



**Food Pantry and Clothing**  
 Serving the Community Since 1975

# NEWS



**January 2024**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FISH?

Welcome to 2024!

We are certainly busier than we have ever been before, both in the Food Pantry, as well as the Clothes Closet. Many volunteers are working hard to stock shelves and refrigerators, find the right size of pants, and refill the clothes rack outside the Pantry several times a day.

Our 2023 statistics show that FISH served 367,311 meals, and well over 12,000 outfits of clothing. The number of people served, whether food and/or clothing, was equivalent to 18,000 people.

Looking towards the future, 2025 will be FISH's 50th Anniversary in Williamsburg! That is definitely something to be proud of! If you are interested in working on a committee to celebrate this, please let me know.

We are definitely moving upward and forward. We have several new ideas from our volunteers, like the Adopt-a-Shelf Program, an easy way to make sure we have a supply of a specific food item for our clients. There are several Spanish-speaking volunteers in the Clothes Closet who are also willing to translate in the Pantry, as needed. We also have forms translated in Ukrainian and Farsi. If you speak a different language, please advise, as we might need to call upon you to help.

I have accepted the position of President of FISH, and am excited to be leading this great organization, and thank you for this opportunity! Please note my email and phone number below, as I will try to help in any way I can, and am happy to discuss your ideas!

Thanks to Joe Benedetti who filled in as Interim President during the end of 2023. Joe stepped up when it was needed, and we certainly thank him for that.

All the best to all volunteers and newsletter readers in 2024. Let's make this the best year yet for FISH!

Jill Holroyd  
 President  
 theholroyds1@gmail.com  
 Cell: 757-903-7839

P.S. Both of our dogs are home safe and sound now.  
 Thanks to all who were concerned!

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**Donate**



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 Williamsburg, VA 23185  
 757-220-9379  
[www.fishwilliamsburg.org](http://www.fishwilliamsburg.org)  
[fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com](mailto:fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com)



## 2023 SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, FISH was able to serve an unprecedented number of clients, thanks to our generous volunteers and donors!

	2022	2023
<b>Food Requests</b>	<b>3,888</b>	<b>7,002</b>
<b>Meals Equivalent</b>	<b>188,265</b>	<b>367,311</b>
<b>Clothing Outfits</b>	<b>6,912</b>	<b>12,877</b>
<b>Families w/ Housewares</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>690</b>
<b>Unique Households</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>2,199</b>

-- Cathey Sadowski  
Data Management Coordinator

*Happy  
New Year  
2024*

## New Volunteers

- Belinda Ibarra-Jara
- Eden Glenn
- Janice McBride
- Jo Ann Pitts
- Kim Labiaga
- Midori Pitts
- Pam Pickett

*Welcome, and thank  
you for choosing FISH!*

## From the Editor:

Many readers have expressed their appreciation for this newsletter, and we are thrilled to inform, entertain, and strengthen the bond between FISH and the community.

This would not be possible without the wonderful articles by Cindy Tocci, Karen Berquist and Dan Fontaine; donation pictures and captions by Maura Rush, Jill Holroyd and Ginger Miller; ideas and wording submitted by the Board members and non-Board members; spotlight features by volunteers; final review by Cathey Sadowski and the President.

My heart is full when I think of the concerted effort that goes into this communication. Your generosity is infectious and empowering! Thank you!

-- Kathleen Pock

## WANTED:

The Costume Sale wants volunteers to take on a short list of tasks. Our current team will meet soon.

Call or text Karen Berquist: 757-880-1284 for the location, date, and time.

Each task will have a description and timeline for you to consider. What's YOUR superpower?

Tasks include pre- and post-event publicity, managing a volunteer sign-up list, outreach to campus volunteer groups like Circle K and APO.

And many more opportunities to join the fundraising team!





## Helping a Non-English-Speaking Client

As our client base grows, we seem to be getting an ever-increasing number of non-English-speaking clients. In an effort to ease communication, I have been learning Spanish for some time using the free Duolingo app. While I cannot converse in Spanish, I know basic words related to clothing, and also use the Apple Translate app. Recently, I had my greatest challenge. An Hispanic mother with a family of four was at Registration. I understood that she wanted to get some clothes. Between the Spanish that I've learned and using the Apple Translate app, we communicated adequately to help her quickly select the clothing and housewares that her family needed.

I had another experience recently with a Pakistani mother that spoke Pashto and only knew a few, very basic English words like yes and one, two, or three. In this case, I was able to communicate using hand gestures and the Pashto translator in Google Translate.

Both clients seemed to leave happy and thanked me for taking the extra effort. It also made me happy to feel that they had a good FISH experience.

-- Dan Fontaine

*Thank you, Dan, for your initiative, encouragement and sharing.  
We now have 6 Spanish-speaking translators, but there still may be times we need to use translate apps:*

*Belinda Ibarra-Jara  
Janice McBride  
Laura Custance  
Lucy Kunkle  
Maitee Guerra  
Wilma Caban-Carcabona*

## Adopt-a-Shelf Adoptions

Dale Huebner's innovative Adopt-a-Shelf Program has sparked wonderful donations, and it's not over yet!

From the **Williamsburg Seventh Day Adventist Church**, Arleen Manning (L), leader of the Women's Ministry group adopted the Applesauce shelf, and Fred Paris (R), leader of Men's Ministry group adopted the Spaghetti Sauce shelf. Center is Joe Benedetti, former FISH President.

Multiple groups/individuals may adopt the same shelves, and can also adopt more than one shelf. Deadline is extended to January 31, so jump on board!

Other participating households are:

Blaustein  
Carr-Dreyfuss  
Holroyd  
Huebner-Dwyer  
McKee

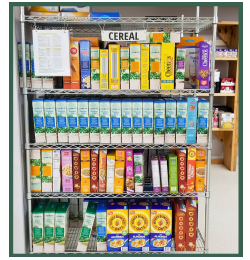


**Thanks for a super lift-off!**



# Adopt-a-Shelf Program

*A Fun Way to Donate*



FISH extends an invitation to you to help supply our clients with the food items they need by adopting a shelf. This opportunity is for the three months of February, March, and April 2024 which are our low-donation months. Throughout the year, FISH purchases 85% of the food. By selecting one of the options below, you will be helping to defray the costs involved in stocking our shelves. Know that you are helping to serve those in our community who rely on FISH, and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Please complete this form and either email it to [fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com](mailto:fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com) or mail to FISH, 312 Second Street, Williamsburg, VA, 23185 **by Wednesday, January 31, 2024.**



Please mark which shelf/shelves you would like to fill:

### Shelf Options:

- Laundry detergent - \$45 per month - Total \$135
- Cereal - \$75 per month - Total \$225
- Applesauce - \$100 per month - Total \$300
- Spaghetti (Pasta) - \$112 per month - Total \$336
- Spaghetti Sauce - \$140 per month - Total \$420
- Veggies (Corn, Peas, Beans etc.) - \$145 per month - Total \$435
- Beef Stew - \$285 per month - Total \$855

All gifts are welcome. You may prefer to write in an amount to cover other food items not listed on shelves above, such as peanut butter, fruit, rice. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Contact Details

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Details

*FISH is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. 100% of your financial contribution will be used to serve client needs and is fully tax deductible.*

I will be paying by:

- Check
- Credit/Debit Card
- Money Order



# Donations

## Traditions & Leading by Example



One of the beauties of having children and grandchildren is setting traditions.

Jean and Don Butts, long-time faithful FISH volunteers, are great examples for their granddaughters to emulate.

Over the holidays we were delighted to have Hope Holland (left) and her sister, Hannah (not pictured) help in the Pantry. Their sister, Hailey, was the FISH newsletter editor for 3 years prior to leaving for university in 2018.

*The flowers were donated by Trader Joe's, picked up and delivered by another volunteer.*

*The McCoy children brought in a very nice donation just before Christmas.*



The **Nathan Smith family** from the DC area has a holiday tradition of shopping for FISH which they began when the children were much younger and we were in our former location.

It was great to see them again today (12/20), and have them help shelve their donations!



## W&M Gymnastic Teams

Some great pictures of the very enthusiastic men's and women's gymnastics teams from William & Mary who collected 2381 pounds of food for FISH. They canvassed local neighborhoods, and the results were fantastic!

We greatly appreciate this annual tradition which helps us plan for the upcoming winter months!

# Donations



## Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg



Jill Holroyd and team delivered, unpacked and shelved a wonderful donation collected at the Kiwanis Club's Christmas party.

## Bdefined

Bridgit Kin-Charlton and her husband, Ralph, with a donation collected from her clients at Bdefined, a fitness center in New Town.



## Walsingham Academy Lower School

Donation from Walsingham Academy Lower School (grades 1-3) kindly delivered by a teacher's husband, pictured with Ruth Bott, Pantry volunteer.



## Golden Horseshoe Golf Club

Charles Efird, Membership Manager (L), and Jeff Winters (R), PGA Professional, at the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club conducted a month-long food drive that resulted in a very generous donation to FISH.



## Navy Federal Credit Union



Great donation from the Navy Federal Credit Union!

# Donations



## Colonial Heritage HOA



A timely donation collected by Colonial Heritage HOA, plus the ladies helped stock the shelves after a very busy day.

Days later they stopped by with another donation just in time for Christmas!

## More than Tea

Ruth McDonald organized a tea with some **Shinnecock** neighborhood ladies in **Ford's Colony**. Attendees were asked to bring a food donation for FISH.



When Ruth delivered the thoughtful donation, she was impressed with the FISH food and clothing operation.

## Warm, Handmade Quilts

Beth Filko of the **Colonial Piecemakers Quilt Guild** donated 14 handmade quilts and a bag of pillowcases.



## New2you Thrift Store

Supporter, friend and neighbor Suzanne Maggio, owner of **New2you Thrift Store**, remembered FISH with another \$5,000 check.

Thank you for your continued support!



Suzanne with Joe Benedetti, FISH Director & former President

*Amidst the excitement and activity of receiving and shelving donations, the volunteers always try to get a picture and basic information. Any omissions are not intentional.*

# Treasured Memories

## William “Bill” Dickerson

Former FISH President, Bill Dickerson, passed away on December 14, 2023. Bill volunteered at FISH for 11 years, four of those as president. His good humor, compassion, and emphasis on affirming clients' integrity remain hallmarks of FISH Volunteers. He also instituted the FISH Volunteer's Creed.

Bill's family requested donations in his memory be made to FISH.

Our condolences and gratitude to the family. [Full Obituary](#)



## FISH Volunteer's Creed

- I will greet all clients cheerfully with a smile.
- I will strive to make each client and their families feel welcome.
- I will try to make their visit a pleasant experience.
- I will respond to each request in a timely fashion, and serve the client as quickly as possible.
- I will always be polite to clients.
- I will attempt to resolve disputes in a reasonable and calm manner.
- Within reason, I will do whatever is necessary to serve the client.
- I will convey a sense of trust in my dealings with the client.
- I will make no judgment about any client.
- I will treat all clients with dignity and respect.
- These are my fellow citizens who are in need -- as a FISH volunteer, I am committed to helping them.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## OPEN ARMS

### Madison Sandall Pantry

#### Q1. Why did you choose to volunteer at FISH?

A1. After moving to Williamsburg from Chesapeake last year, I was looking for a volunteer opportunity that would allow me to have a direct impact on the Williamsburg community. I had driven by FISH and decided to call and ask if there were any open volunteer positions. I was later contacted by Martha Buell who invited me to tour.

While touring I was immediately impressed by the organization of the facility and the number of volunteers working. Each volunteer welcomed me to FISH with open arms and all were excited to have me join as part of the team. After seeing how friendly and hard-working all of the volunteers were, I knew I had chosen a great organization to join to make a difference within the community.

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

A2. The gratitude that we receive when we bring out the orders to the clients is always a great reminder that our work is making a difference to those in need within our community. I enjoy meeting the people that come to FISH and I hope that I can help make their day a little bit brighter from our interaction.

Additionally, every time I work at FISH I'm inspired by the other volunteers who have been a part of the organization for years. Having the opportunity to work and connect with people who also have a genuine desire to serve others is always empowering.

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

A3. While volunteering, I met a woman who was a client at FISH years ago but this time was returning to bring in donations for the Clothes Closet. She expressed to me the gratitude that she has for FISH after we helped her during a financially difficult time. She told me that she is happy to now be in a position where she can return the help to FISH and other members of the community with her donations.

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

A4. I first began volunteering while in high school at a dog rescue in Norfolk. (My parents and I actually adopted one of the dogs from the rescue and we still have him today!) I continued to volunteer throughout college, and following graduation, I discovered FISH when I moved to Williamsburg.

I'm originally from Chesapeake and have only lived outside of Hampton Roads while attending college at Virginia Tech. I moved to this area to live with my best friend who attends William & Mary Law School while I was completing my Master's online through VCOM (Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine). I completed my Master's in Biomedical Sciences this past June, and I hope to begin medical school this summer to start my journey toward becoming an emergency medicine or family medicine physician.

