



# ANNUAL HOLIDAY "REPORT CARD"

## TO SHARE WITH "FRIENDS OF FISH" - DECEMBER 2014

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

'Tis the season to be thankful, and we at FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of NWCT 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, food item donations and support of our special events. Many of you in the past few weeks have already generously supported FISH NWCT, and we are very grateful.



FISH Vet Jim with Senator Blumenthal at Veterans Stand Down 2014

In fact, we find ourselves overwhelmed with the generosity of our communities, churches, organizations, businesses, restaurants, fire departments, State Police Cadets, families and schools (to name some) who have made donations, sponsored food, coat and toy drives, and organized fund raisers to benefit area folks in need through FISH NWCT.

As we decorate the FISH Shelter's tree with our residents, and distribute holiday meals and surprises for the children of families using the FISH Food Pantry, we have a renewed sense of energy and exhilarated spirit as we serve the hungry and the homeless of our NWCT corner. We have had exceptional support from the local media, and area foundations and organizations. We invite you to view our website at [www.fishnwct.org](http://www.fishnwct.org) and Facebook page at [facebook.com/fishnwct](https://facebook.com/fishnwct).

Our diversity at FISH NWCT is one of age - from newborns - seniors. We hope to improve and change the lives of our shelter residents by making a positive impact through their FISH Shelter experience and the encouragement we wholeheartedly provide. We find amazing things happening daily under our roof at FISH NWCT, which we share in this year-end (9/30) "report card."



### FISH Board of Directors

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

### FISH Staff

- Deirdre Houlihan 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!

## FISH FACTS In 2013-2014

### FISH Food Pantry:

Total meals distributed (year ending 9/30) = 104,850;  
No. of families enrolled to receive assistance = 479;  
representing 2039 individuals

### FISH Emergency Homeless Shelter:

Total # of bed nights = 10,752  
No. of adult bed nights = 7269  
No. of children = 1742  
No. of veterans = 1741  
This represented 111 unduplicated individuals –  
73 adults, 14 children, and 24 veterans

[facebook.com/fishnwct](https://facebook.com/fishnwct) [www.fishnwct.org](http://www.fishnwct.org)

