



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Fish Volunteers,

The 22nd of September marks the autumnal equinox, the start of Fall and our busiest season. Throughout FISH, our work tempo has ramped up as more and more individuals and families come to us for aid and assistance. For an organization that would really like to be “out-of-business”, economic factors like the pandemic and inflation have clearly made our mission more critical than ever before. When I look at the work that you do on a daily basis, it’s striking what a barometer we are for the condition and needs of our community. As times get tougher, we get busier and must be even more dedicated to our neighbors in need.

As you may remember, the supply chain was severely impacted in late 2020 and 2021 by COVID-19 as shifts in demand, labor shortages and global bottlenecks led to shortages in staples that we depend on such as pasta, rice and even beans and bread. As we seemed to gradually get a handle on COVID-19 through mass immunizations, inflation got our attention in a big way. Gas prices rose alarmingly over the Summer then fell back to more manageable (but still scary) levels. Prices for staples, though, continued to rise. Consider this: the year-over-year change owing to inflation for items like eggs (39.8%), white bread (16.4%), rice (15.7%) and peanut butter (15.2%) show us what we’re up against. On September 14, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it was providing almost \$2 billion in additional funding to food banks and school meal programs. Good news, for sure, although the actual impact on us locally is unknown since this funding will be routed through the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank. We probably won’t see an impact from these funds until 2023. As I said earlier, as times get tough, FISH gets inspired! I’m so proud of the work you all do. What heroes!

On a lighter note, our support to the Bicycle Co-Op of Williamsburg continues to grow. On Saturday, September 17, I delivered the last nine bikes we had collected (and were storing in my garage) to the Co-Op. Their offer to us is a potential game-changer for some of our clients. If the client has NO other means of transport (buses don’t count), FISH can provide the client with a bike voucher and the Bicycle Co-Op will provide a refurbished, “like-new” bike, absolutely free. We can refer two clients per week. What a generous program!

Have a safe and productive Fall. You continue to be my favorite people.

Warm regards,
Jack Trotter
President

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COSTUME SALE FUNDRAISER

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/>





Touring our New Facilities

Williamsburg Health Foundation

The Williamsburg Health Foundation toured the new FISH location on September 8, and were able to see the refrigeration units they funded being put to good use. They also enjoyed the Costume Sale closet.

Attending from WHF were Carol Sale (President and CEO), Deanna Van Hersch (Director of Health and Wellness), Bill Pribble (Senior Program Officer). From FISH: Jack Trotter (President and Tour Guide), Jeff Deel (Grants Coordinator).



Williamsburg United Methodist Church



The Williamsburg United Methodist Church ladies circle toured FISH and brought donations.

"I have never lived in a community more generous than Williamsburg. Thank you for helping in our time of need."
--A Fish Client

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).

C&F Bank

Several employees from C&F Bank toured FISH on September 7, and were very impressed with our new facilities and our support of the greater Williamsburg community.

Last February, C&F Bank with support from William and Mary Athletics, Chick-fil-A, and FISH held the Shoeless Showdown where fans received free entrance to a William and Mary basketball game, if they brought a pair of children's shoes to donate to FISH. FISH was extremely grateful to receive 289 pairs of new children's shoes from this activity.

In 2023, FISH will once again be the benefitting nonprofit organization, and will be on the planning committee which will begin meeting shortly.

C&F Bank will be looking for other opportunities to support FISH.



William & Mary Campus Food Exchange

FISH has been sharing food with the William & Mary Campus Food Exchange since 2019, but had to stop during the COVID shutdown. We are pleased to be able to restart support of this program, as it is part of FISH's Expand the Footprint initiative.

The Campus Food Exchange is a confidential program that aims to provide W&M students, staff, and faculty with food insecurities (and their dependent family members) access to nonperishable food and hygiene products when school is in session. Learn more about the Exchange [here](#).

We thank Jess Raymond, of the Exchange, (pictured below) for coordinating with our FISH team of Holly Trotter, Food Coordinator, and Joe Benedetti, Outreach Coordinator.



Foodbank Shopping



L to R: Bill Williamson, Don Butts

The three primary sources of food distributed by FISH are food purchased locally with donated funds, donated food, and food from the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank. Locally purchased food is the largest source, and the Foodbank is the smallest.

Purchasing at the Foodbank helps supplement what is given to a client, such as frozen meat, fruit, and vegetables, when available. All food is inspected per food safety guidelines.

Volunteers travel to Hampton to the Foodbank and shop for specific types of food. Shoppers are allowed 30 minutes on the shopping floor. The food is weighed and FISH is charged \$0.10 per pound. Volunteers feel pretty good about bringing 500 pounds of food to FISH for only \$50.

The Foodbank requires shoppers to have current food safety training. Shoppers keep track of when other FISH volunteers shop so they aren't competing with each other on the shopping floor, or for freezer space when they bring the groceries to FISH.



John Ellis restocking freezer after shopping trip

When foodbank shoppers get back to FISH, they appreciate pantry volunteers helping to unload and stock shelves. So if you are not busy serving clients, be sure to lend a helping hand.

Currently several volunteers from FISH and the James City Lions Club shop for FISH.

Preparations for Fall and Winter

Clothes Closet Transformation



On September 3, a group of volunteers transformed the Clothes Closet to prepare for cooler temperatures which require warmer clothing. They packed away shorts, capris, lightweight tops and other summer items. They unpacked long pants, long-sleeved tops, sweaters, jackets, and accessories including hats, scarves, and gloves. The volunteers did an excellent job of preparing the Clothes Closet to meet our clients' seasonal needs.

Standing left to right:
Sue Williams, Marje Peterson, Jeanne Fulks, Barbara Riebe, Patti MacGillivray, Cindy Tocci

Front row left to right:
Peggy Parker, Yve (Eve) Grundy, Norma Radcliffe

Donation of Warm Jackets



The Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail (VPRJ), a great supporter of FISH, donated 95 jackets that are perfect for cooler temperatures. They are very nice men's jackets with zip-in linings and are in a variety of sizes.

This generous donation will serve many clients in the community. Thank you VPRJ.

Officers: Cpl. Timothy Hedgepeth, Lt. John Meyers and Major Robert Nester (left to right) unload a donation at FISH.

Dan Fontaine models one of the jackets.



Needing Warm Footwear

"Children's feet grow so quickly" is something volunteers hear from clients and know from their own experiences. Donations of children's shoes and boots go as quickly as we get them. Children might be able to wear sandals the first few weeks of school, but they will soon need warmer shoes. The Clothes Closet tries to supply warm shoes and socks to every child that needs them.



Donations of new or gently used shoes and boots are greatly appreciated.

Please check this link to [**What Does FISH Need Now?**](#) on the website, which is an up-to-date list of items needed.



Donations

Socks & Underwear Shower Results



The Williamsburg Baptist Church held its Annual Mickey Halpin Socks & Underwear Shower for FISH, donating 123 pairs of socks, 101 undies, and 8 pairs of shoes to help youngsters start off the school year.

Sentara Williamsburg Group

Throughout July, Sentara Williamsburg, the Mended Hearts Chapter 427, and the Cardiac and Respiratory Exercise Science program combined to donate much-needed toiletries and hygiene products for FISH clients.

On the left, volunteer Ginger Miller accepts the donation from the Sentara representatives.



Thank you

Donating Made Easy

Online donations may be made by clicking this Donate button

Donate



or scanning this QR code



To scan a QR code:

- Open your cellphone's camera.
- Focus the camera on this QR code.
- Follow the instructions on your phone screen to complete the action.

Also, when shopping through the AmazonSmile program, a portion of your purchase price will be donated to FISH. Click the amazonsmile button below to start shopping.



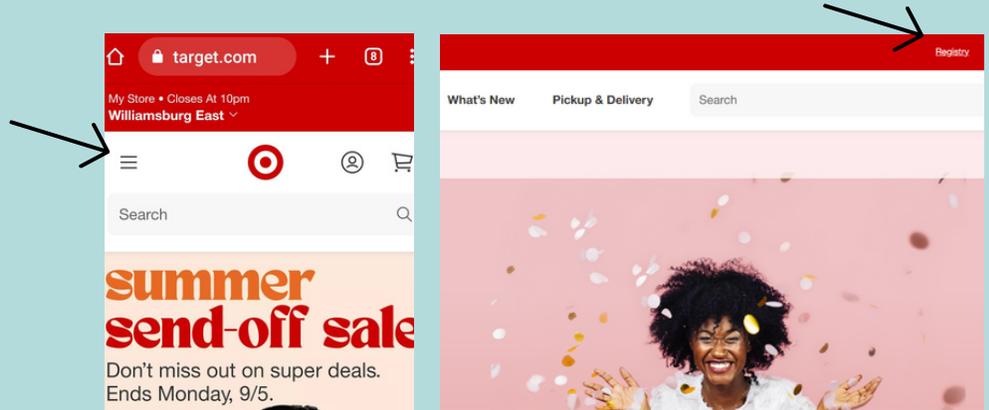
A new opportunity is the **Target Wish List** (please see the following page).

All donations directly support FISH services to our neighbors in need.

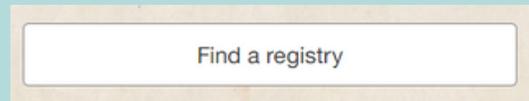
Target Wish List

FISH now has a Target Wish List Registry where anyone may purchase much needed items for FISH.

1. Go to [Target.com](https://www.target.com) on your mobile device or computer.
2. From the Menu, select Registry.



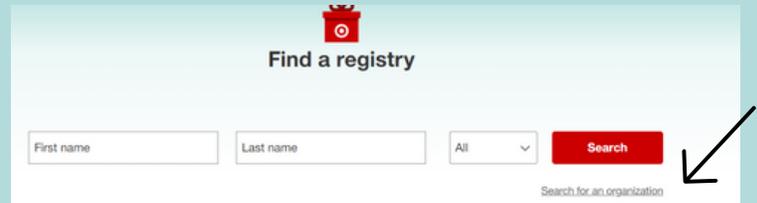
3. Tap "Find a Registry".



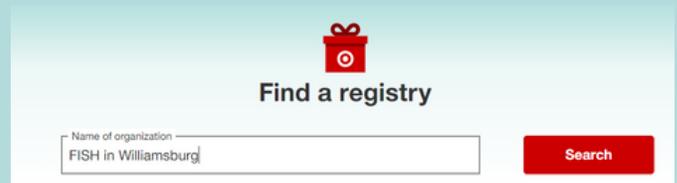
4. You may either type in:
First Name: "FISH"
Last Name: "in Williamsburg", or ...



5. ... click "Search for an Organization", then type in "FISH in Williamsburg".

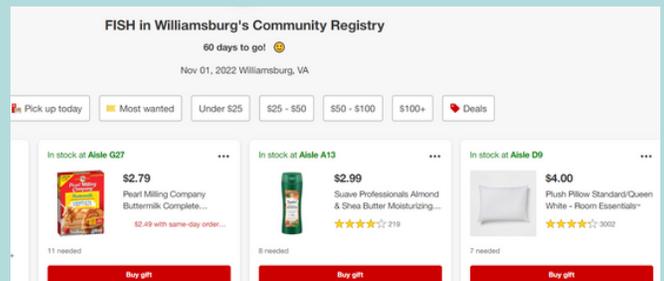


6. Press "Search", then "View Registry", and a list of our requested items will appear.



You may have your purchases automatically delivered to FISH to save you a trip, or you may pick them up and bring them to the FISH location.

Our list is also available at the kiosk near Customer Service within each store. The list conveniently identifies the location of the items.



Volunteer Spotlight

ALL IN THE FAMILY

by

Barbara Eddins, Seamstress



Barbara with a kaleidoscope of notions

Q1. Why did you choose to volunteer at FISH?

A1. I started volunteering at FISH after retiring from Anheuser-Busch in 2001. My mom, Opal, had been at FISH since the beginning, as she knew Billie Johnston from our garden club. By the time I retired, Mom was in her late 80's, and could no longer drive a car, so I was her transportation on the days she volunteered--every Tuesday in March and August. I started by sizing ladies' clothing, T-shirts and dresses. As Mom became more disabled, my sister, Nan, retired from her job in Florida and returned to Williamsburg in January, 2012, to help. Mom passed in 2017 at the age of 100, and while she was unable to work at FISH the last two years of her life, Nan and I have carried on a second-generation legacy, volunteering every Tuesday in the Clothing Closet. One of our teammates affectionately calls us "The Sisters".

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

A2. Knowing that FISH volunteers are helping people and our community is reward enough, but I thoroughly enjoy visiting with other volunteers, and value the friendships that have developed over the years. An absolute plus for me is a growing knowledge of fabrics, fashions, and garment construction. When I first started at FISH, there were three ladies doing the mending; two were German-born who had been sewing all their lives. I learned a lot by observing how they repaired garments. I have always been fascinated by the hundreds of spools of colorful threads and thousands of buttons available at FISH. As volunteers aged out of being able to continue at FISH, I stepped into the position of mending. While packing the moving truck to transfer the sewing notions from the Waller Mill Road building to our new home on Second Street, my sincere caution to the movers was, "Please do not drop either the threads or buttons out of the back of the van. It would close Second Street for a week while we picked up all of them!"



"The Sisters" consulting

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

A3. I had a unique experience about 3 years into volunteering when Billie Johnston asked me to develop ensembles from donated garments, and gave me free range to be creative (although I would always ask her approval before I put the items on the rack). I would assemble a dress and jacket, a skirt/blouse/jacket and sometimes add a hat. Sometimes formal wear would be in demand for a wedding or funeral, so I would search for garments that could be dressed up with jackets, jewelry, and scarves. Then Billie asked me to improve some of the hats that were being donated. I took hats home to clean them, paired them with scarves, pins, clip earrings, ribbons, silk flowers, and anything that might dress up a plain hat. I even changed the shape of some hats by ironing them or stitching the brim or crown into a different shape, and most of those hats went out the door quickly.

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

A4. Mom and I were sizing ladies' shirts on the day a surprise earthquake hit the area. While the earthquake was centered west of Richmond, we got severe shockwaves in Williamsburg. We held onto our chairs, watching the tables bounce and boxes fly off shelves in the workroom. When the action stopped, everyone was too shocked to say anything--everyone but me. I announced, "Now what is Camp Peary up to?!!!" Oops, I was wrong there!

In Memoriam

We recently lost a long-time supporter of FISH. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be sent to FISH and the Richmond Symphony. Because of her mother's long-time support, her daughter is donating her clothes to FISH.

Please see below for an abridged version of her obituary.



Faith Croker, age 90, passed away during June in Williamsburg VA. Born and raised in New York, she graduated cum laude with a BA in Economics from Sweet Briar College in Virginia, then worked at Lord & Taylor in New York City as a training manager and later as a floor manager. She married Robert Croker, Jr., in 1958 and had three children.

After the passing of her husband, Faith moved to Williamsburg. Faith was an active member of Bruton Parish Church and served as a Funeral Reader, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lay Reader, Usher, Pastoral Care Volunteer, Parish House Receptionist, and Alternate to Diocese Council. She adored tutoring at DJ Montague and Matthew Whaley Elementary Schools and would regale everyone with stories of the young students and her interactions with them.

--Dan Fontaine



A Surprise for Billie Johnston



The "Old Clothing Crew" gathered at Spring Arbor on the 15th of September to celebrate Billie Johnston's birthday with ice cream cake and lots of laughs. **Billie is the one seated with the colorful shirt.**

One of FISH's longest-serving volunteers, Billie has been instrumental in leading and refining the clothing operation. We regularly check in with Billie to let her know how things are going at FISH clothing, to get some of her wisdom, and to catch up on family and the latest gossip. Before you ask, her age is "top secret".

Happy Birthday Billie!

