



Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community Since 1975

NEWS



June 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June is a busy month at FISH! With school closed for the summer, please be aware that children are outside playing and enjoying the time away from classrooms.

Here are a few functions with which FISH is involved this month:

- June 14 - Juneteenth Festival at Freedom Park
- June 18 - Wellness Day at Colonial Heritage
- June 19 - Juneteenth - FISH is closed to observe the holiday.
- June 21 - New Zion Baptist Church - Family and Friends Day "Caring for the Health of Our Community"

We have several other speaking engagements and food donation drives throughout the summer. Please let us know if your group wants to learn more about FISH. We are happy to work with you!

Can you believe FISH has been a constant presence in Williamsburg for 50 years? And we have always been ALL VOLUNTEERS. We began in 1975 with four women who saw the need, and we continue their desire to help those in need to this day. We are celebrating our 50th Anniversary on September 21 at King of Glory Church. The theme is "Celebrate our Volunteers". We would not be here helping our neighbors who need our assistance without the hundreds of volunteers who have walked through our doors.

We are trying to reach out to all past volunteers. If you know one who has not been actively volunteering, please let us know at fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com.

Have a **happy** and **safe** June!

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



IN THIS ISSUE

Family & Friends Day
Free Books for Kids
Page 2

Summer Meals for Kids
A Joyful Experience
Page 3

Caring Donations
Page 4-5

Volunteer Spotlight
Marje Peterson
Page 6

Donate



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

Acknowledgements & Announcements

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS DAY
CARING FOR THE
HEALTH OF OUR
COMMUNITY**



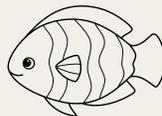
**Saturday
June 21, 2025**
New Zion Baptist Church
3991 Longhill Rd
Williamsburg, VA 23188
757-258-0491

Prostate Education 10:00 AM
Breast Cancer/ Menopause Education 11:00 AM
Prostate Testing, Mammogram, HA1C (Blood Sugar) Testing,
Colorectal Testing Kit Distribution & Blood Pressures Checks
11:00- 3:00 PM
Document Shredding 9AM- 12 Noon
Medication/Drug Take Back 10:00 AM- 3 PM
Food, Games and Music 12 Noon -3 PM Free



FISH will have a booth at **New Zion Baptist Church's Family and Friends Day - "Caring for the Health of Our Community"**, on Saturday, June 21.

Please click [here](#) to view the various events and health tests, then join us at 3991 Longhill Road.



FISH received many frozen 6-pound rolls of capicola deli meat. Since we are unable to use it, Andy Potter, Community Kitchen Coordinator of **House of Mercy (WHOM)**, will be slicing it and making many sandwiches for their clients.

Andy also transported many boxes of baby formula and diapers from FISH to the WHOM Hope Pregnancy Center.

FREE books

(mailed directly to the child's home every month)

for kids under age 5



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Williamsburg/James City County

Go to www.imaginationlibrary.com
for more information

or scan



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is now available for all kids in Williamsburg/James City County, who are under age five, as part of The **DeGood Foundation's** partnership with the Dollywood Foundation.

This awesome, book-gifting program mails a high-quality, age-appropriate book each month directly to a child's home, at no cost to their family, until their fifth birthday.

Since Dolly began giving away books 30 years ago, more than 277 million books have been distributed. All kids need to read! Dolly makes it easy to get books into the hands of kids.

Acknowledgements & Announcements



If smiling promotes healing, then those who attended Wellness Day at **Colonial Heritage** received a boost from the bright smiles and warm greetings of FISH volunteers Marci Kaplan-Lips (L) and Harriett Shuck (R). Thank you, ladies, for representing FISH.



Meals on Wheels Summer Program Manager Grace Rutledge (R) accepted a \$1,000 check from FISH President Jill Holroyd (L) to support the Summer Meals for Kids program. Up to 300 children who during the school year had access to school food will now have lunches every weekday during the summer months.

Jill Holroyd, President (pictured right), and Tracy Parris, Director (not pictured), represented FISH at the Juneteenth Community Fest at Freedom Park.

The event was a day of celebration, learning, and community hosted by the York-James City-Williamsburg NAACP and James City County Parks & Recreation.



Hola

A Joyful Experience

Hello

FISH is fortunate to have a few volunteers who speak Spanish. Volunteers in the Clothes Closet do their best to help Hispanic clients when a Spanish-speaking volunteer is not available. I recently had the opportunity to assist a client who spoke very little English, and in Spanish, I told her that I spoke very little Spanish.

Despite the language barrier, we managed to bridge the gap through gestures, expressions, and laughter while she selected clothing for a family of five. There was a sense of mutual understanding and cooperation as we navigated the Clothes Closet.

At the end, I asked her, "Eres feliz?" which means "Are you happy?" She smiled warmly and responded in English, "I am happy." Her words and her smile filled my heart with extra-special joy. This encounter highlighted the beauty of human connection beyond language barriers. It was a reminder that a smile and a little effort can go a long way in making someone's day brighter.

-- Dan Fontaine

*** If you can translate, please contact Martha Buell at mtonka@cox.net. ***

Tiny Threads, Big Impact!

FISH was one of several partner agencies on the Virginia Peninsula selected to receive items of children's clothing from **Tiny Threads, Big Impact** campaign. Dr. Hyun Lee, whose family donated a total of 2,000 items of clothing, presented the items at a ceremony held at the United Way offices in Yorktown. This is the third year that FISH has received clothing from Dr. Lee.



Above: Cindy Tocci, Director and Clothing Co-Coordinator (far right) and Gayle Justice, volunteer overseeing infant clothing (2nd from right), with other organization representatives receive children's sleepwear from Tiny Threads, Big Impact.

-- Cindy Tocci, Director & Clothing Co-Coordinator

Chicken Salad Chick

It was quite a festive grand opening for the new local business, **Chicken Salad Chick**, at Settlers Market in Williamsburg on May 28. Susie Van Rijn (far right) from the FISH Board attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony and was delighted to learn that as part of its pre-opening the previous weekend for friends and family, the restaurant supported FISH by collecting a generous donation from those who attended.

It's wonderful to have another supportive business partner, and many thanks to Jordan Jansen of Chicken Salad Chick for reaching out to FISH to make this happen.

-- Maura Rush, VP & Food Donations Coordinator



Bruton Parish Vestry

Bruton Parish Vestry donated always-needed socks and underwear for children.

Thanks to Joyce Haines (L) for collecting and delivering, and to Volunteer Jeanne Fulks (R) for accepting.



Navy Federal Credit Union Williamsburg

Navy Federal donated homeless care kits containing basic necessities such as energy bars, bottled water, toothbrush, toothpaste, socks, etc.

Delivering the kits is Jennifer Owen (L), Williamsburg Branch Manager. Accepting the donation is Volunteer Anne Koren (R).



When the **PORCH** contingent is scheduled to come to FISH with its donations, we know what to expect -- an abundance of just what FISH needs to fill its shelves. The New Town neighborhood, managed by Gale Hyatt and Eden Glenn, along with Holly Hills Carriage Homes and Townhomes, Brandywyne, Rolling Woods, The Meadows, and Sarah Weiser's Holly Hills collectively brought 1,779 pounds of very useful goods in June.

Many thanks to all!

-- Maura Rush, VP & Food Donations Coordinator



Thank You!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

My FISH Family

Marje Peterson Clothes Closet

From 2006 to 2012, I was on the Board of the Historic Triangle Community Services Center on Waller Mill Road where FISH was our major tenant. I often spoke with Billie Johnston, a formative force in the early years of FISH, to gather information while writing grants. After drafting proposals for a major renovation at the Waller Mill building, I realized that sorting clothes at FISH would be much more enjoyable and fulfilling. And that truly is the case.



Since moving to our Second Street location in 2022, helping clients select clothing items and housewares is now our responsibility in the Clothes Closet. I enjoy meeting the clients and assisting them in finding the items they need for themselves and their family members. They are so appreciative, and it is heartwarming to send them on their way with a cart full of goodies and smiles on their faces.

I also love the camaraderie of our FISH volunteers. We work hard sorting and sizing our never-ending supply of donations and have such fun trying to figure out what some of the items are!! My FISH family has been and continues to be my loving support system since I recently lost my daughter after a 7-year battle with leukemia.

One of my great joys each week is visiting Billie Johnston, who is now at Spring Arbor. I enjoyed working with her every week when she was "in charge", and she enjoys my stories about what is happening at FISH now. Her eyes light up when I tell her what we are doing, and she is amazed at the number of donations and clients we have now. She's a very special lady.

On a personal note, I love spending time with my two daughters, three grandchildren, a Samoyed granddog, and a grandcat. I love traveling with family and friends. Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are my favorites.

I am a William and Mary graduate and spent my 37-year career as a budget analyst for Verizon, working in Washington, DC, and Richmond, VA. Since my 7th-grade trip to Jamestown, I have loved Williamsburg, so it was the obvious place to retire.

I always wanted to work in costume in Colonial Williamsburg, but they were not hiring in 2003. My neighbor suggested Jamestown Settlement. I worked there for six years, leading school tours at Jamestown and Yorktown. I finally got a job in costume interpreting the English settlers. Silly me wanting to wear that costume in Williamsburg's hot, humid summers!! It was great fun though, and I was only 100 yards from Queen Elizabeth when she came for the 400th Anniversary of the founding of Jamestown in 2007.

My hobbies are working on my 5-foot dollhouse, which my daughter and I constructed from a kit, collecting dolls (I have 200), and doing jigsaw puzzles. I used to love golf, but after 2 hip replacements and numerous back issues, I can't swing or bend over to pick up the ball--but my philosophy is KEEP MOVING.

Marje replaced Sue Williams in charge of the Shoe Empire (see Sue in [May 2022 newsletter](#)), and is assisted by Sue's daughter-in-law, Paula Lynn. It takes two to replace Sue!