



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

# NEWS

March - April, 2022



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Saturday, April 9, 2022, culminated a unique fifteen-month period in FISH history of concern, optimism, more concern, and finally hopeful resolve as we dedicated our new campus at 312-314 Second Street in Williamsburg. Entering the new facilities, one volunteer told me it was like "going from an old Volkswagen to a new Maserati". The well-lit, freshly painted, spacious pantry and clothes closet areas represent a quantum leap from the old facilities at Waller Mill, and will be a comfortable and efficient venue to better serve our beloved community.

Of course, this transformation didn't happen overnight and without the concerted effort of so many dedicated FISH volunteers. While your entire Board of Directors played a pivotal role at virtually every stage of the hunt for new facilities, as well as renovation planning and execution, two individuals stand out for special recognition. Dan Fontaine, our Clothing Coordinator, and Mike Motes, our Treasurer, were at the new facility virtually every day, guiding our primary contractor, College Creek Construction and a gifted cast of sub-contractors, in the creation of a modern, welcoming facility that will serve our community well into the future. Thank you, Dan and Mike.

To the FISH volunteers who helped organize the new facilities, thank you, thank you, thank you! Your tireless dedication was the key to getting this done right. Well done!

Now, more work needs to be done in some areas. Existing policies and procedures are being carefully reviewed, so please let me know if you see a policy or procedural area that could be improved in any way.

Fellow volunteers, the future is bright for FISH, and I'm proud to be associated with each one of you.

Regards,  
Jack  
jtrotte21@gmail.com

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# BEFORE



# MOVING



# AFTER



## 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. In past newsletters, you “met” Jack Trotter, Julie Adie (Sept-Oct), Dan Fontaine, Martha Dean and Maura Rush. Please meet Jeff Deel, Jill Holroyd and Joe Benedetti.

### Jeff Deel

Jeff was born and reared in Hampton Roads. After obtaining a degree in Commerce from the University of Virginia and achieving his CPA license, Jeff worked as:

- Senior Auditor at KPMG, public accounting firm
- Controller, K&K Toys (now Dollar Tree)
- Director of Taxes and IT at The Bionetics Corporation, a government contractor
- VP and Corporate Controller, Smithfield Foods, a hog production and meat processing corporation from which he retired in 2017.



For 36 years, Jeff served in many capacities at Huntington Mennonite Church in Newport News including Finance Committee Chair and Treasurer, Elder, Sunday School teacher, Bible study leader, lay preacher, and guest speaker at the Warwick Forest Chapel. He also served 10 years on the Board of Directors for the Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, and 8 years as their Treasurer.

Jeff began volunteering at FISH in 2018, and in 2020 began serving on the Board of Directors and as Coordinator-Grant Applications.

He and his wife, Ilse, reside in New Town and have two daughters (Miami, FL and Richmond, VA) and two grandsons, aged 5 and 3. Jeff’s hobbies are reading, traveling, and biking the Virginia Capital Trail!



### Jill Holroyd

Originally from Ohio, my work career started as an administrative assistant to a pediatrician, then at a hydraulic and valve company. Arranging travel was a big part of my job and soon I was hired by a travel agency. Eventually, became manager of a large agency which had Goodyear Tire and Rubber as its only client.

I met Doug in Jamaica while on a familiarization trip. We married and moved to Canada where I managed Dow Chemical Canada Travel until our son, Nicholas, was born. Then we had twin girls, Mallory and Taylor.

Doug was employed with Imperial Oil Canada, a branch of Exxon, and soon we went international for ExxonMobil, living in Texas, Singapore, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as expats for over 20 years. Finally, we moved to Williamsburg and our retirement home, where we live with my 93-year-old mother and our two dogs. I began volunteering at FISH seven years ago.

## Joe Benedetti

Joe serves as Vice President and as Chairman of the Expanding FISH Footprint Committee. As such, he coordinates a monthly distribution of bagged groceries to 78 families living in local motels. He and his wife, Annie, also have volunteered for 13 years in the FISH Pantry with the 4th Friday Team.



In addition, Joe coordinates with Holly Trotter to provide food for a local GED program. Joe and Annie, both originally from Richmond, have lived in Lanexa for the past 26 years. They have been married 48 years and have one daughter and three grandchildren. They enjoy traveling, especially to Disney World.

Joe's career was with Philip Morris. He is an active member and head elder for the Williamsburg Seventh-day Adventist Church.

## 2021 ANNUAL STATISTICS

In 2021, FISH served 2,440 requests for assistance:

- 2,240 requests for food, equating to an estimated 91,896 meals
- Clothing for 3,978 outfits
- Housewares for 213 households

We served 797 unique households during 2021, breaking out as follows:

- City of Williamsburg: 272 households (34%) with 811 requests (33%)
- James City County: 409 households (51%) with 1,288 requests (53%)
- York County: 101 households (13%) with 319 requests (13%)
- Outside Service Area: 15 households (<2%) with 22 requests (<1%)

In addition, we distributed:

- 2,240 Food Lion gift cards, \$10 each
- 2,200 Soaps N Suds cards, \$5 each covering the cost of 1 wash and 1 dry

## Special Thanks

*A special thanks to Kate Roessler and Annie Sze who contributed many hours of marketing and design expertise to FISH.*



## DONATIONS

**William & Mary Black Law Students Association** and the **Agricultural Law Society** donated \$2,000.

FISH President Jack Trotter was guest speaker at their November meeting.

**BLSA & AgLaw speaker:  
FISH director Jack Trotter**

Join us as we speak with the director of Williamsburg food bank FISH about what FISH does, the importance of donating to food banks, the needs of the community, and how students can help.

Thursday, November 18 at 1:00pm  
Zoom (link to follow)

The **Golden Horseshoe Golf Club** donated 60 bags of groceries.



Online donations may be made by clicking the Donate button



on our website at

[williamsburgfish.weebly.com](http://williamsburgfish.weebly.com)

All donations directly support FISH services to our neighbors in need.

*thank you*

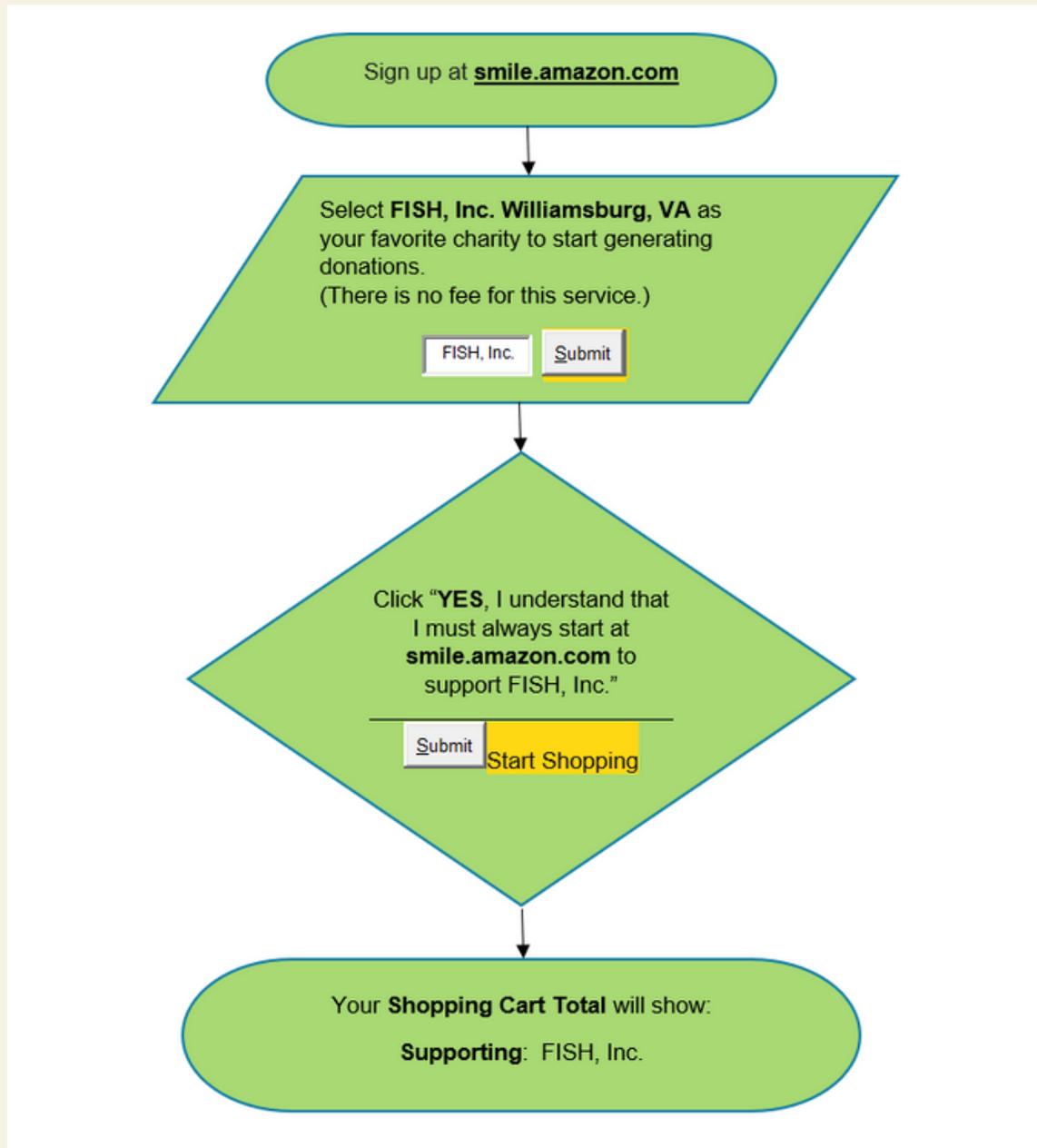


# How do I donate to FISH through AmazonSmile?

Why would I use AmazonSmile?

Amazon is willing to give up this money, so why not make the recipient FISH?

It is simple to donate to FISH when purchasing from Amazon.



For eligible purchases through AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to FISH. Donations made by the AmazonSmile Foundation are not tax deductible by you. There is no cost to FISH or to AmazonSmile customers.

# SHOELESS SHOWDOWN

C&F Bank with support from William and Mary Athletics, Chick-fil-A, and FISH held a fun event where fans received free entrance to a William and Mary basketball game, if they brought a pair of children's shoes to donate to FISH. The event, the Shoeless Showdown, was held on February 3 at the William and Mary basketball game against the College of Charleston Cougars.

In addition to free entrance, participating fans received a coupon for a free Chick-fil-A sandwich, a \$10 coupon toward a new C&F Bank checking account, and two free tickets to see William and Mary play Drexel on February 17 or Delaware on February 19.

FISH is extremely grateful to C&F Bank, the other partners, and W&M fans that helped us get 289 pairs of new children's shoes to share with those in need. Thirteen FISH volunteers supported the Shoeless Showdown. They set up, stuffed gift bags, greeted fans, stacked shoes, counted shoes, and hauled the shoes to the FISH van. A basketball was presented to Dan Fontaine during halftime as a thank you for the good that FISH does within the greater Williamsburg community.

-- Dan Fontaine



# FISH Focus



Mia Peri

I started volunteering with FISH in December, 2021. I was looking for an experience like this because I am headed to medical school after graduation in May and I wanted to spend more time volunteering with the communities I hope to serve as a medical student and physician. Throughout college, I volunteered as a medical interpreter for Spanish-speaking patients, and I really enjoyed this experience!

After helping at that clinic near my hometown, I wanted to find something local in Williamsburg, so I could give back to the community I've called home while attending William & Mary. I love talking with the clients and helping them in such a meaningful way. I'm grateful for the opportunity to volunteer with everyone at FISH!

Mia, we are thrilled you are part of the FISH family, and we thank you for the valuable gifts you give to this organization and community.

*If you have a story about a family or individual you helped that particularly moved you, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 757-345-2646 or the Newsletter Editor, fishwilliamsburgnews@gmail.com.*

## New Volunteers

Charlene Little	Mary Alice Joss
Cindy Tocci	Norma Ratcliffe
Donna Feldhaus	Ken Joss
Jane Graves	Sandra Harrison
Joanne Stark	Sandra Jackson

Welcome to FISH!



## MEET THE PANTRY TEAM

Martha Buell, Volunteer Coordinator



Martha was born in Chicago and grew up in a town 50 miles south of there. After graduating from Indiana University, she moved with two sorority sisters to Southern California to live on the beach. There she worked for Orange County Welfare for two years before deciding to go back to school to be a teacher.

Martha married Chuck Buell in 1969, and they have two sons, Keith, who is a lawyer, and Mark who is a fund manager for Black Rock. They have five grandchildren and have made many Road Scholar trips with them in the US, France, Spain, England, and Costa Rica.

After being a stay-at-home mom for 18 years, she returned to work in 1990 as a social worker for Fairfax County Family Services. Having lived in California, Minnesota, Massachusetts, and Northern Virginia, the couple retired to Williamsburg in 2002.

Martha began volunteering with FISH the following year. She has been the Volunteer Coordinator for 10 years and served as a director for 9 years.

Hobbies include travel, genealogy, duplicate bridge, and taking classes at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at William and Mary.

### From Martha:

FISH has been providing food to people in need in the greater Williamsburg area since 1975. The non-profit organization was created in order to combine the efforts of individual churches that were giving food to the needy. Among those leading the effort was Ling Ngo from St Bede's who volunteered in the pantry for many years.

In the beginning volunteers obtained orders from an answering service, collected the food and clothing, and then delivered them. It wasn't until FISH moved into the Community Services Center in 1985, that clients actually came to FISH.

Working a full day in the pantry can be exhausting. Some days we can gather around the table, chat, and enjoy a lunch break. Other days we never sit down—answering the constantly ringing phone, taking client information, bagging groceries, loading carts, accepting donations, stocking shelves, assisting clients with clothing and housewares selections, and straightening clothing shelves.

Working a shift can also be very rewarding, and we are often moved by the clients we meet.

Many volunteers have not returned since COVID. Because of the layout of our new space, we feel we need at least four volunteers in the pantry each day to serve our clients with both food and clothing.

Most of our newer volunteers have come through other volunteers. Some have even recruited their friends or spouses to work on their day.

We are all excited about our move to our new buildings on Second Street!

*Barbara Mroczkowski in our new location taking info from client.*



*Thank you, Hanni Sherman,  
for many years of service!*

Hanni is retiring after being a stalwart volunteer in Clothing for 28 years. Her mending skills are legendary, saving many valuable garments for our clients. She also knitted hundreds of winter caps for the Clothes Closet.

We will miss you!