



# Fish Newsletter

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**Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area**

*Serving our neighbors since 1970*

PO Box 8565, Piscataway NJ 08855-8006

Hotline: 732-356-0081

[www.fishdunellenarea.org](http://www.fishdunellenarea.org)

## **Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, May 14, 2015, 7:30 PM**

**PLEASE NOTE: This year's meeting will be held in Callard Hall at The First Baptist Church of New Market, 450 New Market Road, Piscataway.**

Everyone interested in helping others; all Fish volunteers; and all who support Fish with donations of food, clothing, other goods, or money, is invited to attend the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area. The meeting will include annual reports from the officers and program chairpersons. The bi-annual election of officers and trustees will be held.

This is your opportunity to learn more about how Fish helps people in need in our local communities. Come to the meeting and find out how you can help Fish help others. Light refreshments will be served.

Callard Hall is located across the parking lot from the Fish, Inc. building. Handicap access is available on the other side of the church. Enter the north parking lot from the street and use the door at the rear of the church.

*All are welcome!*



### **What Do We Need?**

Warm weather is coming. **The Clothing Room** needs **Summer clothing** for infants through teens, as well as adults.

### **Substitute Van Drivers and Ride-Along Helpers.**

**Drivers:** Gentlemen over 18 who can lift 60+ pounds and be available to fill-in when necessary. **Ride-along Helpers:** Gentlemen over 18 who can lift 60+ pounds to ride along to pick up donations. Must be able to commit to a routine schedule. Please call the Fish Hotline (732-356-0081) and leave a message for Lisa.



### **Coming Up ---**

**May 14, 2015: Fish, Inc. 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.  
7:30 PM See details this page.**

**Third Thursday** of each month: *Fishes & Loaves Café I.* -- Free lunch is served from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Christ United Methodist Church, 485 Hoes Lane, Piscataway. The next lunch will be held April 16. Everyone is welcome.

**Third Friday** of each month: *Fishes & Loaves Café II.* -- Free dinner is served from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria at Our Lady of Fatima Recreation/Learning Center, 499 New Market Road, Piscataway. The next dinner will be April 17, 2015. Everyone is welcome.

**Third Saturday** of each month: the Food Room and Clothing Room will be open 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.



### **A Thank You Letter...**

Fish Inc. Team,

I would like to take the time to say thank you for everything you have done for my family and I. When I was seven years old our house burned down and we lost everything, including my dog that I am still extremely attached to today.

After the fire, my mother, sister, brothers and I moved into an apartment building on Walnut Street, Piscataway. My mother tried her best to piece things back together. One of her efforts included finding your organization. When we were getting settled into our new place, my mother brought my sister and I to FISH and everyone was so nice. I remember trying on different coats to see which one fit the best, and also looking at the toys. Around Christmas time, there was a knock on the door. When I opened it, a man was standing there with two big bags. I was excited because I knew what he was dropping off. We thanked him and my mother took the bags into her room. The very next morning there were so many gifts under the tree it was truly unbelievable!

On Christmas Eve, my sister and I were able to open one gift. I cannot remember what gift I opened because I was

too focused on my sister's present. She opened a book, similar to a diary, but you share it with your best friend. I wanted that gift so bad I cried, and we argued. My mother took the gift so she could decide who to give it to. My sister was able to keep the book! I am much younger than she, so the book was more suitable for her and her best friend. That story is still very funny to us and we still talk about that day every time a similar situation comes up. We were much appreciative of everything we received from FISH on Christmas day and everything they provided to us before. We were never picky kids growing up and although we didn't fully understand what was going on, we knew to appreciate the help we were receiving.

Unfortunately, my mother passed away when I was 10 years old. She was truly my best friend. She was a very strong and independent woman who made all of my days full of smiles and happiness, regardless of our situation.

After she passed, my siblings and I moved to Georgia with my father and stepmother. Their lifestyle was very different than ours. They had a very big house with a pool in the backyard. Although it was a nice house and more stable, I could never compare it to the life my mother gave us or everything that FISH did for us.

My sister and I made the best of our lives moving forward. We both joined the military right after high school. I went into the Navy and my sister joined the Army. She is 27 now and has accomplished her lifetime dream. She teaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Atlanta, and has just completed her Master's Degree. I am 25 and I have completed my Associates in Criminal Justice and I am now working on my Bachelor's Degree, graduating this December. I also live in Atlanta, and I work as a Database Administrator.

What made me contact you today is a homework assignment I am working on in one of Criminal Justice classes. We are talking about poverty and I am going to share a little of my own experience I had growing up. FISH was a big part of our lives and I will never forget everything you have done for us. I have carried these memories for so long and it pushed me to be the person I am today. You've inspired me to always be thankful and to also help those in need. I continuously involve myself in community service outreach programs that feed the homeless. Without your unmatched generosity, I wouldn't know the true value of giving. Again, thank you for everything.

Sincerely, Rahnisha  
In Loving Memory of My Mother



### ***In Memorium***

We fondly remember Mrs. Juanita Hearn who was called home to God on Friday, March 13, 2015. Juanita retired several years ago after serving as a telephone volunteer and chairperson of the Telephone Volunteers Program for many years. Juanita was a member of Raritan Valley Baptist Church.



### ***Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!***

*As a regular feature in our newsletter, we wish to recognize 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 all those who have donated recently:*

A special thank you to the Robotics Team and other students at St. Joseph's High School, Metuchen who, last Fall, participated in the Federation of New Jersey Food Banks "Students Change Hunger" program. They collected about 2,000 lbs. of food which was donated to Fish, Inc.

Thank you also to The Reeve Foundation, Catholic Charities–Diocese of Metuchen, Italian American League, Middlesex Presbyterian Church, Raritan Valley Baptist Church, Middlesex Borough Luminary Sales, Kathryn Hand, William Boulle, Richard and Arlene Sroczyński, Joseph and Lillian Aniunas, Ronald Kovac, Robert and Barbara Cifelli, Peter Marzan, Middlesex Elks, Utility Workers Union of America AFL-CIO, South Plainfield Elks, and the Rotary Club of Piscataway.

Many churches in our communities continue to support the work of Fish. Among those are St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran, Dunellen; Our Lady of Mt. Virgin, Middlesex; St. John the Evangelist in Dunellen; St. Frances Cabrini Church, Piscataway; Wesley Methodist Church, South Plainfield; The First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen, and Abundant Life Worship Center of Piscataway.

May the Lord continue to bless your works.



### ***Come Join "THE FISH NET"***

If you are interested in hearing from us when we have a specific need, you may 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 e-mails. To subscribe, visit us at **[www.fishdunellenarea.org](http://www.fishdunellenarea.org)** and click on "The Fish Net" tab.



### ***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: **[www.fishdunellenarea.org](http://www.fishdunellenarea.org)**. Current and back issues of the Fish Newsletter are available on the website.

*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 to the full extent allowed by law. We follow IRS requirements for receipts.*