roof at FISH, which we want to share with you in this mid-year "report card." At both the FISH Food Pantry and the FISH Homeless Shelter, "feel goods" happen daily! Shelter residents will welcome a newcomer with, "Welcome to the FISH family." We are focused on improving our residents' lives by providing them with the resources, guidance, medical assistance, and educational and work opportunities needed to be independent and able to manage their own households.

At the shelter, we do not tolerate substance use and our diversity is age – babies to seniors. In these last months we have celebrated 1st and 60th birthdays, marched with our vets in the Memorial Day parade, prepared for school dances, graduated kindergarten and high school students, driven to job interviews, and are now sending kids to summer camp. We hope to improve and positively change the lives of our shelter residents, and give hope to pantry users.



Memorial Day Parade 2014



## SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, November 6th 2014

1st Annual "A TASTEFUL EVENT"

Interlaken Inn, Lakeville, CT - 5:30-8:00pm

A Gala Celebrating Wine, Food and  
the Spirit of Giving to a Worthy Cause...

FISH / Friends in Service to Humanity  
of Northwestern Connecticut

## FISH FACTS

2013-2014 Half Year Mark

### FISH Food Pantry:

Total meals distributed (half year to date) = 67,950;  
# of families enrolled to receive food assistance = 378;  
representing 1066 individuals

### FISH Emergency Homeless Shelter:

Total # of bed nights = 7,000  
No. of adult bed nights = 4855  
No. of children = 1111  
No. of veterans = 1034  
This represents 74 unduplicated individuals – 53 adults,  
8 children, and 13 veterans

### FISH Board of Directors

Steven Caruso - *President*  
Alan Eckstrand - *Vice President*  
Katharine Briggs - *Secretary*  
Susan Suhanovsky - *Treasurer*  
Deirdre DiCara - *Executive Director*  
Joanne Donne  
Jo-Ann Ficca  
Robert Milano  
Donna Puzacke  
Ken Yancy

### FISH Staff

Deirdre Houllihan DiCara - *Executive Director*  
Earl Gibson - *Case Manager of Families & Individuals*  
Vera Halilaj - *Case Manager of Veterans*  
Robin King - *Shelter and Office Manager*  
Margaret Franzi - *Food Pantry Manager*

### Residential Monitors

Jeremy Nelson  
Daryl Fleming  
Fred Petteway

Please know we could not manage without  
the cheerful support of our volunteers!

 facebook.com/fishnwct

 www.fishnwct.org