



Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community Since 1975

NEWS



June 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June is here! The hummingbirds are zipping around our feeders, the turtles are busy laying eggs, and FISH is busy helping those in need.

Did you know -
that FISH has been helping clients for almost 50 years? The 50th anniversary is next year in 2025. More info coming soon.

Did you know -
that we gave meals to 23% more families in May 2024 than in May last year? The numbers we feed keep increasing.

Did you know -
that PORCH collected 800 pounds of food for FISH this month? Please read the article on page 4 for more about this great neighborhood donation program. Thanks, Sarah!

Did you know -
that we have over 210 volunteers generously giving their time to FISH in many different ways? From refilling the Free Clothes area repeatedly during the day, stocking food shelves, greeting clients, and sometimes just sitting on a bench listening to those who need one-on-one time, we are ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Did you know -
that the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg had a Service Project at FISH? The pictures and article are on page 5. We really appreciated their time and efforts on June 1.

Thanks to every volunteer and every donor whose support keeps FISH going, day after day and year after year.

Jill Holroyd
FISH President
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Cell 757-903-7839

*So Grateful
for Your
Support!*

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Donate



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Acknowledgements & Announcements

The Monday Clothes Closet Crew went to the South of the Border restaurant for dinner recently. We thanked them, with a plant and a card, for allowing us to park in their lot while the restaurant was undergoing renovations.

-- Courtesy of Joanne Stark
Clothing & Pantry Volunteer



*Thank you,
ladies, for
combining fun
and neighborly
goodwill!*



*Thank you, Tony Annoni, for the
electric pencil sharpener!*

-- from the Data Entry Team

Invitation

Please join our Amazing Fun-draising Team for **The Costume Sale**, aka Campus Thrift Extravaganza.

Maybe you've heard of it, seen photos, read articles, and watched boxes move between the sorting room and storage space. Maybe you have no idea what this W&M Campus-Community partnership is all about!

Bring your time and talent and good humor to work with dozens of campus students and community members.

How can you help?

- Create with our Publicity team – the foundation of a successful event!
- Recruit a group to help with setup or takedown.
- Price Thrift Table and Christmas Corner items - a week beforehand.
- Promote the 50/50 raffle – pre- and during the event.
- Arrange to share clothes with other groups after the event.
- Volunteer for a couple hours before, during and after the event.
- Market our super supply of Vintage items.

Contact Susan Zickel for details: Zickelva@gmail.com or 757-784-6561.

Location: W&M Sadler Center

Setup: Wednesday, October 23, noon – 8:00 p.m.

Twilight Sale: Wednesday, October 23, 8:00-11:00 p.m.

Daytime Sale: Thursday, October 24, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Takedown: Thursday, October 24, 5:00-8:00 p.m.



We thank our W&M campus sponsor, Catholic Campus Ministry, Austin Moschler at VA Moving, and anonymous donors to this event.
(Thanks to Karen Berquist for her decades of effort and this information.)



Donations

Solomon Shares His Birthday

The King of Glory Lutheran Church honored their comfort dog, Solomon, on his 5th birthday by donating birthday cake kits for our clients. The kits are complete with everything from pan to candles. Thanks to Terri Scungio, for delivering these bundles of joy!

-- Photos courtesy of Terri, and Martha Buell



CMA's Williamsburg Ford

Dave Lawson, CMA's Williamsburg Ford General Manager, presented FISH with a very generous check plus over 500 pounds of food. Once again, Faith Hylton (holding the check with Maura Rush) spearheaded the drive to help FISH serve the needy in the community.

Helping receive the donation are volunteers (back row left to right) Dale Huebner, Jan Gibeling, Ruth Bott.



HAPPY Father's DAY



Thanks to our anonymous and creative donor for these loaded Father's Day baskets for our clients.



My sincere apology to Gale Rushworth (left) for misidentifying her in the May issue. Gale and Peggy Parker (right) graciously served at the Kiwanis 5th Annual Golf Tournament.

-- Kathleen Pock, Editor

Donations

On June 7, I received a donation from the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church at their 2024 Festival. Rev. Fr. Milton Gianulis explained that the church was giving donations like they did last year to four organizations in the area.

After he presented the check, I had the opportunity to tell guests about FISH and how many households we served in April as an example of the increasing need for donations and how it would be put to good use.

The church collects food and clothing throughout the year for FISH. They also had four of their parishioners volunteer at FISH on Tuesdays in April.

-- Cindy Tocci
Director & Clothing Co-Coordinator



PORCH Williamsburg delivered 800 pounds of food in June. This is the bi-monthly collection coordinated by Sarah Weiser who has now expanded the PORCH outreach to 8 neighborhoods.

Happy volunteers assisting Sarah (in green) are left to right: John Ellis (in back), Dale Huebner, Ruth Bott, Miriam Collins, Jan Gibeling.

Ann Schulte (left) and Karen Annoni (center who is also a FISH volunteer) presented Maura Rush (FISH VP) with a very generous donation. This was the result of the **Williamsburg Presbyterian Women's Local Mission Luncheon** efforts to raise awareness, funds, and volunteer support of FISH.



We are so grateful to the entire congregation for their support of FISH.

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.

Donations

Two hours of genuine teamwork by 15 **Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg** volunteers and friends transformed our trash bin enclosure to a solid, attractive structure with new planks, hinges, hardware and a fresh coat of paint.



Front row, L-R: Greg Davy, Mark Stefanick, Kim and Kevin Kiely, Doug Holroyd.

Back row, L-R: FISH President Jill Holroyd, FISH Vice President Maura Rush, Bob and Lisa Cumming, Beth Black, Ralph Nelson, Jim Kittelson, Gayle Taylor, Tony Pauroso. Participants not pictured: Debbie Davis, Deb Giese, and Emily Stefanick.



Emma Koontz collected 84.2 pounds of items from a food drive that she conducted at **Jamestown High School** where she is a sophomore.

Terrific and inspiring effort, Emma!

Volunteers Judy DePrimo (left) and Lindsay Lilly (right) accepting a donation from a teacher at the **New Horizons Regional Education Center** in Newport News.



We are in awe of the gift of oversupply food that we pick up through the **Virginia Peninsula Foodbank Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program** and the **Food Donation Connection Harvest Program**. Last month, in 6 runs, we received 1,625 pounds of food from Harris Teeter and Target. We continue to receive 60-80 pounds from the Olive Garden weekly. And, Food Lion has faithfully supported us for years.

-- Holly Trotter
Director & Food Co-Coordinator

Cindy Tocci
Director, Clothing Co-Coordinator

(pronounced Tossee)

*Ask her about the comical story
behind this unexpected pronunciation.*

*Cindy demonstrating assisting a
client in selecting a complete outfit.*



Q1. Why did you choose to volunteer at FISH?

A1. When I retired and moved from New Jersey, I donated a lot of my clothes and housewares to FISH. Every time I brought items, I was greeted by a friendly volunteer and saw how pleased the clients were when they left with their food and clothing. I wanted to volunteer and was searching for an organization that embodied its mission. I was ecstatic to find FISH.

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

A2. The strong sense of community that exists among the volunteers and between the volunteers and clients. All the volunteers are friendly, dedicated, and have common values about helping others. It's a pleasure and honor to work with them. I also enjoy guiding clients through their shopping experience in the Clothes Closet because I get to learn a little about them and apply that information to help them select items and put outfits together. A few times the clients wore clothes they selected in a previous visit or from our free racks. It's satisfying to hear how grateful clients are and that our services have a positive impact on their lives. Volunteering at FISH has enhanced my move to this area.

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

A3. I've experienced greeting donors bringing items to the Clothes Closet and expressing their appreciation for what FISH does for the community. In a few instances, the donors were extremely grateful as they explained that they were helped by FISH in the past and it made a difference in their lives. They were at a point where they could pay it forward.

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

A4. I enjoy gardening and learning about plants that thrive in this area's conditions. I've lived in 6 states, each with different growing conditions, and many plants have suffered from my lack of knowledge. In addition to living in MA, TX, GA, CA, NJ and VA, I have toured every state except ND. I'm planning that trip.

I'm a bonus mom to 5 adult children, their spouses, and 4 grandchildren who live in NJ, FL, NC and VA. My brothers and extended family members live in MA, where I grew up. We enjoy visiting them or having them visit us.

I'm on the Board of Wild Tails, a North Carolina non-profit, educational exotic animal rescue. My knowledge of animals is limited, but I do provide guidance on the contents of the educational programs, so they are engaging and meet academic standards.

As a former middle-school mathematics teacher and educational researcher, I know how important proper nutrition and well-fitting clothing are to a child's development and learning. I'm so pleased to be able to contribute to an organization that assists children. It is something that will have huge returns in their future.