



FISH NEWSLETTER

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Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area

PO Box 8565, Piscataway NJ 08855-8006

Hotline: 732-356-0081

Serving our neighbors since 1970

www.fishdunellenarea.org

IN MEMORY OF EDWIN D. HEARN, PAST PRESIDENT



Sadly, we lost one of our earliest volunteers last month. Edwin Hearn was active with Fish for most of our forty years. He passed away peacefully on March 4, while he and his wife, Juanita, were visiting family in Connecticut.

Ed served as Vice President of Fish for four years and as President for four years and was an active member of our steering committee. He organized food deliveries to people in the New Brunswick area.

Ed wasn't the only one in his family working to help others. His wife, Juanita, served as telephone chairperson. Ed worked on the New Brunswick area Christmas Toy program with his daughter, Cathy Kobilis. In 2008 the United Way of Central Jersey chose Ed, his wife Juanita, and their daughter Kathy to receive their Hometown Heroes family community service award.

Ed Hearn will be greatly missed by all of us.

FORTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

The Fortieth Annual Meeting of Fish, Inc., Dunellen area was held on Monday, February 8, 2010. President, Phil Cox welcomed everyone and gave recognition to the volunteers who were present when Fish began in 1970 and are still active volunteers today. Merkie Chamberlin, our Recording Secretary was one of the original organizers of Fish. Gerry Halteman, who began the clothing program in her basement, is still doing that job today. Blanche Dobies served as Vice President and telephone chairperson. Blanche is still active as a telephone volunteer. Carol Papi spoke about Ed Hearn, former president of Fish, as being a man of service, who loved his family, his church, and his community.

Treasurer's Report

Ned Halteman reported that our expenses in 2009 were \$53,579 more than our income. Part of this shortfall was due to the \$33,187 cost of a new truck which should meet our needs for many years to come.

Committee Reports

Gerry Halteman reported on the Clothing Program. Currently there are approximately 60 families coming to the clothing room every week that they are open. The program served about 4,000 children and 2,000 adults this past year.

A clothing program opened up in Plainfield this past September, which serves North Plainfield and Plainfield. This has made a significant difference in that the workload has decreased and clients may visit the Clothing Room more often.

Fish supplied about 375 families with blankets this year. Ninety new blankets were purchased with donations earmarked "blankets." Approximately 700 used blankets, comforters, Afghans and sheets were donated by groups doing "just bedding" collections for Fish.

The Sneaker Program targets families experiencing homelessness, fire, flood or other kind of disaster. This program distributed 98 pairs of new sneakers. Also, gift cards purchased from Payless Shoes were distributed to families in special need.

Lisa Couch reported that the Holiday Toy Program served over 750 children; a significant increase over last year. This included regular clients as well as walk-ins. Lisa thanked the many corporations, churches, and individuals who contributed. Lisa also thanked her family for assisting her with this program. Volunteers who would like to become part of the Holiday Toy Program are most welcome.

Dave Casterline, Computer Committee, reported that the web page has been published. The site contains information about Fish, Inc., such as the services provided, contact information, meeting notices, a printable flyer, the History of Fish, and newsletters. The website address is www.fishdunellenarea.org.

Bob Mitchell, Food Program chairperson, noted that the number of walk-in clients last year at the Food Room increased by an average of 47 clients per month. The highest number was in November, with 385 clients served. Bob thanks the contributors, churches, schools and civic groups who donated food. Bob is especially grateful to the First Baptist Church of New Market for their monthly food and coin collection at the Middlesex Acme, and to Steve Glowacki and his family for their time and dedication in coordinating this effort. Bob also offered heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who keep the program running.

Fish Hospitality Program Executive Director, Susan Baybutt, reported on the twentieth year of service to the community. In 2009 Fish Hospitality provided shelter to 30 family units. Since 1990, 609 family units have been served by the program. A total of 15 churches provide various types of support. Church recruitment is a priority. In addition to Fish, Inc., Fish Hospitality is also affiliated with various other community and Middlesex County agencies. Susan thanked Fish, Inc. for donating their box truck to Fish Hospitality; as well as the Clothing Program, the Food Room, and the Holiday Toy Program which contributed items to FHP guests.

FISH TRUCK SPOTTED AT ACME MARKET

The Fish, Inc. truck is becoming a familiar sight at the Middlesex Acme Supermarket on the third Saturday of each month. Food room volunteer Steve Glowacki is already



well known at the market. He and his crew of volunteers can be seen collecting non-perishable food items, which are then loaded onto the truck and taken to the food room in Piscataway at the end of the day. Next day, Steve is usually hard at work in the food room sorting items onto the shelves to be distributed later to our clients.

This activity is sponsored by the First Baptist Church of New Market for the benefit of Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area. Volunteers are always appreciated, and sign-up in advance is requested. If you can volunteer a couple of hours on a third Saturday of the month, call the Fish hotline, 732-356-0081, and leave your name and number for "Steve in the food room."

This project resulted in 820 bags of groceries and \$4,050 in monetary donations for the Fish Food Room in 2009. Fish is very grateful for all who support this food drive.



Think of the joy that the first Christians must have felt when they realized that Jesus was alive. They thought Christ's mission had ended in failure until they realized it had just begun. This is the feeling we share when we say, **Happy Easter!**

Phil Cox, president

WHAT DO WE NEED?

Telephone volunteers needed. We are seeking several volunteers who are available one day a month from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to receive calls for assistance. Fish maintains an answering service which the telephone volunteer would call every hour to receive the messages. The telephone volunteer would then telephone the caller to assess their needs and make necessary appointments with the food or clothing room, or would contact one of the program chairpersons if needed.

If you are interested in becoming a telephone volunteer, or to learn more about it, please leave a message with our answering service at 732-356-0081 or e-mail admin@fishdunellenarea.org. Thank you for considering this possibility.

COMING UP →

- March 29 -- Easter Holiday food distribution
- April 2 at the Food Room
- April 17 Food collection at Middlesex Acme
8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

THE LAST WORD

Do you need help? Could you contribute or volunteer? Please call Fish, Inc. at **732-356-0081**. A telephone volunteer will return your call.

Monetary donations may be sent to: Treasurer, Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area, PO Box 8565, Piscataway NJ 08855-8006.

For more information about Fish, Inc., go to www.fishdunellenarea.org.

Judy Cox, editor

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area qualifies as a nonprofit corporation and is exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. All contributions are tax deductible. We follow IRS requirements for receipts.