

INTERFAITH HUMAN SERVICES OF PUTNAM

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Gloria & John Howard

Dedicated to the Memory of John D. Howard

John spent many hours volunteering for Daily Bread and the Tommy Toy Fund. Each year he would don his turkey hat and distribute turkeys for the Thanksgiving Basket Give Away. His time, energy and support will be greatly missed.

Our Mission

The Mission of Interfaith Human Services of Putnam, Inc. is to sponsor, fund and facilitate programs and projects that will serve people in need or in transition in the greater Putnam area.

Interfaith Human Services of Putnam is an all-volunteer organization. To successfully carry out all of our programs, we have 70 faithful volunteers who give of their time throughout the year.

IHSP is a 501c3 Non-Profit Charitable Organization

Location: Living Faith United Methodist Church, 51-53 Grove Street, Putnam

Located on the back side of the church, off Bradley Street

Mailing Address: P O Box 281, Putnam, CT 06260

Tel: 860-928-0169; FAX: 860-963-7602

Email: ihspputnam2005@gmail.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Shawn Johnston



As a non-profit, all-volunteer organization, **Interfaith Human Services of Putnam (IHSP)** continues to sponsor, fund and facilitate programs and projects that serve people in need and in transition in the greater Putnam area. It is a testament to the extraordinary giving nature of people in our area that we are still able to operate with an all-volunteer staff.

Three days a week, fifty two weeks a year our volunteers show up, open the doors to our food pantry **“Daily Bread”** and provide food, friendship and a caring shoulder to individuals and families in need. At the same time that Daily Bread is open and distributing food, we also have wonderful volunteers who open and operate our **“NU2U” Clothing Closet** to help provide much needed, gently used clothing as well. The Clothing Closet is also open on Tuesday to serve Community Kitchen clients. We operate the only **Diaper Bank in Northeastern Connecticut**. In addition, we administer a **Fuel Fund** and a **Homeless Prevention** Program. Simply put, we are really just an old-fashioned neighborhood helping to wrap their arms around our friends and neighbors in need and volunteering to help provide them a hand up during tough times.

The year 2014 was truly the most demanding year we have ever experienced. Yet, at the same time, it was one of the most rewarding. Week after week, the number of individuals and families that we served continued to increase. Our volunteers, Board of Directors and our community supporters gave generously, thus enabling us to continue to support our neighbors in need. An incredibly special component of our organization is that many of those we serve join our extended family and serve as volunteers themselves!

To each and every individual and organization that donated, supported us, or that volunteered, please know that we strive every day to ensure your donations are used wisely and that you have our heartfelt appreciation. You are our rock of support and help to make Northeastern Connecticut the special and supporting community that it is. **THANK YOU!**

OUR PROGRAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

IHSP-Daily Bread Food Pantry

Thirty-two years later, after a small food distribution program started at **St. Mary's Church, Daily Bread** provides 250 families-individuals with food and personal care items on a monthly basis. Today we continue to focus on meeting the needs of food insecure families-individuals and supplementing their food needs with nutritious, healthy foods.

In 2014, We:

- Filled empty bowls for more than 685 people monthly. Many of these people are children, senior adults and singles. Our partnership with **Sawmill Pottery** and the **Congregational Church of Putnam** through their **Empty Bowl Dinner** helped us make sure that those who entered our doors did not go to bed with an empty bowl.



Did You Know That:

Many older adults on a low or limited income have to make tough choices when it comes to food and nutrition. According to AARP, some buy less nutritious foods because they lack financial resources; others either cut or skip a meal in order to pay bills or buy prescriptions. Our Daily Bread Food Pantry assists more than 68 older adults each month providing them with nutritional food to supplement their dietary needs.

- Received food donations from many local food drives that helped us “Squash Hunger” and provide more than 100,000 meals. To name a few: Stop n Shop Food for Friends & Squash Hunger Drives, the Lions Club/Rotary Club Loafers Challenge with support from the Putnam Lodge of Elks, U S Postal Service-Putnam location Stamp Out Hunger, U S Button Tuna Tuesday, Souper Bowl Sunday Woodstock Congregational Churches Youth Group, CNB Hunger Awareness Drive and local faith communities Spaghetti Sauce Sunday.



- Provided children and adults with nourishing, healthy foods through our **Vegetable/Fruit Coupon Program**. During the summer this program is supplemented with fresh vegetables from many local growers including the **Putnam Farmer's Market** [Tim Lasko] and **Good Bug Gardens** [Andy Meek & Viviana Lusitana]. Funding support for this program came from the **George L. Holt Fund** through the **Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut**.

How We Made a Difference:

“We don’t have a lot of extra money every month. The coupons help us get fresh vegetables that we wouldn’t be able to afford.” *Daily Bread Client, Sheri*

- The **Connecticut Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry** continued to provide extra food throughout the year to more than 7,500 people. It is staffed by local volunteers from **St. Mary’s Church, the Woodstock Evangelical Covenant Church and TEEG.**
- Provided more than 650 Snak Paks for children to help fill the meal gap when they are home during the summer months. Snak Paks contain enough food for a child to eat at least two full days while parents work. Each year these are assembled by the **Putnam Leo Club.**



Summer Hunger Facts:

Did you know that a family with two children has to come up with more than 200 extra meals during the summer vacation when they don’t have access to school meals?

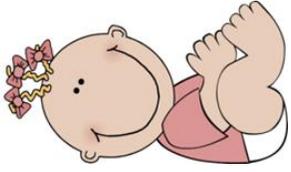
- Provided financial support to the **Putnam Board of Education’s/USDA Summer Food Service Program** so adults bringing children can also eat. This contribution provided meals to more than 775 adults who were able to have conversation time with their children.

How We Made A Difference:

“Each summer, children wait for the last bell of the school year. Summer is an exciting time for children to enjoy play time with friends, a week at camp, a family vacation, or time at the pool. For many children who received free and reduced-price meals at school, summer can mean hunger. Just as learning doesn’t end when school lets out, neither does a child’s need for good nutrition. We are grateful for the outreach from IHSP as they are the cornerstone of the community.” Jeannette LaPlume, Food Service Director at the Putnam Public Schools.

- Offered clients the opportunity to apply for SNAP with our **SNAP Outreach Coordinator, Terry Pearsall.** SNAP Volunteers were trained by End Hunger Connecticut through an outreach program of Connecticut Food Bank.
- Provided more than 350 Thanksgiving Food Baskets – Setting up to provide these baskets takes a lot of volunteers, like the help received from the Putnam Leo Club and their advisors, Bill & Kathy Zamagni, Program Coordinators, and Holly Gilbert, Volunteer. Food for these baskets comes from Connecticut Food Bank, the CT State Police & Putnam Police Handcuff Hunger Food Drive, as well as many local businesses and individuals.





IHSP-Diaper Bank of NECT

In its 5th year of operation, the Diaper Bank, a supplemental assistance program, continues to keep little bottoms clean and dry by providing diapers and wipes on a monthly basis to children and families in need living in Northeastern Connecticut. Our mission is to provide diapers, educational opportunities and resources for low and limited income families.

WHAT IS DIAPER NEED? According to the National Diaper Bank Network, diaper need is the lack of a sufficient supply of diapers to remain clean, dry and healthy.

Diaper Need Facts:

- One in three families suffers from diaper need in the U.S.
- Babies who remain too long in a soiled diaper are exposed to increased health risks.
- Most child care centers, even free and subsidized facilities, require parents to provide a day's supply of disposable diapers.
- Many parents cannot go to work or school if they cannot leave their babies at child care.
- On an average, infants require between 8-12 diapers per day; toddlers about 8.



How We Made a Difference:

“Last December, a family with two small children arrived at the local shelter without any diapers. With close proximity to the shelter, we were able to refer the family to Generations for easy access to an emergency supply of diapers. Dad was extremely grateful for the care shown to his family during a very challenging time in their lives.”

Diaper Bank Volunteer

In 2014, We:

- Took the Mobile Diaper Banks, monthly, to the Early Learning Center in Plainfield, CT; the Danielson United Methodist Church in Danielson, CT and TEEG in Thompson, CT.
- Met the needs of 365 children.
- Formed partnerships with **Generations Family Healthcare** and the **State of Connecticut Dept. of Children and Families Kinship Program**.
- Provided, when available, baby food, formula, and other diapering supplies, like the ones that were received from a Baby Shower held at **St. Mary's Church by the Daughters**



of Isabella.

IHSP-NU 2 U Clothing Closet

Every week, the Volunteer Staff of the **NU2U Clothing Closet** is busy sorting, washing and stacking clothing from donations received from the community. Clothing is available in all sizes and shapes from infant to adult, boys and girls, men and women. They also provide, “when available”, bedding, sleeping bags [for individuals finding themselves in a homeless situation] and towels/washcloths.

Throughout the year, the NU2U Clothing Closet provides support to CHR, United Services, the Access Agency shelter and Generations Family Healthcare. It is open in the day time, on Monday, Tuesday and Friday; and in the evening on Wednesday. Bernice, the NU 2 U Clothing Closet Coordinator, makes every effort to meet the needs of all the customers that come through our doors.



How We Made A Difference:

“The NU 2 U Clothing Closet has been able to provide multiple individuals with clothing in order to secure employment at area businesses.” *Clothing Closet Volunteer*

In 2014, We:

- Served more than 100 people weekly.
- Helped a family who needed burial clothes for a loved one.
- Assisted families displaced by a fire with clothing, towels, bedding and curtains.
- Donated old, worn blankets to a local veterinarian.



IHSP-Fuel Assistance

IHSP has been providing emergency fuel assistance for more than 25 years. The fuel fund has and continues to assist many individuals and families in need of supplemental fuel during the year. This program supplements the State of CT LIHEAP program and Operation Fuel, providing assistance when other funds have been depleted.



In 2014, We:

- Provided 23 families-individuals with emergency fuel assistance.

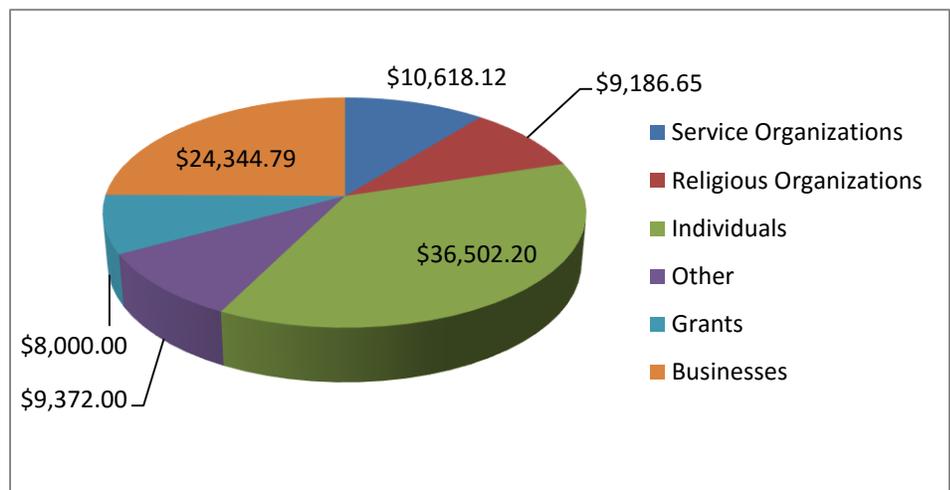
IHSP Homelessness & Rental Assistance

- Assisted homeless individuals with special needs, like personal care items and sleeping bags.
- Provided emergency rental assistance to 5 families-individuals.
- Provided support to the Generations Family Healthcare Homelessness Assistance Outreach Program.

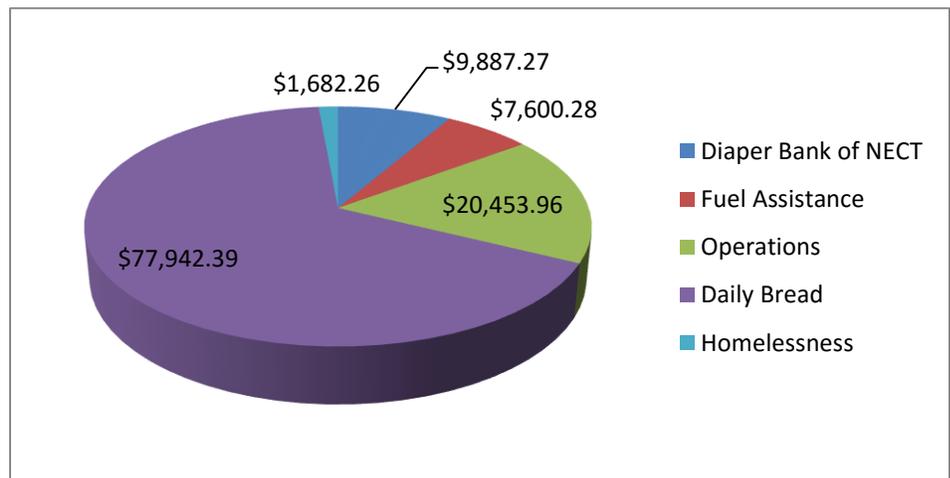


Finances

2014 Income



2014 Expenses



How You Can Help

- Fifty Dollars [\$50] will provide a child with 400 diapers; enough for 10 weeks
- One Hundred Dollars [\$100] will provide a family of five with enough emergency food for three days.
- Three Hundred Sixty Dollars [\$360] will provide an individual or family with 100 gallons of fuel oil.
- Twenty Five Dollars [\$25] will buy 30 cans of tuna fish or 25 cans of vegetables.
- Fifty Dollars [\$50] will buy fresh fruits and vegetables for a family or individual, increasing their nutritional intake of healthy foods.
- Host a Food Drive or a Diaper Drive
- Donate gently used clothing, bedding or sleeping bags

How To Donate

- Monetary donations can be made online at www.nectinterfaith.org or
- Checks can be made payable to IHSP and mailed to P O Box 281, Putnam, CT 06260.
- In-kind donations of food and gently used-clean clothing can be brought to either Daily Bread or the NU2U during our hours of operation. Delivery at other times can be arranged by calling 860-928-0169.

IHSP Board of Directors

In May of 2015 several Board Members attended Board Development training offered by the **Newell D. Hale Foundation** and the **Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut**. The training session was led by **Chuck Loring, CFRE, of Loring, Sternberg & Associates**. Following the all-day training we were able to identify our strong and weak areas and develop strategic plans that will move us forward.

Shawn Johnston, President

David Dunham, Treasurer

Debby King, Member

Marge Guerin, Member

Marty Carlson, Member

Sarah Hamby, Communications Coordinator, Member

Helen Ferland, IHSP-Diaper Bank of NECT Program Coordinator, Member

Ann Kathi Peterson, Secretary

Karen Osbrey, Member

Rev. Edwin VonderHeide, Member

Michael Douglas, Member

Lori Wajer, Member

Rachael Arcand, Grantwriter, Member

IHSP-Diaper Bank of NECT Board

Helen Ferland, Program Coordinator

Ann Kathi Peterson, Diaper Bank Advisor & Assistant Program Coordinator

Jen Shimer, Day Kimball Healthcare Nurturing Families Member

Christine Millette, Day Kimball Healthcare Nurturing Families Member

Kera Morrisette, WIC & Healthy Start Member

Chelsea Valade, TEEG Diaper Bank Distribution Site Coordinator

Judy Castonguay, St of CT DCF, Family Kinship Program Member

Mona Tremblay, Generations Family Health Center Member

Laura Mercurio, Plainfield Mobile Diaper Bank Site Coordinator

Rev. Barbara Schreier, Putnam Diaper Bank Distribution Site Coordinator

Diane Farquharson, TEEG Member

Acknowledgements

We are grateful for all of the monetary and in-kind donations that we receive on a regular basis. Without the support of faith communities, businesses, service organizations, individuals and families, we would not be able to care for the many people who pass through our doors each year. Each contribution that you share with us makes a difference in someone else's life. Thank You.

Photos are the courtesy of Sarah Hamby, Communications Coordinator.