



Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community Since 1975

NEWS



November 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanksgiving is very soon! It is my favorite holiday of the year--especially leftovers for breakfast the next morning! **FISH is very blessed!**

FISH has so much to be **thankful** for:

- The many, many donations that are constantly arriving, whether they are fresh food, turkeys, or even socks!
- The frozen food items and coffee we are now receiving from our neighbor in James-York Plaza, [Column 15](#) - how very generous of you!
- The mobile Pop Up Food Pantry that we, in partnership with the [House of Mercy](#), have held for the past three months! We fed over 250 families in all. See page 2 for pictures and names of all who helped, rain or shine!
- The Thrift Extravaganza (Costume Sale), led by Karen Berquist once again, was a huge success! So many wonderful volunteers came out and helped. (page 4)
- The generous churches, companies, schools, scout troops, W&M groups, and so many individuals have helped FISH with donations to ensure a wonderful Thanksgiving for so many of our clients.
- Our new computer in the Conference Room was donated by Robert Hopkins. He saw the immediate need and has joined us as a new volunteer.
- And I am thankful for each and every volunteer who helps FISH! The sheer number of volunteers who freely give their time to help us every day is humbling. You all have very big hearts, and you keep the spirit of volunteering alive.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!

Jill Holroyd
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*Grateful,
Thankful and Blessed*

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Donate



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Acknowledgements & Announcements



FISH has partnered with Williamsburg House of Mercy for the past three months to work at the mobile Pop Up Food Pantry held at Sentara and Crosswalk Church. Together we served over 250 families that went away with full bags of food--a big help to each family.

Many FISH volunteers helped distribute food, bag groceries, and assist clients to their car. **Thank you** to Lindsay Lilly, Holly Trotter, Tracy Parris, Laura Stanford, Ruth Bott, Dale Huebner, Jeff Bennett, Tony Zotto, and our amazing Spanish translator Wilma Caban. A very **special thanks** to Bob Stanzione and Steve White, who transported food, canopies and supplies to each location in our van, even picking up other donations between the event setup and takedown.

Thanks, everyone!

-- Jill Holroyd, FISH President

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.

*New
Volunteers*

- Alexandra de Jesus
- Bill van Elburg
- Cheryll Brummell
- Diana Luzinski
- Jane Fernandes
- Jeannie Hoover
- Joan Rodda
- Laura Truslow
- Melanie Smith
- Robert Hopkins
- Sandy D'Arcy
- Sara McCourt

Welcome

Happy Thanksgiving

Halloween Quadruplets



Volunteers in the Clothes Closet (L to R: Gale Rushworth, Mary Ellen Theroux, Elaine Wasserman, and Peggy Parker) wore identical shirts and earrings created by Gale.

Acknowledgements & Announcements

Use Online Promo Code:

FISH

@PapaJohns.com



**20% BACK ON ALL
NET SALES
ANY TIME CODE
IS USED.**

**PAPA
JOHNS**
Hampton Roads



Papa Johns awarded FISH a \$2500 grant, plus a percentage of the sales when you use the **online** Promo Code "FISH".
Eat more pizza - and thanks in advance for your support!

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!



A Favorite Volunteer

Yesterday was a typical day at FISH Clothing with very generous donations and an abundance of clients requesting clothes. Luckily, we had a full team of volunteers.

Volunteering in Clothing provides an opportunity to interact with our clients at a personal level and make a positive impact on their family's quality of life.

I had a personal experience recently that reinforces why I love volunteering at FISH. Five clients were waiting when I started helping a client with a family of three (with one on the way). The client had waited about 2-1/2 hours for her turn in the Clothes Closet. While helping the client, a Clothing volunteer came in to replenish some linens and housewares. The volunteer told the client that I was her favorite volunteer. She smiled and said that I was her favorite volunteer too!

It was such a good feeling because I had really tried to have her feel valued and have a good experience at FISH despite having to wait so long. Isn't that why we volunteer after all.

-- Dan Fontaine



Thrift Extravaganza (Costume Sale) Success



The Thrift Extravaganza (Costume Sale) official totals are in! This year's sale brought \$13,400 to FISH!!!

Un-be-lievable! That's \$3,000 more than last year! And we were stunned last year!

We also had more FISH volunteers at the sale this year than ever before. Your extra help during the sale event from set up through clean up on Wednesday and Thursday was a great boost to our success!

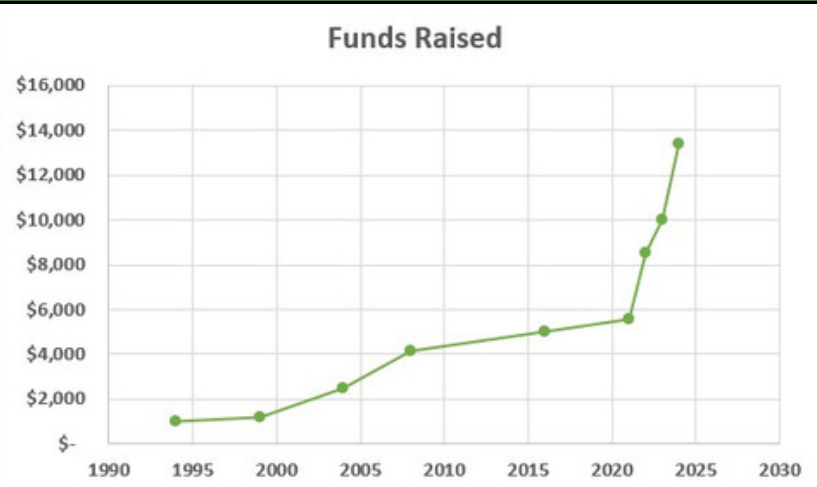
Often times when folks leave a shift at the sale, they think they haven't really done much; but this is so far from the truth. It takes a lot of energy and hands to make the event happen and everyone's assistance is so incredible. Little things add up to big ones as the sale demonstrates every year. To take an empty room, fill it, organize it, then reorganize and pack it back up in less than 48 hours is astounding.

There is much work that happens long before the sale, as well. Whether you were a major player or a minor one, this sale would not be a success without **you** and your help! Thank you so very much!

-- Susan Zickel, Costume Sale Coordinator

Note: Items are priced below thrift store prices, so this success is even more meaningful!

Proceeds from 34 years of the Thrift Extravaganza (aka The Costume Sale) at W&M sponsored by Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM)



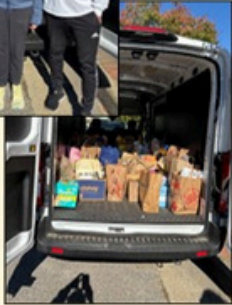
Sincere gratitude to Austin Moschler (blue top) and his team from **VA Moving Company** who donated hours of manpower and gallons of gasoline in transporting items to and from the sale, and to Karen Berquist (sunglasses, front) who has spearheaded this tremendous task for years with great vigor and success! Many thanks to our volunteers.



Congratulations

to Pantry Volunteer Nicole Flemming who won the raffle and was notified as she was boarding a plane -- which she did with a big smile!

Donations



PORCH in New Town

did a tremendous job collecting 800+ pounds of food for the October donation to FISH. Gale Hyatt, along with her neighbors, helped Bob Stanzione and Steve White load the van with so many items for our clients.



Kingsmill's October PORCH donation provided another 800+ pounds of food for FISH. Many thanks to Linda Whittaker for coordinating this wonderful PORCH partner.



These wonderful PORCH coordinators representing Holly Hills, Holly Hills Carriage Homes, Brandywyne and The Meadows brought a combined total of 900+ pounds of food to FISH from their October collection.

-- Maura Rush, VP & Food Donations Coordinator

On the Lookout for FISH

When Judy Lassiter purchased a new set of cookware, she decided to bring her old set to the FISH Clothes Closet. She had recently heard two FISH board members speak at her church, Williamsburg Presbyterian, about the services FISH provides and how we share donations with other nonprofits in the area. What she didn't expect was the enthusiasm from the volunteer about a whole set of cookware!

After a quick tour of our housewares department, Judy left with an idea in mind. Judy volunteers at Bargain Box in Yorktown, a donation-based thrift shop run by volunteers. Bargain Box was having a half-price sale in order to clear the shelves for a much-needed remodel.

Judy used the sale to purchase half-priced sheets, blankets, appliances, pillows, lamps and dishes for the Clothes Closet. While collecting the marked down items, her friends Pat Murray, Ruth Cobb, Ann Schulte, Karen Annoni, Pat Trimble, Copper Perry, and Agnes St. Laurent added to her mission with financial contributions. She eventually collected enough household items to fill her van. We thank all of the ladies for their kind gifts which are a godsend to our clients.

-- Patti MacGillivray, Director & Clothing Co-Coordinator



Donations



Once again, Jill Whitten (R) conducted a very generous food collection as part of **Temple Beth El's** holiday celebration. Martha Dean, Director, along with many volunteers, assisted in sorting the items.



The **Williamsburg Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)** brought a generous donation to FISH again after their day of service. Many thanks to Marie JaKob and Sherrill Buckner for their support.



Lauren Gove found time to run a successful food drive at **Chesapeake Bank** while planning her upcoming wedding! Accepting the donation is Holly Trotter, Director & Food Co-Coordinator.

-- Maura Rush, VP & Food Donations Coordinator

The **1st Advantage** team came to FISH with an incredible donation that filled six cars which was wonderful by itself. But then, the nine employees wanted to do more. It was a community service day for them, and they were ready to serve FISH in any way they could. Hearing that, we put them to work filling Thanksgiving bags with all the fixings including stuffing, gravy, yams, evaporated milk, canned cranberries and pumpkin. This will be a big help to us as we give out the 500 turkey breasts and 100 chickens to our clients for Thanksgiving.

After a tour of both the Pantry and the Clothes Closet, they were obviously moved knowing that they had helped us as we help our clients. They left with a big thanks all around and quite an impression of what FISH is all about!

-- Jill Holroyd, President



Donations

Thank you to **King of Glory Lutheran Church** for conducting a winter clothing drive. The clothing, including coats, sweatshirts, pants, and shoes, filled two SUVs and were delivered in October.

Many clients are being blessed with woolen hats, scarves, and lap blankets this month thanks to an **anonymous couple** who crocheted them throughout the year. They delivered 5 large boxes full of these items.



Clothing Drives and Blessings

Thank you to the **Junior Woman's Club of Williamsburg** which held a business attire collection in October. Multiple bags of gently-used winter clothing were collected.

Thank you to **Williamsburg United Methodist Church** for collecting sweaters, sweatshirts and hoodies for men and women. Those managing the collection are also FISH Community Volunteers so they sized and folded before delivering.



Many thanks to Carrie Morgan, Director of Lifestyle, at **Colonial Heritage** for organizing a pre-Thanksgiving food drive that brought 326 bags of food to FISH!



Thank You

Williamsburg's **Abbitt Realty** on Jamestown Road conducted a food drive to benefit FISH. The group collected over 100 bags of food. Christina Rodriguez and Alex Hazelwood delivered this amazing donation.



Hickory Neck Episcopal Church recently presented another generous donation to FISH. Pictured L-R are Marina Libro, parishioner, Rev. Jim Nickols, and FISH Volunteer Bob Voigt.



Thank You

Thank you to the Community Volunteers from **Bruton Parish Episcopal Church** who helped our Clothes Closet in October. Their volunteers prepared children's clothing for our clients.

Donations



The **Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys (VADA)** selected FISH as their Community Service Project and Lindsay Lankford Rollins, President, presented Jill Holroyd, FISH President, with donations at their 2024 Annual Meeting at Kingsmill Resort.

Additionally, the organization posted links on their website directly to our Donate page and QR code, encouraging monetary donations.



Aiden Yager (L) and Andrew Picataggi (R) successfully executed a Fall Food Drive at the **Villages at Westminster**. They created flyers listing the items from our "What FISH Needs Most Now" list on our website and collected 70 bags of food and 7 bags of clothing and housewares.

Great job and terrific example!

-- Courtesy of Joanne Stark, Volunteer

Norge Elementary School Doubled Donation

Once again, some fun grade level competition at Norge Elementary School resulted in a donation of 2400 pounds of non-perishable food for the Pantry which is twice their 2023 donation!

Thanks to Lori Harms (middle) for coordinating this wonderful effort and to the students for thinking of those in need.

With Lori are Bob Stanzione (left) and Dan Fontaine (right) who picked up and delivered the 2400 lbs to FISH. Thanks, fellows!



Donations



After giving a FISH tour to Caden Ritchie '27, Brett Lewis '25 and Jeffrey Buffkin, Campus Minister at **Baptist Collegiate Ministry at W&M**, Maura Rush gladly accepted a donation of 70 bags of food to help our clients.

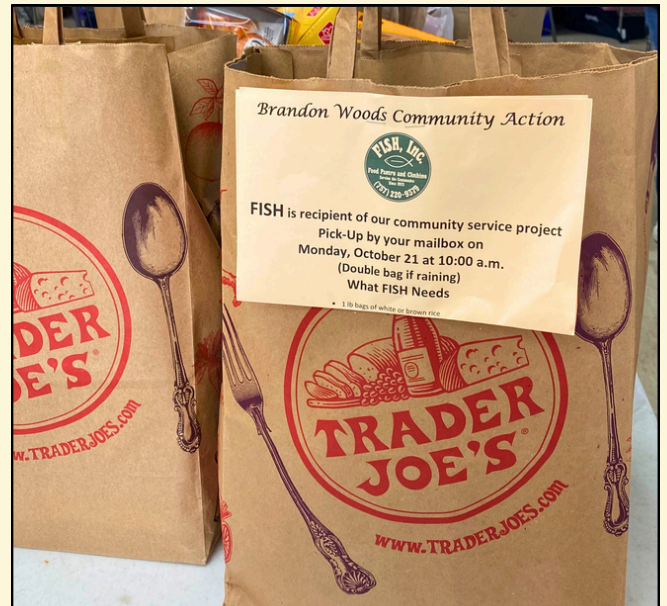
We are blessed once again to receive a special donation of over 100 bags of food from the **Williamsburg Presbyterian Church**, delivered by Toby Lane.

-- Courtesy of Jan Gibeling, Director



Girl Scout 1035 brought a generous donation to FISH and were very interested in learning how the Pantry operated. Many thanks to Ashley Larson and the other parents for giving them this opportunity.

Kimberly Beagle (not pictured) brought this very generous donation from the **Brandon Woods** neighborhood. We are so grateful that this has become an annual event with neighbors helping neighbors.



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

Serving Others

Wilma Caban Clothes Closet - Spanish Translator



Virginia has been my home twice in my life. Since my father was in the military, I lived the first 12 years of my life in Virginia, then we moved to Puerto Rico. Many years later I moved to Indianapolis to support my daughter during a major surgery. Then in 2023, I relocated to Virginia. I was surprised that all of my English came back after speaking Spanish for so many years.

A typical day at FISH is to start work in the Clothes Closet, then the Reception volunteer calls to ask me to translate for a client. I walk to Reception, meet the clients and assist them in completing their registration form and food order request. Usually there are about 5 members in a family. I guide them in next steps, which is to pick up their food items at Door #2. Ideally, if there is not a waiting line, I take their designated family member with me to the Clothes Closet to select clothing for the family which takes about an hour. If, however, there is a waiting line, I guide them to the free clothing racks/tables outside to find items while they wait. I also advise them that they can return for clothing another day, if that's more convenient. Often there are several clients in a day who need translation services.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to volunteer at FISH because once I needed help and received it from my church and family. Therefore, I understand firsthand the importance of help in a time of need. In the past, I volunteered at a tiny church pantry in Indianapolis, at jails, and wherever needed since when we serve others, we serve God.

I also assist with the kids ministry at my church, CrossWalk. The church was the site of another Pop Up Food Pantry on November 15, co-sponsored by the House of Mercy and FISH. I translated there, as I did at the earlier pop-ups.

While I cherish my family (2 daughters and 3 grandchildren), I also cherish the wonderful friendships that I have made with my FISH family. Sometimes at the end of a busy day, we hug. It's beautiful to share aches, pains, and blessings with such wonderful people. I wish everyone could go through an experience like this.

Wilma has been a godsend to FISH as she translated our forms into Spanish and works tirelessly to ease the experience for our clients and non-Spanish speaking volunteers. Her sunny spirit brightens every day.