



Food Pantry and Clothing  
Serving the Community Since 1975

# NEWS



October 2024

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is time for fall colors and Halloween and that means the 2024 Costume Sale and Thrift Extravaganza. See the flyer on page 2 and come out and support these hard workers. All proceeds from this sale go directly to FISH.

The trees haven't changed their colors too much yet, but Nora Lowery has added fall color to the front yard posts at FISH in the form of beautiful floral arrangements. Thank you, Nora, for your creativity and gifts to brighten our space.

We were visited by the City of Williamsburg Police last week. Officer Herbert Williams presented "Safety in the Workplace". Read more about his advice on page 2.

The holiday donations are beginning to arrive. Some suggestions are in-house food drives, shoe or coat drives or even socks! Several companies with several locations are creating competition between branches -- who can fill the most food boxes? If you would like to bring in a large donation, please contact us at 757-220-9379 (leave a message) or [fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com](mailto:fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com). This will allow us time to enlist enough volunteers to help on our end.

FISH was generously given hundreds of tote bags by Gary Fout of the Williamsburg Campground. These tote bags will be used for clients in the Clothing Closet. Thanks so much!

Trader Joe's has added FISH to their Food Rescue Program. We are very thankful for this opportunity to obtain more food for our clients.

Thanks to all the awesome FISH volunteers - we could not manage without your continued dedication to FISH.

Jill Holroyd  
FISH President  
[theholroyds1@gmail.com](mailto:theholroyds1@gmail.com)  
Cell 757-903-7839

*Many Thanks*

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Donate



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# Announcements & Acknowledgements

## See You Here!



**THRIFT  
EXTRAVAGANZA**

Thursday  
October 24  
10 AM – 5 PM

W&M Sadler Center,  
Tidewater A & B

**Cash, check, credit, or Venmo!**  
Reserved campus parking available

- ★Costumes for all ages
- ★Formals! Tuxes!
- ★Vintage & things that defy description
- ★Shoes, accessories, jewelry & MORE!

Thrift Store Prices!

All proceeds benefit  
FISH,  
our local food  
pantry & clothes  
closet.



## City of Williamsburg Police Presentation

On October 9, Officer Herbert Williams spoke to FISH volunteers about "Safety in the Workplace". Participants gave several examples of strange situations that we have encountered and he suggested how to work with them. We discussed personal safety, as well as how to handle upset clients.

If we have a situation that needs police presence on our property, he suggested that everyone add **757-220-2331** to their phones, as this is the non-emergency number. For emergencies, call 911.

## Holiday Closings



**Thanksgiving:** Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, November 27, 28 & 29.



**Christmas:** Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24 & 25.



**New Years:** Tuesday and Wednesday, December 31 & January 1.



We appreciate the thoughtfulness of Gary Fout of the Williamsburg Campground who provided 200 hundred tote bags (and more when we need) which are ideal for carrying bed linens and clothing, especially for our clients who ride the bus. The bags also fold flat for easy storage.

## Donation Receipts



If you have not received a thank you for your donation, it may be that we received your donation from a third party without identification of the actual donor. If you are missing a receipt, please write us at [fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com](mailto:fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com).



# Announcements & Acknowledgements



## Kick off Fire Prevention Week

Cathey Sadowski represented FISH at the Open House of the Williamsburg Fire Department which kicked off Fire Prevention Week.

The opportunity offered touring the new fire station, seeing equipment displays, letting kids go through a Firefighter Rescue Challenge, and learning about FISH!

Thanks, Cathey!

-- Photo courtesy of Tricia Byrne

## New Commercial Washer & Dryer

FISH has only ever used a family-sized washer and dryer which has limited our ability to wash larger items such as gently soiled linens, coats, and comforters. These items also required a lengthy dry time.

We were able to purchase our first commercial washer and dryer at a huge savings thanks to a generous donor who heard of our need, plus a substantial Costco discount. This donation/upgrade is greatly appreciated by our Clothing Closet volunteers and will enable us to serve our clients more efficiently. Thank you, thank you!

Mary Ellen Theroux, clothing volunteer who works in linens and housewares, proudly presents our new larger capacity washer.



FISH partnered with House of Mercy for a Pop Up Food Pantry, hosted by Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center, on September 27 and October 18. In September, we served 95 clients in a 2-hour period.

Bread, eggs, fresh produce and canned goods were available and more accessible to our neighbors in need.



# Donations

Jan and Howard Gibeling conducted a food drive in their **Piney Creek** neighborhood that brought 100+ bags of food to the pantry! Great job!!



Lynne Williams, past President of Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg presenting a check of \$15,417. FISH was one of the headliners selected to receive funds as a result of a 2023 working grant from the Club.

## Happiness in a Basket

Cynthia Manos (L) and Linda Hakim (R) brought Holiday baskets for our clients again this year. They do a fantastic job of creating and sharing holiday cheer!



-- Photos courtesy of Maura Rush and Bill Dean





From the **Dollar Tree** store on **Mooretown Road** we received 12 cases of laundry detergent. Florita Galvez, Assistant Manager, assisted Bob Voigt, volunteer, in collecting the detergent in baskets which she also donated. *(Note: Bob's dependable red truck has carried many donations to FISH.)*

For the second year in a row, Camille Ramirez-Dostert and the **Wells Fargo Advisors** supported FISH with a generous donation weighing 336.7 pounds!



## Sweet Potatoes Galore

When FISH got a call asking if we wanted fresh sweet potatoes, we said Yes!

Through the **Society of St. Andrew** and **Bethany United Methodist Church of Gloucester Point**, we were able to pick up 954 pounds (77 bags) of fresh sweet potatoes for our clients.

A big **thank you** to Bob Stanzione, Jan Gibeling and Jill and Doug Holroyd for collecting and bagging them.



FISH was invited by the LIEP/ESL (language instruction educational program/English as a second language) teacher at **Warhill High School** to have a display table during an evening event.

The students, along with their families, enjoyed a raffle and Wilma Caban was happy to speak to them in Spanish explaining what FISH can do for their families. Thanks, Wilma!



## Helpers and Special Donations

Community organizations provide us with many volunteer hours and do tasks that regular volunteers have little time to do. The community volunteers experience firsthand what it takes to get the items ready for our clients and they see how much we receive and distribute. They are great FISH ambassadors beyond Tuesdays in the Clothes Closet. For example, they run drives for us and a recent donor told me that her neighbor helped us last month and told her that FISH is the ONLY place to bring her food **and** clothing donations. We are so grateful to these community volunteers and look forward to working with them as we prepare for our 50th anniversary.

-- Cindy Tocci, Director & Clothing Co-Coordinator

Community Volunteers from **Williamsburg Baptist Church** helped our Clothes Closet in September. They prepared children's clothing for our shelves. In addition, they donated many bags of new children's shoes, socks and underwear that they collected during their "Mickey Halpin Memorial Socks and Underwear Shower". Their generous donation will help many families. "Thank you" to all of the WBC parishioners who donated their time and children items.



Kay Cheves displays children's items collected and donated.



Some of the WBC volunteers preparing children's clothing for our shelves in September.

**King of Glory Lutheran Church** had their semi-annual Children's Consignment Sale earlier this month. FISH was among the nonprofits invited to select clothing at the end of the sale.

Thank you to the organizers for providing us with winter children's clothes and shoes and to FISH volunteers, Pam Pickett and Susie Van Rijn, for picking up the items.



## Make Them Feel Welcome

**Kathy Panaswich  
Food Pantry**

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

A1. My husband and I moved here from Massachusetts four years ago to be closer to my aging parents. Newly retired, I wanted to find a way to give back to the community, and a neighbor suggested FISH.

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

A2. Many volunteer positions only offer part of the donation cycle, but working at the FISH Pantry allows you to be involved on all levels of service—the whole donation cycle from receiving items to stocking shelves, greeting clients, filling their requests and watching them drive away happy.

There are numerous rewards FISH provides but seeing firsthand the clients' appreciation is so heartwarming. Although the Pantry volunteers may not have as much contact with the clients as the Clothes Closet volunteers do, many times I talk with clients as I take groceries to their cars, or chat with their waiting children. The goal is to make everyone feel welcome.

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

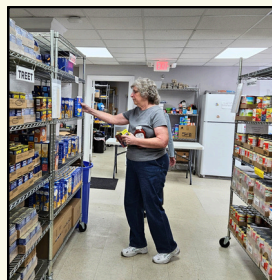
A3. I have seen clients brought to tears as we give them a food item they haven't been able to afford for years. People come in homeless and appreciate us selecting items that meet their individual needs, as cooking facilities are not always available to them. The experience truly puts things in perspective.

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

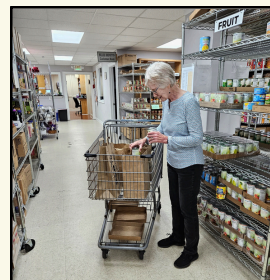
A4. My husband and I love to travel and often go back to Boston to visit our daughter. We are so fortunate to live in such a caring place with so many dedicated volunteers.



Greeting clients



Stocking shelves



Filling orders



Delivering orders

*A special thanks to Kathy Panaswich, Jo Ann Mertens, Judy DePrimo and Sue Voigt.*