



Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community Since 1975

NEWS



July-August 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Dog Days of August! It was super-hot, then pleasant, followed by steamy again. But a cool slice of watermelon helps!

FISH was able to obtain over 70 watermelons from a food rescue group. We thank all those who were involved in the pickup and distribution of these large melons. For pictures and more on this, see page 6. A special thanks to The Society of St. Andrew for the opportunity to obtain these watermelons.

At FISH, we try to remain consistent with our services of helping with food, clothing, and small housewares where needed. The number of new households coming to FISH is definitely increasing. We are averaging 80+ new clients every month. We are fortunate that our donors are being generous with both food and clothing donations, as well as financial support. FISH thanks each of you who helps us help others.

Our 50th Anniversary celebration of helping those in need is quickly approaching. Our theme is "Celebrating the Volunteers". Do you know that FISH has NEVER paid a salary in all of those years? Hundreds of volunteers passed through our doors, and each one of them contributed to the betterment of our neighbors in need.

A New Home for FISH!

FISH has purchased an existing building and parking lot at 7129 Pocahontas Trail. Demolition is almost completed, and the renovation to our new location has begun. The timeline for our move is October 2026.

These are exciting times for FISH! If you want more information, please contact Jeff Deel, Treasurer, (FISH-Tres@outlook.com), Maura Rush, Vice President, (maurarush@hotmail.com), or me.

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



IN THIS ISSUE

FISH's Future
Page 1

FISH's 50th
Page 2

Tax Advantages
Old Photos Needed
New Volunteers
Page 3

Acknowledgements
& Announcements
Page 4-5

Donations
It's Watermelon Time
Page 6-7

Volunteer Spotlight
Lori Forcucci
Page 8

Donate



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

Acknowledgements & Announcements

FISH Celebrating 50 Years of Service

We are grateful to the Virginia Gazette for featuring FISH's 50 years of helping the Williamsburg community in their Wednesday, July 16 issue.

If you subscribe to the newspaper, you probably read it. If not, a hard copy is posted on the bulletin board near the Reception Desk.

Pictured is Ruth Bott, Pantry Volunteer, restocking canned goods.



Looking Out for Eyewear

One of our local partnerships is with the Williamsburg Host Lions Club, which recycles eyeglasses at their Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center in Newport News. We send donated eyewear--reading, sunglasses, and prescription--to them, and each pair is meticulously sorted to determine usability. The usable pairs are added to Lions International's inventory and distributed to optical missions worldwide, aiding individuals in need of vision correction across the globe.

Nora Lowery and Pam Pickett, featured in the [April 2025 newsletter](#) for their work with jewelry, select some sunglasses and reading glasses to offer directly to our clients. Recently, a client noticed the reading glasses and asked if he could have a pair, to which I responded, "Certainly!" His joy was unmistakable when the first pair he tried turned out to be perfect. He expressed heartfelt gratitude and shared how he would now be able to read clearly for the first time in a long time—a transformational moment.

-- Dan Fontaine

There are two things we get at the start of every new day . . .



. . . a chance and a choice.

Acknowledgements & Announcements

Did You Know . . . Tax Advantages of Donations to FISH

Itemized Deductions

If you qualify for itemization on your tax return, all donations can help you. When you contribute food, clothing, and housewares, pick up a receipt for your donation and note on it what you gave to FISH. For monetary donations, we will send you a tax letter in January listing all checks, dates and amounts.

Gifts of Stock

Donations of stocks or mutual fund amounts will allow you to deduct the current stock value (if you can itemize), plus you will avoid a capital gains tax on the appreciated value of the stock. Our treasurer, Jeff Deel, can give you more information. He can be reached at FISH-Tres@outlook.com.

Qualified Charitable Deductions (QCDs)

If you are 70 ½ years old or older, you can donate money directly from a taxable IRA (not a Roth IRA) to FISH and avoid income tax on this distribution. At age 73, you are required to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). If this amount is contributed to FISH directly from your taxable IRA, you will avoid income tax on this distribution. Your tax advisor can help you arrange a distribution directly to FISH.

-- Jeff Deel, Director and Treasurer

Old FISH photos needed



If you have FISH photos prior to our Waller Mill location, please share them for use at the FISH 50th Anniversary celebration.

Please provide as much information about the photos with your name and contact info, and send to Dan Fontaine, using either of these options:

1. Email to maineguy@cox.net, or
2. Drop them at the Reception Desk in an envelope addressed to Dan Fontaine, with his phone number: 757-871-8500.

Thanks in advance.

-- Dan Fontaine

**KINDNESS IS
CONTAGIOUS**



Tracy Parris, Director, donated a new folding utility cart to easily transport brochures, banners, signs, etc., for special events.

Thanks, Tracy!

Welcome New Volunteers

- Chuck Gray
- Deborah Naglee
- Frank Mazzei
- Kathy Young
- Jean Triolo
- Patsy Sachs
- Pinky Liona
- Ruth Fraser
- Theresa Kapper
- Wray Russell



Thank You for choosing FISH!

Acknowledgements & Announcements

Back to School Preparations in the Clothes Closet

Parents are already thinking about getting back-to-school clothing and shoes for their children, and our Clothes Closet wants to be ready. Many organizations are assisting with our preparations.

Frothy Moon Brewhouse held a Christmas-in-July drive to gather new socks and new or gently used shoes for children and teenagers. They collected many boxes and bags of items.

CrossWalk Church collected food for our Pantry and many bags of new socks. During their Service Day, they delivered the items and stayed to fold all the socks. Our bins were overflowing with socks when they left.

Volunteers from **Mount Vernon United Methodist Church** in Toano helped the Clothes Closet by preparing children's clothing every Tuesday morning during July. They inspected donated items, folded them, and added stickers with the size and description. The completed items are on our shelves, ready for clients.

School leaders from the **WJCC School District** dedicated an afternoon preparing children's clothing as part of their Give Back Week. This is the 3rd year the group has volunteered at FISH as part of their community project.

Thanks to all the Community Volunteers and donors for helping us get the Clothes Closet ready for parents and students.

-- Cindy Tocci, Director & Clothing Co-Coordinator



Frothy Moon



CrossWalk



Mt Vernon



WJCC

Appliance Variety

Thanks to individual donations and grant funding, we have increased the variety of small kitchen appliances. Choices include crockpots, electric skillets and griddles, single-burner countertop ranges, rice cookers, steamers, coffee pots, and small toaster ovens. Having a choice of items increases the range of meals clients can prepare. We welcome donations of these items.

-- Cindy Tocci, Director & Clothing Co-Coordinator



Acknowledgements & Announcements

The 21st of July was a hot day(!), and these ladies weathered the heat at **New Zion Baptist Church's Family and Friends Day - "Caring for the Health of Our Community"**. They met and introduced many new neighbors to FISH.

Insert: Jeanne Fulks, FISH Volunteer
 Left to Right: Jill Holroyd, FISH President, Dee Bagby, New Zion Deacon, and Cathey Sadowski, FISH Secretary.



TEAM
EFFORT



This is the Monday Clothes Closet crew having dinner at **Antonio's Restaurant** in August. We always get together the first Monday of each month, and this is the largest group we have had yet--16 of us!! So much fun and laughter!! I volunteer with a great group of people!!

-- Judy DePrimo, Food Pantry & Clothes Closet

Note: The group chose a neighboring restaurant to FISH in **The Edge District**.



Ben (right) cleaning the front of the Food Pantry.



Zac (L) and Ben (R) in front of their truck after completing the power washing.

Lenny's Power Washing and Sealing cleaned the pantry and clothing buildings on July 30. They washed all four sides of both buildings and the large FISH sign by the road. We can count on them doing a great job!

-- Dan Fontaine

Donations

Bruton Parish Church

We are always so grateful to Lynn Smyth (white top) and her volunteers from **Bruton Parish Church** for their summer food drive. Keeping our shelves full is a year-round effort.



-- Maura Rush, VP & Food Donations Coordinator

New2You and 3 Doors Down

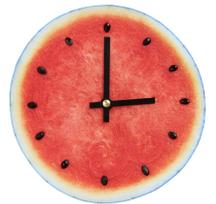
Thank you, Suzanne Maggio, for your continued support of FISH through your thrift stores, **New2You & 3 Doors Down**. Your generosity and energy inspire us.

Accepting the significant gift from Suzanne (left) are Jill Holroyd, President, and Maura Rush, VP.



It's Watermelon Time

Another exciting collaboration with a Richmond institution



The Society of Saint Andrew in Richmond donated two (2) Gaylord boxes of melons. Each box contained between 35-40 melons. Pickup location was at the Belmont United Methodist Church.

Jeff Bennett, one of the Food Lion pickup crew, volunteered to use his pickup truck since he lives closer to Richmond. This saved wear and tear on the FISH van, as well as a significant amount of gas money. It also saved me 3 hours of driving time (1.5 hours each way). Thanks, Jeff.

Jeff, Frank Mazzei, and I (all from the Food Lion Pickup crew) were at FISH to assist in unloading. Daily volunteers from the Pantry and the Clothes Closet provided additional support.

Witnessing the eagerness of everyone to help made me proud to be affiliated with FISH.

- Bob Stanzione, Director and Facilities Coordinator



Photos Courtesy of Jan Gibeling and Bob Stanzione

Donations

Thanks to Local Churches and Others

June's Community Volunteers were from **Williamsburg Baptist Church**. They sent a team of volunteers every Tuesday morning to help prepare children's clothes for the Clothes Closet. Thanks to the hardworking volunteers, many of the items have already found new owners.

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church presented a donation for FISH to Patti MacGillivray at their Greek Festival in July. The church also collects clothing and food throughout the year.

ReStore recently provided clothing volunteers with 12 chairs to use while working at their tables. These comfortable chairs were badly needed.

-- Cindy Tocci, Director & Clothing Co-Coordinator

FISH Clothing recently received a personal donation of 70 Carter and Adidas children shoes from Dian Calderone. She has a personal objective to purchase another 30 children shoes before the end of the year for a total donation of 100 shoes. She wanted to support our goal of providing a new pair of shoes for every school-aged child. What an unexpected, timely, and very generous donation!



-- Courtesy of Dan Fontaine

Volunteers try to get a picture and basic information about donations. Any omissions are unintentional.

CLUBWAKA

Kristina Collins, Community Coordinator of **CLUBWAKA**, delivered tubs of groceries and a check. We are grateful for this organization's regular donations.

L-R: Martha Buell, Kristina, Susie van Rijn, Director.



-- Courtesy of Martha Buell, Volunteer Coordinator

Queens Lake Ladies Night

Over 36 ladies attended QLCA Ladies Night and donated an abundance of toiletries and money to help meet the needs of FISH clients. Kathleen Pock, QLCA neighbor and FISH volunteer, updated the group on FISH's impact and exciting future in Williamsburg.

A Special Thanks to all, especially Ann Brown-Hailey and Susan Finn Adams for hosting the event.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



“Now I’ll look like the other moms....”

Lori Forcucci

**Clothes Closet &
Thrift Extravaganza**

In 2023, I became a FISH volunteer. As I dropped off clothing donations, I was offered a tour and was impressed with the industry of the volunteers. Everything useful was saved, organized, or directed to another nonprofit’s use. Some people mended, some washed clothing; others sorted. Even rubber bands and safety pins had their places. Clearly, this organization was all about getting things done. I filled out a volunteer application on the spot, hoping to be accepted.

Volunteering at FISH is more than rewarding; it’s a blessing. I first requested to work on cleaning household items because spiffing up a used item is so satisfying. During training, I learned about sorting and taking clients through the Clothes Closet. Now I primarily work with the “Costume Sale Team” led by Karen Berquist. The Costume Sale, aka Thrift Extravaganza, is a 2-day fundraiser in October sponsored by William & Mary Catholic Campus Ministry. Our team works all year collecting special items, such as wedding dresses, costumes, vintage, and unusual items from the Clothes Closet, boxing and storing them weekly. **VA Moving** donates trucks and movers to transport truckloads of clothes and display racks to the campus. Posters are distributed. On-campus parking is arranged. Volunteers price items, arrange displays, take payment, and at the end pack unsold items to be stored until next year.

Additionally, throughout the year, we consign off-season and designer items to several consignment shops in the area. The proceeds from these sales are used to buy items that our clients need.

Several client interactions have been particularly meaningful:

One lady needed non-slip shoes to start her new job. Relieved to receive a pair, she said,
“I thought I was going to have to sell blood to buy them.”

Another client initially focused solely on her kids but eventually picked out jeans, a blazer, and cute shoes for herself. She sounded emotional when she said,
“Now I’ll look like the other moms when I drop my kids at school.”

One man donated his late wife’s wardrobe a year after she passed from cancer.
Her name was Opel. Her favorite color was blue.

FISH may be best known for its Food Pantry--a life-sustaining benefit to many--but it is multifaceted. It puts clothing and household items back to work in a variety of ways. It’s also a place to serve and meet lovely volunteers. And, let’s not forget, they often have cookies. Just sayin’.

SAVE THE DATE: The 2025 Thrift Extravaganza will be Tuesday and Wednesday, October 21 and 22.