



Fish Newsletter

Volume 18

Issue No. 3

Winter 2013

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area

Serving our neighbors since 1970

PO Box 8565, Piscataway NJ 08855-8006

Hotline: 732-356-0081

www.fishdunellenarea.org

Our New Generator

Two years ago Hurricane Irene left Fish without electricity and with a flooded Food Room. Without power we faced the loss of a freezer-full of Thanksgiving turkeys and chickens. Fortunately, we were able to truck this food to a freezer at Our Lady of Fatima church and bring it back when our power was restored.

One year ago Hurricane Sandy left us without electricity for 12 days. Once again, we were able to find someone with electricity and some available freezer space. We had just purchased \$3,200 worth of chickens from the Piscataway ShopRite. Store manager Mike Fillmore allowed us to use their freezer until power was restored.

After two close calls we considered installing a permanent back-up generator to keep our frozen and refrigerated food safe during future power outages. Also, with power available, we would be able to continue to serve those in need at times when they most need our help. We contacted several local suppliers to obtain quotes on a generator suitable for our facility. We found that we needed more than \$10,000 to get this job done.

Fortunately, we received a \$5,000 grant for hurricane recovery from The Allstate Foundation. Also, the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) at Piscataway High School raised \$6,000 for Fish through a student-faculty basketball game. We felt that the Lord had provided these extraordinary donations to cover the cost of our generator. We contracted with Coffey Electric Corporation in Millstone Township to install a GE 20 KW generator which can keep the Fish Food Room, Clothing Room, and the Fish Hospitality office operating during a power failure.

The generator is now operational. It is a permanent installation that runs on natural gas. The system is fully automatic and does not require anyone to be on-site for it to operate.

We thank the members of Piscataway High School FBLA, their advisor Nancy Ostrowski, and Dave Szymansky of the Piscataway Rotary for their work raising funds. Also, we thank The Allstate Foundation for their grant and David Basile of Allstate for nominating us for their grant.

Phil Cox, President

Coming Up ---

December 16 – 20, and December 23: Christmas Food Baskets will be distributed 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the Food Room.

December 24 – January 2: Food Room closed. Reopens Monday, January 6, 2014, at 9:00 a.m.

Ongoing: Third Saturday of each month, September through June: Food Room and Clothing Room are both open, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



St. Frances Cabrini Church Supports Fish and FISH Hospitality

Many years ago Anita Hoynes spoke at St. Frances Cabrini Altar Rosary Society meeting describing her vision of providing food and clothing to the needy in the area. She asked for our help and support in this project. This was the beginning of our involvement with the program.

In the early years, women of the parish assisted in the clothing room at Holmes Marshall School on River Road, handling donations from local residents. After many years, the site was moved to its present location on New Market Road.

Women and men collected groceries at the local supermarkets by standing outside passing out flyers describing the program and listing food items recommended for purchase. Shoppers were asked to deposit their donations in boxes placed outside the stores as they departed.

Presently St. Frances has a container in the church vestibule for drop-off of food and household items which are delivered weekly to the food room by a church volunteer.

Of the many charitable works of the Knights of Columbus Council at St. Frances, Fish has always been on their priority list. Most recently through church fund raising, 68 new winter coats for children were donated by the organization.

During the Christmas season, a giving tree is placed in the church vestibule with gift tags listing needed items. Many donations are made to the Christmas gift program at Fish.

Parishioners of St. Frances Cabrini volunteer in many ways for Fish. They assist in answering phone calls coming in on the telephone hotline; and sort and pack clothing in the clothing room. In addition, they also help FISH Hospitality with the yearly yard sale; and on occasion, prepare meals for the homeless when housed at the Christ United Methodist Church in Piscataway.

Submitted by Margaret A. and Jean C.

The Fish Steering Committee would like to express its deepest gratitude to St. Frances Cabrini Church for its long-time support of our mission.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

As a regular feature in our newsletter, we wish to recognize some of the many groups and individuals in our communities who have conducted activities to benefit Fish. Thank you to the following who have donated recently:

Our Lady of Fatima Church for its November clothing collection for Fish. The church also collected more than 100 turkeys for Fish for the Thanksgiving Holiday meal.

Bishop Ahr High School for clothing, coat, and bedding collection.

Rutgers Preparatory School in Somerset for coats and clothing collected.

North Branch Reformed Church in Bridgewater for ongoing collection of clothes, coats, and bedding.

The Reformed Church of Highland Park, for clothing collection.

Abundant Life Worship Center in Piscataway for collecting coats and clothes.

Wesley Methodist Church in South Plainfield for their ongoing collections for the Clothing Room.

Thank you to the many other churches in our communities who continue to support the work of Fish, among which are: St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran, Dunellen; Christ United Methodist, Piscataway; Our Lady of Mt. Virgin, Middlesex; St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Hillsborough, and St. John the Evangelist in Dunellen.

We at Fish are so grateful to each and every one of you for your generosity. May the Lord continue to bless your efforts.



What Do We Need?

Food Room. extra volunteers needed for Christmas distribution. During Christmas Holiday food distribution. We need **one or two volunteers each day** to help elderly or disabled clients carry food bags upstairs to their cars. Distribution days are December 16 through 20, and December 23, from 9:00 AM till Noon. To volunteer, please call the Hotline, 732-356-0081 and leave your name, number, and the day you can help. We thank you for your help.

Clothing Room. It seems that as fast as the donations come in, they go right back out to those in need. There is an unprecedented number of new clients at the Clothing Room this winter. We need **washable winter coats, infant through teen sizes**, even into January. **Hats, mittens, gloves and scarves of all sizes** are also needed. And we always need **bedding** of all kinds and sizes.

Telephone volunteers. Monday through Friday calls to the Hotline are returned by volunteers who serve from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., one day a month, returning calls from their homes. If you can help, please call 732-356-0081 and leave your name and telephone number for the Telephone Volunteers chairperson.



And the Word
was made flesh
and dwelt
among us

John 1:14



The Last Word

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