

Founded in 1972, FISH originally provided free transportation to patients, particularly cancer patients, to their appointments. Today, FISH NWCT 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 NWCT are critical to some for their survival and well-being.

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

Shelter for families, veterans and individuals (35 beds, 5 of which are designated for vets) which last year had 10,752 bed nights used. This summer of 2015, 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. We do not tolerate substance use and our diversity is age – babies to seniors. We provide breakfast and dinner to the shelter residents.

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

Food Pantry – FISH distributed enough food to provide 104,850 meals to 479 area families/2039 individuals in need last year - 2013 - 2014. (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, including AA.

Career counseling and coaching is provided by Prime Time House weekly.

Homeless Outreach, in coordination with other area providers, is routine; as well as our annual Veterans Stand Down held at the Torrington Army.

Life Skills workshops – FISH NWCT offers in collaboration with area providers – cooking, nutrition, couponing, budgeting, and managing well on one's food dollars.

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 families to live with teenage children, which would not have been possible in our dormitory upstairs-male and downstairs-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. We are unique in the community we serve – helping the hungry and the homeless.

Please give Deirdre a call to schedule your "grand tour".

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

Deirdre & Steve

