

Founded in 1972, FISH originally provided free transportation to patients, particularly cancer patients, to their appointments. Today, FISH has evolved into the area's largest emergency homeless shelter (35 beds) and free food pantry. The programs and social services at FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of NW CT are critical to some for their survival and well-being.

Outline of programs provided by FISH, aided by the generosity of donors:

Shelter for families, veterans and individuals (35 beds, 10 of which are designated for vets) – which last year had 11,728 bed nights used. This summer of 2014, FISH currently has 7 children seeking shelter, with school age children enrolled in local summer camp programs. We soon will focus on school needs and extra-curricular programs at the YMCA and in Scouting for the children. We provide breakfast and dinner to the shelter residents.

Case Management – what makes FISH extra special is that we have two Case Managers overseeing the resources, medical and mental health needs, employment opportunities, and housing possibilities to lead to one's independent living future.

Food Pantry – FISH distributed enough food to provide 120,540 meals to 568 area families/2696 individuals in need last year - 2012 - 2013. (Donors -Frozen foods are now welcome, thanks to our new walk-in freezer!)

GED and computer training programs on site are offered to shelter residents and neighbors in the community twice a week by Education Connection.

FISH is a satellite office for the area's energy assistance program.

FISH provides both medical and mental health services, on site, to shelter residents. Charlotte Hungerford Hospital's Behavioral Health and FQHC – Community Health and Wellness are the providers two days a week.

FISH makes possible in-house group and family counseling.

FISH by the end of summer will be a satellite office for SNAP enrollment.

Prime Time House provides FISH with career counseling services.

Life Skills workshops – about every six months, we offer in collaboration with the Register Citizen – cooking; nutrition; couponing; budgeting/banking; managing well on one's food allowance; and gardening without a yard.

Our hope is to have shelter residents participating in the communities that they will be living in once they receive their housing.

In the transition house next door, we have made it possible for two dads to raise their families, including their daughters, which would not have been possible in our dormitory/upstairs/downstairs/male/female shelter setting.

Our residents are extremely appreciative and hugs are a reality. All we provide is through the generosity of you donors and collaborations with numerous organizations and institutions.

FISH / Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwestern Connecticut is unique in the communities we serve – by helping the hungry and the homeless.

Please give a call to Deirdre for a “grand tour”.

*Thank you for being
a friend to FISH...
Deirdre*

