FISH, Inc.
Food Pantry and Clothing
Serving the Community Since 1975

NEWS



October 2026

WE'RE HOME!

Woo-hoo! We're finally in our "forever home" at 7129 Pocahontas Trail, and are serving clients and accepting donations.

Our journey began nearly two years ago, when we bought a deteriorated, vine-covered building that was formerly a restaurant. With close coordination among the FISH Move Committee, the developer, and the generous support of the Greater Williamsburg community, we completed our FISH forever-home project on time and mortgage-free—an amazing achievement!

Planning began with the developer's architectural drawings. We developed and refined furniture arrangements throughout to meet James City County ordinances and FISH's needs. Thank you for the thoughtful suggestions that helped us optimize our space.

As moving day approached, volunteers serving as Move Managers coordinated packing. On moving day, VA Moving moved us, and volunteer teams unpacked and restocked our racks and shelves for days. Thanks to this admirable teamwork, we opened on October 13!

Now under one roof, the Reception, Pantry, and Clothing volunteers can coordinate and support each other more easily. Each section manages its requests on desktop computers. More than ever, we are "One FISH Family".

We are inspired by our volunteers' coordination, dedication, and enthusiasm. Our heartfelt thanks for all you've done—you're the best!

– Dan Fontaine and Jill Holroyd







The Ribbon Cutting and Open House celebration is November 7 for campaign donors, local officials, and the media. Invitations were sent earlier this month.

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Donate

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THE LAST MOVE

Goodbye Second Street ...



... packed and ready to roll ...







... then days of unpacking.



















Opening Day
with the teams ready to serve clients.

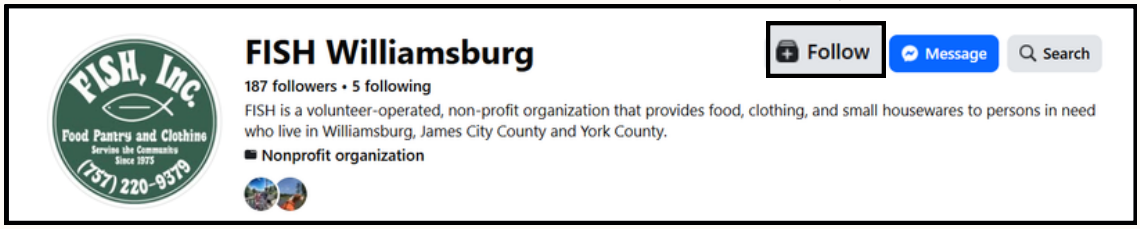
Pantry team (l-r): Matt Chambers, Mary Ann Brown, Ginger Miller, Dale Huebner, and Amy Pelausa.

Clothing team (l-r): Vicki Henninger, Nan Eddins and Barbara Eddins.



Acknowledgements and Announcements

Please follow us on Facebook at **FISH Williamsburg** or
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61584522276044



Happy Birthday, Billie!



A group of longtime friends of Billie Johnston gathered with her to celebrate her 98th birthday. Dan Fontaine, Jeanne Fulks, Carol Thomas, Elaine Wasserman, and Mary Ellen Theroux shared this special day with Billie, singing happy birthday, eating a birthday cake, reading her birthday cards, sharing stories, and giving Billie an update on moving to FISH's new forever home.

It was a very special day with a wonderful woman who led FISH Clothing for decades.

– Dan Fontaine

Did You Know . . . Tax Advantages of Donations to FISH

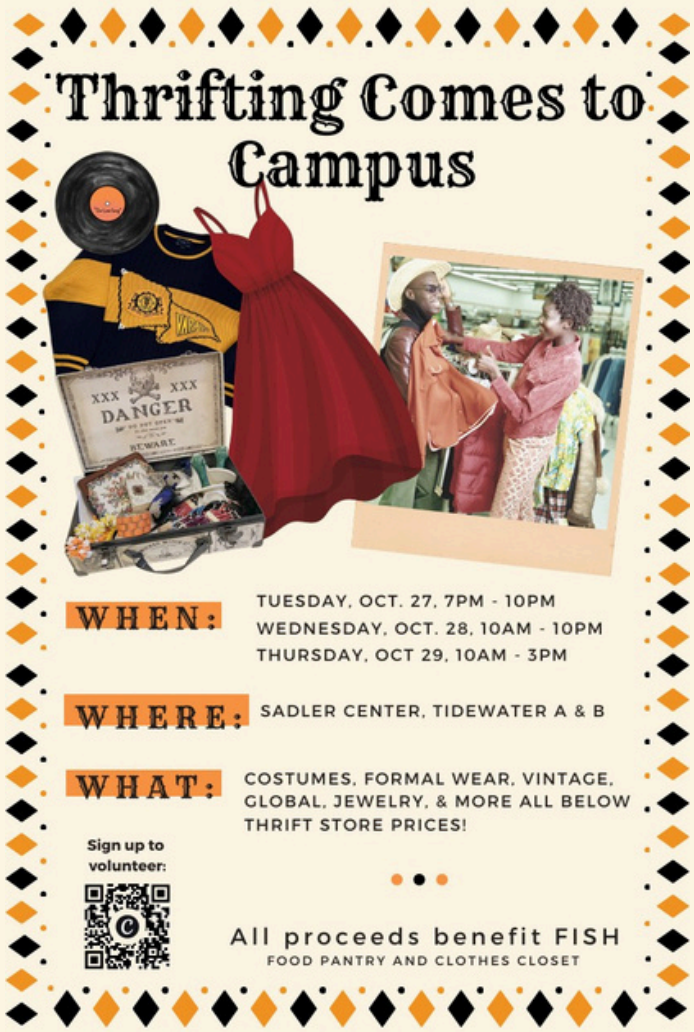
Itemized Deductions
If you qualify for itemization on your tax return, all donations can help you. When you contribute food, clothing, and housewares, pick up a receipt for your donation and note on it what you gave to FISH. For monetary donations, we will send you a tax letter in January listing all 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

REMINDER



For more details, see our September newsletter, page 4.

William & Mary Sadler Center
200 Stadium Drive
Tidewater Rooms A & B
Reserved parking paid by our sponsor Catholic Campus Ministry.

25% Off

25% discount to all FISH volunteers on Wednesday, plus Mystery Discounts through the day on Thursday.

-- Karen Berquist, Campus Thrift Extravaganza Coordinator





The CommUnity Long Table Dinner was a success. The weather was perfect, and nearly 200 people were served. While the dinner was a success, the real success was the amount of food collected.

The event marked the end of the successful #250FoodDrive--a 6-month food collection campaign in Greater Williamsburg under the direction of the Williamsburg House of Mercy. Together, we collected over 373,000 pounds to be shared by four partner food pantries, including FISH. Patti and Fred Caccavale, Loren and Lorraine Masuoka, Marje Peterson, Deb Naglee, and I worked the event for FISH.

As an additional incentive, a FISH donor promised $5,000 to FISH if we could collect 70,000 pounds by July 31--and we did!

- Susie van Rijn
Director and Special Events Co-Coordinator

FOSTERING CLIENT PRIDE

A client came into the Clothes Closet looking for a suit for a family reunion, not the usual black, gray, or navy blue. He entered with a hopeful smile, scanning the racks for something appropriate for a big family gathering. After trying several suits with no luck, he seemed a bit discouraged.

Determined to help, I checked our recent donations and found two stylish suits in his size. As soon as he slipped into the first suit, his face lit up; the fit was perfect, and the colors looked great on him. We spent some time picking out a shirt that brought out the suit's color, then selected a matching tie that added a touch of flair. While he admired himself in the mirror, his excitement was obvious. He joked about how he'd be the best-dressed man at the reunion. By the time he left, he was grinning from ear to ear, excited to show off his new look to his family.

- Dan Fontaine

DONATIONS

PORCH

The first **PORCH** donation to our new building arrived the day before we officially opened. Many thanks to **First Colony** for 780+ pounds of non-perishables.



The Berkeley Green neighborhood held another **PORCH** food drive for FISH, collecting 993 pounds. Our volunteer, Kathleen McNulty (left), helped the neighborhood coordinator, Lelia Mufdi, load the van.



-- Maura Rush, VP and Food Donations Coordinator

We thank you!

FORD'S COLONY LGA 18

Each year, the LGA 18 President at **Ford's Colony** selects a charity and asks members for support. This year's President, Liz Payne (right), chose FISH, and the very generous donation will make Thanksgiving special for our clients by providing turkey breasts and roasting chickens.

Liz was very impressed with FISH's new home as she presented the donation to Maura Rush, FISH VP.



Liberty Hill Needleworks

Susan MacKenzie of **Liberty Hill Needleworks** conducted a great fundraiser for FISH and presented Maura Rush with a check.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Rewarding Experiences

Linda and Paul Radcliff

Pantry and Food Delivery

When my husband, Paul, and I lived in Massachusetts, we donated to the local food pantry. When we moved to Virginia, we donated food to FISH through our church several times. One day, we saw FISH while driving on Second Street, so we brought food over and asked about volunteering. Martha Buell, Volunteer Coordinator, got in touch with us quickly. Paul's shift is the first Thursday morning of the month, and mine is the second Friday morning. On both mornings, in addition to preparing client orders, we help with the food deliveries from Trader Joe's (Thursdays) and Harris Teeter (Fridays). We stock the fridge, freezer, and shelves. We also make up bags of produce and bakery items to include with clients' orders on those days.

We both really enjoy volunteering at FISH and getting food to people who need it. It's very rewarding to help others in need. We meet all kinds of people, most of whom are very grateful for what we can do for them.

One memorable encounter was with a young mother. When I was giving her her order, she told me that she had just driven from Memphis, where her infant daughter, about 8 months old, had been treated at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for a few months with retinoblastoma behind both eyes. Now her daughter is cancer-free!! I hugged her and thanked her for telling me that. She really inspired me. I'm so happy that that little girl no longer has cancer. God is so good!

I ran my own cleaning business for 30 years across 3 different states. I love helping people, and after retiring, I missed seeing my clients. I still stay close with some of the families.

We often foster small dogs for Homes Fur Hounds in Williamsburg. That, too, is a rewarding experience.