



Fish Newsletter

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Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area

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Hotline: 732-356-0081

www.fishdunellenarea.org

Serving our neighbors since 1970

Wanted: A Few Good Men and Women

Fish, Inc. is an all-volunteer organization – there are no paid positions at Fish. Right now our number of volunteers is stretched pretty thin. New volunteers are needed and are always welcome. Here are some of the ways you can help:

The Food Distribution Program is in need of **volunteers** to paint, clean shelves, and clean refrigerators during the week of August 22 through September 6. We have a wonderful crew of volunteers in the Food Room, and this is your opportunity to show your appreciation for all they do, by giving your time to help with the important task of cleaning and re-organizing so that they can take a much needed break. Your help is gratefully accepted. To volunteer, call the Fish Hotline, **732-356-0081**, and leave a message for **Lisa**.

Fish is also in need of people to serve as **telephone volunteers**. Most volunteers serve one day per month, picking up messages from the Fish Hotline answering service, returning the clients' calls to determine their needs, and relaying the information to the appropriate program chairperson or scheduling appointments for them to go to the Clothing Room or Food Room. Some volunteers serve as often as once a week. If you could give one day per month, or even every other month, and would like to help the poor in our communities, please leave a message for **Lisa** with the Fish Hotline, **732-356-0081**. She will arrange to provide you with guidelines and a telephone volunteers' handbook.

Coming Up —

August 22 – September 6: The Food Room will be closed for vacation and maintenance, reopening Wednesday, September 7 at 9:00 a.m.

Labor Day, September 5: All offices will be closed.

FYI: Please note that the next Annual Meeting will be held on **Monday, May 14, 2012:** time and place to be announced.

Clothing Room Always Needs Children's Summer Clothing

Clothing chairperson Gerry Halteman is seeing more people who thought they would never need the help of Fish, Inc. for clothes. For most families it is because of loss of jobs and/or illness. Some are school teachers who have lost jobs due to the budget cuts in New Jersey. On the other hand, there are people who cannot afford the continual increases in property taxes.

The supply of summer clothing has dwindled to almost nothing. In April, the storage shed is usually jam packed with summer clothes. As of this past mid-July, there were only 50 white kitchen size bags of summer clothes, and they are all adult sizes. So the clothing room is entirely out of children's summer clothes. There are still a couple of months of warm weather and the children need light-weight clothing for those warm back-to-school days.

As you clean out your closets and drawers to get ready for "back-to-school," please consider donating your gently used clean, wearable clothing to Fish, Inc.; **especially children's clothing**. Children change sizes so quickly. New items are also welcome. Your donations will be used by people in our own communities who are truly in need. Thank you.

Updated Fish, Inc. Logo

Fish, Inc. has updated its logo. Recently, it was discovered that one of the Greek letters was incorrect. Our new logo appears in the masthead above and will be seen in all future documents. Fish, Inc. thanks *Sign-A-Rama* of Piscataway and their shop manager, Debbie Gelormine, for their generosity in correcting the lettering on the Fish truck at no cost to Fish.

What does the Fish, Inc. Logo stand for?

Did you ever wonder what do the symbols in our logo mean? The Rev. Kathryn Riss, who has volunteered with Fish for more than 25 years, explains how the logo came about.

The fish is an ancient symbol of Christianity, first used during the time of persecution of the early Christians. When Fish began in 1960's England, people were given a fish card to place in the window of their homes when they needed help. The local street warden would go to that home to give aid.

Anita Hoynes was one of the founders of Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area. She served as Food chairperson from 1970 to 1991. It was Anita who designed our logo.

The Cross stands for Jesus, and for persecuted Christians. The fish is a symbol of refuge or safety. The Greek letters spell the word "fish." Each individual letter also has a meaning:



I	Iota	Jesus
X	Chi	Christ
Θ	Theta	God
Υ	Upsilon	Son
Σ	Sigma	Savior

“Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior.”

For us today, the fish also stands for provision through Christ, who multiplied the loaves and fishes to feed multitudes. This is how God has worked through the Fish organization for over 40 years: working together, we have been His hands to multiply provision to the poor and hungry.

2011 Annual Meeting

The forty-first annual meeting of Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area was held on February 14, 2011, at the First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen.

Treasurer Ned Halteman reported that program expenses remained about the same in 2010, partly because the Food Bank provided more food for our Food Distribution Program. Also, corporate donations were very generous during the past year. Total receipts for the year increased more than \$14,000 over the previous year.

The Clothing Program client numbers were down last year due to several families being referred to a program in North Plainfield. Chairperson Gerry Halteman noted a large increase in clothing donations during the months of November and December. The Knights of Columbus of South Plainfield once again put up their blue collection bin for coats and blankets at St. Mary’s Church, South Plainfield. Gerry thanked all the volunteers involved with the Clothing Room program.

Bob Mitchell, Food Distribution Program chairperson, reported that the Food Room served about 453 clients per month last year. This included walk-in clients and seniors in three communities. Bob thanked all the individuals who collected

and brought food to the Food Room; all the churches and schools who supported the program; and the volunteers who collected food outside the Acme Super Market every month. He also thanked his volunteer crew for the many hours they dedicated to the food room.

The Dunellen Area Christmas Toy Program served over 800 children in Dunellen, Piscataway, Edison, Highland Park and South Plainfield, as well as late callers from New Brunswick. There was a significant increase in the number of families requesting assistance; however donations were very generous. Toy Program chairperson Lisa Couch thanked the volunteers who helped distribute toys; the many churches, civic organizations, corporations; and individuals who thought of others during the holiday season.

The New Brunswick Area Toy Drive had several new churches join the program the past year. The program served children from the Oxanam Shelter in Edison, and Naomi’s Way in New Brunswick, The New Brunswick Housing Authority and the New Brunswick Enhancing Communities Organization; as well as clients from the Fish Hotline. A total of 393 families, including 799 children, were served.. The program continued to work with the Central Jersey Chapter of the Navy League. New Brunswick chairperson Cathy Kobilis thanked Gerry Halteman for supplying bibles to give to the 12 and 13 year-olds.

Officers were elected by the membership for two-year terms, 2011 - 2012: They are: President, Phil Cox; Vice-President, Lisa Couch; Corresponding Secretary, Carol Papi; Recording Secretary, Merkie Chamberlin; Treasurer, Rick Couch; and Assistant Treasurer, Ned Halteman.

The Steering Committee made a motion to change the date of future annual meetings from the second Monday of February to the second Monday of May. Having the meeting during a warmer time of the year, will avoid winter’s inclement weather; and hopefully, will increase attendance. The motion was approved by the membership. Therefore, please note that the next Annual Meeting of Fish, Inc. will be held on **Monday, May 14, 2012.**

President Phil Cox thanked the program chairpersons for their dedication to keeping the programs running smoothly, and all the volunteers who give their time to help others.

The Last Word

For assistance, or to contribute or volunteer, please call the Fish hotline: **732-356-0081.** For more information about Fish, Inc., please visit our website at 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.