



Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community Since 1975

NEWS



February 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FISH has HEART in February!

Heart for the Hungry is a month-long drive where we weigh the food donations arriving at FISH, and if we receive 1,000 pounds, FISH will receive \$1,000 from GWOM/Greater Williamsburg Outreach Mission. Please help us reach our goal.

FISH has had five snow days so far this year--a record number of closings. But the parking lot was full of cars of dedicated volunteers in both the Clothes Closet (11 volunteers on one snowy day!) and the Pantry who continued their work as if it weren't snowing! We are grateful to have you. Your hard work is evident. Thanks, everyone!

The price of eggs is out of hand! FISH usually purchases 150 dozen eggs each week to give to our clients. Fortunately, two anonymous donors stepped up and purchased \$10 gift cards from Food Lion to cover our usual February cost of eggs. We truly thank them for their generosity!

Did you know that our Clothes Closet sets out racks of clothing in the back area of our parking lot every day? These clothes are welcome for our clients to take without going against their clothing allotment. This is so popular that our faithful Clothing volunteers restock this area several times a day. Our clients appreciate the extra clothes, shoes, and other items they can take with them.

FISH just received a large donation of toothbrushes and toothpaste from Norge Dental Center. This is a great addition to our hygiene corner. Thank you.

Jill Holroyd
FISH President
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757-903-7839

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Donate



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fishwilliamsburgnews@gmail.com



Announcements & Acknowledgements

<p>OUR IMPACT In 2024, FISH served 7,640 requests that provided:</p> <p>434,049 meals</p> <p>18,120 outfits of clothing</p> <p>14,166 diapers</p> <p>821 homes with housewares</p> <p>FISH also provided:</p> <p>Groceries to homeless families living in three local motels, and crockpots (in partnership with GWOM/Crockpot Ministries).</p> <p>Food & Clothing to Care Closets at four local schools.</p> <p>Non-perishable food items to help stock the W&M Campus Food Exchange.</p>	 <p>Our Location 312 Second Street Williamsburg, VA 23185</p> <p>Hours Monday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm</p> <p>757-220-9379 fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com www.fishwilliamsburg.org</p> 	<p>FISH, Inc. Food Pantry and Clothing Serving the Community Since 1975</p> 	<p>WHAT IS FISH? Neighbors Helping Neighbors since 1975</p> <p>Through the generosity of the Williamsburg community and the efforts of more than 225 volunteers, FISH provides food, clothing, and small housewares to persons in need who live in Williamsburg, James City County, and York County.</p> <p>Community Partnership</p> <p>FISH actively seeks partnerships with other groups to improve the quality of life for our neighbors of all ages.</p> <p>Many new clients learn about FISH through other agencies, such as Avalon, Colonial Behavioral Health, Colonial Corrections and Williamsburg House of Mercy.</p> 	<p>HOW CAN I HELP?</p> <p>FISH services depend on the donations of a committed and generous community.</p> <p>DONATE</p> <p>FOOD: non-perishable goods</p> <p>CLEANING & HYGIENE PRODUCTS: detergent, bar soap, toothpaste & deodorant</p> <p>CLOTHING AND SHOES: new or gently used, all sizes and ages</p> <p>SMALL HOUSEWARES: bedding, towels, kitchenware, etc.</p> <p>FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS: Donations may be made by checks payable to FISH, Inc.; online via the Donate Now button on the website; or through your bank. 100% of your financial contribution will be used to serve client needs.</p> <p>FISH is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, so contributions are tax deductible. Our EIN is 54-1523058.</p> <p>Planning a large food drive or clothing collection? Please contact FISH so that our Donation Coordinator can be prepared.</p>	<p>VOLUNTEER</p> <p>FISH is an all-volunteer organization and has a variety of opportunities for persons eager to help their neighbors in need. Most volunteer positions require some training and a commitment to regularly scheduled service. Check the FISH website for more information, then call or email to find your place of service at FISH.</p> 
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Our updated tri-fold brochure is distinguishable at a glance from other years by the two banners announcing the 2024 stats and the reminder of FISH's 50th anniversary in 2025.

If you need brochures for a speaking engagement or your place of business, please contact Jill Holroyd at fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com.

Having Fun with a Client

We had a couple of Hispanic-speaking clients recently come to the Clothes Closet. Two of us met them at the door. I asked them, "Hablas inglés?" One of them quickly said, "Yes". The other one hesitated. The volunteer with me assisted the client that spoke English, and I helped the other one.

My client and I had a good time while selecting clothes. He said that he was trying to practice his English. I laughed and told him that I was trying to practice my Spanish. As he shopped, he spoke to me in English and I spoke to him in Spanish. What fun!

As we were walking to his car, he asked me where I was learning Spanish. I told him Duolingo. He said that he had only been in the U.S. for 6 weeks and was learning English while working as a server in a restaurant. I told him that he had done well learning English. He smiled and said that he appreciated my efforts to learn Spanish. What a nice experience!

-- Dan Fontaine



Adorable teddy bears and baskets for our clients from our special donor!!



Announcements & Acknowledgements

REMINDER

The **Frothy Moon Brewhouse** Winter Clothing Drive for FISH ends February 28.

Have a hot cocoa and FISH will receive \$1 for every one sold.

1826 Jamestown Road



A collection box for winter clothes is in the Taproom.

They collected enough clothing to fill an SUV at their kickoff night.

Great work!

-- Courtesy of Susie van Rijn



New Volunteers

- Diana McLaughlin
- Isabel Williams
- Kendra Doan
- Megumi Mitchell
- Patricia Ivey
- Pete Williams
- Susan Eyster

Together We Can!

“ It’s not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving. ”

Mother Teresa

In Memoriam

Frank Hermes



We will miss the generous spirit of Frank Hermes who passed away on January 21, 2025. Frank was a faithful Foodbank Shopper for FISH.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that anyone who wishes to make a donation, do so to FISH at <https://fishwilliamsburg.org/donate-to-fish-williamsburg/>

[Full Obituary](#)

Donations

'Tis the season to be jolly! The "Blankets of Hope" Blanket Drive conducted by **Peninsula Endodontics** was inspired by Dr. Kalisha Jordan's daughter, Riley. As a student at Warhill High School, Riley wanted to find a way to give back to the community, and with her mother's approval, she worked with the Marketing Coordinator, Natasha, to help make it a reality.

They researched local organizations and discovered FISH, where blankets were identified as a high-need item. Inspired by this, they envisioned the drive; and knowing there is strength in numbers, reached out to their referring dental offices to see if they would participate. Several offices were excited to join the cause: **Lombard, Vogt & Foster, Williamsburg Smile Care, Norge Dental, Lifetime Family Dental, Colonial Family Dentistry.**

The drive was a huge success as together the offices donated over 75 new blankets to FISH! Riley and Natasha collected the blankets and thoughtfully wrapped each one with tags featuring messages of hope for the recipients.

Their note to us: "Thank you, FISH, for all you do in our community and for allowing us the opportunity to help serve in such a heartfelt way. This accomplishment was made possible by our collective effort, and we look forward to continuing this tradition to spread hope and warmth for years to come."

We are blessed to have these creative and generous community members who have met our clients' needs during this cold season. We love traditions! Great idea!

Peninsula Endodontics



Olde Towne Medical & Dental Center

FISH had a booth at **Olde Towne Medical & Dental Center** on Saturday, February 8, since free dental care was available for young children without dental insurance. Susie van Rijn, Tracy Parris and Jill Holroyd attended the booth while Wilma Caban served as translator and entertainer (making the nervous kids giggle). Thanks everyone for helping!



L to R: Jill and Doug Holroyd with Wilma Caban



Photos courtesy of Aaron Thompson, OTMDC



Susie van Rijn (L) and Jill (R) (Tracy Parris, not pictured.)

Williamsburg Presbyterian Church



Jim Winthrop delivered a very generous check to Jill Holroyd, President, from our faithful contributors, the **Williamsburg Presbyterian Church**.

Stonehouse Elementary

Many thanks to Ms. Jessie's K-Kids at Stonehouse Elementary School for their donation to FISH.



PORCH



The **PORCH Communities** of:

- Brandywyne
- Holly Hills
- Holly Hills Carriage Homes
- Holly Hills Townhouses
- Kingsmill
- New Town
- Rolling Woods
- The Meadows

generously supported FISH once again by donating 3,070 pounds of food.

We are so fortunate to have their support.

-- Maura Rush, VP, Food Donations Coordinator

St. Martin's Episcopal



The Community Volunteers for February are from **St. Martin's Episcopal Church**. The volunteers help us by preparing children's clothing for the Clothes Closet. We are most appreciative for their support.

-- Cindy Tocci, Director, Clothing Co-Coordinator

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



Lindsay Lilly

Board Member, Food Purchasing Coordinator, Food Pantry

We are a military family who moved to the Williamsburg area in 2021. My neighbor, Deb Morris, told me that she loved volunteering at FISH, and that they needed additional helpers during Thanksgiving and Christmas. One day I went with her, then I kept asking her if I could go again, and again. After the holidays, I submitted a formal application and became an official volunteer.

My relationship and love of FISH has grown steadily. The first commitment was for the second Monday of every month, plus lots of subbing. Since I got up early to get my son to school, I responded to a lot of the "Request for Sub" emails that arrive from Martha Buell, our Volunteer Coordinator, about 6:00 a.m.

Now I'm honored to have been elected to serve on the Board of Directors, and my schedule has changed since I also accepted the role of Food Purchasing Coordinator. I'm at FISH on Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings. Every Monday morning, I work with the Food Delivery Team which picks up food from the Midtown Row Food Lion, delivers and shelves it at the Pantry. I check the inventory and place a Food Lion order to be picked up the following Monday. Thursday morning activity is similar but with the Trader Joe's Team; and on Fridays, Marci Kaplan-Lips, Assistant Food Coordinator, and I team up to get the Harris Teeter-Lightfoot donation. Let me add here how important the FISH van is to all our teams!

The experience of helping others and seeing the joy on their faces as they receive food and clothing is always rewarding. Additionally, the opportunity to connect with the remarkable volunteers has made my FISH experience richer.

When not at FISH, I love to read thrillers, fiction--most everything. I also volunteer at the James City County Library in the Circulation Department for a couple of hours once a week. As a family, we enjoy Busch Gardens and golfing.

Lee Pettit

Food Pantry

Diverse and dynamic Lee Pettit has been in the FISH family since 2022, volunteering in the Food Pantry. Since she is featured in this month's Next Door Neighbors magazine (they beat us to press), please click [here](#) to enjoy her inspiring life as a volunteer (page 25).

