



FISH NEWSLETTER

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area
PO Box 8565, Piscataway NJ 08855-8006
Hotline: 732-356-0081

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www.fishdunellenarea.org

TO BETTER SERVE OUR CLIENTS

Earlier this Fall Fish purchased a 2008 Dodge Sprinter van which better suits the needs of the Fish programs. Our previous truck, a larger box truck, was old and the cost of monthly maintenance and repairs had become quite significant. Also, there were very few volunteers available to drive a truck of that size.

Our new van, nineteen feet long and less than seven feet wide, is easy to drive and it has over six feet of headroom, which allows our workers to load and unload without stooping. The cargo doors at the rear and on the side are more than four feet wide, making it practical to load pallets of food by forklift, and allow easier access for unloading at the food room. The van has an economical diesel engine which gives us 25 miles per gallon. It needs service only every 10,000 miles. Because of the current economic situation, we were able to purchase the truck for \$7,800 below the sticker price.



Our thanks to Andrew V, Schneier, Commercial Sales Specialist at Flemington Chrysler/Jeep/Dodge, for his willingness to provide the information we needed and for delivering the vehicle on a timely basis.

Lettering on the truck was installed by Sign-A-Rama of Piscataway. We thank them for an excellent job and for their prompt service.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanksgiving Day is nearly here. Many people will be thanking God for the blessings they received during the past year. Most of us who live in this country have a lot for which to be thankful. Even those in need can be thankful because of the people who will reach out to them and offer help during this season of sharing.

I am reminded to be thankful for all the volunteers at Fish who make it possible for us to help those in need. Each one works in his own way so that together we can help others. I am also reminded that our volunteers could not assist our clients without the help of all the groups and individuals who support our work in various ways.

This is a good time to pause and consider what we have to be thankful for. It goes far beyond thanking God for our daily bread. We should realize that all that we have and all we are is a gift from Him. Then we can begin to know how much we have to thank Him for.

Phil Cox

WHAT DO WE NEED?

The Food Room is preparing to feed more than 750 families this Thanksgiving and Christmas. **Holiday food items such as turkey, gravy, cranberry sauce, canned yams, and muffin mixes are needed.** Donations may be brought to a participating church or to the food room on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday mornings.

During the months of August through October, there was a 27% increase in the number of walk-in clients coming to the food room over the same period last year.

The Clothing Room needs children's clothing. Fish has lost some of its long-time sources for large donations of children's clothing--a church in a nearby community, and a thrift store in Flemington, which, together, used to provide more than half the supply of children's clothing each month. There are 70 to 75 families coming into the clothing room the

three days per week it is open. Their stories of lost jobs and shelter are truly heartbreaking. Currently, each family is allowed a kitchen size bag of clothing for their children, regardless of family size, and one large plastic bag for the adults, plus a bag for coats and other miscellaneous items like shoes. Families that come in this month will be getting their next appointment at the end of February or early in March.

Although several groups are organizing coat and blanket collections, the need for clothing is far greater than the supply. To donate, contact the Fish hotline, 732-356-0081.

Drivers are needed for the van. People who are available during the day on an "as needed - will call" basis are needed to drive the van. Many times there are pick ups to be made at a supermarket, food bank, corporation or school that need to be handled during the day. It would be extremely helpful if these people could lift 50 lbs or more. We also need volunteers, again on a "will call" basis, who perhaps don't drive but can do the lifting. Drivers need to have a valid NJ Drivers License and must provide proof of a clean DMV driving record. The time needed is usually only an hour or two on a weekday. If you can help, call the hotline: 732-356-0081 and leave a message for Lisa Couch.

The Food Room is in need of a sturdy **office desk**, with a left-hand return, if possible. If you or your company has one you could donate, please call the hotline and leave a message for Lisa.

Holiday toys. Fish is collecting new, unwrapped toys for children up to age 15 and would appreciate donations. Donations may be left in the Food or Clothing rooms during regular business hours, or leave a message on our hotline for other arrangements.

Telephone volunteers needed. We are seeking volunteers who are available one day a month from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to receive calls for assistance. Fish maintains an answering service which the telephone volunteer would call every hour to receive the messages. The telephone volunteer would then telephone the caller to assess their needs and make necessary appointments with the food or clothing room, or contact one of the program chairpersons if needed. If you are interested in becoming a telephone volunteer or to learn more, please leave a message with our answering service at 732-356-0081.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help Fish to help others by becoming a volunteer or by donating what you can.

— ed.

NOW ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area now has a website! To learn more about Fish, Inc., or to check out our newsletters, visit us at www.fishdunellenarea.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

In 2010, Fish, Inc. will begin our fortieth year of service to communities in central New Jersey. We wish to thank all our volunteers and contributors for their ongoing gifts of time, talents, and resources to help us continue our work.

We thank the many organizations that help Fish, Inc. during the year: Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; high school clubs and college clubs; church youth groups who collect food or clothing; members of churches who conduct food drives outside food markets or within their congregations; postal workers in our communities who conduct door to door food drives; Jersey Cares for providing hundreds of new or used coats through special efforts in large corporations; schools, churches, and corporations who conduct holiday toy drives; local businesses and corporations that encourage their workers to give time to help others and for the folks who coordinate those activities; plus churches, corporations, foundations, and hundreds of individuals who send monetary donations.

A Blessed Thanksgiving to All

THE LAST WORD

Do you need help? Could you contribute or volunteer? Please call Fish, Inc. at **732-356-0081**. A telephone volunteer will return your call.

Monetary donations may be sent to: Treasurer, Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area, PO Box 8565, Piscataway NJ 08855-8006.

For more information about Fish, Inc., go to www.fishdunellenarea.org.

Judy Cox, editor

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area qualifies as a nonprofit corporation and is exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. All contributions are tax deductible. We follow IRS requirements for receipts.