



Food Pantry and Clothing
Serve the Community Since 1975

NEWS



April 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is a beautiful time of year with birds nesting, grass growing, and trees showing their colorful spring buds.

Great news: The reception area and front office in our primary building are now open. After a car crashed into our front entry in December, it is exciting to return to our normal office areas. A huge **Thank You** to all the volunteers who have helped maintain FISH's daily routines while we were "making do" in the back area. And a special acknowledgment to Robert Hopkins for moving our office computers to the rear of the building with minimal disruption to serving our clients.

Have you driven past our new location at 7129 Pocahontas Trail recently? The outer walls have been painted, and we are really excited to see A New Home for FISH growing by leaps and bounds! Inside, the drywall is up, marking our offices and workspaces. Take a look at page 2 and see why we are excited!

Remember that commercial that asked, "Where's the Beef?" Turn to page 3 and learn who FISH is partnering with to get the Beef for our clients!

FISH is collecting food donations that will be weighed and the numbers added to the **#250FoodDrive**. It is a group effort to receive enough food to weigh 250,000 pounds. See our Facebook page at **Fishwilliamsburg** for more info. Four non-profit food pantries are supporting this: FISH, Williamsburg House of Mercy, St. Olaf in Norge, and Grove Christian Outreach Center.

Thanks to everyone who supports FISH, whether with food, clothing, or monetary donations. We couldn't do what we do without you!

Jill Holroyd
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Donate



THE #250FOODDRIVE
A Revolutionary Goal for Food Stability

In 1776, a revolutionary idea was born. In 2026, we are continuing that legacy by proving that our greatest strength is how we care for one another.

The #250FoodDrive is a community-wide mission to collect 250,000 lbs of food between March and September. It's more than a collection: it's a commitment to the dignity and stability of every neighbor in the Greater Williamsburg area.

Where the Food Goes
This is a unified effort to stock the shelves of our local frontline hunger-relief agencies.

All donations directly benefit:

HOUSE OF MERCY | FISH, INC. | ST. OLAF | Grove Christian Outreach Center

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

Acknowledgements and Announcements

A NEW HOME for FISH



- Photos courtesy of Bob Stanzione and Steve White, Directors and "New Home Photographers"



Update



7129 Pocahontas Trail
Renovations are well underway!

Mark Your Calendar
May 5
Give Local 757
A 24 Hour Day Of Giving
Learn more at GiveLocal757.org
272 NONPROFITS REGISTERED
GIVE LOCAL 757!
#givelocal757

For the third year, FISH has the opportunity to participate in the GIVELOCAL757! initiative on May 5. This giving day helps non-profit organizations, such as FISH, raise unrestricted funds to help fund our mission.

Last year you helped us exceed our \$5,000 goal. Please help us exceed again this year by telling your friends and family about the important work we do, so they can be a part of making a difference.

Get ready to give! Mark your calendars and set your alarm clocks! On May 5, visit givelocal757.org and make a donation to FISH. All giving will start at 12:01 a.m. and end at 11:59 p.m. on May 5, so make sure to get your gift in on time!

Check out the monetary prizes that FISH could win at: <https://www.givelocal757.org/p/prizes>

Thank you in advance!

Local News



We are thrilled and grateful to make the front page of the Virginia Gazette on March 25. The needs of our community are great. We stand ready to help in our present location and our future new home. Check us out and come join us!

We appreciate the support of the local media, Brandy Centolanza, reporter, and Ben Swenson, photographer.

- Jill Holroyd, President



Williamsburg Craft Beer Festival

an afternoon of craft beer, great local food, and live music, all for a good cause

FISH is 1 of 4 nonprofits selected to receive proceeds from the Williamsburg Craft Beer Festival.

April 25, 2026 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Jamestown Beach Event Park
2205 Jamestown Road

We are thrilled to announce the
2026 Selected Non-Profits

Acknowledgements and Announcements

FISH Fashionistas

The Clothes Closet Wednesday Crew models our first-ever FISH T-shirts. The customized items are a hit and immediately identify us when we are working our daily shifts or events.

Thanks to Tracy Parris and Susie van Rijn, Directors and Special Events Co-Coordinator, for launching and overseeing this project.

Hurry, hurry, hurry - if you have not yet ordered your t-shirt. Contact Tracy at 908-295-0853 or tdp1227@aol.com.



Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation Luncheon



On April 13, I met with over 200 other nonprofits from throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia who received grants from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation. It was humbling to hear so many stories of other groups who "help where help is needed".

Many nonprofits in rural Virginia do not provide food access as we do here in Williamsburg. This is a great state to live in, and I was very proud to represent FISH.

- Jill Holroyd, President

Two Drummers Butchery

FISH is partnering with **Two Drummers Butcher & BBQ Provisions**, which will provide our clients with low-cost packages of chicken. In addition, for every customer who mentions they want to donate a pound of ground beef to FISH, Two Drummers will also donate a pound of ground beef to FISH.

What a wonderful benefit to our clients! Let's stop in and see what our neighbor down the street has to offer!

- Courtesy of Dale Huebner, Volunteer

Two Drummers Butchery - 118 Second Street
Check store hours on their website



Data Entry Team Lunch

The Data Entry Team not only met for their first lunch, but some of them also met for the first time at Opus 9. For years, some members have volunteered one day each week to enter client data into our computer system, yet they have never met the others who work on different days. Imagine how fun it was to finally meet someone you'd been subbing for and emailing for years.

Special appreciation to Eleanor Burchianti for initiating and organizing this bonding and sharing opportunity.

L-R: Cathey Sadowski, Cella Schmidt, Eleanor, Robert Hopkins, Roseann Hundley, Abby Knox, Kathleen Pock.



DONATIONS



thank you!

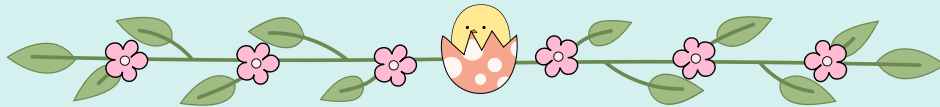


The food drive conducted by the Monday Night Life Group from **James City Community Church** brought in a large donation of 1,034 pounds of food to FISH! Great job and many thanks to Sue Gibson and her team.

-- Maura Rush, VP and Food Donations Coordinator

Faye Redding (L) and Kay Cheves peek out from some of the 34 Easter baskets they delivered from **Williamsburg Baptist Church** on March 17.

-- Cathey Sadowski, Secretary & Data Management Coordinator



Marla Boren, FISH volunteer and representing the **James City County Lions Club** here, had a profitable shopping day at the **Virginia Peninsula Foodbank**. She appreciated help from Daryl Bonelli (Foodbank).

Marla with Trish Murawski and helpful spouse, Paul, shopping at the Foodbank to benefit FISH.



-- Maura Rush, VP and Food Donations Coordinator

DONATIONS



Sarah Weiser's **PORCH Communities** initiative filled our shelves with 5,461 pounds of non-perishables in March. This incredible coalition has taken the concept of neighbor-helping-neighbor to a new height.

Many thanks to all who make this happen.

-- Maura Rush, VP and Food Donations Coordinator

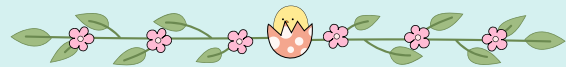
The FISH van was filled with **First Colony's** donation which was greatly appreciated once again!



Many thanks to the **Berkeley's Green** neighborhood for their wonderful donation.



Thank you



Our volunteers were delighted with the donation of **Girl Scout** cookies that **Troop 1035** brought to FISH.



Jordan Jansen from **Chicken Salad Chick** visited FISH with a very generous contribution. We greatly appreciate their support.

-- Maura Rush, VP and Food Donations Coordinator



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

LEAVING A LEGACY

Nancy Lubrano

This month, we are featuring our remaining founder of FISH, Nancy Lubrano, and her family. In 1969, Nancy first read the FISH Reader's Digest article on her own, so shortly after that, when Ling Ngo came to St. Bede's Parish and mentioned the article and idea, Nancy was already interested.

In the beginning, the operation was very casual. The ladies met at Nancy's house and somebody made a calendar. Each volunteer took a day of service. "We might only help 2 to 3 clients, but we provided a range of services such as driving them to appointments, babysitting while they were in a doctor's office, cooking meals, and providing clothes and food."

All four of my children were impacted since they were born between 1970 and 1980. Their experiences were positive:

- "At the time, I didn't see how helping at FISH was impacting me, but now as I reflect on the world, the environment that FISH created has been a part of how I still believe—the work was service to those in need, and it's a work of love, compassion, and always judgment-free."
- "I am thankful that from an early age, it gave us an understanding that there are people in need for many reasons; they are people the same as us, not just a concept or something occurring in an inner city."
- "Helping my mother with FISH had a significant impact on my life. We delivered groceries to people who had no indoor plumbing. I never realized there was so much economic diversity in Williamsburg. I always understood that we were no better; we were simply meant to care for our fellow humans. My exposure to FISH influenced me in my first job during grad school—volunteering in Miriam's Kitchen, feeding the homeless in DC for 10 years."
- The youngest son who was homeschooled had much more involvement. "I remember house visits that showed me how we are all the same in our desire for connection and compassion, and that place in life doesn't change our humanity. The people who came for assistance were never made to feel less than, and the most important part of helping others is to do it with nothing expected in return. I remember FISH moving from location to new location, and the second floor of the house off Jamestown Road that I was never allowed to go into because it seemed like it would fall down at any moment."

Nancy's granddaughter is 3rd-generation-in-waiting to serve at FISH. She toured the current facilities and was enamored, but has to wait 3 years until she reaches the current minimum age of 18.

From Nancy: I'm really glad I devoted time to the FISH effort. Even though it was taking away from my own family, it taught by involving them.