

# FISH

*The May - June, 2017  
Edition*

## **The President's Message:**

Visit  
the FISH Website

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

Greetings,

FISH's role in feeding those in need continues to grow. At our last board meeting the board voted to sponsor a first Friday food distribution at St. Bede's. This is in addition to our regular volunteer support at the third Thursday food distribution at United Way. As long as volunteers are available, we will continue to support these projects. Please contact Don Butts if you are interested in helping.

We are also in need of volunteers to cover regular shifts at FISH. When I speak to groups about FISH I always tell them we are in need of volunteers. You can do the same with friends, church members, or members of your civic groups. If FISH is to continue, we need a steady supply of volunteers. Please have them contact Martha Buell.

I recently spoke to Ed Rose and told him we are interested in renting additional space when it becomes available. When donations like the recent St. Bede's donation of 740 bags come in, it is difficult to sort and store.

We continue to explore more options for food choices in the pantry. We are looking into additional fruit choices, powdered detergent, and beef stew. Please ask clients if they are interested in getting Treet, because many indicated on our survey forms that they don't use it.

FISH continues to be blessed with volunteers who are willing to give of their time and energy to support a vibrant organization serving our community.

Bless you.

Gene Bruss, President

## Opportunity to Help FISH

### The Pantry Report:

During the month of February, there were 266 requests for 628 recipients for a total of 9,390 meals. Persons fed was down 13% from February 2016. In March there were 320 requests for 750 recipients for a total of 11,250 meals. Persons fed was up 3% from March, 2016.



Two Knights of Columbus Councils delivered Saint Bede Catholic Church parishioners' donations of 740 bags of food and \$1,310.

Amazon makes a donation to FISH with each of your Amazon purchases when you participate in the AmazonSmile program. The link for participation is

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-152305>

Thank you for supporting this program. Donations are increasing.

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

### Welcome and Farewell

Welcome to Cindy Steele, Pat Carmichael, Geoff Smith, Carol Belanger, Rachael Todd, Ann Lamar, and Paulette Goldstein.

Farewell to Barbara

Hildebrand, Alice Bowles, Kathy Beuschel, Eve Romero, Nancy Berryman, and Lucille Fischer.

## Quick Response Team

These volunteers are willing to come, when they can, on short notice if one of your team has failed to show or you are especially busy.

Kathleen Anderson 345-6291

Jill Holroyd 903-7839

## Facebook

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

## 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.

## Important Phone Numbers:

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

**Volunteers – Martha Buell:**

**757-345-2646**

**Weather Related Closings:**

**757-220-4249**

## FISH FACTS

FISH clothes closet provided 9,815 outfits in 2016.

# 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 sponsored the April Fresh Food Distribution at United Way's Community Resource Center.



**The Closet Report:** In February, 514 outfits were provided to 124 adults and 70 children. Housewares were provided to 50 households in February. In February the total number of requests was down 15% from February, 2016. In March 641 outfits were provided to 157 adults and 83 children. Housewares were provided to 45 households in March. The total number of requests in March was up 1% from March 2016.