



*The
January-February
2018 Edition*

The President's Message:

Visit
the FISH Website

<http://williamsburgfish.weebly.com/services.html>

Greetings and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year. Your new board will be elected in January after our meeting on January 10. Sometimes I feel like some of our volunteers see the board as a group out of touch with reality doing things that don't make any sense. This could not be farther from the truth.

All of the board members are volunteers just like you. We make decisions based on what we feel is best for FISH. All input from volunteers is considered and discussed. As a matter of fact, some of our biggest changes and decisions have come as a direct result from volunteer feedback.

I would encourage you to pass along all concerns and suggestions to either Martha, myself, or another board member. We are all in this together and want the best for our organization.

I wish all of you the best in the coming year. As usual, thanks for all you do.

Blessings.

Gene Bruss

President

The Pantry Report

During the month of October 374, food requests were made, and 964 people were fed--an increase of 9% from October 2017. Enough food was provided for 17,352 meals.

In November, there were 332 food requests made for 977 people--a 6% decrease from November 2017. 15,786 meals were provided.

Facebook

The name for FISH's Facebook page is Williamsburg FISH Inc. Volunteers and donors who use Facebook are encouraged to "Like" our page.



James Blair Middle School National Junior Honor Society and Student Council Association held a winter gear drive and canned food drive for distribution through FISH.

Holiday Closings

January 1-Tuesday, New Year's Day

January 21-Monday, Martin Luther King Day

February 18-Monday, Presidents' Day

May 27-Monday, Memorial Day

July 4-Thursday, Independence Day

September 2-Monday, Labor Day

October 14-Monday, Columbus Day

November 11-Monday, Veterans' Day

November 28-Thursday, Thanksgiving Day

Also closes at noon Wednesday, November 27 and closed Friday, November 29

December 24 & 25-Tuesday and Wednesday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Also closes at noon on Monday December 23

Volunteer Spotlight

Anne and Joe Benedetti have worked for several years on the 4th Friday team. Joe is on our board and serves as the chairman of the Expanding FISH Footprint Committee. Last year he coordinated our participation in a middle school backpack program, and this fall he instituted the backpack program for Head Start students. Every two weeks 100 children take home a small bag of groceries for their families.

Joe and Anne are natives of Richmond and have lived in Lanexa for the past 23 years. They have been married 45 years and have one daughter and three grandchildren. They enjoy traveling, especially to Disney World, and last summer they took their grandchildren on a tour of presidential homes on the East coast.

Joe spent his career with Philip Morris, and Annie is a retired elementary school teacher. They are active in their church, Seventh Day Adventist, and also volunteer with Faith in Action..

Weather Policy

FISH will be closed due to inclement weather whenever Williamsburg or James City Public Schools are closed.

When there is a 1 hour or 2 hour delay in Williamsburg or James City Public Schools opening, FISH will open at its regular time.



Joe and his volunteers preparing bags for Head Start children

Donations

FISH is thankful for donations of money, food, clothing, and small housewares. The following are the food items that FISH recommends for donations:

- Spaghetti
- Canned meat, chicken and tuna
- Cereals
- Spaghetti sauce
- Boxed macaroni and cheese
- Saltine crackers
- Applesauce and canned fruits
- Powdered milk
- Beans (Great Northern and baked)
- Rice
- Peanut butter
- Grape jelly
- Canned soups
- Canned vegetables

Openings in the Pantry

There are no openings in the pantry at this time.

Important Phone Numbers:

FISH Building:
757-220-9379

Volunteers –

Martha Buell:
757-345-2646

The Closet Report

In October, 337 people were clothed (212 adults and 125 children) for a total of 928 outfits. This was a 15% decrease from 2017. In October, a total of 49 households got housewares.

In November, 372 people (205 adults and 167 children) were clothed with 1,016 outfits. This was a 3% decrease from last year. Also in November, 48 households got housewares.