FISH continues to provide the most basic of human needs…food, shelter & hope

ANNUAL MID-YEAR "REPORT CARD"

TO SHARE WITH "FRIENDS OF FISH" - July 2026

332 South Main Street, Torrington, CT 06790 (860) 482-7300
www.fishnwct.org | facebook.com/fishnwct

To serve rising needs, FISH has increased our food pantry open-hours while our neighbors face shrinking safety-nets, and nationwide programs supporting food pantries have been reduced.

We need your help!!

From July 1st to July 22nd, FISH NWCT is joining nonprofits throughout the Northwest Corner in raising funds for operational needs.

This is an opportunity to make donations — large or small — to help us continue providing aid to the homeless, and food to those in need. Northwest Corner Gives is an online giving platform created generously by the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation to help organizations build awareness and raise matching funds.

FISH is raising funds for our $50,000 goal. The Foundation will match all gifts made on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to $25,000 for FISH!

Know that amazing things continue to happen under our roof at FISH NWCT. We serve on the frontline, 24/7, at the FISH NWCT Homeless Shelter and Food Pantry. Fundraising has been a challenge. Most foundation gifts we receive are restricted. We need operational funding.

The Pantry depends on community donations and the Shelter receives only 2/3 of the funds needed to operate from the Department of Housing.

Special thanks already to the Lakeridge community for your huge effort to help us make our goal. There have been so many of you— shining in your goodness and generosity. We are thankful year round for your support when you step up to give us a helping hand in our service work with our homeless and food insecure neighbors in need.

We truly need your help!

Please join during this very generous 2026 "Northwest Corner Gives" Matching Campaign with a gift to FISH from July 1st to July 22nd. Every dollar donated will be matched, $ for $, when you donate at the below link:

www.northwestcornergives.org

Please type "FISH" in the comments for your donations to be properly directed to us.

Thank you for giving and Thank You to Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation!

NCCF Northwest Corner Gives 2026

NCCF
Northwest CT Community Foundation

Northwest Corner Gives 2026 will run from July 1st to July 22nd, offering a vital opportunity for community members to support a diverse array of local causes.

NCCF matches donations to nonprofit campaigns dollar-for-dollar up to campaign goals through NCCF's giving platform:

www.northwestcornergives.org

Visit www.northwestcornergives.org during this time to view nonprofit campaigns and double the impact of your donations! Please donate directly to this campaign to support FISH programs for the homeless and the food insecure.

Thank you for your support – always!

Retirement Investment Funds:
Please note — you may send a check directly to Northwest CT Community Foundation at PO Box 1144 Torrington, CT 06790.
***Make sure your donation made to NCCF includes the memo "for FISH" and arrives by July 22nd.**

Easter at FISH!

A donation from CT Water Company in memory of Margaret Franzi

Memorial Day Parade

Food pantry volunteers and supporters

Kim, Maura, Kathy, and Deirdre at Give Local 2026 Kickoff

A visit to the State Capitol

A wonderful donation of soups from Montessori School in Washington

Food pantry donation

A great group of nonprofits

Generous support from NBT Bank

FISH always glad to work with United Way of Northwest Connecticut

Early Childhood Fair at Kids Play Museum

SAVE THE DATE

9th annual A Tasteful Event

Have a taste of the great foods and drinks available in our greater community!
Wednesday, May 26, 2027, 5:00-7:30 PM
at The Litchfield Community Center.

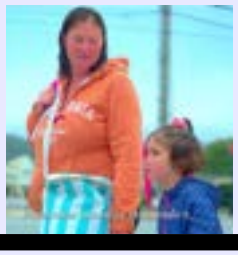
FISH ON FILM!

FISH NWCT was been thrilled to be featured in an episode of "Divine Renovation, Season 2 — New England"

Watch on these platforms:

tubi · Roku · tv · discovery family · amazon prime video

Watch the one hour CPTV video, "Fighting for Home: How Housing Policy keeps Connecticut Segregated."
A segment is filmed at the FISH NWCT Shelter.
Find the link at
www.fishnwct.org/news



FISH FACTS IN 2024-2025

At FISH NWCT we see daily the social welfare challenges for families, individuals and veterans facing life crisis. We strive to restore the confidence and self-worth of those who are the most vulnerable.

FISH Food Pantry

***182,859 meals distributed**
***938 families enrolled to receive food, representing 2,652 people (An increase of 952 from last year, — and still growing!)**

FISH Emergency Homeless Shelter

***35 beds provided**
5 designated for veterans
***Total Served: 87 adults, 18 veterans, 19 children**
A total of 124 residents

Our goal is to provide permanent supportive housing for our residents

A Tasteful Event 2026 Sponsors

Title Sponsors

Northwest Community Bank
Thomaston Savings Bank
Maria and Allan Borghesi

Platinum

Dunkin of Torrington / Harwinton
Torrington Savings Bank

FISH Champion

Thomaston Comfort Control

Gold

Aflac of Litchfield County
Challenging Minds
Linda DiBerardino
Fire Equipment Headquarters
Gleeson-Ryan Funeral Homes
O&G Industries
Sullivan Automotive
Kenneth Yancey

Silver

Cara and Ken Blazier
C&G Heating
Community Health and Wellness Center
Doyle's Medical Supply
Eastside Electric
Edward Jones Investments – Gary Nicksa
Hartford Healthcare
HealthMarkets – Mel Brickman
Howd, Lavieri & Finch, LLP
Keystone Place at Newbury Brook
The Nicholas Law Firm
Northwest CT Realty
NW Hills Credit Union
Root, Borajkiewicz, Lucarelli Wealth Advisors
Raine Pedersen
Margaret and Adrian Selby
Sol Paradise Tanning
Soundworks and Security
Thomaston Comfort Control
Torrington Downtown Partners

Bronze

Martha Bernstein
Hon. Anne C. Dranginis
Joan Gill
Globe Cleaners
Patricia Hearn & Charles Walkonis
Jordan Richards Elder Law
Litchfield Hills Nursery
Pro-Film – Tim Van Deusen

Cuisine & Libations

Espresso 59
Tina's Café 38
Love It Vegan
The Venetian
@ The Corner
Ciesco Catering
Noujaim's Bistro
Vera Roma Grille & Bar
Brinx Café & Wine Bar
YiaYia's Greek Kitchen
Arethusa Farm Dairy
Da Capo of Litchfield
Vega's Latin Cuisine
Litchfield Distillery

Silent Auction Donors

Rick's Nutmeg Grille
The Warner Theatre
Sol Paradise Tanning
The Inn at Mt. Pleasant
Deirdre Houlihan Dicara
Thomaston Savings Bank
Nutmeg Fudge Company
The BoatHouse at Lakeville
Lowe's Home Improvement
La Güera Cantina and Food Truck
Terri Hendrix – Beauty and the Barber
Karen Ross
Robin King
Chris Ryan
Gaye Belli
Lisa Conti
Nancy Strini
Tina's Café 38
Beverly Schott
Salisbury Wines
Rebecca Bridges
Meredith Shafer
Litchfield Paddle
Lake Compounce
Red Horse Bakery
KidsPlay Museum
Kimberly Humphrey

Introducing Kimberly Munn — our new Food Pantry Manager at FISH

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.

Programs provided by FISH NWCT:

Shelter — for families, veterans and individuals (35 beds, 5 of which are designated for veterans) which last year had...

124 residents (87 adults, 18 veterans, 19 children – there were 7 families).

We serve infants - seniors. Our goal is to help find permanent supportive housing for our residents, and this year our goal was met with success for 80% of our population. The challenges have been great, yet we have been resilient.

Case Management – what makes FISH extra special is that we have a Case Manager 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 nearly 183,000 meals to 930+ area families / 2,700 individuals in need last year. In the past year, over 1,000 new clients have registered. The FISH Food Pantry depends on the generosity of the community for year-round contributions. Every day we serve more than double our usual numbers. Food is flying off our shelves.

GED high school accreditation classes are offered to shelter residents and neighbors in the community by EdAdvance.

Northwestern CT Community College/NCCC offers the opportunity for vocational training certifications and job placements.

FISH provides both medical and mental health services, on site, to shelter residents.

FQHC – **Community Health & Wellness** is our visiting medical provider on-site.

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 Day to End Hunger and Homelessness." The 11th annual rally held at St. Peter's Hall, welcomed people – focused on the **coat giveaway (3,000 warm items were collected including over 1,500 coats),** and a bag lunch and grocery gift card were distributed, as well as info on area providers. 660 neighbors were helped!

Please check www.fishnwct.org for more information about donating coats.

The 12th Rally will take place November 14, 2026.

FISH Holiday Toy Program helped 250 families (with 400 children) last year.

We do our best to provide the magic and wonder of the Christmas Season.

"Life for Vets" program – multiple providers work with our Case Manager to assist our shelter's veterans. We are pleased to be selected by the VA to serve as a Vets Shelter.

Life Skills workshops – FISH NWCT offered in collaboration with area providers.

All we provide is through the generosity of you donors, and collaborations with numerous organizations, churches and institutions, such as Warm The Children, Stock the Shelves—now part of The United Way NWCT, Food Rescue, the Rotary Club, and local businesses. We are unique in the community that we serve – helping the food insecure and the unhoused of our area.

FISH Board of Directors

President	Steven Caruso
Vice President	Christopher Ryan
Secretary	Donna Puzacke
Treasurer	Katharine Briggs
Executive Director	Deirdre DiCara
Members at Large:	Mark Berns
Lisa Conti	Deb Pokrinchak
Maura Malo	Ken Yancey

FISH Staff

Executive Director
Deirdre Houlihan DiCara

Case Manager	Adam Pitts
Shelter and Office Manager	Robin King
Food Pantry Manager	Kimberly Munn
Executive Assistant	Dan Santorso

Residential Monitors

Ashley Beatrice	Russ Brown
Segundo Cardenas	Dakota Foshay
Yvette Cruz	Keith Guinyard

Heartfelt thanks for being a friend, advocate, and supporter of FISH NWCT…

Deirdre & Steve

May 27, 2026

8th Annual

A Tasteful Event

All of our generous providers of Cuisine and Libations!

Brinx Café & Wine Bar

Espresso 59

Noujaim's Bistro

Lisa Ferris representing YiaYia's Greek Kitchen

Volunteers serving ice cream from Arethusa Dairy

@ The Corner

Ciesco Catering

Vega's Latin Cuisine

Tina's Café 38

May 27, 2026

8th Annual

A Tasteful Event