



Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area

Serving our neighbors since 1970

Fish Newsletter

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PO Box 8565, Piscataway NJ 08855-8006

Hotline: 732-356-0081

www.fishdunellenarea.org

The Story of Friendship Hall

The tall, white building just south of the parking lot for the First Baptist Church of New Market has a varied history. The original building once served as the office of the Piscataway Township Tax Collector. The Day family ran a Print Shop, and Ernie Day ran a Fire Equipment Company in the basement of the building. It was the location of the first office of *The PD Review*. It also became the meeting place for the first Boy Scout troop in New Market, Troop 23. There was a bowling alley at the rear of the building.

When the New Market Baptist Church, acquired Friendship Hall, it became a gathering place for families, with activities such as "Mystery Make It" night. Rev. Clayton Maud would organize "surprise" projects for children and families to build for gifts. Dances were held and movies were shown. Sunday school was also held in the building.

One day, on his way to Raritan Valley Hospital, Pastor Ken Mart was passing the home of Anita Hoynes, the first chairperson of the Fish Food Program. He was moved to compassion when he saw people out on the lawn, packing food in paper bags for Fish clients -- in the rain! He thought there must be some way to help the people of Fish. So, he went to the church Trustees and Deacons and received approval to let Fish use the basement of Friendship Hall as their Food Room.

Eventually, the Baptist Church granted Fish, Inc. a hundred-year lease on the property, for \$1 a year. In 1990, Fish began construction of a new building on the site of the former bowling alley. The building was completed in 1992. The Food Room expanded, and the Clothing Program moved from Holmes Marshall School to the first floor and part of the second floor of the new building. Fish Hospitality Program moved into the second floor.

Today the Fish, Inc. building is a very busy place. The Food and Clothing rooms are open for clients at least three days a week, and volunteers are there other hours during the week, sorting clothes, or stocking shelves, etc. . Fish Hospitality Inc. uses the offices on the second floor. Friendship Hall is used for AA meetings and as a worship site for two congregations: Jesus Lamb of God Fellowship, and Shekina First Haitian Church.*

Thanks to Rev. Ken Mart and Ned Halteman for providing historical information for this story.



Coming Up ---

October 1 through December 6: Donations of new, unwrapped toys for the Christmas Toy Program may be brought to the Food Room Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9:00 – 12:00 Noon.

November 15; 17-22; 24 and 25: Thanksgiving Holiday Food distributed at the Food Room.

November 26-28: Food Room closed. Reopen Monday, December 1, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.

December 13, 15-20, 22 and 23: Christmas Holiday Food distributed at the Food Room.

December 23 – January 2, 2015: Clothing Room closed.

December 23 – January 2, 2015: Food Room closed. Reopen Monday, January 5.

Ongoing: – The third Saturday of each month the Food Room and Clothing Room will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



What Do We Need?

Bilingual Interpreters (especially Spanish) needed to volunteer in the Clothing Room on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon, during the months of November and December. Any hours you can give would be appreciated. If you can help, please call the Fish hotline, 732-356-0081 and leave a message for the Clothing Chairperson.

Backup Van Drivers Needed. Especially during the holiday season, extra drivers are needed on an "as needed" or "on-call" basis, to pick up donations from corporations and schools. Interested volunteers should call the Hotline at 732-356-0081, and leave a message.

Children's Clothing. Children's washable winter coats and winter clothes, sizes Infant to Teens. Donations may be brought to the Clothing Room, 456 New Market Road, in Piscataway. Call the hotline, 732-356-0081, for details.



A Familiar Voice in the Crowd

B. was attending "Praise in The Parking Lot," led by Zion Tabernacle of Praise*, in the parking lot between the Fish building and the First Baptist Church of New Market. Hearing a familiar voice, *B.* approached the Fish exhibit table. She knew, immediately, it was the voice of the very same Fish volunteer, whom *B.* had spoken with several times, many years ago.

B. was a single mother then, with a three year old son. They had almost nothing, and she needed help. She still remembers the kindness and care that was shown to her and to her son. When she needed a bed for her son, she got a bed. When she needed blankets, she got blankets, shoes, and sneakers. *B.* remembers receiving food for Thanksgiving dinner. Fish was her lifeline. "The people at Fish made me feel like I mattered," she said. "I am grateful for something so sustaining."

Years later, *B.* now owns a successful childcare business, her son is grown, and life is good. *B.* says she will always be thankful for the support she and her son received from Fish those many years ago.



*We at Fish, Inc. wish everyone a
very Happy Thanksgiving!*

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Fish is especially grateful at this time of the year for the many individuals, social groups, businesses, scout troops, schools; and especially for all the volunteers who support us in so many ways throughout the year. With your help, you have made our work easier. Thank you.

We would especially like to thank the following for food donations: Abundant Life Worship Center in Piscataway, The Club at Ricochet Health & Racquet Center in South Plainfield, Middlesex County Realtors, and Operation Shoe Box.

We thank the many churches that support the work of Fish with food collections, toy collections, clothing drives, and other activities. Among them are: the First Baptist Church of New Market, monthly food drive at Acme; Our Lady of Mt. Virgin, monthly food donations; Our Lady of Fatima, weekly food collections. Also, Our Lady of Czestochowa; The First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen; St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran; Christ United Methodist Church; St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Hillsborough; St. John the Evangelist in Dunellen; St. Frances Cabrini Church; North Branch Reformed Church; and Wesley Methodist Church, South Plainfield.

On behalf of the people we serve, we thank everyone for your generosity. May the Lord continue to bless your efforts.

And, as always, a special thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition of the Fish Newsletter.

Come Join "THE FISH NET"

If you are interested in hearing from us when we have a specific need, subscribe to become a member of *The Fish Net*. We promise to cast our net only when a specific need arises. We will not bombard you with unwanted email. To subscribe, visit www.fishdunellenarea.org and click on "The Fish Net" tab.



The Last Word

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

***Corrected November 15, 2014.** Editor.