



Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community Since 1975

NEWS



May-June 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is the combined May-June issue of the FISH newsletter. Our volunteers have been very busy serving our clients, picking up food rescue* items, sorting clothes and socks, and collecting food from PORCH, all while working on the Public Phase Launch of FISH's Capital Campaign, "A New Home for FISH".

The Launch on May 14 at the Williamsburg Library on Scotland Street was a huge success. For pictures and more information, see page 2.

The #250FoodDrive is steadily increasing the stock on our food shelves. We are weighing every food donation and adding it to the total to reach 250,000 pounds by mid-September. The food collected in this community-wide project will benefit FISH, Williamsburg House of Mercy, Grove Christian Outreach Center, and Saint Olaf's Food Pantry. The September wrap-up event will be a dinner with the table extending down the middle of Duke of Gloucester Street (DOG Street) in Colonial Williamsburg.

One Board member moves away, and another volunteer steps up to help. Bob and Linda Stanzone will be moving from Williamsburg later this year, and Patti Caccavale has agreed to replace Bob on the FISH Board of Directors. We cannot thank Bob enough for his conscientious attention to our current FISH home as Facilities Coordinator and his work with our New Home. He and Linda, who worked with data entry, have donated hundreds of hours of service with compassion and care. We will miss you both.

Much appreciation to Robert Hopkins for supplying FISH with new sturdy delivery carts. Ours had taken a beating from hauling thousands of pounds of food and clothing over the past years. Thank you, Robert!

Jill Holroyd
FISH President
fishwilliamsburg@gmail.com
757-903-7839 (cell)

*Food rescue items are overstock from local markets and restaurants such as Trader Joe's and Olive Garden. Often these are perishables that need to be distributed faster than canned goods, and are a treat for our clients.

Thank You

IN THIS ISSUE

A New Home Update
Public Phase Launch
A Beautiful Thing
New Volunteers
[Page 2](#)

Farewell Party
In Memoriam
[Page 3](#)

Spring Showers of
Donations
[Pages 4-5](#)

Volunteer Spotlight
Leading by Example
Billie Johnston
[Page 6](#)

Donate



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

Acknowledgements and Announcements

Capital Campaign for New FISH Home - Public Phase Launch

On May 14, we announced our plans for FISH's first permanent home to the community and were pleased by the enthusiasm of the volunteers, donors, civic leaders, and community partners who attended.

At the gathering in the Williamsburg Library Auditorium, FISH President Jill Holroyd and Vice President Maura Rush shared the mission and vision for the 8,000-square-foot facility. Cindy Tocci, Clothing Coordinator, described how the needs of the Clothes Closet will be met in the new home. Other FISH Volunteers were on hand to ask and answer questions.

The big announcement was that we had reached 80.8% of the \$2 million goal. Since then, the enthusiasm has sparked considerable contributions.

Jill emphasized the significance of this milestone, noting, "This is FISH's moment to shine. A permanent home ensures that our mission - providing food, clothing, hygiene items, and basic household goods - remains strong for generations to come."

Maura summarized, "Today's turnout shows how deeply this community believes in caring for one another. Every contribution - large or small - moves us closer to opening the doors of a permanent home that reflects the dignity of the people we serve."



Click Photo for Video



FOR MORE PHOTOS [CLICK HERE](https://photos.app.goo.gl/WrAFsnLMDMSefJbY9) or go to <https://photos.app.goo.gl/WrAFsnLMDMSefJbY9>

[Watch our 50+ Year History & New Home Video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUPB3s4tvvI)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUPB3s4tvvI>

[CLICK HERE TO
SUPPORT THE
CAMPAIGN](#)

A Beautiful Thing

Recently, just as we were closing for the day, a homeless woman came for food. She had just been placed in the Super 8, two doors down from FISH. (She had come to Williamsburg after her mother died here.) We gave her a bowl, flatware, and emergency food for the weekend and told her to return on Monday.

A mother and her preteen daughter were waiting in the reception room for their groceries. Moved by the woman's story, the young daughter stepped forward and offered the woman their Food Lion card--\$10 that the family of six could have well used. The woman did not accept, but the gesture was heartwarming.

- Martha Buell, Volunteer Coordinator

Welcome New Volunteers

Dawn O'Kernick
Dorothy Marshall
Eleanore Jacobson
Lucy Statler
Michael Kammer
Pat Coe
Richard Lilly II

Acknowledgements and Announcements

Adiós,
Wilma



Muchas
gracias!

We honored our wonderful translator, Wilma Caban, who will be leaving in June, with a farewell party in the Conference Room.

Additionally, the Monday Closet Crew had a goodbye dinner and presented her with this fish (FISH) platter, which they all signed.

- Courtesy of Joanne Stark, Pantry & Clothing Volunteer

The Monday Closet Crew enjoying Cinco de Mayo at our neighbor, South of the Border. Kudos to the "crew" for taking the extra time to bond.



- Courtesy of Joanne Stark, Pantry & Clothing Volunteer

Two years after her husband passed away, a grieving donor brought his clothing to FISH.

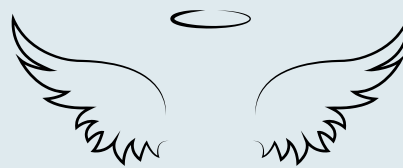
She was touched by the compassionate assistance of the volunteers on her several trips. To express her gratitude, she brought this beautiful bouquet of white lilies.



Pam Pickett

Pam Pickett, Clothes Closet volunteer, passed away on June 6, 2026. Pam's smile and attention to children's clothes and jewelry will be remembered. Our hearts go out to her friends and family, especially her sister, Paula Lynn, who also works in the Clothes Closet. [Full Obituary](#).

In Memoriam



Alice Krantz

FISH was blessed for many years by the energetic support of volunteer Alice Krantz, who sadly passed away on April 16, 2026. Her obituary suggests memorial donations be made to FISH. We are grateful. [Full Obituary](#).

DONATIONS

Spring Showers of Donations

Thank you to the generous donors who provided hundreds of new socks. How do we know how many were donated? Students from WJCC schools volunteered one Tuesday morning and folded 530 pairs. Wow! Believe it or not, most of the socks have already found new homes.

Bruton Parish Episcopal and **St. Martin's Episcopal** churches collaborated to hold an underwear drive called "Undies Sundays". They donated much-needed new underwear for adults and children to FISH, House of Mercy, Care Closets, and Grove Christian Outreach Center.



Cindy Jordan from St. Martin's presents Volunteer Barbara Eddins with many bags of new underwear.

The **One Love, One Heart** fundraiser collected two truckloads of summer clothes and jackets for FISH. Many of the clothes were for older male teenagers and young adult men, which we need.

WindsorMeade residents generously donated housewares. They collected bed linens, towels, cookware, bakeware, and small appliances, including new toasters, crockpots, griddles, and electric burners. See below.

Students and staff at **Tabb Middle School** held a Coat Closet Drive for their Odyssey of the Mind Project. They collected 25 bags of summer clothing and shoes to share with others in the community. Good job, Tigers!



Anna Mazzucca, school staff member, had to borrow a van to bring all the donations.

Thanks to the Community Volunteers from **St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church** and **Our Saviour's Lutheran Church** for helping us on Tuesdays during April and May. They inspected, folded and labeled all the donated summer children's clothes.

-- Cindy Tocci, Director and Clothing Co-Coordinator

WindsorMeade



FISH Volunteer Coordinator Martha Buell (far right in group photo) organized the residents of **WindsorMeade** to donate a van full of food, clothing and lots of housewares to FISH.

This impactful effort was carried out by past and present FISH volunteers. There are currently 13 WindsorMeade residents who volunteer with FISH.



DONATIONS

Baylands Family Credit Union



Many thanks to **Baylands Family Credit Union** for incorporating a food drive for FISH with their annual Shred-A-Thon. Pictured here are Linda (black top), Tina (gray top) and Desiree (pink top). Great work!

-- Maura Rush, VP and Food Donations Coordinator

Why dye eggs when Nature provides pastels?

We were delighted when Adriana and Alton Walker once again donated 13 dozen fresh eggs from their farm. Our clients love these eggs for their nutrition and uniqueness.



St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

FISH was one of four charities supported by **Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church** during its 2026 festival. Gene Bruss (right), former FISH President, accepted the kind gift.



PORCH – Ford's Colony

Suzanne Hayden (left), Marie Phillips and Cris Caro (not pictured) led the **PORCH** donation at **Ford's Colony** and collected 1,620 pounds of non-perishables and diapers. Such a wonderful support and greatly appreciated.



-- Maura Rush, VP and Food Donations Coordinator

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Billie Johnston

Leading by Example



For years, Billie Johnston's name has been nearly synonymous with FISH. People remember Billie; they want to know where she is and how she is. Billie was the "heart" of FISH, serving with efficiency and fervor as Clothing Lead for 35 years. Billie now lives at Spring Arbor assisted living and is still revered by many.

Some of her long-time friends shared memories:

- **Carol Thomas:** I met Billie through the missionaries at my church more than 30 years ago. They needed volunteers at FISH, so I began helping with sizing clothing for a month. I must have passed the "Billie Test", because she soon asked me to volunteer every week. Billie's favorite saying was, "This is the day that the Lord has made," and she still says it today.
- **Elaine Wasserman:** Billie, like many of us, has some hearing loss and could be easily startled if someone came up behind her and tapped her on the shoulder, often with a startled scream in response. She did an outstanding job leading FISH Clothing, and we treasure her as a very special friend.
- **Jeanne Fulks:** I first met Billie in July 2018, when the women of Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church were volunteering to size clothing. After our month ended, I asked if I could continue working with her on other days, and she said yes. I then began volunteering every Tuesday in Clothing, while also serving three days a week in the Pantry. When COVID hit, FISH closed. After it reopened in 2020, the Pantry resumed safe food distribution, but no one was handling Clothing. Billie was deeply concerned that people—especially children—would miss out on clothes needed. In response to her plea, I volunteered with her until the Clothing department fully reopened.
- **Mary Ellen Theroux:** Billie recruited me after I dropped off some of my late father's clothes. She called me the very next day, which led to 24 years of volunteering in FISH Clothing and a lifelong friendship.
- **Dan Fontaine:** My wife and I were taking a yoga class at the Waller Mill Community Center about nine years ago. As we left, we smelled fish and wondered where it was coming from. Looking down the sidewalk, I saw the "FISH" sign, went inside, and learned it was a nonprofit. The fish smell, it turned out, was coming from a nearby elementary school. Martha Buell told me there were two open half-day Pantry volunteer slots. I said I wanted to volunteer one or two days a week, and she replied, "Let me introduce you to Billie." As I tell it, Billie grabbed my shirt sleeve and never let go. We've been best friends ever since.
- **Marje Peterson:** I served as treasurer and grant writer for the Community Center Board, which meant I was always asking Billie for FISH statistics to support my grant applications. Eventually, I decided FISH looked like much more fun than board work and grant writing, so I started volunteering. I usually worked at FISH on Mondays and Thursdays and at Sentara on Wednesdays, though sometimes the hospital needed me on a "FISH Day". Whenever I told Billie they needed me at the hospital, she would joke, "Where are your priorities?" Billie and I have remained close friends.

Billie cares deeply about FISH, and welcomes visits from her FISH family who stop to see her at Spring Arbor.

-- Dan Fontaine