



Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community Since 1975

NEWS



October 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October has so much to offer! The temperature is changing, and the days are full of Halloween and pumpkin spice everywhere. FISH is gearing up for the Campus Thrift Extravaganza held at the Sadler Center at William and Mary on October 21 and 22. This is the culmination of hundreds of volunteer hours to arrange this event. Remember, all the proceeds go to FISH. See page 3 for hours and more info.

FISH celebrated our 50th Anniversary on September 21. We had great music from the **Gentlemen of the College**, great food by **Creative Cuisines**, and a great turnout of the volunteers--our reason for celebrating 50 years of FISH neighbors helping neighbors. A huge **Thank You** to all those who made this a special day.

We have been saving items all year to give each of our clients a bag of seasonal fixings--stuffing, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, and pumpkin to make their Thanksgiving Dinner special. We will be giving out turkey breasts and chickens beginning at the end of this month. If you are interested in donating towards Thanksgiving, there are several ways to organize a food drive. Please contact us at fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com for tips, as we need more specific items.

Our family celebrates Thanksgiving twice every year: the second Monday in October for Canadian Thanksgiving, and again the fourth Thursday in November for the U.S. This year, we are especially thankful for our first grandchild, born in Canada this week.

FISH is truly thankful that we can help so many families in the Greater Williamsburg Area, and not just for Thanksgiving. Many of our neighbors are thankful for the assistance and help that FISH offers.

What are **YOU** thankful for this year?

Jill Holroyd
FISH President
theholroyds1@gmail.com
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IN THIS ISSUE

50th Anniversary Recap
50th History Videos
[Page 2](#)

Thrift Extravaganza Raffles
[Page 3](#)

FISH T-Shirts
Holiday Closings
[Page 4](#)

Grants
Donations
[Page 5-7](#)

Volunteer Spotlight
Eden Glenn
[Page 8](#)

Donate



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The 50th Anniversary Celebration

To FISH volunteers and special guests who were unable to attend the celebration, and for those who attended and want to relive it - - **we bring you a recap.**

FISH, Inc. 50th Anniversary Celebrating Volunteers

A Historical Journey

- 1970's - The Start of Something Good
- 1980's - Teaming with Churches
- 1990's - Pantry & Clothing Co-locate
- 2000's - Steady Growth
- 2010's - Client Support Sets Records
- 2020's - Rapid Expansion & Next Steps

September 21, 2025, 2:00 – 4:00
King of Glory Lutheran Church

CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES

Sign-in, Journey, Eat & Mingle

- Sign-in - get name badge, program, raffle tickets
- Food & Beverage - help yourself
- Historical Journey of FISH - visit each of 6 stations and 2 posters
- Mingle - visit with other guests and have photos taken

Celebrating FISH and the Volunteers

- Opening Song - Gentlemen of the College
- President's Welcoming Address - Jill Holroyd
- Inspirational Blessing - Joe Benedetti
- Happy Anniversary Song - all
- Recognition of Guests - Jill Holroyd
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors
- Closing Song - Gentlemen of the College

Eat, Mingle, Door Prizes

- Enjoy Desserts and Mingling
- Drawing for Door Prizes
- Closing Remarks - Jill Holroyd

MANY THANKS TO ALL THE HELPERS

- Anniversary Committee - Dave Banks, Dale Huebner, Jan Gibeling, Patti MacGillivray, Cindy Tocci (Chair)
- History - Dan Fontaine, Marje Peterson, Susan Voigt, Elizabeth Knight (Summer Intern)
- Desserts - Mary Ann Brown, Gail Garber
- Centerpieces - Gale Rushworth, Mary Ellen Theroux, Elaine Wasserman
- Silk Florals - Charlene Little, Nora Lowery
- Greeters - Wilma Caban, Miriam Collins, Georgia Mamangakis
- Photos - Zach Brickhouse, Bill van Elburg
- Door Prizes - Gail Garber, Sharron Gloskowski, Linda Hakim, Marci Kaplan-Lips, Cindy Manos, Carol Thomas, Susie van Rijn
- Super Helpers - Kathleen Pock, Kate Roessler
- For all those who may have been missed - Thanks

AND TO ALL THE CONTRIBUTORS

- Creative Cuisines
- King of Glory Lutheran Church
- Suter Printing
- W&M's Gentlemen of the College
- Williamsburg Floral & Paradise Plants



Photos - candid and posed photos are taken throughout the event, however they can't capture everything. If you take a photo you want to share on a special page of the FISH website, please send it to Dave Banks at dfbanks@earthlink.net.

Being A Volunteer

It's not for money, It's not for fame,
It's not for any personal gain.
It's just for love of fellow man,
It's just to lend a helping hand.

It's just to give a tithe of self,
That's something you can't buy
with wealth.

It's not for medals won with pride,
It's for that feeling deep inside.

It's that reward down in your heart,
It's that feeling that you've been a part
Of helping others far and near
That makes you be a volunteer!

(Author Unknown)

Thank you for all you have done for FISH.
Your generous contributions have helped
so many of our neighbors.

Cheers to 50 more years!

50-Year History Video

8.5 minutes including newspaper articles, photos of former locations and volunteers starting in 1975 through 2025.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VltQjUuxYE>

Rolling History Video

33 minutes of FISH's 50 years with loads of pictures.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbqsawVVN4Q>

Photos of the 50th

Over 120 attended the event and reminisced.
<https://fishwilliamsburg.org/AboutUs/Photos>

Reminder

Campus Thrift Extravaganza

Tuesday, October 21, 7 - 11 PM
Wednesday, October 22, 10 AM - 4:30 PM
See details in the [September newsletter](#)

The Extravaganza team, led by Karen Berquist, has worked extremely hard this year to expand the raffles which will be available online and at the event.

The vignettes to the **right** bring meaning to the raffles. The links **below** allow you to purchase before the event.

RAFFLE INFO



Natalia painting a ghost in one of her classes.

PAINTING SESSIONS

Natalia's family arrived on a green card lottery visa 3 years ago. FISH helped with basic clothing needs and now she is giving back. In addition to her job at JLAB, she has started a side business with paint-it sessions. You could win a ticket to an event in November or December. A fun experience or a great gift!

THE 50/50 RAFFLE

"It was a wonderful and totally unexpected surprise to get a call saying I had won [the raffle] last year! I love volunteering alongside my exceptional Wednesday crew members in the Clothes Closet...I never dreamed I would be lucky enough to win...this year maybe it's your turn!" - Nicole Flemming



Nicole Flemming, winner of the 50/50 Raffle last year.

CAMPUS THRIFT RAFFLES

Cash 50/50 Raffle

- The pot starts with \$200 and grows with every ticket you buy! \$2 per ticket OR 3 tickets for \$5

Seasonal Gift Baskets

- [HALLOWEEN](#)
- [FESTIVE FALL](#)
- [WINTER](#)

Artist-led Painting Event

- [November \(11/TBD\) Location](#)
- [December \(12/TBD\) Location](#)

Sponsored by Catholic Campus Ministries
All proceeds benefit our local food and clothing closet, FISH.



SEE YOU THERE!

SEASONAL GIFT BASKETS

FISH has distributed thousands of gift baskets created by Cindie Manos and Linda Hakim. Now these lovely, talented ladies offer you a chance to receive your own seasonal basket! Each is filled with gifts you can share or keep to enjoy yourself.



Cindie Manos and Linda Hakim, gift basket creators.



Many Thanks to:

Katherine Zickel, Karen's granddaughter and Susan Zickel's daughter, for creating both posters on this page and assisting with the raffles.

Brent Osner, Adjunct in the School of Education at W&M, for graciously creating accounts on Zeffy so that we can optimize the raffle results.

Acknowledgements & Announcements

FISH T-Shirts are Here!

If you would like a first-ever FISH t-shirt, please place your order on forms located in the Clothes Closet and Food Pantry. A Large sample shirt will be available for sizing. Color is dark green.

\$11 for sizes S - XL
\$14 for sizes 1X - 3X

Cash, or checks made payable to FISH.

If you have questions, please text Tracy Parris (908-295-0853) or Susie van Rijn (703-407-6368).



Having a grand time representing FISH at the **Williamsburg Fire Department Open House** on October 11 are volunteers Jenny Landen, Patricia Ivey, Susie van Rijn, and Marje Peterson. It was a day for friends and families to learn fire safety, meet firefighter heroes, and connect with the community.

Holiday Closings



Thanksgiving: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, November 26, 27 & 28.



Christmas: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 24, 25 & 26.



New Years: Wednesday and Thursday, December 31 & January 1.

FISH was represented at the **Strictly Business** networking event at the invitation of Towne Bank. We were the only nonprofit at the event, and Susie van Rijn (pictured) and Maura Rush truly appreciated the opportunity.



Welcome

New Volunteers

- Sandra Limoncelli
- Barbara Thomason
- Tom Thomason

Williamsburg Community Foundation and the Berryman Fund Grant



Maura Rush represented FISH as it was honored by the **Williamsburg Community Foundation** with a grant that was matched by the **Mary and Hunt Berryman Fund** at the Fall Grant Awards Luncheon. We will use the grant to help cover the cost of a generator at our new location. All honorees are pictured and it's a pleasure to recognize all of them as well.

-- Maura Rush, VP & Food Donations Coordinator

FISH Receives Children's Coats from Operation Warm Grant

FISH regularly receives donations of new and gently used children's coats from individual donors throughout the year. Despite these ongoing contributions, FISH frequently experiences shortages in children's coats, particularly for boys in elementary through high school.

Operation Warm provides nonprofits with opportunities to buy children's coats at significant savings. FISH applied, and our application was approved. Using community monetary donations, FISH purchased 600 coats for only \$8 each. Operation Warm covered the shipping costs, and **VA Moving** donated their time to receive the shipment and provided warehouse space for temporary storage.

Dan Fontaine and Bob Stanzione transported the coats from VA Moving to FISH on September 30. Once the coats arrived, Jeanne Fulks promptly replenished the Clothes Closet.

Thanks to this grant from Operation Warm, it is now possible for every child to have a warm, well-fitting coat during the cold season. Such coats are essential for the health and development of children as they grow up.

-- Dan Fontaine



Jeanne Fulks is proudly holding a boy's coat.



Two Tired Men and a Van

Dan Fontaine and Bob Stanzione took their task of transferring 50 boxes containing 600 jackets seriously.



PORCH Communities

FISH is very thankful for the support of Sarah Weiser's **PORCH** initiative that stocks our shelves so regularly. Each month, we are amazed by the number of neighborhoods that participate, and September was no different. Many thanks to those who contributed in September:

- Rolling Woods
- Holly Hills
- Holly Hills Carriage Homes & Town Houses
- Brandywyne
- New Town
- Waterford
- The Meadows
- Powhatan Shores (new)
- Counselor's Close (new)
- The Pointe at Jamestown (new)

Overall, FISH received 2,862 pounds of goods, which quickly stocked our shelves to help our clients.

-- Maura Rush, VP & Food Donations Coordinator

First Colony (also new to PORCH) delivered their contribution on 10/13 - 563 pounds!

L-R: Jim Kennedy, Nancy Kennedy, Jan Brooks, with volunteers Steve White and Bob Stanzione.



The **CIAO Organization** donated 30 bags of groceries focusing on Italian cuisine.



Fantastico!

Trunks Full of Needed Treats

What's better than Trunk or Treat? Trunks filled with clothing items needed by the Clothes Closet. We worked with three area organizations for specialized donations.

King of Glory Lutheran Church invited FISH to collect clothing and shoes that didn't sell at the fall Children's Consignment Sale. Thank you to the consigners who chose to donate left-over items to area nonprofits. The items we received helped our almost-empty shelves for older boys and girls sizes 8-18.



Early-bird buyers at the sale paid a special entrance fee of a jar of peanut butter for our Pantry.



One of three trunk loads from WUMC

Thank you Sue Steber!

The **Williamsburg United Methodist Church**, which consistently aids us by sizing ladies' nightwear and lingerie, donated 30 larger plastic bags full of hoodies, sweatshirts, coats, and sweaters for men, women, and children. The bags filled three trunks.

As a special treat, the members of their Circle Group folded and sized the items to maximize our efficiency in shelving the items in time for cooler weather.

-- Cindy Tocci, Director & Clothing Co-Coordinator

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

Donations

September's Community Volunteers

A special thanks to the Community Volunteers from **Williamsburg Baptist Church**. Every Tuesday morning in September they prepared children's clothing for our Clothes Closet. They inspected the items, created size labels, and folded or hung them. Some of the items have already found new homes.

In addition, they coordinated a collection of children's new underwear and socks. Their generous donation of items and time made a difference to many children. Thank you!

-- Cindy Tocci, Director & Co-Coordinator



Top: Preparing the clothing

Bottom: Posing with their donation, from the left : Fran Whitney, Barbara Curtis, Carol Schoch, Kay Cheves, Nancy Schlecht

Towne Wealth Management honors FISH's 50th

Paula Lynn (left) and Cindy Tocci are amazed by the donation from **Towne Wealth Management** of **50** pairs of children's shoes and **50** pairs of socks to honor FISH's **50th** Anniversary. Melissa Fletcher (right), Vice President, delivered the items in time for the children to have back-to-school shoes.



Williamsburg Presbyterian Church



Jim Winthrop of the **Williamsburg Presbyterian Church** presented Lindsay Lilly, Director and Food Purchasing Coordinator, with another consistent monetary donation on September 22.

50 is Fun !

Thank you, Donors, for making our 50th fun by giving in 50s!

- 50 books
- 50 socks
- 50 shoes
- 50 dozen of eggs
- and one fellow is donating plastic storage tubs as he unpacks after his move. Last count was 40, but he'll be at 50 soon!

Thank you!



Volunteer Spotlight

Neighbors Coming Together

Eden Glenn Clothes Closet



A few years ago, my neighbor and I conducted a children's coat drive for FISH in New Town where I live (see [December 2023 newsletter](#)). When we delivered the coats, Cindy Tocci gave us a tour of the Clothes Closet and introduced us to the Thursday team. I was impressed with the volume of donations that needed to be sorted and sized, the attractive way the clothing was displayed, and the camaraderie of the volunteer team that made it happen. I decided right then that I wanted to be a part of FISH.

Shortly after I began working in the Clothes Closet, I had the chance to write grants for FISH. Grant applications require understanding the community needs the organization aims to address, the characteristics of the clients served, the organization's finances, how volunteers are used, and FISH's collaborations with other groups. Writing grants over the past year expanded my understanding of the culture and values that drive everything FISH does. I also had the opportunity to meet and work with many other FISH volunteers in various roles. That experience and the perspective I gained were invaluable.

The most rewarding part of volunteering is the contact with clients. Clients often mention their situations and specific clothing or household needs during their visits. I see firsthand how FISH contributes to the well-being of so many in our community. I also indirectly support the Food Pantry by co-coordinating the monthly PORCH food drives for my neighborhood. I've found this tremendously rewarding to see neighbors coming together and donating about 1,000 pounds of food and personal hygiene products each month.

I share my life with my husband and our seven-year-old Lab. We enjoy traveling, especially to visit extended family in Arizona and our children and five grandchildren in Colorado, Montana, Massachusetts, and Northern Virginia. They keep us busy.