



Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community Since 1975

NEWS



July 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines **Teamwork**: work done by a group acting together so that each member does a part that contributes to the efficiency of the whole.

FISH has so many wonderful teams that are an integral part of our day-to-day happenings. Let me tell you about a few.

Every Monday morning, several teams jump into action. The **Dollar Tree Team** (Jan Gibeling, Bob Voigt and John Ellis) orders items from Dollar Tree, picks up our order and delivers to FISH early.

After the Dollar Tree Team finishes its work, the **Monday Morning Team** meets at the Food Lion on Richmond Road, picks up our order in the FISH van, and delivers it to FISH. This team consists of Dan Fontaine, Jeff Bennett, Bob Delo, Camden Masuoka, Ford Mosely, Jim Nebgen, Mark Prosser, Bob Stanzione, Jack Trotter, Steve White, Dick Young and Tony Zotto, who work in rain, drizzle and this heat to deliver 180 dozen eggs, 120 loaves of sandwich bread, and many cases of necessary foods.

Once the cases of food are inside the building, the **Shelving Team** takes over and finds space on the food shelves, and in our refrigerators and freezers. This group is led by Holly Trotter and Maura Rush, and includes Jan Gibeling, Dale Huebner, Lindsay Lilly, Ruth Bott and Marci Kaplan-Lips.

Monday is also the day the **Olive Garden Team** goes to the restaurant and picks up frozen items such as alfredo sauce, lasagna, etc. This is Maura Rush, Holly Trotter and me.

There is also the **Foodbank Shoppers Team** who visit the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank. This team is highlighted on page 3 of the newsletter. Awesome goal met!

On the third Tuesday of every month, the **Diaper Bank Team**--Martha and Bill Dean--drive to Chesapeake to the Greater Hampton Roads Diaper Bank and collect our monthly order of diapers. The Deans also collect the diapers for Grove Christian Outreach Center and deliver their supply to them--another great example of **teamwork** with another nonprofit!

FISH also has a **Thank You Letter Team** with Cathey Sadowski, Ronda Roberts and Mary Ann Brown who prepare and send thank you notes, cards, or emails. We are looking to expand this group, so if you are interested in helping, please see Cathey, Maura or me.

A huge **THANK YOU** to every team member. FISH could not exist without your constant help and support.

Jill Holroyd
FISH President

theholroyds1@gmail.com
Cell 757-903-7839

IN THIS ISSUE

An Opportunity to Share
Google Reviews
RMD Donations
[Page 2](#)

Donations
Lions Club Exceeds 16 Tons
Continuing Ling's Legacy
Summer Meals for Kids
[Page 3-5](#)

Volunteer Spotlight
Mary Alice & Ken Joss
[Page 6](#)

Donate



312 Second Street
Williamsburg, VA 23185
757-220-9379
www.fishwilliamsburg.org
fishwilliamsburgnews@gmail.com

An Opportunity to Share

I enjoy assisting clients in the Clothes Closet. I find it especially enjoyable to help a client that is in the process of getting a job. It's fun to help them find a few work outfits and discuss their impending job.

Recently I assisted a client that was in the process of setting up an interview for a teaching position with a local school system. She had the education but not a teaching certificate.

As I helped her select some clothing items for her children and herself, we discussed her upcoming interview. I shared that I had worked in management and conducted interviews with potential employees. She was eager to get my perspective on how to come across effectively during the interview and what her expectations should be. She left FISH grateful for the help for her family, and some insight on how to approach and what to expect from the interview.

In an earlier article, I shared how it is so important to have a listening ear and a caring heart. This was another great example.

-- Dan Fontaine

If you have an uplifting experience working with a client at FISH, please share by sending to fishwilliamsburgnews@gmail.com.

Google Reviews of FISH

Great place and excellent people. Truly makes a difference in the community. Plenty of parking. Easy access.

This place is blessed. I pray God provides me significant amount of funds to be a blessing to FISH. Dan, it was a pleasure meeting you.

Muy buenos de verdad para un momento de necesidad te ayudan mucho gracias excelente trabajo que Dios los bendiga

Google Translate: Very good indeed for a time of need they help you a lot thank you excellent work God bless you



Another Way to Donate to FISH -- RMD

If you are in the age group where it is mandated that you take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA or 401(k), you need to do this annually by December 31.

This amount can go to a non-profit organization and does not count as taxable income to you, but this does count towards your RMD distribution. It is not considered income for tax purposes.

Please check with your tax advisor, if you have any questions.

If you are considering donating to a nonprofit, please consider FISH.

Thank you!



Lions Club Exceeds Foodbank Shopping Goal

Remember the song "Sixteen Tons" by Tennessee Ernie Ford? Well that was the theme behind the James City Lions Club goal for 2023-2024 -- to shop and deliver 16 tons of food to FISH. During the year, they shopped at the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank and actually delivered over 18 tons (36,705 pounds).



Also known as the Foodbank Shoppers Team, pictured left to right are Lions Bill Magowan, Don Butts, Gary Boxeth, Marla Boren, Mike Holloman, Frank Hermes, and Roy Madsen. Not pictured are Lions Phil Giles, Melissa Magowan, and Bill Williamson (deceased). Spouses who also shopped were Paul Boren, Cindie Hermes, Jean Butts, and Pat Giles.

-- Courtesy of Don Butts
Former FISH President

Kudos to the members and helpers of this consistently-supportive organization. This was a huge undertaking and worthy goal, and a substantial gift to FISH of time and energy! The extra 4,705 pounds is near the weight of an average large car!

Habitat ReStore

Habitat ReStore donated over 200 boxes (two pallets) of dinnerware sets to FISH. Each box contains 4 place settings--dinner plates, salad plates and bowls. The dinnerware is attractive, durable, and can be used in a microwave. Many of the sets have already found new homes with clients, and will be especially appreciated by those with children. Thank you, ReStore.

-- Cindy Tocci
Clothing Closet Co-Coordinator



Lenny's Power Washing & Sealing

Lenny's Power Washing & Sealing cleaned the exteriors of FISH's Food and Clothing buildings.

Thanks to Lenny Schrecengost (owner) and his son, Jeromy, for doing a great job in the morning before we opened doors for our clients.

Great customer service!

Continuing Ling's Legacy

The Knights of Columbus from Saint Bede Catholic Church recently conducted a tremendously successful food drive to benefit FISH.

At last count, parishioners donated 531 bags loaded with all the essentials that are needed by our clients. Our team of donation volunteers unloaded the van that was piled high with cereal, canned items, hygiene supplies, diapers and every other imaginable necessity to keep our shelves well stocked to serve our clients.

Sam Samorian, who leads the Donation/Stewardship team at Saint Bede, was instrumental in making this drive a success. We are very grateful to those who contributed to this effort and know that the family of Ling Ngo, who was one of the FISH founders and a parishioner of Saint Bede, is proud to know her legacy lives on.

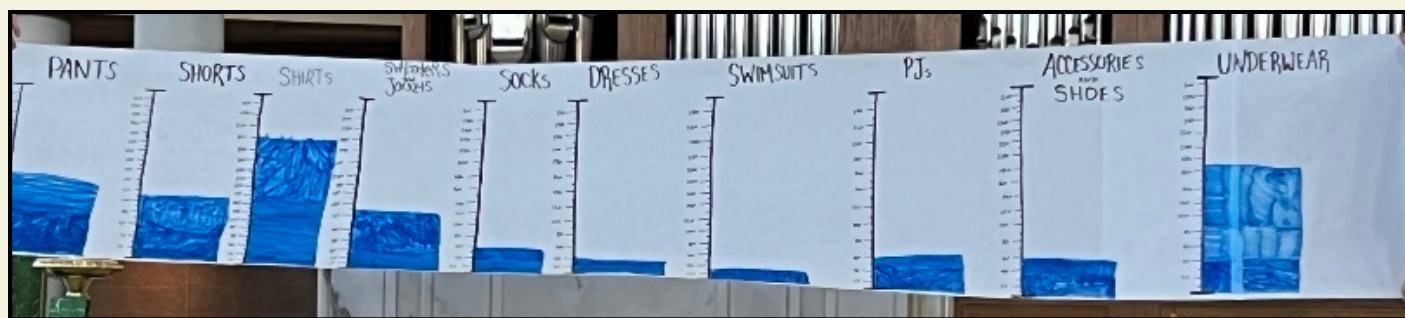
-- Maura Rush, VP & Food Donations Coordinator



Many volunteers powered through the unloading and shelving of 531 bags!



Sam Samorian (center) accompanied by Sean and Lexy Donohue



Thanks to Jenny Landon, a Clothes Closet volunteer, for suggesting to Saint Bede church staff to have a special Back-to-School Clothing Drive. The children and counselors attending their Vacation Bible School collected children's clothing, including shoes, socks, and underwear. They collected over 20 large trash bags of items from generous parishioners!

I attended their ceremony in which the 5th grade attendees presented a huge graph of all the items they collected. Teen volunteers stuffed every square inch of my SUV until there was no more space. The bags that couldn't fit were brought to FISH on a later date.

-- Cindy Tocci, Clothing Closet Co-Coordinator

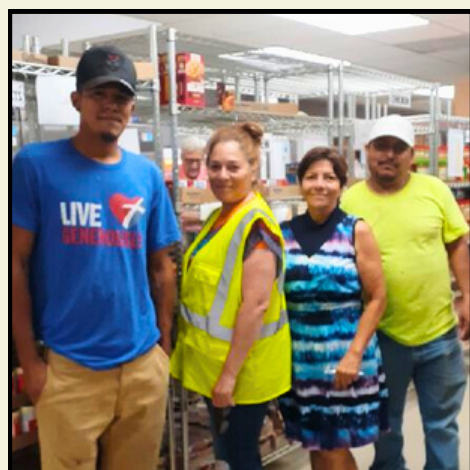
Donations



Grace Rutledge, representing Meals on Wheels Summer Meals for Kids, accepted a \$1,000 check from Jill Holroyd, FISH President.

The monetary donation will go a long way in seeing children in our community have food during the summer months, plus it gives the organization the freedom to purchase specific items needed.

In addition, FISH donated 8 cases of juice. W&M summer intern with MOW, Chris Perez, assisted with the delivery.



Lucy Kunkle (blue dress), our faithful translator, accepted a generous donation of over 62 pounds from Belinda Ibarra Loom, Joseph Hernandez and Ezequiel.

We are grateful to these three new donors and to Lucy who historically has dropped whatever she was doing and traveled to FISH to translate in the Pantry and Clothes Closet. Lucy also commits to a regular schedule in both buildings.



Bruton Parish



We are so grateful to Lynn Smyth of the Mission & Outreach Committee at Bruton Parish Episcopal Church for organizing this annual June collection. The donation totaled over 1,098.9 pounds of food to help fill the shelves in the Pantry.

Jill Holroyd (left) and volunteers from FISH and Bruton Parish sorted and stocked this very generous donation.

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.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Mary Alice and Ken Joss Pantry Volunteers



Mary Alice and Ken Joss are relatively new to FISH, having started in January 2022, but not new to volunteering. They relocated to Williamsburg from New York after retiring from challenging jobs. While still in New York, Mary Alice became a volunteer for Meals on Wheels of Huntington, delivering meals twice weekly and providing the important personal visit to those unable to get out or prepare their own daily meal. She eventually became an active Board member and fundraiser for this organization. While still working, Ken found the time to teach religious education, and assist on the soccer fields for various local club and travel teams with their two sons.

After living in Williamsburg for several years, enjoying social, educational, and athletic activities, they decided it was time, once again, to give back. FISH was an easy decision as Mary Alice knew Maura Rush from college, and saw firsthand her dedication and passion for this organization.

The Joss team can be found in the Food Pantry on the 4th Tuesday of each month, as well as lending a hand when a large donation arrives.

They have found working at FISH to be a very fulfilling experience. They enjoy the volunteers that they work with and find them to be knowledgeable, friendly, compassionate, and dedicated to providing a most valuable service in the Williamsburg area. They believe that helping families and individuals, who are either trying to make ends meet or are struggling with a personal crisis, to be very rewarding.

Providing necessary food for a single mother of four young children, who promised to become a FISH volunteer when time and circumstances would allow, was a very meaningful moment, one of many in recent memory. They agree that seeing the relief and thankful smiles on the faces of the clients is enough reason to want to come back each month.

In addition to FISH, Ken and Mary Alice can also frequently be found at Ironbound Gym, as well as their respective book clubs. Ken has enjoyed taking up golf since moving here and volunteers at their Homeowners' Association. Mary Alice has pursued her love of gardening by volunteering at The Wythe Garden in Colonial Williamsburg, as part of the Herb Society of America.

The Josses hope to continue volunteering at FISH and will look forward to encouraging their friends and neighbors to support this very worthwhile organization.