



Fish Newsletter

Volume 19

Issue No. 1

Spring 2014

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area

Serving our neighbors since 1970

PO Box 8565, Piscataway NJ 08855-8006

Hotline: 732-356-0081

www.fishdunellenarea.org

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area Annual Meeting
7:30 PM, Thursday, May 8, 2014 at
The First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen
218 Dunellen Avenue, Dunellen, New Jersey



What Is the Purpose and Importance of the Fish, Inc. Annual Meeting?

The membership of Fish, Inc. includes trustees, officers, program chairpersons, steering committee members, and volunteers; as well as those who support Fish with donations of food, clothing, other goods, or money. In other words, anyone with a desire to serve the poor can be a member of Fish.

At the annual meeting the officers and program chairpersons come together to inform Fish members of the past year's activities and developments in each program: the Food Pantry, Clothing Program, Holiday Toy and Gift Program, and Telephone Volunteers.

Decisions which affect the over-all direction of Fish, Inc. are also discussed and voted on by the membership. For instance, a few years ago the membership voted to change the date of the annual meeting from February to May; a time when better weather would make it easier for people to attend the meeting. Please note that this year's meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 8**.

Every two years officers and trustees are elected by the membership. Elections were held last year. Therefore, the next election will be at the 2015 annual meeting.

The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for you to learn more about Fish and to talk with the officers, program chairpersons, and volunteers. We encourage you to attend the annual meeting on Thursday, May 8, at 7:30 PM in The First Presbyterian Church. of Dunellen. Light refreshments will be served.

What Do We Need?

Clothing Room. Childrens washable Summer Clothes, infant through teen sizes, are needed. Bedding of all kinds and sizes is always in demand.

Food Room. We need adult volunteers during the week of July 4th to help clean and paint the food room. Some heavy work may be involved. To volunteer, call the Fish Hotline, 732-356-0081 and give details of how you can help.



Bishop George Ahr High School Students Are Loyal Supporters of Fish

The Christian Social Action Club of Bishop George Ahr High School, Edison, has been a loyal supporter of the food and clothing programs of Fish, Inc. for more than fifteen years. Each Fall students in the Christian Social Action Club (CSAC) collected clothing, coats, and blankets for Fish clients. The group also collects and delivers frozen turkeys for the Thanksgiving meal distributed by Fish.

At the end of each school year, students meet with Campus Minister, Sister Cynthia Babyak, to plan and sign up for activities they will do in the coming year. They work with "Sister Cyndi" to coordinate their planned projects. Fish Clothing Chairperson, Gerry Halteman recalls the days when the school's old yellow school bus, chock-full of clothing, would arrive at the clothing room. Gerry says that Sister always has some good ideas for acts of service. Below are just a few of the many projects in which students participated during the school year:

The CSAC made 400 bag lunches and delivered them to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen.

A "Hoops for Charity" basketball game was held to benefit the American Heart Association.

The CSAC held a Christmas pizza party for retired and infirm Felician Sisters at Our Lady of Lourdes Care Center. The students distributed poinsettias, Christmas cards written by the entire school community, and sang Christmas Carols.

They collected gifts, food store gift cards, and Target gift cards for five adopted families at a Catholic Charities home for adolescents.

Students provided 200 shoe boxes filled with gifts for children of third world countries.

CSAC students volunteered at Elijah's Promise Soup Kitchen.

Students are required to give a certain number of service hours. For example, Freshman students are required to give at least fifty hours of service as part of their grade in Religion class. Also, credits are earned to qualify for the National Honor Society. Students may earn credits toward their service hours by collecting food, clothing, blankets, and other items needed to complete the projects. At the end of the school year, three students from each grade who earned the most credits are acknowledged for their outstanding service.

The Steering Committee of Fish, Inc. would like to thank the students of Bishop Ahr High School Christian Social Action Club and Sister Cynthia for the many ways they have helped Fish serve those in need in our communities.



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 support the Fish programs that help those in need. Thank you to the following who have donated recently:

The First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen for its ongoing support since Fish began in 1970. This church has provided us with a room for the Annual Meeting for many years, as well as for several other occasions. The first Sunday of each month there is a food collection for Fish. Many Fish volunteers are members of this congregation.

Thank you to the Pioneers, who collected at least 15 boxes of food for Fish in April.

Our Lady of Fatima Church in Piscataway for their ongoing support. The parishioners have been very generous in supporting the weekly food collection for Fish.

Thank you to the many other churches in our communities that continue to support the work of Fish. Among them 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; St. John the Evangelist in Dunellen; St. Frances Cabrini Church, Piscataway; North Branch Reformed Church, Bridgewater; and Wesley Methodist Church, South Plainfield.

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

Coming Up ---

May 8, 7:30 PM Fish, Inc. Annual Meeting

June 30 – July 5 Food Room closed for cleaning and painting. (See "What Do We Need" on page 1.)



The Last Word

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

The Fish Newsletter is available on our website. Or if you would like to receive a copy of the Newsletter, send an e-mail to newsletter@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.