



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Fish Volunteers:

My brief remarks this month will center on two topics: the Food Summit hosted by the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank and the Costume Sale, scheduled for later this week.

Holly and I represented FISH at the Food Summit in Newport News on September 15. The event was attended by a wide variety of non-profit organizations that are supported by the Food Bank and, like FISH, are all dedicated to easing food insecurities in our region. It was a great opportunity to meet with counterpart agencies to discuss common problems and hopeful solutions to food issues that we all face.

Karen Joyner, CEO of the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank (VPFB) gave the keynote address that highlighted revelatory data on food insecurity in our area over the past three years. In pre-pandemic 2019, in the VPFB service area, overall food insecurity stood at 9.90% of the population as a whole. During the COVID years of 2020-2021, this figure rose to 16.60% before dropping to 10.20% in the post-COVID period we're in now. While these figures include the population as a whole, the figures for children are even more depressing. In 2019, child food insecurity stood at 14.80%, rising to 19.90% during COVID before dropping to 18% post-COVID. This, my friends, is why we're here, and shows us how much more we need to do. Our Board of Directors is examining every option to help lower these awful numbers.

We continue to experience a perfect storm of supply chain disruptions, decreased food donations, increased food purchase costs and continued higher demand. Joyner said that, like the food pantries it supports, the VPFB is not immune to these pressures, often experiencing severe shortages of staple products.

While the additional \$1.5B the USDA is throwing at the problem will surely help, bear in mind that these funds will be funneled first to about 200 food banks nation-wide and may not be seen at the food pantry level until 2023. This is a sobering reminder that the work that we do daily is never more critical than right now.

On a lighter note, the Costume Sale will be held at the Stadler Center on October 19 from 9-11 PM and October 20 from 10 AM-5 PM. Karen Berquist has brilliantly led a small group of volunteers for months collecting and selecting unique clothing items in preparation for this fundraiser benefiting FISH. The event has been well publicized, but I'd like the entire FISH family to attend at least one of the days to support Karen and her colleagues and maybe purchase an item or two. So, hats off to Karen and also to Austin Moschler, CEO of VA Moving, who is supporting FISH by donating his moving vans and crews to get the costume collection to the Stadler Center. We'll report on the results of the Costume Sale next month.

Warm regards,
 Jack Trotter
 President

IN THIS ISSUE

<u>Costume Sale Fundraiser</u>	<u>Page 2</u>
<u>Donations - Why FISH?</u>	<u>Page 3</u>
<u>FISH Needs</u>	<u>Page 4</u>
<u>FISH Volunteer's Creed</u>	<u>Page 5</u>
<u>Volunteer Spotlight</u>	<u>Page 6</u>

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COSTUME SALE FUNDRAISER

REMINDER



Mark your calendar:

October 19, 9:00-11:00 p.m. (Twilight Sale)
October 20, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sadler Center - 200 Stadium Drive
Free Parking in reserved spaces near the Sadler main entrance.

From the Williamsburg Yorktown Daily article.

FISH, W&M Catholic Campus Ministry to Host 'The Costume Sale' this October

By Dominic Catacora September 9, 2022



(Courtesy of FISH, Inc.)

WILLIAMSBURG — For more than 30 years, volunteers with FISH, Inc. and the College of William & Mary's Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) have organized a resale event called "The Costume Sale" that benefits the local nonprofit.

The fundraising event is typically held in October, and this year is no exception. The pop-up resale event is at the Sadler Center on Wednesday, Oct. 19, with a special "Twilight Sale" that will run from 9-11 p.m. The Costume Sale fundraising continues on the following day, Thursday, Oct. 20, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

*All expenses for this event are covered by CCM and some generous community members.
100% of the proceeds are returned to FISH.*

After October 1, you may view "Bid to Buy" items in advance at <https://m.facebook.com/thecostumesale/>



Donations

Why FISH?



Suzanne Maggio presenting Jack Trotter, FISH President, with a \$5,000 check.

New2you thrift store was established over ten years ago to benefit Williamsburg Christian Academy. Over the past two years, the store has added a second location, 3 Doors Down. Both are upscale community thrift stores with 100% of proceeds going back into the local community. Two years ago, the Board of Directors decided to expand our donations to benefit children and families in the greater Williamsburg area in addition to Christian education. While the board was considering organizations to support, FISH came to mind as an organization that has a long history within the community and serves the basic necessities of to many families in need. It was an easy decision to give to FISH, and we look forward to continuing to support them through donations, food drives and prayer. Thank you for all you do for our community.

Kindly,

Suzanne Maggio
President
New2you/3Doors Down



Warhill High School

Two Warhill High students, Connor Boquist and William Picataggi, organized this "Back to School Food Drive":

Enlisting other students to help, they collected three carloads with at least 120 bags.

Because they used our standard shopping list, we received much-needed foods to help after the summer slow-down.

Kudos on a well-conceived and executed project.



iPad Pro

FISH has a new iPad Pro provided anonymously by a generous donor.

This new device will improve our communication with our volunteers, donors and the community.



Thank you



FISH Needs



Volunteer Needed to Pick Up at Dollar Tree

While FISH purchases food regularly from Food Lion and the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank, we also purchase extra items from the Dollar Tree in the James-York Plaza, on Merrimac Trail.

Jill Holroyd has been purchasing from this store for a few years, and will continue to do major purchasing twice a month, but FISH could use another volunteer to help with this project.

Monday mornings are good for pickup and delivery to FISH since there is extra help available at that time for unloading and shelving.

Items included are laundry detergent, dish soap, baking mixes, canned goods, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and feminine hygiene products. Some of these cases are quite heavy, and the quantity we need often fills the back of an SUV.

If interested or to learn more, please contact Jill Holroyd at 757-903-7839 or email theholroyds1@gmail.com.

Donate



or scan this QR code



Freezer Space Needed Temporarily

We will be receiving many frozen turkeys, chickens, and other meats during November for FISH to distribute to our clients for Thanksgiving.



While we are fortunate to have the freezer space we currently have, we can always use more during the holiday time.

If you have some empty space in your home freezer, please contact:
Jill Holroyd (theholroyds1@gmail.com) or
Holly Trotter (hollis.parks@gmail.com).

Boys and Girls Tennis Shoes Needed



You can see that our racks are nearly bare after the back-to-school demand. Weekly we are getting new clients who need tennis shoes and boots for their children.

We have learned that Walmart online shoe prices are often more affordable than in-store prices.

Thank you in advance for helping us meet this need.



FISH Volunteer's Creed

- I will greet all clients cheerfully with a smile.
- I will strive to make each client and their families feel welcome.
- I will try to make their visit a pleasant experience.
- I will respond to each request in a timely fashion, and serve the client as quickly as possible.
- I will always be polite to clients.
- I will attempt to resolve disputes in a reasonable and calm manner.
- Within reason, I will do whatever is necessary to serve the client.
- I will convey a sense of trust in my dealings with the client.
- I will make no judgment about any client.
- I will treat all clients with dignity and respect.
- These are my fellow citizens who are in need -- as a FISH volunteer, I am committed to helping them.

From the Volunteer Coordinator

When sorting through my files, I re-discovered the FISH Volunteer's Creed written years ago when Bill Dickerson was President. We are honored by the many volunteers who have served faithfully for years and decades, and the following who have recently joined FISH. Thank you for your time, energy and dedication.

-- Martha Buell

Adeline (Addie) Lawrence
Bettie Phillips
Cathy Armour
Elizabeth Phipps
Frank Hermes
Gary Boxeth

Marci Kaplan-Lips
Marla Boren
Noemi Pizarro Hyman
Patricia Parker
Peggy Hook
Rafael Nahas
Stacie Burns

Volunteer Spotlight

GOT JOY? SI, TENGO ALEGRIA (Yes, I have JOY!)

by

Lucy Kunkle, Pantry, Closet & Interpreter

Q1. Why did you choose to volunteer at FISH?

A1. I love and enjoy helping clients that are in need of basic necessities. It is kind of a funny story of how FISH found me. I was driving down 2nd Street one day and saw the sign for FISH and thought it was a fish market. I googled it as soon as I got home, and read "People helping people"; call for volunteers, donations needed, etc. I called the number and spoke to a volunteer. After providing my information, I stopped in and received a tour, and now volunteer in the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet several times a week.

At the time, this experience seemed very random, but now I can see how being a native Spanish speaker/bilingual has benefited FISH, our clients, and me, as I love to serve our community however I can.

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

A2. Seeing the smiles and feelings of gratitude of the clients we help brings me so much JOY!!! PURE JOY and gratification knowing that I was able to help someone in need. Especially, when clients limited in speaking English are more comfortable speaking Spanish.

Communicating with clients in Spanish makes them more at ease and gives me a greater sense and purpose that I am making a difference in their lives. The volunteers that are on my teams are truly wonderful--a pleasure to work with--and we help each other for the greater good, making a difference.

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

A3. Because I am one of the few bilingual volunteers at FISH, I often need to stop in to help a client that cannot come in on the days that I'm scheduled to volunteer. I truly don't mind, however I am looking forward to the day when we have more bilingual volunteers to help our community. Also, when I receive a compliment on what I have done at the end of the day, it charges my batteries to do even more. My teammates affectionately call me the "Energizer Bunny" and what's funny about that is I KNOW I could outlast that bunny!

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

A4. It brings me great JOY to serve my community. I also volunteer at House of Mercy, my Home Owners' Association, and care for my elderly neighbors by cooking, shopping, and picking up prescriptions for them. It's important that neighbors help neighbors — that's what "communities" do. JOY!



Interpreters Needed: FISH is blessed and grateful for the many volunteers who give, in so many ways, beyond their regular shifts in the Pantry or Clothes Closet. If you can serve as an interpreter, please contact Martha Buell, Volunteer Coordinator, at 757-220-9379.