



Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community Since 1975

NEWS



January 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2026! This will be a landmark year for FISH. Renovations and construction on our new building on Pocahontas Trail are happening daily. It is exciting to see A New Home for FISH taking shape. Please see page 2 for an update.

Large donations continue in January. The William & Mary Gymnastics teams organized their annual food drive and delivered several van loads of food. We greatly appreciate their hard work that benefits FISH. See page 6 for pictures and more.

We are still working to the best of our ability while repairs to our Pantry are being made following the accident to our building. We were able to relocate computers, printers, and other equipment closer to the second door of the Pantry, minimizing client disruption. A huge **Thank You** to all volunteers who helped us design a workaround to continue serving our clients in the best way possible.

You might have read in the December FISH newsletter about the volunteer moms who have children living in Switzerland. The Clothing Closet has several pairs of mother-daughter volunteers who regularly process clothing and housewares. Enjoy reading about them on page 5. We love hearing these stories of family generations working together.

Have a safe and warm January!

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Donate



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Acknowledgements & Announcements

A New Home for FISH



7129 Pocahontas Trail

For over 50 years, FISH has been a trusted and steady resource for neighbors in need in the Greater Williamsburg area. In the past three years, that need has increased annually. We are touching the lives of 2700+ families a year.

FISH has purchased an existing building with more space. Currently undergoing renovations, FISH's new property at 7129 Pocahontas Trail will have approximately 8,000 square feet of interior space, including:

- A welcoming reception room
- Donation receiving spaces
- Food storage spaces, including commercial refrigerators and freezers
- Clothes laundering, preparation, and display areas
- Housewares storage and display areas
- Shelving for diapers and hygiene products
- Increased parking for clients, donors, and volunteers
- A conference room and business offices
- Access to a Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) bus route

Since 1975, FISH has always been there - providing food, clothing, and kindness to our neighbors. Now FISH looks to the future.

With generous financial commitments from our supporters, FISH will be able to meet the constantly changing needs of our community in our own permanent home.

Will you help FISH as we continue our commitment to our neighbors in Williamsburg? Fortunately, we have already received significant donations, pledges, and grants in support of the Capital Campaign. Presently, contributions that you make can be matched, and we look forward to your support.

Please let Maura Rush, Jeff Deel, or me know if you have any questions. We are happy to answer.

-- Jill Holroyd, President

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Acknowledgements & Announcements

2025 SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2025, FISH was able to serve an unprecedented number of clients.

The impact from 2015 to 2025 is impressive, thanks to our generous volunteers, donors, and community!

	2015	2025
Total Requests	4,571	8,319
Meals Equivalent	151,095	459,753
Clothing Outfits	9,065	20,178
Families w/ Housewares	602	1,023
Unique Households	1,652	2,793

- Cathey Sadowski, Secretary & Data Management Coordinator



In 2025, FISH provided 30,875 diapers to clients. We gratefully thank the **Greater Hampton Roads Diaper Bank** for their major part in helping us with our Diaper Program. We also received hundreds of diapers through community donations.



A CHRISTMAS ANGEL

I recently assisted a client who was caring for her friend's three boys after they were evicted from their apartment. She visited FISH seeking winter jackets for the boys, and after she shared her situation, I encouraged her to select clothing for all the boys. She was grateful for the help from FISH, knowing the clothes would keep the boys warm at the bus stop and well-dressed for school and church.

This client was not only a loyal friend but also a caring surrogate mother during her friend's time of need. In my view, she truly embodies the spirit of a Christmas Angel.

- Dan Fontaine

Interesting coincidence:
Both Jill Holroyd and Jill Whitten (one of our loyal FISH friends) have daughters named Mallory!

FISH 2026 Closed Days

New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25
Juneteenth	Friday, June 19
Independence Day	Friday, July 3
Labor Day	Monday, September 7
Thanksgiving	W, Th, F - November 25-27
Christmas	W, Th, F - December 23-25
New Year's Eve	Thursday, December 31
New Year's Day	Friday, January 1, 2027

New Volunteers

Danielle (Dani) Slocum
Leonard Payne

*Welcome, and thank
you for choosing FISH!*

Blankets of Hope: A Community Effort

For the second year in a row, **Peninsula Endodontics** was honored to serve as the drop-off location for their annual Blankets of Hope collection in support of FISH. This initiative was inspired by Dr. Kalisha Jordan's daughter, Riley, and coordinated by their Marketing Coordinator, Natasha. The team tagged each blanket with messages of hope to uplift and encourage our FISH clients.

Other participating referring offices were:

- Lifetime Family Dental
- Lombard, Vogt & Foster
- Colonial Family Dentistry
- Curry Dental Center
- Williamsburg Smile Care
- Precision Dentistry

Thank you!



Dr. Jordan personally delivered the blankets.

- Photo courtesy of Patti MacGillivray

We are grateful for your compassion and meaningful impact.



Emily Petermann (left) and Aisha Downs brought FISH a significant donation from the **John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library**. Many thanks!



Erin Dixon from **Truist Bank** knew what FISH needed and came with six large boxes of food items!



Volunteer Ruth Bott thanked Chase Boyer for delivering the 1500+ items collected by **Auto Haus**, our neighbor in **The Edge District**.



The **Mahjong Birdie Bams of Fords Colony** collected a special food donation delivered by their representative, Vicki Henninger.

Vicki is also a FISH Clothes Closet volunteer. See "Art of Mending" in the [March 2025 newsletter](#).

-- Maura Rush, VP & Food Donations Coordinator

Donations

Mother-Daughter Teams

FISH has regular volunteer mother-daughter teams, including Sande Bishop and her daughter, Cami Bishop, and Melanie Smith and her daughter, Sara McCourt. But recently, three volunteers brought in their Holiday visitors to help us in the Clothes Closet. There were two mother-daughter teams (photo below) and a grandmother-granddaughter team (Judy DePrimo and her granddaughter, Cosette) who helped us with everything from folding socks to cleaning small appliances.



A treasured mother-daughter day included (left to right) Erin and Gale Rushworth, and Georgia and Stella Mamangakis, with Gary Sadler photo bombing the teams.



Cosette, Judy DePrimo's granddaughter, helped restock the Clothes Closet during the holidays.

-- Cindy Tocci, Director & Clothing Co-Coordinator



Many thanks to Peter Booker (2nd from left) and his fellow **Masonic Lodge #6** members for delivering a significant donation before the holidays.



Liz Butler from **Child Development Resources (CDR)** brought a very generous donation of food and hygiene items to FISH. Thank you!



First Colony **PORCH** (pictured here) and Berkeley Green came thru with substantial donations. Heavy lifting done by FISH fellows!

-- Maura Rush, VP & Food Donations Coordinator



Donations

Special Holiday Drives



It's heartwarming that the staff and students at **Magruder Elementary School** collected clothing and food for other children in the area.



WJCC Retired Teachers Association collected children's socks, hats and gloves, and towels and washcloths for households. Far right is Gwen Hester, FISH Clothes Closet volunteer.



Thank you!

The **Virginia Beer Company**, once again held a coat drive for adults and children. We are grateful for their upbeat, continued support.



Gymnast David Moroney organized **William & Mary's Gymnastics** teams as they conducted the 17th Annual Food Drive for FISH. Van #2 brought in the most, but we were all winners with the 2,177 pounds donated.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of **Aramark Colonial Williamsburg** employees who collected coats for adults.

-- Cindy Tocci, Director & Clothing Co-Coordinator

-- Maura Rush, VP & Food Donations Coordinator

