



FISH NEWSLETTER

Fish, Inc. - Dunellen Area
PO Box 8565, Piscataway NJ 08855-8006

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GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS

Even as we worry about the declining donations of food and clothing for our clients (see related article, right), God sends us some assistance.

The Children of Mauger School in Middlesex

Photos intentionally
remove

The children of the AfterCare program at the Von E. Mauger School in Middlesex Borough, recently set to work selling caramel apples to raise money. The children then used the money (about \$300) to purchase food for Fish. Pictured above are the children with their supervisors, Cheryl Wolf and Laura Wolf, on November 5 when they presented the food, shown on the table behind them, to Gerry Halteman from Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area.

A great big THANK YOU to all the children and their supervisors, as well as to Robert Heidt, Principal of the School, and Barbara Ferris, Director of the AfterCare program for the Middlesex School System.

Women at Work

Some of our volunteers have been busy seeking donations of clothing. Cathy Viniski placed fabric covered barrels in some preschools in nearby communities with posters asking for infants and childrens clothing and bedding. Karen Tuttle and Jan Del Nero took posters to several preschools, libraries, town halls, schools, and churches in Piscataway, Middlesex, Dunellen and South Plainfield. Already, we have begun to see positive results. Thank you, ladies.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

Infants and children's clothing and bedding of all kinds. Fish, Inc. Clothing Program is in serious need of infants and children's clothing. Over the past few months, three major sources of children's clothing donations have stopped sending us their clothes. we have had to scale back on the number of clients we can serve, and on the amount of clothing that can be given out, as well as limiting the number of times per year clients can access the Clothing Room.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help. Donations of infants and children's clothing, as well as all types of bedding, may be brought to the clothing room at 456 New Market Road, Piscataway. Leave your donation on the second porch marked Clothing Room. For directions to the Clothing Room leave a clear, understandable message at 732-968-0520. A reminder - all donated items must be clean and in good condition.

Food. Our food shelves are almost empty due to the summer slow-down in donations, and to poor economic conditions. It has been necessary to purchase food to supplement the donations that we get to meet the needs of our clients each month. Non-perishable items are needed, and may be brought to one of the participating churches or to the Food Room at 456 New Market Road, Piscataway. For information about participating

churches in your area, please call the Fish Hotline at 732-356-0081 and a telephone volunteer will return your call. Remember – hunger never takes a holiday.

Volunteers. The Food Room needs a few strong people who can commit to a few hours once a month to help load bulk items onto the Fish truck for delivery to the senior communities we serve. If you can lift up to 50 pounds and can help either monthly or on special occasions, please call the food room at 732-968-7925 to let us know when you are available. Also, we need a person who has a heart for the poor and feels called to provide some oversight and direction for the every day operation of the food pantry.

The New Market Baptist Church sponsors a monthly food drive outside the Acme Supermarket in Middlesex on Saturdays. They are in need of additional volunteers, especially now that the cold weather is upon us. If more volunteers could come out, each would have to spend less time outside in the cold.

Our telephone volunteers are a very essential part of our mission to serve others. New volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to volunteer, contact the Fish hotline at the number below, and someone will contact you with all the information you need to become a telephone volunteer.

If you are new to the area, volunteering is a great way to meet folks in your new community. If you have volunteered before, your experience would be beneficial to Fish, Inc. To become involved in helping the needy in our community, please call the hotline at 732-356-0081 to have someone contact you about volunteering.

UNITED WAY HONORS VOLUNTEERS

We at Fish, Inc. are fortunate to have a number of hard-working, dedicated volunteers who make our programs run. In May, the United Way of Central New Jersey held an appreciation dinner for local volunteers nominated by their neighbors as “hometown heroes,” in order to recognize them and thank them for their valuable contributions to local programs.

Two awards were given to volunteers in our own Fish program. The first, awarded to an individual, was to Bob Mitchell, who, as chairperson of the Food Program, spends many hours in the Food Room each week. Bob does a wonderful job of coordinating all the tasks needed to make the food program run successfully.

The second award, given to a family, was to Ed and Juanita Hearn, and their daughter, Cathy Kobilis. The Hearn family are co-chairpersons of the telephone volunteers; and Ed served as president of Fish between 1997 and 2002. The telephone volunteers are an essential part of the Fish operation. Cathy Kobilis runs the New Brunswick area Toy Program every Christmas. In addition to rounding up toys for children in the New Brunswick area, gifts are also distributed to families of our service men and women who serve with the U.S. Coast Guard.

We congratulate you, Bob, Ed, Juanita and Cathy. And we thank you for your tireless efforts for Fish for so many years.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Who do we serve?

One of the most difficult tasks a volunteer at Fish has is to determine who should receive the help that we have to give. Christ tells us to aid the poor and the hungry. He even tells us that what we do for these people, we do for him.

Everyone who volunteers at Fish wants to help those in need. That is why we volunteer. But, two things make the task difficult at times. First, we do not have the resources needed to help everyone so we try to limit our services to those who live in our area. Second, and most difficult, we have people coming to us who do not really need our help.

How can we be sure that we will offer what we have to those who really need it? The truth is that we will never be sure that we are helping those who need it most. We can use our common sense to guide us in some cases, but we can never be sure.

Fortunately, God does not ask us to judge those who come to us for help. He asks us to love them. If a person who doesn't need our help takes what we offer, that is an issue between him and God.

So, who do we serve? We serve those who come to us for help in any way that we can and in doing so, we serve God.

Phil Cox

BLESSINGS AND THANKS

All of us at Fish, Inc. are grateful for the opportunity to serve our neighbors in need during the holidays and throughout the year. We are thankful for the many volunteers who help us do this. We wish everyone a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Judy Cox, editor