



Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community Since 1975

NEWS



December 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Isn't it amazing how quickly this year has flown by? FISH has been very busy with many new clients and several new volunteers to help serve them. Thanksgiving was a wonderful time as we gave out 522 turkey breasts, 102 chickens, pumpkins, yams, stuffing, and more. Many of our clients were able to have a complete dinner for their families, and they were very appreciative.

There have been so many generous donations these past few months. Churches, schools, and neighborhoods have all collected and helped our Food Pantry feed more in need. I thank Maura Rush and her dedicated team of volunteers who come in (even on weekends) to carry, sort, and shelve hundreds of donated items.

Several of our anonymous volunteers brought in dozens of Christmas gifts, Christmas stockings for kids, and many books so clients could benefit. Thank you so much for the beautiful gifts you give us every year. And a special **thank you** to the **Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg** for donating Christmas hats and scarves after the Williamsburg Christmas Parade.

My wish for 2025 is that no adult or child goes hungry or cold with FISH available to serve those in our area. I deeply appreciate our stellar volunteers who work tirelessly to help those at FISH's door.

Many happy returns of the season!

Jill Holroyd
FISH President
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Happy
Holidays

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Donate



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Acknowledgements & Announcements

2025 Calendar

FISH will be closed for the following holidays.

New Year's Eve	Tuesday, December 31, 2024
New Year's Day	Wednesday, January 1, 2025
Memorial Day	Monday, May 26, 2025
Juneteenth	Thursday, June 19, 2025
Independence Day	Friday, July 4, 2025
Labor Day	Monday, September 1, 2025
Thanksgiving	Wednesday, Thursday & Friday November 26, 27 & 28, 2025
Christmas	Wednesday, Thursday & Friday December 24, 25 & 26, 2025
New Year's Eve	Wednesday, December 31, 2025
New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1, 2026

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.



Editor's Note

Joy is a term commonly heard during the holidays—a sense of happiness and warmth often derived from sharing traditions with loved ones and friends, fostering a sense of community and gratitude.

As your newsletter editor, I witness the joy in the FISH community. Donors and volunteers share how much they enjoy the newsletter, especially the President's Message with its latest highlights, and learning more about other volunteers and donors. They also enjoy sending me pictures, articles, and ideas, and their joy spreads to me as I assemble and distribute each issue.

I am grateful for your selfless contributions to this communication and my life.

Wishing holiday miracles to all, and a joyous New Year!

-- Kathleen Pock

Welcome New Volunteers

**Karen Dailey
Lee Curtis**

Thank you for choosing 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.

Community Volunteers Spotlight

*Managers from Spring Arbor help twice a month.
Thank you, Spring Arbor staff, for being loyal
Community Volunteers.*



Every Tuesday the Clothes Closet hosts a group of volunteers representing other organizations. Even though they aren't the same volunteers every Tuesday, all engage in the task of preparing clothes for our shelves. One group consists of members of the management team at **Spring Arbor Senior Living**. Kenneth Gibson, the Executive Director, acted on Billie Johnston's suggestion to volunteer. For the past year, Spring Arbor has been sending 3-4 volunteers for two Tuesday afternoons each month. Last month, they were interviewed about why they make time in their work schedule to volunteer.

Why do you volunteer at FISH?

- Its direct influence and positive impact on our local community.
- I like helping others and being part of the community in a productive way.
- FISH has a fabulous mission and is indispensable for those in need in our community.

What do you like about volunteering at FISH?

- I like that everyone comes together to make sure others in need will not go without.
- I like spending time with the other volunteers and knowing that my efforts are appreciated and impactful.
- The people are kind. They truly embody what it means to be a beacon of hope for those who need support.

-- Cindy Tocci, Director & Clothing Co-Coordinator

Feeling Grateful

Thanksgiving and Christmas are especially hectic times of the year for FISH volunteers. We are very grateful for the abundant food and clothing drives and monetary donations by churches, organizations, and neighborhoods during the holidays. They directly impact our ability to serve our community cost-effectively.

It is also the time of year when our volunteers give a little extra of their time while balancing volunteering with their myriad family activities and commitments. They may leave exhausted at the end of the day, but everyone appreciates and benefits from their service.

As the saying goes: "I see you." The community values FISH and each volunteer's effort. Our clients value your caring, attentive, and compassionate assistance. Your fellow volunteers value your great teamwork and friendship. And lastly, the Board values each volunteer because we can only achieve our great community support through the individual efforts of every volunteer.

I feel grateful for my FISH family and how we work together as a team. We're making a difference!

Happy holidays!

Dan Fontaine

Donations

Use Online Promo Code:
FISH
@PapaJohns.com

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



**PAPA
JOHNS**
Hampton Roads



FISH, Inc.
Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community
Since 1975
(757) 220-9379

REMINDER



Amanda Patneau (right) from **Papa Johns** presented Jill Holroyd, President (left) and Maura Rush, VP (center) with a \$2,500 grant, plus treated our volunteers to a pizza party.

In addition to the grant, Papa Johns is also giving a percentage of the sales when you use the online promo code "FISH".

Thanks in advance for your support!

The ladies from **Le Cercle Charmant** provided FISH with a very generous donation, as they've done in past years.



FISH is grateful to the Student Council Association and Ms. Koontz at **D.J. Montague Elementary School** for conducting a very successful food drive.



Dr. Daniel Shaye of **Performance Chiropractic** held a successful food drive collecting 354 pounds of items.



Again this year, Dorothy Jeffress took time to gather lots of food from her Wingfield Lake neighbors in **Governor's Land**.

Donations



Many thanks to Michael Thompson who coordinated a food drive by the **St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg**. Many of the members came in traditional kilts and might return in 2025 with bagpipes!



Annually the Saturday after Thanksgiving, **Bruton Parish Episcopal Church** brings a large donation. This year they donated over 179 bags of food and a generous gift of cash.

It's always great to see the FISH volunteers working closely with the Bruton Parish team to unload, sort and shelve the items!

-- Maura Rush, VP & Food Donations Coordinator



Lee Alexander of the **Ascension of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church** presented Jill Holroyd, President, with the Circle of Hope Award -- a Saint Nicholas Grant of \$1,000 for FISH. Grant monies are obtained from the sales of kolache and pierogi in their Carpathian Kitchen. Jill also shared with the congregation the FISH mission and services.



Maura Rush gladly accepted a generous donation from Pat Dalton (L) and Liz Payne (R) representing the **Ford's Colony LGA 9 and LGA 18** at their Holiday Luncheon.

Donations



We appreciate Dawn Hadley inviting our VP Maura Rush to speak at **Two Rivers LGA** Holiday Luncheon and to accept its wonderful donation to help FISH.



Chase Boyer of **Auto Haus** (our neighbor in **The Edge District**) organized a food drive for FISH that brought in more than 1600 cans of food!



Alyssa Stevens brought a thoughtful donation of dental & hygiene products from **Norge Dental Center** that our clients will greatly appreciate.

Thank You

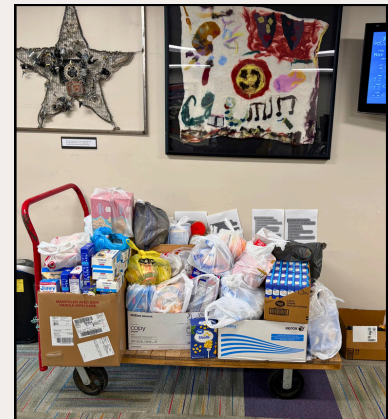


Tori Andersen led the food drive at the **Cox-Powell Corporation** bringing a very generous donation to FISH. She was accompanied by Paul Thurston, President, and other staff members.



St Stephen Lutheran Church's PreSchool's Director, Jessica Kimball, donated a wonderful food collection to FISH.

'Tis the Season



Our former neighbors at **Waller Mill Elementary** still support FISH with a collection of essential items for our clients every year.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Upbeat Atmosphere All Around

Judy DePrimo
Clothes Closet & Food Pantry

Q1. Why did you choose to volunteer at FISH?

A1. I had volunteered at a Meals on Wheels program for 17 years, and a food bank for three years in our former hometown and was looking to be involved in this community. In researching local volunteer organizations, FISH seemed like a perfect fit for me. The fact that it is entirely volunteer based really appealed to me.

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

A2. With every shift that I volunteer for at FISH, I am greeted by friendly smiles, sometimes by people I have never met! These volunteers are committed to smoothly running an organization that is vital to our community. Everyone is ready to pitch in and help out with any situation that arises -- wonderful people who give of their time and talents to help those in need.

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

A3. I volunteer weekly in the Clothes Closet (CC) and monthly in the Food Pantry. Our Monday CC group thought it would be good to help out at the Thrift Extravaganza this year. What a wonderful, first-time opportunity it was for me!

In the CC we set aside items throughout the year to be used in this sale, so I was delighted to see these items artfully displayed at the sale. The setup of the Thrift Extravaganza resembled a large boutique shop. I had fun helping several students and community members assemble items to create costumes. The upbeat atmosphere was enjoyed by all, and I'm looking forward to participating again next year.

When the sale ended, another group of FISH volunteers arrived to load vans and trucks and move items to storage. What a vital group of volunteers FISH has!

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

A4. I love to bake, garden, sew and dabble in paper crafting. Did I mention I love to bake? My fellow volunteers are my taste testers!

My husband, Mark, and I moved from upstate NY three years ago. I am a retired, self-employed hairdresser. A business opportunity brought our son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren to Williamsburg, so we are happy to have the chance to watch our grandchildren grow and help when needed.