



# MID-YEAR REPORT CARD

TO SHARE WITH "FRIENDS OF FISH" - SUMMER 2015

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

We find amazing things happening under our roof at FISH NWCT, which we want to share with you in this mid - year "report card." BIG NEWS - We are thrilled to be honored with this year's "Quality of Life" Award from the NWCT Chamber of Commerce on June 30th at the Warner Theatre; our Executive, Deirdre, has been named by Litchfield Magazine as one of the county's most influential people for her service work with the homeless and the hungry; and we were highly praised by the Department of Housing in our recent Shelter inspection!

We find that at both the FISH Food Pantry and the FISH Homeless Shelter, "feel goods" happen daily! 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.

It is always the season to be thankful here at FISH NWCT. We know 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 realize how much we appreciate your financial contributions, and food and toy 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 and however you choose to help FISH with a donation, we are very grateful. We strive to improve and positively change the lives of our shelter residents, and give hope to food pantry users through your generous support.

## FISH FACTS

2014-2015 Half Year Mark

### FISH Food Pantry:

Total meals distributed (half year to date) = 72,150;  
# of families enrolled to receive food assistance = 390;  
representing 1661 individuals

### FISH Emergency Homeless Shelter:

Total # of bed nights = 7,816  
No. of adult bed nights = 5063  
No. of children = 1506  
No. of veterans = 1247  
This represents 59 unduplicated individuals – 42 adults,  
7 children, and 10 veterans



FISH NWCT Staff (left to right)  
Margaret, Earl, Jeremy, Daryl, Deirdre, Steve, Robin and Vera  
NWCT Chamber 2015 Quality of Life Award Recipients

**COMING EARLY FALL**

## The 2nd Annual "A TASTEFUL EVENT"

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

FISH / Friends in Service to Humanity  
of Northwestern Connecticut

### FISH NWCT Board of Directors

Steven Caruso - *President*  
Alan Eckstrand - *Vice President*  
Katharine Briggs - *Secretary*  
Susan Suhanovsky - *Treasurer*  
Mark Berns  
Lisa Soliani Croce  
Joanne Donne  
Jo-Ann Ficca  
Robert Milano  
Donna Puzacke  
Kenneth Yancey

### FISH NWCT Staff

Deirdre Houlihan DiCara - *Executive Director*  
Earl Gibson - *Case Manager of Families & Individuals*  
Vera Halilaj - *Case Manager of Veterans & Individuals*  
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!

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[www.fishnwct.org](http://www.fishnwct.org)