

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 vets) which last year had 3918 bed nights used by 73 residents (55 adults, 10 veterans, 8 children). Our goal is to help find permanent supportive housing for our residents.

As this goes to press, FISH remains decompressed for the 28th month of the pandemic - serving just over half of our capacity due to the COVID - 19 virus. The challenges have been great as we successfully follow our "Teams Stay Healthy" protocols.

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 60,503 meals to 284 area families/698 individuals in need last year. We are finding the need increasing as people's federal pandemic subsidies are cut or ended. The FISH Food Pantry depends on the generosity of the community for contributions. Donors please know that frozen and refrigerated foods are accepted - thanks to our walk-in freezer and walk-in cooler! Know that our doors have been welcoming to newcomers in need due to the Coronavirus. Our distribution operation currently remains located outside on our loading dock.

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 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 our weekly 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 7th annual rally held at St. Peter's Hall on November 20th welcomed over 250 people - focused on the coat giveaway (over 1200+ donated), and a bag lunch and grocery gift card were distributed, as well as info on area providers and Corona virus vaccines. The 8th Rally will take place November 19, 2022.

"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. Now "on hold."

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.

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

Deirdre & Steve



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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, yet know that it takes the generous support of you, our community neighbors, who care to join us in partnering in our humanitarian efforts.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

SAVE THE DATES
Back by popular demand!

DECK THE HALLS
MARTINI TASTING PARTY

DECEMBER 7, 2022



MAY 3, 2023

Help Us Celebrate Christmas In JULY!

Northwest Corner Gives

FISH is honored and thankful...

Please join this very generous 2022 "Northwest Corner Gives" Matching Campaign with a gift to FISH by July 29th.



Please visit...

northwestcornergives.org/donations/fish
Please Type "FISH" in the comments for your donation to be properly directed to us.

We need your help!! FISH needs Christmas in July!!!

Until July 29th, FISH NWCT is joining nonprofits throughout the Northwest Corner in raising funds for operational needs. This is an opportunity to make donations - large and/or small - to help us continue to power through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Northwest Corner Gives is an online giving platform created 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! If you choose to make a donation, and we possibly have met our goal, you may still donate and FISH will receive your gift. Special thanks already to the Lakeridge community for your huge effort to help us make our matching goal.

Know that amazing things continue to happen under our pandemic roof at FISH NWCT. We've been on the frontline, 24/7, since launching our "Team Stay Healthy" protocols in March 2020, at the FISH NWCT Homeless Shelter and Food Pantry. Yet, funding has been a challenge.

We've been blessed with heroes and angels, and are very grateful, yet most Foundation gifts we receive are restricted. We need operational funding.

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

We depend on \$45,000 - \$55,000 from the United Way's campaign for operations - yet during the COVID pandemic they have not run their campaign and have not contributed to our FISH budget in over a year. This leaves a gap in our annual fundraising.

There have been so many of you - shining in your goodness and generosity. Please know how thankful we are 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.

ANNUAL MID-YEAR "REPORT CARD"

TO SHARE WITH "FRIENDS OF FISH" - JULY 2022

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

"Providing the most basic of human needs... food, shelter & hope"



Happy 50th Birthday to FISH

You're Invited!

You are cordially invited to celebrate our "50th Anniversary Cookout - Under the Big Top", Thursday, August 18, 2022, 5pm at the Litchfield Community Center.

An evening to gather and celebrate, while enjoying entertainment and the delicious fare of Ciesco Catering and Noujaim's Bistro.

Simply - fun and friendship on an August summer evening.

Please respond with your intention to attend to Dan at dsantorso@fishnwct.org, or phone him at 860-482-7300.

We hope to see you!!!



Lucille and Audrey deliver cereal



Community Health and Wellness provides health care



New FISH Food Pantry cargo van thanks to the Draper Foundation - Dan, Deirdre, Kevin Sullivan and Steve



Helen Waldron delivers donations from the Litchfield County Ladies Network



Generous Gaye delivering to Deirdre at FISH



Torrington Center Congregational Church Youth and Volunteers



Torrington Savings Bank donates to our FISH furnace replacement project



3 furnaces replacement project made possible by the Torrington Savings Bank Foundation; and the Draper Foundation and the Raymond and Gloria Oneglia Family Fund - both managed by the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation



Dan graduates from the NWCT Chamber of Commerce's Leadership program - Paul, Lauren, Dan and JoAnn



Great thanks to First Congregational Church of Torrington's congregation for their Lenten basket food drive



Senior Girl Scouts bringing Easter joy!



Franco - Food Rescue volunteer



FISH has planted a garden! Deirdre, Dan, Doreen, Diane, Lori and Josh



Lori Kibbe Lindenmuth - Valentine's cheer



Stephen Todd of Brooks, Todd and McNeil generously donates to FISH



Jeff Geddes delivers his Easter Bonnet cake to the FISH Shelter



Mary Jane Mazzarelli and Jodi Mazzarelli Calabrese - presenting a donation from the George's Restaurant patrons



Todd and Jake - Peoples United Bank's food drive delivery to Jeremy



Thanks to you, our community donors and supporters... angels and heroes, we continue to miraculously serve our hungry and homeless neighbors in need.



FISH FACTS IN 2020-2021

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.

FISH Food Pantry

60,503 meals distributed (year ending 9/30)
248 families enrolled to receive food, representing 698 individuals

FISH Emergency Homeless Shelter (35 beds) currently decompressed due to the pandemic

Total # of bed nights = 3918
Total Served: 55 adults, 10 veterans, 8 children = 73 Total Residents



Our efforts and successes in advocating and championing the needs of our region's hungry and homeless are dependent on the generosity of our greater community.

We are critically challenged to fund our programs, and your help is needed now... **more than ever!**

Doreen - FISH Food Pantry volunteer & mask maker