



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

# NEWS



**May 2024**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There are so many to thank this month! FISH is definitely prospering and growing in the month of May!

Thanks to our all-volunteer workers who go the extra mile to make the clients feel comfortable and take care of those that need the extra smile!

Thanks to our Board of Directors who constantly come up with innovative thoughts and are willing to try out new ideas! I appreciate you all!

Thanks to Dale Huebner for the successful Adopt-a-Shelf Program which brought in more than we had hoped for -- \$5,377.

Thanks to our Volunteer Trainers Martha Buell, Tracy Parris and Jan Gibeling who are coming in early to make sure the Front Desk Staff get the latest suggestions and ideas!

Thanks to our wonderful Donors, large and small, near and far, who made our first foray into the GiveLocal757 program a rousing success! See page 2 for more.

And a special thanks to the family of Ling Ngo, who was one of the original ladies who started FISH almost 50 years ago with a vision that we could help others in need (see page 3).

Recently a client received a T-bone steak with his grocery allotment. He held the steak in his hands like it was gold and said, "Do you know how long it has been since I've had a steak?" His smile was wonderful to see. This is why we do the things we do!

FISH is very blessed!

Jill Holroyd  
FISH President  
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*We thank you!*

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## Acknowledgements & Announcements



### Rain Date for Kiwanis Club's Work Day

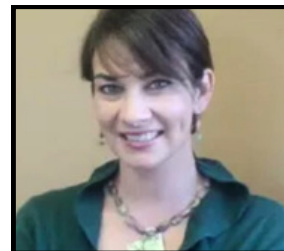
The Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg is generously donating time, talent, material and muscle to build a new fence and gate for the trash bin enclosure.

Rain date is June 1. Time: 8:30 a.m.

### Energizer Bunny --

-- two words that describe this woman

Meghan Brewer is a member of Bruton Parish Episcopal Church and is the Director of its Formation for Children & Youth program.



Meghan is also the liaison for Berkeley Middle School and Lafayette High School Care Closets that FISH supports with food and snacks. She is a supporter of FISH, bringing us rescued cookies, Wawa sandwiches and other delicious foods.

She lives in Williamsburg with her husband and three college-age sons. Thank you, Meghan, for all you do in service to the community.

-- Holly Trotter

Director & Food Co-Coordinator

**RESULTS**

138% of our goal!



Thank you to all who supported FISH during this fundraiser. We received \$6,886.45 --138% of our goal!

You are all truly wonderful!!

**RESULTS**



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF WILLIAMSBURG

### 5th Annual Golf Tournament

The golf tournament, held April 29, was a success! The monies raised will go to the Headliners (one of which is FISH) in 2024.

This being a working event, FISH participated by having 8 volunteers helping with registration and serving lunch before the tournament. We also had a table with banner and brochures (manned by Jill Holroyd) to answer questions about FISH before dinner.

## *In Memoriam*

We are saddened to learn that Rita Milas, one of our Pantry volunteers, passed away on April 23, 2024.

Rita's family generously requested memorials in her memory be directed to FISH.

Our condolences and appreciation to the family.

[Full Obituary](#)



Helpers Gayle Justice (L) and Peggy Parker (R).



# Donations

## Heartfelt Support



We were honored to have Reggie Ngo and his daughter, Catherine, and son-in-law, Bob, visit FISH recently. The family continues to support the legacy of Ling Ngo, a founding member of FISH.

Maura Rush and Jack Trotter guided them through the facilities, pointing out changes and sharing our growth since their last visit.

Later, FISH received a very generous donation from the family, which helps us believe we are following as Ling would have wanted.

Left to Right: Jack, Reggie, Bob, Catherine and Maura.

## Pants & Pasta



Members of the **William & Mary Sigma Phi Epsilon** fraternity had a unique drive to collect pasta and sauce products, plus men's pants. Josh Poole (left) and Lucas Visentin (right) organized the drive and collected multiple bags of both types of items.

Great job, SigEp!

## Community Volunteers

Thanks to the volunteers from St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church who helped to prepare clothing for the Clothes Closet on Tuesday mornings in April.



Faye Evans, Aurora Thompson, Krystina Michaud, and Connie Gianulis (left to right) are all smiles after completing the task of sizing many boxes of children's items. Lisa Jones helped but is not in the photograph.

-- Cindy Tocci

Director & Clothing Co-Coordinator



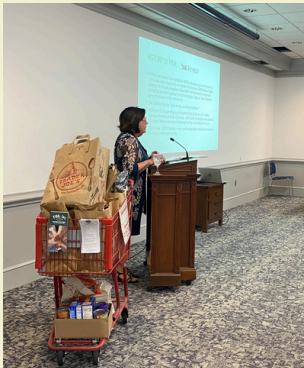
A special thanks to the Williamsburg James City County Community Action Agency for diapers and underwear, and to Maria Duran for delivering these muchly appreciated items.

*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



## Presbyterian Women Select FISH as their 2024 Local Mission



L-R above: PW Members Dorothea Shannon, Karen Annoni and Ann Schulte

The Presbyterian Women of the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church selected FISH as their local mission for this year, honoring us with a delicious luncheon provided by the Women's Circles, including a FISH representative at each table to answer questions, plus the opportunity for our Vice President Maura Rush (left), and Clothing Co-Coordinator Patti MacGillivray (center), to update the group on FISH's outreach in the community.

Last but not least, before and after the luncheon, they collected 100 bags of groceries and \$4,500. In addition, WPC has been collecting food for FISH for many years on the third Sunday of each month.

The enthusiasm and organization of this event was contagious and amazing! Thank you for your generous support!

## Queens Lake Ladies Spring Celebration

This year's QL Ladies Night was a festive, Spring-themed event organized by Ann Brown-Hailey (left) and Susan Adams (center), in support of FISH.

Jill Holroyd (right), FISH President, updated the group about the valuable work FISH provides in the community and the many needs that exist. Instead of statistics, Jill focused on a sample monthly supply that a client receives, which presented a more realistic picture of the FISH impact.

The ladies collected a table full of hygiene products (several bags), plus nearly \$300 in monetary donations.





# Donations



WAG



Thank you, Williamsburg Artists Group, for inviting us to attend your Spring show and explain our mission to attendees. Also, thanks to volunteers, Annie and Joe Benedetti (right), Holly Trotter and Cathey Sadowski for representing FISH.

WAG donated \$600 (10% of the art sales) to FISH + \$28 from the collection box.



Linda LaFleur (right) shows Cindy Tocci (left) some of the food items donated by conference attendees.

## It's a Small World

Attendees at a regional conference for Hummel collectors had an incentive for a raffle - a ticket was given for each nonperishable food item donated to the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank.

I was surprised to hear that one of the conference organizers, Linda LaFleur, was a former FISH volunteer when she lived in Williamsburg. Currently, she lives in Oklahoma. When she heard that I volunteered at FISH, she insisted that I bring some of the donations directly to FISH. I didn't win a raffle gift but did get something much better. Thank you, Linda!

-- Cindy Tocci  
Director & Clothing Co-Coordinator



## Girl Scout Troop 1087

As they were leaving for a camping trip, Troop 1087 dropped off 150 boxes of cookies and toured the FISH Pantry.

They were very impressed by what they saw, and we are impressed that they took the time to learn about our operation, especially as they were heading off for an adventure!

Their leader, Melissa Reeves, did a great job with this endeavor.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

**Patti MacGillivray**  
Director &  
Clothes Closet Co-Coordinator



*Patti headed the Clothing Closet starting in 2022, after the relocation. As Director and Co-Coordinator, she is responsible (with Cindy Tocci) for training and scheduling Clothing volunteers, as well as purchasing necessary clothing items and dealing with the many donations that come in on a daily basis.*

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

A1. When I retired from the health insurance industry, I was looking for a project or organization to support. I had tried two other organizations but wanted a more hands-on opportunity rather than fundraising or administrative work. I've always volunteered, starting with Girl Scout projects, Candy Strippers, and Get Out the Vote drives.

After seeing an article in the paper, I called FISH and left my name. Several days later, Billie Johnston called and invited me to join them on Mondays.

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

A2. I like the problem-solving aspect of working in the Clothes Closet. Every single day we face the challenge of keeping enough inventory for our clients versus our limited storage space. Our clients often present unique challenges in sizes and the need for specific clothing for jobs. I'm always glad to provide clients with work boots, sneakers, or scrubs for a new job.

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

A3. One summer afternoon I helped a young woman who had received a full scholarship to Norfolk State and whose grandmother had sent her to FISH for clothes. Since she was my granddaughter's age, I had fun helping her find the right jeans and tops, sneakers and a handbag like her dormmates would have. Then we found PJs, slippers and a hooded robe for nights studying in the dorm, plus a suitcase to carry it all with her. I hope it made her transition to school a bit easier.

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

A4. I'm a native Virginian, born in Lynchburg, with stops in Western Georgia, and Richmond before settling in Williamsburg in my husband's parents' home in 2000. My husband, Rod, is retired from Ft. Monroe and Langley AFB. We have a daughter, Meg, and her husband, Steve, and granddaughter, Bella.