

FISH

The President's Message:

Visit
the FISH Website

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

The Pantry Report:

During the month of February, there were 316 requests for 727 recipients for a total of 10,905 meals. Persons fed was up 69% from February 2015.

In March there were 312 requests for 727 recipients for a total of 10,905 meals. Persons fed was down 17% from March 2015.

Greetings,

All of us can be a part of spreading the word about FISH. During the next couple of months, members of the board will be attending several events introducing our services to prospective clients and possible supporters. Believe it or not, many people in our area have not heard of FISH and what we do.

All of us can help spread the word about FISH. Talk to friends, Sunday school classes, and to civic groups to which you belong. If you are not comfortable speaking, you can contact me and I can do it or have someone else speak.

FISH had a fantastic year last year and we can continue to provide services to those in need with your help.

Thanks again for your continuing help and support.

Gene Bruss, President

Important Phone Numbers:

FISH Building: 757-220-9379

Volunteers – Martha Buell: 757-345-2646

Weather Related Closings: 757-220-4249



Board Activities:

New Business

The Board approved adding detergent, and increasing the amounts of cheese, crackers, and chicken.

FISH was invited to take part in 11 different events during March and April.

A FISH representative is in discussions with United Way on how we may partner with them in their third Thursday fresh food distribution.



Old Business

The revised Orientation Guide was distributed to volunteers.

The search for a lawyer to serve FISH on a pro bono basis continues.

Other Business

The application has been submitted for the Williamsburg Health Foundation Grant.

FISH will apply for the Neighborhood Assistance Program again this year.

Community Services Referral Network confirms the financial need of FISH clients at least every six month. FISH specifically requested that we receive no information on these financial need screenings.

Please designate FISH as the recipient of your Amazon Smile Foundation donations. Search for FISH Williamsburg.

Welcome New FISH Volunteers!

Dick Young and Marti and Bill Dean.

Reminders

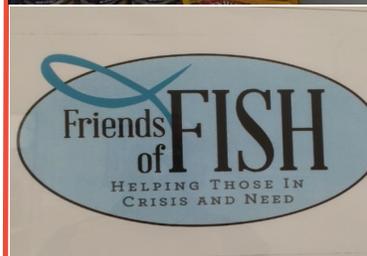
Grove: We do not serve clients from Grove because Grove Christian Outreach is available to them. See list of streets taped to desk in pantry. CSRN and UW know this.

Avalon: Clients residing in an Avalon facility receive only clothing. Those in apartments (transitional or outreach clients) may receive clothing, housewares, and food.

Subs: Each team should decide if they will need a sub when a member is unable to work. Some teams have less work than others, and can manage through the day without additional help; other teams are a little larger and also do not need subs.

SS#s: When clients Social Security #'s are needed, even if the client does not have that number, **we are to serve them**. Also, some clients are undocumented and will not have a Social Security number, again **we are to serve them**.

ID Cards: When a client offers a license or other form of ID we check them to compare addresses, & to get addresses when only a post office number has been given. Also, these cards can help us to make sure the client's name is correctly spelled in our files.



FISH Facts

The cost per meal in 2015 was \$0.61. Despite excellent pricing from Farm Fresh, the cost per meal using Farm Fresh purchased food only would have been \$.91. Purchased food was 89.2% from Farm Fresh and 10.8% from the foodbank by weight. Foodbank food cost \$0.19 per pound and Farm Fresh food cost \$1.20 per pound. Thank you Foodbank Shoppers Tom Phalen, Tony Annoni, Barrie Fyfe, Nancy and Don Swietek, Bonnie and Jim McNail, Don and Jean Butts. One additional shopper prefers to not be named. Some shoppers have several helpers.

The Messmer Community Service

Center will be closed as follows:

Monday January 18th for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday February 15th for President's Day

Monday May 30th for Memorial Day

Monday July 4th for Independence Day

Monday September 5th for Labor Day

Monday October 10th for Columbus Day

Friday November 11th for Veterans Day

Thursday November 24th & Friday November 25th for Thanksgiving

Monday December 26th for Christmas Day

Monday January 2, 2017 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.

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

The Closet Report:

In February, 593 outfits were provided to 147 adults and 87 children. Housewares were provided to 55 in February. In February the total number of requests was up 56% from February, 2015. In March 690 outfits were provided to 153 adults and 105 children. Housewares were provided to 51 in March. The total number of requests in March was down 15% from March 2015. FISH is in need of boys and girls clothing.

