



Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community Since 1975

NEWS



January 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all! The month of January has been a wild ride so far with snow, ice, and bad weather closing FISH for a few days (January 6-7). For safety, we follow the WJCC School Division's schedule for closing.

FISH is busy with upcoming area programs in February. For the entire month, the Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission (GWOM) is conducting "Heart for the Hungry" whereby they give us \$1 for every pound of food we collect, with a maximum of \$1,000. See flyer on page 2.

Olde Towne Medical Center is offering a Free Dental Service Day on February 8 for children under 18 who are Medicaid-eligible or uninsured. FISH will have a display table at the location on that day. For more info, call Olde Towne Medical Center at 757-259-3253.

And, Frothy Moon Brewhouse has offered to collect winter clothing for FISH, starting now until the end of February. Plus, they will donate \$1 per hot chocolate purchased on their kick-off night, January 31. Take a look at page 6.

We are very busy these days. Our 2024 statistics are out and the need to help is even larger than before. FISH has given 434,049 meals and distributed 14,166 diapers. These numbers are the highest in FISH's history.

To all exceptional volunteers and our wonderful donors, we wish you the very best in 2025!

Jill Holroyd
President
theholroyds1@gmail.com
Cell: 757-903-7839

At our annual meeting on January 8, the following were voted to serve as directors:
Lindsay Lilly - soon to be in the spotlight
Susie Van Rijn - soon to be in the spotlight
Steve White - spotlighted Sept2024

Returning to serve another 3-year term are:
Patti MacGillivray - spotlighted May2024
Mike Motes - spotlighted May-June2021

Congratulations to all and a special thank you for your willingness to serve.

IN THIS ISSUE

2024 Stats
New Volunteers
Heart for the Hungry
Winter Donations
[Page 2](#)

Client Message
Items Needed
[Page 3](#)

Thrift Extravaganza
Activity Summary &
Thank You
[Page 4](#)

Donations
[Page 5-6](#)

Donate



312 Second Street
Williamsburg, VA 23185
757-220-9379
www.fishwilliamsburg.org
fishwilliamsburgnews@gmail.com



2024 SERVICE COMPARATIVE

Check out these numbers! Thank you for your help!

	2015	2023	2024
Food Requests	4,571	7,002	7,640
Meals Equivalent	151,095	367,311	434,049
Clothing Outfits	9,065	12,877	18,120
Families w/ Housewares	602	690	821
Unique Households	1,652	2,276	2,524

-- Cathey Sadowski, Secretary & Data Management Coordinator

*Happy
New Year
2025*

New Volunteers

- Ana Chadwick
- Eileen Murphy
- Laurie Hertzler
- Lucy Harvey
- Michael Harvey
- Patti Caccavale
- Siddhi Patel

*Welcome, and thank
you for choosing FISH!*

GREATER WILLIAMSBURG
OUTREACH MISSION



A Coalition of Faith Groups United to Serve the Homeless

Heart for the Hungry Food Drive

February 1 - 28, 2025

Hosted by Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission
To Benefit Local Food Programs.

Collect food and drop off at any of these organizations:

FISH Inc.

Grove Christian Outreach Center

Salvation Army

St. Olaf Catholic Church

Williamsburg House of Mercy



312 2nd St.,
Williamsburg



8800 Pocohantas Tr.,
Williamsburg



216 Ironbound Rd.,
Williamsburg



104 Norge Ln.,
Williamsburg



10 Harrison Ave.,
Williamsburg

Drop off canned goods at Door #2 during the month of February and Heart for the Hungry Food Drive will give FISH \$1 for every pound collected during that time.

THANK YOU!

Winter Clothing Spreads Warmth

The Clothes Closet saw many December donations that yielded winter clothes and housewares. Individual community members, FISH volunteers, churches, businesses and other organizations brought in items for us to share with the community. One Secret Santa donated three large bins filled with new, small kitchen appliances.

Some of the groups that held special clothing drives include:

- **Ford's Colony Crafters** (knitted & crocheted hats)
- **St. Demetrios Church** (winter clothes for boys)
- **Williamsburg United Methodist** (adult sweaters and hoodies)
- **Lululemon** (ladies leggings and athletic wear)
- **Against the Grain Restaurants** (Amber Ox, Precarious Beer Hall, Bake Shop etc.)
- **Giving Tree Campaign** (funds for children's pajamas and outerwear)
- **Walkabout Outfitter** (winter jackets for men and older children)
- **Krav Maga Hampton Roads**, a Martial Arts Academy, (winter jackets for children)

Thank you to all individuals and groups for your generous donations.

-- Cindy Tocci, Director and Clothing Co-Coordinator



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR CLIENTS

'Tis the season to wish everyone a Happy New Year! While I like wishing fellow volunteers the best for a great new year, I get even greater pleasure wishing our clients a sincere Happy New Year.

I volunteered on Thursday and Friday after Christmas and spent much of those two days assisting in the Clothes Closet. As I helped the clients select clothing, some shared a bit about their life challenges. Many of their stories touched my heart. When they were done selecting clothes, I pushed their cart, walked them to their car, and helped them load. If they were also getting food, I brought out their groceries from the Pantry. It's my way of letting them know that FISH cares.

As they were leaving, I wished them a Happy New Year. They smiled and said the same to me which gave me a "smiley face" kind of feeling.

I feel truly fortunate to be a volunteer at FISH. Being able to make our clients' lives a little better adds meaning to my life.

Happy New Year to all our wonderful clients!

-- Dan Fontaine

Accepting Unused Gift Cards



Do you have gift cards that you will not be using?

We can use them for many different items, and they don't have to be from grocery stores. For example, we can purchase underwear and socks with Target, Marshalls and Ross cards.

At Door #2, you may hand them to a volunteer who will drop them in a collection box there.

Thank you!

Here's our shiny new freezer that is already full! Not bad for a Black Friday sale!



We need 12-egg empty & clean cartons. Since we have been receiving eggs in flats, we need cartons to transfer them to so that our clients receive a dozen eggs safely packaged.



Please take to Door #2.



Many Hands, Light Work

2024 Thrift Extravaganza Event Activity Summary

The saying goes, Many Hands, Light Work, but just How Many Hands did it take to make our most successful campus fundraiser work?

Approximately 186 hands--36 students and 57 community members.

Some planned and prepped. Most worked the event: loading and unloading, setting up racks and hanging clothes, running the event from start to finish. They were efficient, creative, cheerful and dedicated to FISH.

This year more regular FISH volunteers worked on campus than ever before.

In addition to these "regulars", let's spotlight a few new and special projects:

- Austin Moschler, owner of **VA Moving**, provided a truck and 2 movers for the 3rd year. Bob Stanzione, Steve White, Mark DiPrimo, Kelvin Ramsey and Rick Berquist worked both setup and breakdown. Will Bennett and son Andrew recruited Boy Scout Troop 102 for heavy duty breakdown and unloading at FISH after the event.
- Talented graphic artist Jenny Davy designed a flyer for publicity.
- Our campus sponsor, Catholic Campus Ministry, secured the space and paid for parking, campus publicity and Square Reader fees.
- Service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega recruited over 30 volunteers.
- The Monday Closet Team boosted 50/50 Raffle ticket sales by challenging others to equal or surpass their purchases. How exciting that the winning ticket belonged to a FISH volunteer! But not from the Monday Team...

New:

- Floor Managers directed setup and takedown and conducted the event with efficiency and flair.
- Videographer Alyssa Chandler and W&M Technical Services staff member, Jeff Herrick, teamed up to create a video of the setup. Click [here](#) to enjoy.
- Trader Joe's and a local farmer, Sam, donated pumpkins for our first-ever Pumpkin Patch, a fun and eye-catching addition.
- Mother-Daughter Teams made us smile:
 - Newest: FISH volunteers Sandy & Cassie Bishop
 - Longest-running: Merit Anglin and daughters, Una & Ada (Merit started when she was a W&M Graduate Student), and of course
 - The power team of Susan & Katherine Zickel who oversaw so many different aspects of the event.

The result of all of these hands working together (plus the donated items from the community) was \$13,400, our highest ever.

Thank you to all!

-- Karen Berquist, Costume Sale Director

Editor's Note: An astounding fact is the power team is actually 3 generations: Karen Berquist, her daughter, Susan, and Susan's daughter, Katherine. This speaks volumes as to Karen's infectious zest and devotion to FISH and this fundraiser for decades. Thank you, Karen!

Donations



Thank you to Nicole Norton for organizing the **W&M Campus Child Care** food drive and to Kyle de John (above) for delivering the donation.



The **Lafayette High School Class of 1985** enthusiastically gave FISH a very generous financial gift as well as lots of canned goods.

Many thanks to Candice Myers who led this effort along with David Piggott, Sonya Byrd, Sonya Fowler and others who enjoyed a FISH tour led by Maura Rush, VP and Food Donations Coordinator.

THANK YOU



The Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation awarded FISH a Nourishing Our Neighbors grant. The commendation: "Your organization does tremendous work toward ending hunger in the towns and cities we serve, and we are honored to award a grant for \$2,500 for food purchases or nutrition education."

Representing FISH above are President Jill Holroyd (R) and VP Maura Rush (L).



W&M's Men's & Women's Gymnastics teams did a tremendous job collecting 2,636 pounds of food for FISH from neighborhoods surrounding the campus. This was the 16th Annual food drive supporting FISH and we greatly appreciate their enthusiasm.

-- Courtesy of Maura Rush, VP, Food Donations Coordinator

Donations



mmm...Hot Chocolate on a winter's day...

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE | **HOT COCOA BAR KICKOFF**

FISH, Inc.
Food Pantry and Clothing
1926 Jamestown Rd.
(727) 229-9279

Frothy Moon
Brewhouse
1926 Jamestown Rd.

FRIDAY JAN 31st 5-9 PM

ITEMS NEEDED:
(New, Gently Used, and CLEAN)
Men's Gloves, Jackets, Hats
Children's Gloves, Hats
Hoodies of all genders and ages
Duration: Jan 31 - Feb 28

It's National Hot Cocoa Day which kicks off the annual build-your-own hot cocoa bar! Choose your flavors and toppings throughout the month of February!

This season, let's make a difference by helping our neighbors stay warm during the cold winter months!
\$1 from every hot cocoa sold will go to Fish!

Frothy Moon Brewhouse is kicking off their winter clothing drive with a hot cocoa bar party on Friday, January 31, **National Hot Chocolate Day**. (Who knew there was such a great day?!?) The party starts at 5:00 p.m. with a live band enhancing the evening from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

They are accepting winter clothing donations in their taproom **now through February 28**.

FISH will receive \$1 from every hot cocoa sold, and more importantly, winter items collected for us throughout the entire month-long event.



Once again, the **PORCH Communities** collected an incredible amount of food to fill our shelves in December. A special thanks to Linda Whittaker and Peggy Burke.



R.F. Wilkinson Family YMCA collected 446 pounds of food from October 26 to the end of the year.

Thanks to our volunteers who work out there for picking up and delivering the donation.

Jamestown Presbyterian Church, thank you for your monthly, faithful contributions to FISH and the effort required to remind, collect and deliver needed items on a regular basis.



Large Donation of Children's Books



Lucy Custance, 7th grader at Walsingham Academy, conducted a book drive within the Camp Peary community to fulfill a school project. She is the daughter of our clothing volunteer, Laura.

Thanks, Lucy, for your terrific idea and effort!

-- Courtesy of Martha Buell and Martha & Bill Dean

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.

Thank you