



Fish Newsletter

Volume 15

Issue No. 2

Fall/Winter 2010

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area

Serving our neighbors since 1970

PO Box 8565, Piscataway NJ 08855-8006

Hotline: 732-356-0081

www.fishdunellenarea.org

Fish Closes its 40th Anniversary Year with A Celebration of Thanksgiving

Volunteers and supporters were guests of the Fish Steering Committee at a celebration of thanksgiving to commemorate 40 years of service by Fish, Inc. to our neighbors in need. The celebration took place at Christ United Methodist Church in Piscataway, on September 26, 2010.

President Phil Cox opened the program by welcoming those attending and thanking them for helping Fish. Recording Secretary Merkie Chamberlin told us how Fish began with volunteers from five local supporting churches. Merkie is one of founders of Fish. Rev. Kenneth Mart explained how Fish came to be located at the First Baptist Church of New Market. Rev. Mart served as spiritual advisor to Fish for several years before he retired. Vice President Lisa Couch, Food Chairperson Bob Mitchell, and Clothing Chairperson Gerry Halteman each talked about their programs and thanked their volunteers. Treasurer Ned Halteman thanked the churches, schools, scout troops, businesses, foundations, organizations, and the many individual donors who have supported Fish during our 40 years of service to others. Rev. Mart then offered a prayer of thanksgiving.

Fish would like to thank Christ United Methodist Church for the use of their facilities, as well as Edie Turi and Elsa Mortensen of Christ United for their assistance both before and during the program.

A Prayer For Volunteers

Lord, thank you for the many volunteers who have made it possible for Fish to help your people who have come to us in need for more than 40 years. Please bless our volunteers during this busy season. Keep them mindful of your presence and help them to see your face in each person we serve. Bless also those who will become volunteers in the years to come so that Fish may continue to help those in need. Amen.

Phil Cox, president

Fish Receives Recognition from Piscataway Township Council

Fish was honored by the Piscataway Township Council for 40 years of service to the community at the Council's regular meeting on October 12, 2010. The recognition that was presented in plaque form stated in part: "The Township Council of Piscataway Township hereby extends its heartfelt thanks to Fish, Inc. for its work of feeding and clothing the poor in our area, and applauds the volunteerism of each individual who has in the past and/or is currently a volunteer at Fish, Inc."

A Day In The Life of a Fish Telephone Volunteer

During this past year, several of our long-serving telephone volunteers retired. We would like to welcome our new volunteers, Renee G., Doreen M., and Debbie H.; and welcome back to Darlene M. and Mary M. Here is what a telephone volunteer typically does on the day she or he volunteers:

People in need of help call the Fish hotline: 732-356-0081. An answering service takes these calls. The telephone volunteer calls the answering service every hour to receive the messages. The volunteer then returns the call to assess the caller's needs and make necessary appointments with the food room or clothing room; or she or he may contact one of the program chairpersons for follow-up if necessary.

This is a perfect volunteer opportunity for seniors or homebound individuals. To learn more, please leave a message on the Fish hotline at **732-356-0081** or email admin@fishdunellenarea.org.

*A Blessed
Christmas to All.*

Our Volunteers are Loyal and Very Creative

Rich Sroczynski's birthday party is a unique example of the many ways individuals, groups, schools, and organizations find to help Fish serve others. Last spring, Rich celebrated his 60th birthday at a party given by his family. About 40 guests were invited. They were asked to bring nonperishable food items in lieu of gifts, with the goal of "60 lbs. for 60 years". Donations were collected on the front lawn of the Sroczynski home, and as a result, more than 200 lbs of food was donated to Fish. Happy Birthday, Rich!

This family has been very active in supporting Fish for a number of years. On behalf of our clients, *Thank You*, Sroczynski family, for your generosity!

In Memorium

Timothy Bubenick, a long-time volunteer for Fish, Inc., devoted many hours of volunteer service at the Fish food room over the years. Sadly, Tim passed away April 16, 2010 at the home of his daughter, Janet Parente, in Piscataway. Born in Manville, Tim had lived in Piscataway most of his life and in Middlesex for 36 years. He was a self-employed trucker in the Piscataway area for more than 30 years. Tim was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Dunellen where he served as an elder and deacon. He was an Army veteran of WWII, serving as a tank driver in Europe. Tim also was an avid gardener and a NASCAR fan. He is greatly missed.

Jean Carmody also passed away earlier this year. She was a member of St. Frances Cabrini Church, and was a telephone volunteer for Fish for several years.

Correction. In the Spring Newsletter we incorrectly reported the death of Edwin D. Hearn as being March 4, 2010. The correct date is February 4, 2010. Mr. Hearn had served previously as president of Fish for four years, and was chairperson of the Telephone Volunteer program. Our deepest apologies go out to the Hearn family for any inconvenience caused by our error. —*ed.*

*And a Happy New
Year!*

What do we need?

Telephone volunteers. We are still in need of volunteers who are available one day a month from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to return calls for assistance. 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.

The Fish Food Room is in need of at least four (4) new, or nearly new, rolling office chairs. Each chair should have *five* roller feet for stability, and preferably, should have arms. If you wish to donate, please call the Fish hotline. Thank you.

Coming Up —

December 18, 2010: Monthly food collection, at Acme Supermarket, Middlesex., 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, sponsored by the New Market Baptist Church to benefit Fish, Inc. This activity is held every third Saturday of the month, year-round. To volunteer some time, please leave a message with the Fish hotline at 732-356-0081.

January 10, 2011: Steering Committee meeting to prepare for the annual general membership meeting.

2011: Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area forty-first annual general membership meeting. (Details to be announced. Watch your local newspaper.)

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., visit our website at 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.