



Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community Since 1975

NEWS



November 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to November and all the challenges that have come our way this month. With the government shutdown, military furloughs, and SNAP benefits still in question, this amazing community has truly met the need. Our Food Pantry shelves were quite lean two weeks ago, but they are very well stocked now for the many new families who need food assistance. Our volunteers have been challenged with busy days, but our clients greatly appreciate the Thanksgiving bagged meals.

The Campus Thrift Extravaganza Sale at William & Mary has always been a success, with this year being even bigger and better than before. See page 3 for pictures and more info.

Occasionally, a particular donation stands out and makes us proud to receive it. See the article on page 4 on how the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church honored Rev. Dr. John Morgan.

Many children are warmer in this cold weather thanks to the Clothes Closet outfitting them with warm coats from the Operation Warm grant, plus other local donors. Under a separate grant, we will purchase hoodies, hats, and gloves for kids.

And a **Huge Thank You** to our many donors and supporters who have brought carloads, bags, and checks so we can purchase and provide for our clients. We could not do all the great things we do without your strong support.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving from all of us at FISH! I am thankful to be a part of this wonderful organization.

Jill Holroyd
FISH President
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Donate



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Acknowledgements & Announcements

Deadline for FISH T-Shirt Order

Please place your order in the Clothes Closet and drop your payment in the Treasurer's Office by **November 24**.

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

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.

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



Building Community Fund Grant from Papa Johns Foundation

We love our Williamsburg community. And now, the Papa Johns Foundation has awarded FISH a \$2,500 grant to help serve our neighborhood even better. Together, we can fight food insecurity and empower the next generation of community leaders.

The work we do wouldn't be possible without funding. Thank you to the Papa Johns Foundation for a grant to support our mission!

Campus Thrift Extravaganza - Results

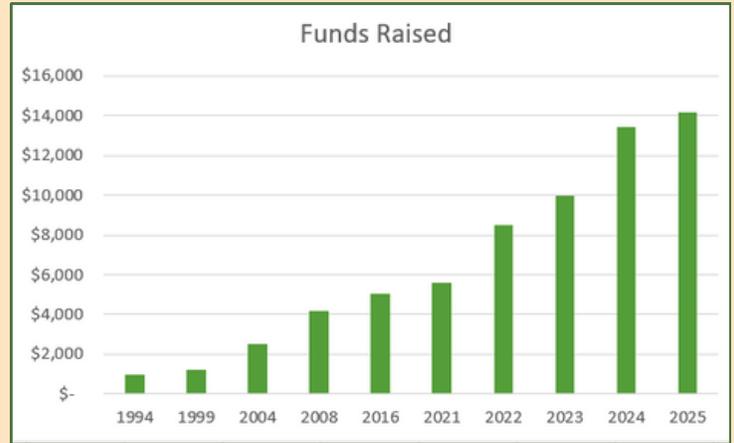
You Made an Impact!

You answered the call, and the total for the 2025 sale is \$14,200 plus a bit more to arrive by the end of the year--an over \$800 increase over last year.

This is truly a combined effort of the Williamsburg community --all ages and walks of life, volunteers, friends of volunteers, students, neighbors--and the culmination of a year of activity. Thank you all for your generosity!

[Photos of the Event](#) on the website.

Watch for the 2026 plans in the December newsletter.



SUCCESS - \$14,200 plus more to come for 2025



RAFFLE WINNERS

Left: Francesca D, a student from Florida who is active in the Catholic Campus Ministry, our sponsoring group, won the 50/50 raffle. She'll put her winnings to good use!

A huge thank you to Cindie Manos and Linda Hakim who made the baskets. Their generosity and amazing talent made the day for several folks!

Also, our heartfelt thanks to Terri and Brent Osner (W&M) for delivering the baskets, taking pictures, and sharing reactions.

Lara is a college student at William & Mary. She was so excited to win the basket and was most appreciative! ❤️



Dawn Madden and her daughter were very happy with their win! Her daughter couldn't wait to look through the goodies!



Elaine Minch loved the basket, and was shocked when she won! She plans to use it as a door prize at an upcoming church gathering. So the giving continues!



Donations

Thanks to our Unknown Donors You Know Who You Are

We appreciate our "hit-and-run" donors
who don't leave their names.

Your gifts and your spirit keep FISH alive.



A Special Donation

How do you honor one who is celebrating his 40th anniversary of ordination into the ministry? The **Williamsburg Presbyterian Church** congregation honored Rev. Dr. John Morgan by presenting FISH with an honorarium. We were blessed to receive over 30 checks in his honor--a very special way to show how much they care for him.

John is a committed FISH volunteer in our monthly rotation, and we are proud of him for this major achievement.

-- Jill Holroyd, President

Lori Harms and the **Norge Elementary** Student Council (SCA) conducted a tremendous food drive for FISH. The officers are pictured showing how much each grade level collected.



We welcomed Mary Jimmerson from the **Tranquility** neighborhood when she brought a great donation to FISH.



Susan Mackenzie from **Liberty Hill Needleworks** brought several checks to buy food.



FISH volunteer Sandra Harrison organized a food drive from the **Williamsburg Moose Lodge 757**.

Credit to Maura Rush, VP & Food Donations Coordinator, and Jill Holroyd, President, for photos and descriptions. These two ladies (and some others) have practically lived at FISH this past month, but are always happy to receive donations!

Donations



Left to right, Jason Williams, W&M senior; Laura Engelund, FISH Volunteer; and, Jeffrey Buffkin, W&M Baptist Campus Minister, with the truckload of groceries collected on Halloween by the **Baptist Collegiate Ministry's** annual *Trick or Eat for FISH*.

-- Courtesy of Cathey Sadowski, FISH Secretary and Data Management Coordinator, and Jan Gibeling, Volunteer

It's not every day that a huge James River Landscaping truck pulls up filled with a food donation for FISH, but **Colonial Heritage's** Carrie Morgan made that happen. Representatives from the **Williamsburg Area Association of Realtors** assisted in checking dates and stocking shelves, and took time to be with Jill and Maura.



Once again, **PORCH** First Colony (left) was tremendous with its response to our needs, as was the Berkeley's Green neighborhood.

And the crew unloaded a record donation of 2,523 pounds of canned goods from PORCH Kingsmill!!



Abbitt Realty conducted a FISH drive that filled three cars full of food for our clients. We are grateful to Christina, Alex, Mary Beth, and Evans for their delivery, along with a very generous cash donation from the community. Once again, it's all about neighbors helping neighbors.



Berkeley's Green had a fabulous drive which required several volunteers to stock the shelves.

-- Maura Rush, VP & Food Donations Coordinator

Donations

Bountiful Fall Collection Drives

Thank you to many organizations for coordinating clothing and houseware drives for our Clothes Closet. Some of the groups included staff and students at **Queens Lake Middle School**. They had special "Crock-tober" and "Sock-tober" drives. Staff collected both gently used crockpots and money to purchase 10 new crockpots. Students collected new socks for children.

Right: Tori Otstot, Queens Lake Middle School teacher, delivered the crockpots and socks collected by the staff and students.



Another generous group included members of the **Shriners' Nabeeh Court #250** of Williamsburg. They collected winter clothing of all sizes as part of a community service initiative. The group, led by Tiana Peyton-Harris, delivered many bags of clothes and shoes, then toured the Clothes Closet.

Left: Ladies of the Shriners' Nabeeh Court brought their own carts to haul the items they collected.

Our friends at **King of Glory** had a coat and bed linen drive during all of October. The collection was a huge success. In fact, they collected so many items each week that Terri Scungio, Ministry Assistant, had to make multiple deliveries throughout the month.

There have been smaller drives by other organizations and groups collecting much-needed woolen beanie hats, gloves, new socks, and underwear. Thanks to all groups for their donations. So many of the donated items have already found their way to new homes.

College Students' Community Service Hours

It's challenging to juggle college classes, studying, working, extracurricular activities, and community service. But some students have found a way to contribute to FISH. Donna Ward, a Clothes Closet volunteer, has been coordinating community service projects with students who can't come to FISH during our open hours. Recently, Donna coordinated with students to shop for socks and then fold and pair them for our clients. Thanks to these students for contributing to our sock bins.

October's Community Volunteers

Volunteers from **Bruton Parish Episcopal Church** helped every Tuesday in October by inspecting, folding, and sizing children's clothing. The group made significant progress each week. They were so busy that we forgot to stop for a group photograph. Many thanks to the cheerful, hard-working volunteers from Bruton Parish.

-- Cindy Tocci, Director & Clothing Co-Coordinator

THANKFUL

Volunteer Spotlight

Newsletter Contributors

When viewing the history of FISH through the newsletters, one finds a treasure trove of kindness, generosity, love, and caring for neighbors.

The newsletter is a collaboration of many volunteers and donors who write articles, snap photos, and submit suggestions so the community can feel a part of the activity and results. **This Spotlight is for you!** There are too many to name for fear of overlooking contributors, but many of your names are in the newsletters.

Please enjoy perusing, reminiscing and appreciating our wonderful contributors on the website at <https://fishwilliamsburg.org/old-newsletters/>.

Forever grateful for you,
Kathleen Pock
Editor

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All these actions great and small make our community a better place.

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“

I have tears in my eyes. Lori's testimonial is so beautiful. The difference clothes make in our neighbors' lives is powerful.
July-August2025

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FISH newsletters are the best I've ever seen, and I look forward to them every month!

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Thank-You Writers

Quietly working on their own, we have volunteers who write thank-you notes that are essential to the well-being of FISH. They cover in-kind and monetary donations. Others not listed respond to one-time special contributions.

Thank you, ladies!



Jill Holroyd
Cathey Sadowski
Mary Ann Brown
Ronda Roberts
Ruth Bott
Linda Stanzione

Data Entry Team

Our Data Entry Team prefers to keep a low profile, but they spend endless hours ensuring our data is available when needed for grants and the Foodbank, to inform the community how their donations impact our neighbors, to help food and clothing coordinators analyze inventory needs, and to realize FISH's impact over 50 years!

Data Management Coordinator Cathey Sadowski leads the team of:

Cela Schmidt
Eleanor Burchianti
Roseann Hundley
Abby Knox
Kathleen Pock
Marci Kaplan-Lips
Linda Stanzione
Robert Hopkins, Tech Master

Assisting the Treasurer: Kim Norton

