



# Newsletter

January  
February  
2022

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to the entire FISH family!

Holly and I wish for each of you, and your families, a happy, safe and productive 2022 as we continue our mission to provide critically needed food and clothing to the underserved in the Greater Williamsburg community.

I want to take this opportunity to give you a brief update on our pending move to new facilities at 312 and 314 Second Street in Williamsburg and the progress that has been made since our last newsletter. Following the [unanimous approval by the Williamsburg City Council](#) in mid-October of our request for a zoning variance, we selected a local firm, College Creek Construction, as our general contractor to perform interior demolition and construction. We received our demolition permit on December 3, and work started immediately with the electrical, plumbing and flooring sub-contractors out in force. By late last week, the demo work was almost completed and we've applied for a construction permit, which we hope to have shortly. The progress in three plus weeks has been gratifying.



312 Second Street



314 Second Street

When we have the required permit in hand, interior construction will begin. This will include drywall being repaired or replaced, fluorescent lights transitioned to LED in all new ceilings, one bathroom in each building expanded and brought up to ADA standards, tile flooring repaired or replaced, and interior painting of both buildings. Electrical work will be extensive

with outlets specifically located to support enhanced refrigeration in 312 and a washer/dryer in 314. While we've seen progress so far, there is so much more still to do.

Administratively, we've signed contracts with a signage company, a lawn care firm and a local moving company. Still pending, but firm, are agreements with a waste removal company, a pest control company, an audiovisual/security firm and a telecommunications company. My best guess as to when the move will take place is now early to mid-February, all depending on getting the facilities ready. I'll keep you informed as we get closer.

Warm regards,

Jack Trotter  
President

## Meet Our Board of Directors

The FISH Board of Directors is composed of volunteers with varied and interesting backgrounds, each bringing unique talents to FISH. We will present their bios over the next newsletters so you can enjoy getting to know them. You previously "met" Board President Jack Trotter in the September-October 2021 newsletter. Below, please meet Dan Fontaine, Martha Dean and Maura Rush.

### Dan Fontaine



**Dan Fontaine** is a native of Auburn, Maine and has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Lowell Technological Institute in Massachusetts. He moved to Newport News in 1972 to work at Newport News Shipbuilding as a Systems Engineer. He was at the shipyard for 40 years and retired in 2012 as a Master Shipbuilder. He has management and leadership expertise and is knowledgeable of reliability and maintainability, system safety, human factors, maintenance engineering, spare parts management, crew training, proposal development, work planning, and project management. Dan is a Certified Professional Logistician.

Dan lives in Williamsburg (Upper York County). He married Pat in 1973, and they have a son and a daughter. They are proud grandparents of their four grandchildren.

Dan has actively participated in many professional and service clubs since college. He has a natural desire to help others. Upon retirement, he finally had the time to actively serve those in need. He volunteered with the Peninsula Food Bank for 5 years as a helper on their truck that picked up food donations from Peninsula Walmarts, Sam's Club, and the Langley Commissary. When the work became too physically demanding, Dan found a new home at FISH in the clothing area.

Dan is presently filling in as the FISH clothing coordinator and helping to coordinate the move to the new FISH campus on Second Street.

## Martha Dean



**Martha Dean** spent most of her life in the New England and Mid-Atlantic Regions. Born and reared in New Jersey, Martha pursued education in Connecticut and Massachusetts, where she received a BS in Elementary Education from the University of Bridgeport, and an MA in Education from American International College.

Her teaching career began with teaching 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades in Massachusetts, followed by part-time positions as Adult Basic Education instructor in Montgomery County, Maryland, adjunct faculty at Northampton Community College and Lehigh Valley Community College, in Pennsylvania, and adjunct faculty at Greater Hartford Community College, Connecticut. Then she joined the faculty at Tunxis Community College in Farmington, Connecticut and advanced to the rank of Professor.

Martha has been an avid volunteer throughout her life, volunteering in:

- ❖ Sunday School (teaching), NJ and CT
- ❖ Scholarship Committee, First Church of Christ in Wethersfield, CT
- ❖ PTO (Parent/Teacher Organization), CT
- ❖ Deacon and Missions Committee at Union Congregational Church, Groton, MA
- ❖ Environmental Committee, Ayer, MA
- ❖ Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, Devens, MA
- ❖ Literacy, MA and VA
- ❖ Williamsburg Community Chapel, VA AGAPE ministry (Emergency Financial Assistance for community members)

In 2015, Martha and her husband of 57 years, Bill Dean, moved to Williamsburg to be near their daughter and her family. They have a total of 3 children, 14 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Martha and Bill have volunteered at FISH for over 5 years, and Martha currently serves on the Board of Directors.

## Maura Rush



**Maura Rush** was born, raised, educated (BA in Psych; MBA in Organizational Behavior), and married in New York City, but lived in Texas and Pennsylvania before coming to Northern Virginia in 1986. She and her husband Tom (who also volunteers at FISH) will be married 50 years in June 2022 and have three children and four grandchildren.

After retiring from Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) as a VP for Human Resources, she and her husband moved to Ford's Colony because of the proximity to family and it having three golf courses. Having been a former Tournament Director and LGA President gave her the opportunity to direct food drives and fundraising efforts that benefited FISH over the years.

As a FISH Board Member, Maura works in the food pantry spending a lot of time working with the large donations, stocking shelves, and bagging groceries, as well as working with Martha Buell to recruit new volunteers.

# 2021 Grant Funding

A big FISH THANK YOU to the generous donors and dedicated volunteers who helped fulfill our mission in 2021. Below are organizations that have provided grant funding last year. Your compassion enables us to help those in need.

- Bruton Parish Church
- Empty Bowls Virginia Peninsula
- Food Lion Feeds
- St. Martin's Episcopal Church
- Williamsburg Community Foundation's Community Emergency Response Fund
- Williamsburg Presbyterian Church

We are grateful for this extraordinary kindness. It is an honor to partner with these organizations to fight hunger in our community.

-- Jeff Deel, Grants Coordinator

## Donations

FISH is honored to be entrusted by the community to distribute their donations. We are grateful to all of our donors who selflessly donate throughout the year. Many organizations also conduct year-end collections, so we recognize and thank some of our recent donors:

### Anonymous Donation Christmas Stockings

One of our FISH friends anonymously donated close to 300 holiday stockings to provide to our clients with children.



### Brownie Troop 1201

made 18 throws for FISH as the troop's project to give back.



**DJ Montague Elementary Student Council Association & Parents and Teachers Association**

donated about 77 bags and boxes of food that they collected during a recent food drive.



Ashley Black, Joy Carder, and Lindsay Landers

**Two Rivers Country Club Women's Golf Association**

donated about 60 bags of food to FISH.



Pam Osborn and Carolyn Iodzeski

**Providence Classical School**

gave a cash donation and 75 boxes and bags of food from their food drive for FISH.



Susan Oweis is the headmistress. Pictured are Carolyn Petrina, teacher, and Hannah, a student.

**William and Mary Athletics**

donated about 20 very large boxes of food and toiletries from their Annual Harvest Baskets Drive.



Claire Farrell and Sarah Hoyle

**Ford's Colony  
Ladies Golf Association**

collected a substantial donation at their Holiday Luncheon.



Mary Andersen and her co-chair, Carol Spracklin (with Jack Trotter, FISH President)

**W. H. H. Trice & Company**

donated about 100 bags of food and dish detergent plus about 100 bottles of laundry detergent from their holiday food drive.



Dale Huebner (FISH volunteer) and Brittany Payne of the company.

**Williamsburg Lions Club**

donated 30 bags of food collected during their holiday party.



Bill Mershon from the club

**Williamsburg Presbyterian  
Kirk Krafters**

donated their time, skills and beautifully hand-knitted scarves and hats.



Kirk Krafters

## Jamestown High School

donated about 30 bags of food to FISH from their holiday food drive.



## Bruton Parish Episcopal Church

donated new toys for clients to select to help make their children's Christmas a bit happier.

Visit our website:

<https://williamsburgfish.weebly.com>

# Thank you for your generosity!

### A CLIENT'S THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone at FISH for all you do, day after day, year after year.

This past year, during many doctor and hospital appointments, I would see signs: "Heroes work here." As for me, the same holds true for FISH.

Not just heroes, but angels on Earth.

Thank you, and may God bless you all.

*We received this handwritten note in a beautiful Christmas card.*

# Meet the Clothing Team

We have a group of very fun, dedicated volunteers in the clothing room that give their time on a weekly basis. They accept donations, sort and size clothes, inspect and clean small housewares, and keep the Clothes Closet stocked.

Volunteering in the clothing room might be a bit physical at times, but it is always a good time with fellow volunteer friends! You usually hear talking and laughter from the clothing room. They share about their family, social, and other volunteering activities as they steadily go through sorting and sizing the donations. If unsure about something, no problem. Just ask another volunteer!

The holidays not only bring lots of activity with food donations but also to the clothing room. Clothing donations increase significantly during this period. The clothing volunteers coordinate very generous donations from FISH friends that make holiday gifts and stockings. The volunteers also receive donations from church clothes and toy drives.

When we relocate to Second Street, there will be separate buildings for food and clothing. The clothing building will need to be open each weekday to maintain access and security. We will be looking for additional clothing volunteers.

We are truly a great FISH Family!

--Dan Fontaine, Interim Clothing Coordinator





## SAVE THE DATE

Here's a fun event for our volunteers!

Planning has started for the 2022 Shoeless Showdown at the William & Mary versus College of Charleston basketball game on Thursday, February 3 at 7 pm.

Bring a new pair of kids shoes to the game and your entrance is free, plus you'll receive:

- Free Chick-fil-A sandwich coupon
- \$10 coupon toward a new C&F checking account
- Two free tickets to W&M vs. Drexel (2/17 at 7 pm) or Delaware (2/19 at 4 pm)

All the kids shoes collected at the game will go to FISH. About 600 pairs are expected based on the 2019 event.

About 12 FISH volunteers will be needed at the game to support the collection of the shoes at the gates and loading and transporting the shoes back to FISH that night. Our volunteers are admitted to the February 3 game for free. Also, if our volunteers bring a pair of kids shoes to the game, they will receive that same gift bag.

Stay tuned. The event may be impacted by the latest state covid guidance as the date nears.

--Dan Fontaine, Interim Clothing Coordinator

## NEW VOLUNTEERS:

Donna Hayes  
Elle Baker  
Gail Peck  
Gayle Justice  
Kelly Miller  
Lee Pettit  
Leslie Neely  
Linda Logerwell  
Mia Peri  
Micki Schwartz  
Nancy Martin-Elder

Thank you for choosing FISH!



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[Williamsburg FISH Inc](#)

## In Memoriam:

Frank Yoerg passed away on November 17, and Jim Ryan on November 28, 2021.

We are grateful for their generous gifts of time to FISH as volunteers.



## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, FISH will follow the Williamsburg-James City County Schools' schedule.

This year differs from previous years in that if schools open late, then FISH **will** open late too.



## 2022 Closures

January 17	Martin Luther King Day	Monday
February 21	Washington's Birthday	Monday
May 30	Memorial Day	Monday
June 20	Junteenth National Independence Day	Monday
July 4	Independence Day	Monday
September 5	Labor Day	Monday
October 10	Columbus Day & Indigenous People's Day	Monday
November 23 - 25	Thanksgiving Holiday	Wed, Thurs & Fri
December 26	Christmas Day	Monday
January 2, 2023	New Year's Day	Monday



FISH, Inc.  
312 Waller Mill Rd # 800  
(moving to 312-314 Second Street mid-February 2022)  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
757-220-9379

Kathleen Pock, Newsletter Editor  
fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com