



**Food Pantry and Clothing**  
Serving the Community Since 1975

# NEWS



**February 2024**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FISH continues to grow! The number of new volunteers, the number of monetary donations, the number of new places donating food items, all of these equal a great beginning to 2024! These increases have helped us keep up with our client numbers, which have also grown.

FISH has been weighing our food donations between February 1 through February 14. GWOM (Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission) initiated the "Heart for the Hungry" program offering \$1 per pound of food donated up to \$1,000, plus a very generous volunteer offered to match that amount up to \$1,000. Keep reading the newsletter to see how much food was weighed at FISH by the 14th.

We are also looking for volunteers to monitor the raising and lowering of our U.S. flag. We subscribe to a website that gives us both National and Virginia information when the flag needs this appropriate attention. This could easily be divided among several folks. Please see me if you can help.

The Virginia Peninsula Foodbank in Hampton now needs data from past months that was not previously required. A huge "THANKS" to some special volunteers who have spent too many hours at their laptops lately: Holly Trotter, Maura Rush, Cathey Sadowski, Bob and Linda Stanzione. A special thanks to Jan Gibeling who is tracking who-works-on-what alphabetical letter, as well as tackling the filing. The end of the alphabet is in sight!

Another huge "THANKS" to the Foodbank Shoppers who shop for FISH during the month. These volunteers travel to Hampton on their scheduled day, and it is always a surprise what they are able to obtain for our freezers and shelves, such as frozen potato skins, fresh vegetables and fruits, and occasionally frozen meats. These shoppers are an integral part of what we can supply to our clients in need. Thank you to Don Butts for his scheduling capabilities and to all the shoppers within this group.

And one last special thanks to Jack Trotter who has been generous with his time in answering my many questions.

Happy February to all!

Jill Holroyd  
FISH President  
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757-903-7839

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## Announcements & Acknowledgements

### Board of Directors, Officers, and Coordinators

Our new leaders as of the Annual Meeting, January 10, 2024

**Jill Holroyd**, President, Director & Liaison to Foodbank and GWOM  
**Maura Rush**, Vice President, Director, & Coordinator-Food Donations  
**Mike Motes**, Treasurer & Director  
**Jeff Deel**, Director & Coordinator-Grant Applications  
**Holly Trotter**, Director & Co-Coordinator-Food  
**Patti MacGillivray**, Director & Co-Coordinator-Clothing  
**Cindy Tocci**, Director & Co-Coordinator-Clothing  
**Bob Stanzione**, Director, Coordinator-Facilities  
**Dave Banks**, Director & Webmaster  
**Martha Dean**, Director  
**Tracy Parris**, Director  
**Cathey Sadowski**, Secretary & Coordinator-Data Management  
**Martha Buell**, Coordinator-Volunteers  
**Jack Trotter**, Co-Coordinator-Food

*Together  
We Can!*

FISH was able to help Grove Christian Outreach Center by accepting their bounty of donated items. They cleaned out their storage room and we increased our clothing selection -- a win-win. "Thank You" to Grove for sharing with us.

### New Volunteers

- Dave Calderwood
- Jeff Bennett
- Joan Sheldon
- Kathy Childers
- Mary Keane
- Robert Hiett

### We've Come a Long Way

I recently visited Billie Johnston at Spring Arbor. She is one of the early FISH volunteers and has a personal attachment to FISH. She loves to read the newsletters and board statistics and talk about how things are going, particularly in Clothing. I brought her a copy of the 2023 statistics from the annual meeting. She was amazed with the number of clients that FISH served, how our volunteers have grown to over 200, and that 2025 will be our 50th anniversary.

She reminisced that FISH started with her and one other volunteer in clothing and 1.5 volunteers in the Pantry. FISH initially occupied a donated old house. It needed significant repair, was not air conditioned, and only had heat in some of the rooms. The second floor was accessed by a narrow staircase and used for storage. Clients didn't come to that address due to very limited parking, but instead received their food and clothes at St. Bede Catholic Church and possibly other area churches. (Churches continue to be a major support for FISH through donations and volunteering.)

It is truly mind-boggling that FISH has come from these humble beginnings to our current home on Second Street. Our growth has been able to keep pace with the need within the Williamsburg area only through the generosity of our very caring and generous community and our growing number of selfless volunteers.

--Dan Fontaine

### Mission Statement

FISH, located in Williamsburg, Virginia, is an all-volunteer nonprofit agency providing food, hygiene items, clothing, and basic housewares assistance to residents in need in the Greater Williamsburg area since 1975. FISH depends solely upon the generosity of a caring community for volunteers, donations of goods for our clients, and financial support. FISH serves its clients regardless of their race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or age.

# Announcements & Acknowledgements

## Flag Stewards Needed



We would like a few volunteers (possibly veterans) to share the responsibility of lowering the flag to half-staff, when we are electronically alerted by [flagsteward.org](http://flagsteward.org). This is only an occasional job, but an important one.

If interested, please contact Jill Holroyd at cell: 757-903-7839 email: [theholroyds1@gmail.com](mailto:theholroyds1@gmail.com)

## Child Safety Seat Roundup

The Child Safety Seat Roundup aims to remove from circulation unsafe safety seats, including those that have been in a crash, are damaged, or are past their expiration date. Bring seats into any AAA Tidewater branch **during the month of February**, and they will have them destroyed. Participants will receive a \$5 gift card for Walmart (limit 2 gift cards per person), while supplies last.

For details, call 757-233-3833 or email [dalby.holly@ace.aaa.com](mailto:dalby.holly@ace.aaa.com).

## Phone Charging Station

Did you know there is a charging station with several different connectors by the printer in the Secretary's office? If your phone runs out of charge while at FISH, please feel free to use.

## Treasured Memories

### Phyllis Lee

We were saddened to learn that Phyllis Lee, former volunteer, passed away on February 4. Phyllis teamed with her husband, Dave, and organized the WindsorMeade food drives for several years.

Our condolences to Dave and the family. [Full Obituary](#)



## Listening

Yesterday was especially challenging. We had lots of donations and a steady stream of clients in the Clothes Closet, but luckily also had a good staff of volunteers.

As I was locking the door at the end of the day, a fellow in a van brought at least 10 very large bags of clothes. He was finally dealing with the clothes of his wife who passed a couple of years ago.

With what was left from the day's donations, the donation room was full, plus overflow bags were on the sorting tables. Tomorrow, the team will have to sort before emptying the Donation Box. On top of that we found out that our second volunteer called in sick.

Although I was very tired, I did my best to listen and be there for this donor who was still suffering from loss. In the end, it's a win-win.

-- Anonymous

# Donations

## Adopt-a-Shelf Program Success

When Dale Huebner approached the Board with her creative Adopt-a-Shelf idea, it was innovative and seemed like a fun way to donate.

Amazingly in the short space of 6 weeks, the program added \$5,097 to items on specific shelves.

Thank you to the following who we hope had fun adopting these shelves:

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| B. Hughes              | B. Huehn       |
| L. Baker               | J. and I. Deel |
| C. O'Brien             | C. Carr        |
| D. Kirsch              | J. Holroyd     |
| J. Benedetti & friends | M. Vought      |
| L. Ash                 | K. McKee       |
| T. Landvogt            | J. Blaustein   |
| C. Suries              | Huebner-Dwyer  |
| P. Lewis               |                |



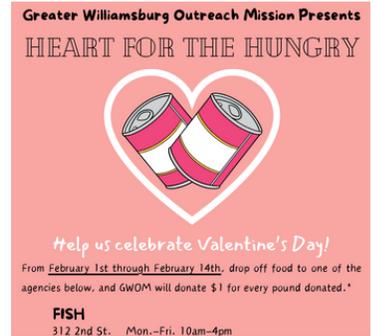
## CLUBWAKA



CLUBWAKA's very large donation from Krystina Collins accepted by Maura Rush, Vice President and Food Donations Coordinator.

## Weighty Results Doubled

Between Feb 1-14, FISH collected 3,118.6 pounds of food, far exceeding the goal of 1,000 pounds, so we will receive \$1,000 from the Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission's "Heart for the Hungry" Program.



**PLUS** a matching \$1,000 from an anonymous volunteer!

Thanks not only to GWOM, but to the donors who brought in food to help us reach our weight goal, plus the anonymous volunteer who matched the gift.

## LifePointe Christian Church Sock Challenge



The Outreach Committee of the LifePointe Christian Church in Toano conducts monthly collections for local charities helping members of the community. Recently, they held a sock challenge in which they collected many packages of new socks.

LifePointe provided FISH with a generous donation--hundreds of pairs of new socks for men, women and children. The socks filled multiple large bags. The socks have been rolled and are ready to be given away.

-- Cindy Tocci, Clothing Co-Coordinator

*Amidst the excitement and activity of receiving and shelving donations, the volunteers always try to get a picture and basic information. Any omissions are not intentional.*

## Williamsburg Presbyterian Church

The Williamsburg Presbyterian Church always impresses with their faithful and varied support, ranging from monetary donations, food collections and warm, handmade clothing.



The **Kirk Crafters** delivered bags of hand-knitted scarves and hats to keep the clients warm during the cold season. We are privileged to have the support of these dedicated, thoughtful artisans. L-R: Penny Pulley, Coordinator Margie Ambrose, Joanne Andrews and Darryl Chambers.

Mike Motes, Treasurer (L) was pleased to accept a very generous check from Jim Winthrop (R).

*Photos courtesy of Maura Rush and Joanne Andrews*

## Colonial Heritage Model Railroad Club



Mr. Little of the Club delivered a generous check to Jill Holroyd, President.

## Colonial Eye Care

Dr. Brent Segeleon's staff at Colonial Eye Care, led by Grace Baumgartner, presented FISH with a \$2,000 check that represented a \$5 donation from every pair of glasses purchased during the last quarter. It's great to have such wonderful support from this local business!



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

**Bob Stanzione**

**Board Member, Facilities Coordinator  
Food Pantry & Clothes Closet**

*Bob joined FISH in 2023, and soon afterwards accepted the demanding role of Facilities Coordinator, a position that is not often popular. In that role, he monitors several routine contractors (HVAC, Pest Control, Landscaping and Cleaning), as well as other contractors, as required. He also performs some minor maintenance. In addition, he picks up and shelves food items from the grocery store, and assists in the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet, as needed. Bob lifted a heavy load in a time of need and continues to do so. He became an official Board member in January 2024.*



### **Q1. Why did you choose to volunteer at FISH?**

A1. I believe it is important to support your community and give back if you are able. FISH has a great reputation and I wanted to be a part of it. I first heard of FISH from a neighbor whose church routinely participates in food drives and donates to our organization.

### **Q2. What do you find most rewarding about volunteering at FISH?**

A2. FISH has provided me the opportunity to work with some of the most hard-working, dedicated and compassionate volunteers I have had the pleasure of working with. Also, I feel a sense of accomplishment knowing I am making a difference in our community.

### **Q3. Do you have a specific experience while volunteering at FISH that you would like to share?**

A3. Many of our clients do not speak English, and at times it can be challenging to communicate with them. On many occasions, I've seen other clients who are bilingual come to our rescue. It is refreshing to see one neighbor assist the other.

### **Q4. Is there anything else you would like others to know about you?**

A4. My wife, Linda, and I have been married for 51 years. We have 3 children, 10 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. I am a retired member of the United States Air Force. I have volunteered for many organizations in the past (churches, scouts, swim teams, history centers, food pantries, etc.) and served in various positions.