



MID-YEAR "REPORT CARD"

TO SHARE WITH "FRIENDS OF FISH" - JULY 2017

FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwestern Connecticut
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www.fishnwct.org | facebook.com/fishnwct

We at FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of NWCT recognize that you, and your generosity, make it possible for us to focus on our mission of providing the most basic of human needs – food, shelter and hope at the **FISH Food Pantry and FISH Homeless Shelter**. We are the champions for the hungry and the homeless of NWCT.

Amazing things happen daily under our roof at FISH NWCT, which we share in this mid-year "report card" 2016 – 2017.

FISH NWCT is dependent on the generosity of donors, and with recent governmental budget cuts of \$25,000, we are critically challenged to fund our programs and shelter.

Your help is needed more than ever...

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

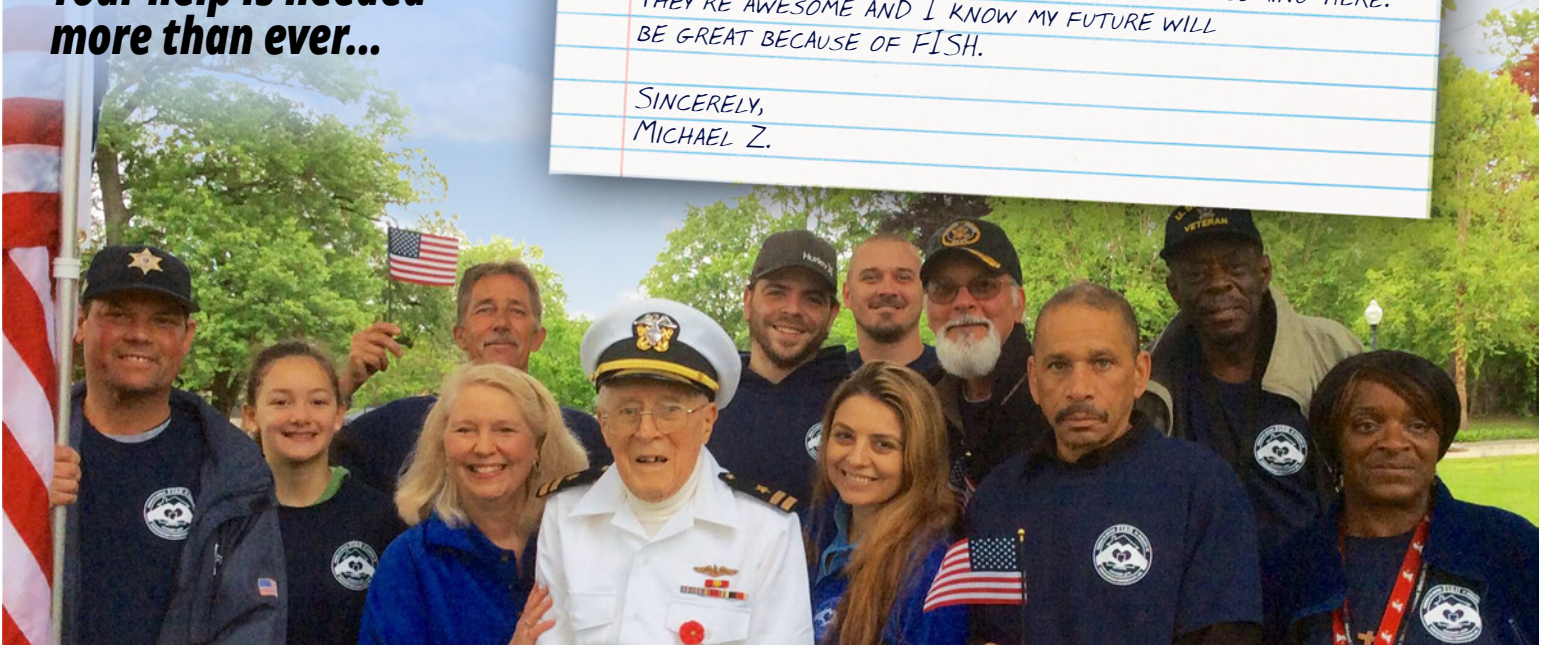
AS A RECENTLY ACCEPTED RESIDENT TO THE FISH SHELTER, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY WHAT A POSITIVE WAY MY LIFE IS IMPROVING. AS A U.S. NAVY VETERAN, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT I FEEL RESPECT FOR MY SERVICE.

THE STAFF HERE OPENED UP MY EYES AND INTRODUCED ME TO PROGRAMS AND PEOPLE WHO MAKE MYSELF PROUD OF MY TIME IN THE MILITARY. BEING HOMELESS FOR THE PAST SEVEN (7) YEARS, I CAME TO BELIEVE THAT MOST PEOPLE DIDN'T CARE OR COMPREHEND. NOT MANY PEOPLE GAVE A THOUGHT TO WHAT IT'S LIKE TO SERVE PROUDLY AND NOT GETTING ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO OUR SACRIFICE IT TAKES TO DO WHAT WE'VE DONE.

THE RESPECT THAT THE STAFF AT FISH GIVES TO THE VETS IS LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER FELT BEFORE. MAKES ME PROUD, MAKES ME WANT TO IMPROVE MY LIFE, AND THEY'RE THERE TO HELP ME WHERE NO ONE HAS SINCE MY DISCHARGE.

THIS PROGRAM AT FISH IS GREAT; I'VE GOT GOALS THAT FISH HAS GOTTEN ME TO FOCUS ON. I FEEL UPBEAT, POSITIVE AND HEALTHY, NOT LIKE I WAS BEFORE COMING HERE. THEY'RE AWESOME AND I KNOW MY FUTURE WILL BE GREAT BECAUSE OF FISH.

SINCERELY,
MICHAEL Z.



Honoring FISH Volunteer Jack McGrane, WWII and Korea, with FISH Veterans

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,

where we always seem to be at full throttle, 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 11,695 bed nights used, and have found permanent housing for over 70 people. As this goes to press, FISH has 7 children seeking shelter, with school age children enrolled in local schools. We can hear the sounds of kids jumping in a wading pool and out riding their bikes. And do know that we have high behavioral expectations in our shelter to keep our residents safe and secure as they await housing. 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 115,109 meals to 541 area families/2027 individuals in 2016. The FISH Food Pantry depends on the generosity of the community for contributions. *Donors please know that frozen and refrigerated foods are now accepted - thanks to our walk-in freezer and new walk-in cooler!*

GED training programs on site are offered to shelter residents and neighbors in the community by EdAdvance.

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. FQHC - Community Health and Wellness is a weekly provider.

FISH makes possible in-house group and family counseling.

Job counseling, resume writing and coaching is made available.

Homeless Outreach - in coordination with other area providers, is routine; as well as our annual awareness event for the community "Rally to End Hunger and Homelessness." *Save the Date, the 3rd annual rally is this November 18th.*

"Life for Vets" program - multiple providers work with our Case Managers to assist our shelter's veterans.

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.

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 that we serve - helping the hungry and the homeless.

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



*Thank you for being a friend,
advocate and supporter
of FISH NWCT...
Deirdre & Steve*



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Daryl Fleming, Residential Monitor
Jeremy Nelson, Residential Monitor
Fred Petteway, Residential Monitor

*Please understand we could not manage
without the cheerful support of our
volunteers, donors and food contributors.*

*We are the champions for the hungry
and the homeless of Northwestern
Connecticut, and due to governmental
budget cuts...*

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

