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AND THE HOMELESS
IN OUR
COMMUNITY

FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwestern CT, Inc.

The mission of FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of NWCT is to meet the most basic of human needs – food, shelter and hope. Since opening its doors in 1972, FISH has evolved into the largest emergency homeless shelter, covering the geographic area of northwestern Connecticut, by providing families, individuals and veterans a safe and secure haven. In addition, FISH serves local communities as a food pantry that is open four days a week.

The goals and objectives of the agency reflect our work – at the shelter, food pantry, and emergency fuel/energy – recognizing the very human, social welfare challenges of families, individuals and veterans by collaborating, partnering and outreaching to officials and other social service providers. Our goal is to give those in need the tools and resources needed to gain independence successfully.

At the shelter, residents are served by a case manager who is devoted to making our residents independent through economic/employment resources and educational opportunities.

FISH NWCT offers GED instruction, life skills workshops, and opportunities for vocational certification at NCCC, as well as mental health and medical care weekly. The diversity of residents includes newborns through seniors. The shelter strives to be a family friendly, communal home.

At the FISH Food Pantry, we ensure that hundreds of families are able to receive their life sustaining food needs. Our goal is to provide a friendly and safe place to our neighbors in need. We know that our program and social services are critical to some for their survival.

Amazing things happen for people under the roof at FISH, and we welcome you to assist us in our mission for serving those neighbors in economic crisis and facing life challenges. We depend on the generosity of our community!

FISH FACTS in 2018:

FISH Food Pantry – Total meals distributed = 116,569 # of families enrolled to receive assistance = 516; representing 1779 individuals

FISH Emergency Homeless Shelter – Total #of bed nights = 11,714 This represented 102 individuals – 85 adults, 6 children,and 11 veterans, with 41 shelter residents moving into permanent supportive housing.

Our Best Wishes for Success!

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FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwestern CT, Inc.

As we celebrate food, wine and the spirit of giving to a great cause at our 4th annual "A Tasteful Event" to benefit the programs of FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of NWCT, we must recognize all who have made this gala possible with our own special - "Hip, Hip Hooray"!

Chairs – Nancy Strini, BettyAnn Cuozzo and Edward Cannata ATE Committee – Evie Bergs, Cara Blazier, Deborah Pokrinchak Robin King and Margaret Franzi

ATE Judges – Julia Scharnberg, Tim LeBouthillier, Susan Cook, Matthew Daly and Jim Reginatto

Grateful to – The Elks Club of Torrington

Music - Jacque Williams Entertainment

FISH Board of Directors - Steven Caruso, Alan Eckstrand, Katharine Briggs, Robert Milano, Donna Puzacke, Mark Berns, Christopher Ryan, Susan LoRusso, Melissa Antonio, Deborah Pokrinchak and Ken Yancey

Volunteers – Aaron, Brenda, Jim, Tammy, Sue, Sara, Lisa, Allyssa, Katie, Carole, Joe, Carla, Dustin Sheila and Melissa

Our friends at Minuteman Press, Tents Unlimited

Media Outlets – WZBG, WAPJ, Republican American and Register Citizen **Photography** by Sheila Ivain

And to our amazingly generous sponsors; restaurants, caterers, distiller, and chocolatier; auction donors; and event donors and attendees another three cheers!!!!!!

You help us to make amazing things happen at FISH NWCT - programs, partnerships and collaborations - that impact and improve the lives of the hungry and homeless in need in our NWCT community.

Thank you for believing. My true and heartfelt appreciation! Bon Appetite!!

Deirdre Houlihan DiCara.

Deirdre Houlihan DiCara

Executive Director

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Northwest Community Bank

FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwestern Connecticut gratefully acknowledges the generous community spirit of our 2019 "A Tasteful Event" sponsors.





The structure of a community foundation is inspired:

Create an endowment fund for the common good, invest it prudently, administer it wisely, and let the yield from the principal flow back to the community in the form of grants that help nonprofits meet community needs.

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All are welcome to Join our community awareness rally to...

End Hunger & Homelessness

Saturday, November 23, 2019

10am - 12pm:

Walk & Tour FISHNWCT Shelter & Food Pantry, and The Gathering Place Homeless Drop-In Center

12pm - 2pm:

FREE Community Pasta Lunch & Coat Giveaway





COAT **GIVEAWAY**

For those in need on November 23rd during the free pasta lunch at:

> St. Peter's Church Hall 107 East Main St

We at FISH NWCT see daily the very human, social welfare challenges of families, individuals and veterans facing life crisis.

We strive to restore the confidence and self-worth of those who are the most vulnerable and seek our help.



OTHER WAYS TO HELP FISH

Shop at AmazonSmile and have 0.5% of your purchase price donated to your chosen charity.

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