



FISH

*The July-August 2018
Edition*

The President's Message:

Visit
the FISH Website

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

Summer greetings to all!

As FISH continues to expand its footprint in the community and some volunteers step down from service, we find ourselves needing more volunteers. The need for volunteers at the monthly food distribution, in the pantry, and in other areas is becoming more of an area of concern. We are also looking into some other projects that will require more helpers to work.

Most of us belong to churches or civic groups that may be a recruiting base for FISH. Please consider this as an invitation to speak to your groups about FISH and our need for additional volunteers. We need folks that are physically and mentally capable of standing up to the rigors required. A caring heart and a desire to help others is also necessary.

If you feel uncomfortable about speaking to your group, approach individuals that you think would be good additions to our organization. I am also willing to come and speak to them about FISH and our needs.

FISH is the respected organization it is because of the people we have serving the community. I can't thank you enough for your service and sacrifices to those in need. Let's see if we can offer that same opportunity to others. They are out there waiting. Just ask! Enjoy your summer months!

Gene Bruss, President

The Pantry Report

During the month of April, 312 food requests were made, and 761 people were fed--an increase of 15% from April 2017. Enough food was provided for 13,698 meals.

In May, there were 331 food requests made for 917 people--an 18% increase from April 2017. 16,506 meals were provided.

In June, we served 190 people at the Mobile Food Pantry.

A FISH Story

We all know our clients appreciate the food, clothing, and housewares we provide. Recently, however, it came to our attention how much the books we give mean to the children. A school-age girl was holding a book when a volunteer approached her and asked if she would like to take the book with her. She kept asking when she should return it. When told it was hers to keep, she said how hard it was sometimes to do homework when there were no books at home. Thanks to a group of high schoolers who held a book drive a few months ago, we can now give four books to each child who comes to FISH.

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

We'd like to welcome new volunteers Emily Brooks, Reta Johnson, and Dan Fontaine.

Special thanks goes to Nancy Ryan, who left FISH after over 25 years.



Volunteers preparing for the FISH Mobile Food Pantry on Thursday, June 21



FISH and United Way organizers for the 3rd Thursday FISH Mobile Food Pantry

Special Thanks

Hailey Holland edited the FISH newsletter for the past 3 years and is stepping down. She recently graduated from Jamestown High School and will attend the University of Missouri. She enjoys horseback riding and played varsity and travel softball. Also, she participated in Operation Smile, Girl Up, National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, National Honor Society of High School Scholars, Exceptional Eagles, and Berkeley Middle School Reading Volunteers. Thank you, Hailey!

Editor's Notes

My name is Olivia Buell, and I am the new editor of the FISH newsletter. This fall, I will start my sophomore year of high school in Arlington, VA, and I'm a horseback rider as well as a travel soccer player. In the past, I've volunteered at FISH with my grandma, Martha Buell, and I'm excited to help out again!

The Messmer Community Service Center will be closed as follows:

The only Holiday Closure in July and August is for Independence Day, on Wednesday, July 4. In September, it will be closed on Monday, September 3 for Labor Day.

The Messmer Community Service Center 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, the Messmer Community Service Center will open at its regular time.

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

We have openings in the pantry for 4th Monday and 2nd Friday volunteers.

Important Phone Numbers:

FISH Building:
757-220-9379

Volunteers –

Martha Buell:
757-345-2646

The Closet Report

In April, 229 people were clothed (144 adults and 85 children) for a total of 629 outfits. This was an 86% increase from 2017. In April, a total of 43 households got housewares.

In May, 360 people (204 adults and 156 children) were clothed with 1,106 outfits. This was a 10% increase from last year. Also in May, 54 households got housewares.