

# FISH

## The President's Message:

Greetings,

One might think we are trying to keep our pantry workers on their toes the way we keep adjusting the food amounts of our clients. In reality we have raised the numbers of meals and some of the foods we are offering. Changes in the food we are offering are a result of many things. The availability of certain foods from Farm Fresh is one reason for some change. Another has been suggestions made by our food bank buyers and volunteers.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to monitor and adjust to serve our clients in the best possible way.

Special thanks to our clothing closet workers for assembling unneeded clothing to send to hurricane victims. (See attached photo.) Pastor Ed rose took it to Richmond to be sent to those in need.

We are about to enter our busiest time of year. More donations and clients come during the holiday season than any other time. Thank you in advance for your efforts, and bless you during this special season as we serve those in need.

**Gene Bruss**  
President

Visit  
the FISH Website  
<http://williamsburgfish.weebly.com/services.html>



## **The Pantry Report:**

During the month of August, there were 365 requests for 926 recipients for a total of 16,668 meals. Persons fed was down 13% from August 2016. In September there were 332 requests for 839 recipients for a total of 15,102 meals. Persons fed was down 8% from September, 2016.



FISH will assume responsibility for the Third Thursday fresh food distribution. We will be supported by United Way, sponsors and additional volunteers. The location will continue to be the vacant building next to United Way's Community Resource Center. Jill Holroyd will coordinate Fresh Food Distribution.

## **From the Clothing Coordinator**

Three casual or work pants for men is any combination shorts and long pants totaling three. It is not three of each.

## **Facebook**

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

## **Welcome and Farewell**

Welcome to Mary Hill, Debra Lewis, Dianne Campbell, Malika Ailes and Linda Fields.

Farewell to Carol Connelly and Ann Bayer.

Holly and Jack Trotter, assisted by Mike Motes have assumed the Food Coordinator duties from Ed Dodson. Thank you Ed for your great work, and thank you Holly, Jack and Mike for taking on this responsibility. There is now posted on the refrigerator a list of people to call when supplies get very low.

We are leasing additional storage space in the building. The space will be used for food storage which will be needed with our busy donation season just ahead.

We have new computers for the pantry and office. They will be tested in the newly leased space and then installed.

**Important Phone Numbers:**

**FISH Building: 757-220-9379**

**Volunteers – Martha Buell:  
757-345-2646**

**Weather Related Closings:  
757-220-4249**

**The Messmer Community Service Center will be closed as follows:**

Monday January 16th for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday February 20th for President's Day

Monday May 29th for Memorial Day

Tuesday July 4th for Independence Day

Monday September 4th for Labor Day

Monday October 9th for Columbus Day

Friday November 10th for Veterans Day

Thursday November 23rd & Friday November 24th for Thanksgiving

Monday December 25th for Christmas Day

Monday January 1st, 2018 for New Year Day

The Messmer Community Service Center will be closed due to Inclement Weather whenever Williamsburg/James City Public Schools are closed.

When there is a 1 hour or 2 hour delay in Williamsburg/James City Public Schools opening, the Messmer Community Service Center will open at its regular time.

**FISH will only be open from 9-12 on the day before Thanksgiving. Please check your telephone number on the FISH Monthly Calendar. If it is incorrect, let Martha Buell know. Thank you.**

## 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

**FISH Foodbank Shoppers are needed. Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Martha Buell at 757-345-2646.**

**We have a small safe bolted to the floor in the clothing area. There is a slot in the safe for inserting cash and checks for safe storage until they are picked up by our Treasurer for bank deposit.**

**Thanks to Ron Davis of Kiestyn Upholstery for the great work on the benches in the waiting area. The benches were returned the same day, and the price was very reasonable. 757-345-1929**

**The Closet Report:** In August, 809 outfits were provided to 161 adults and 129 children. Housewares were provided to 48 households in August. In August the total number of requests was down 2% from August, 2016. In September, outfits were provided to 137 adults and 95 children. Housewares were provided to 40 households in September. The total number of requests in September was down 10% from September 2016.