



Fish Newsletter

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Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area

Serving our neighbors since 1970

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A View From The Other Side

Several weeks ago, Michael K. came to the Clothing Room with a very large donation. He and his family were moving out-of-state. While talking with Gerry Halteman, Clothing Room chairperson, Michael expressed his thanks for the help his family had received from Fish a few years earlier. He had lost his job, his wife was expecting a baby, and they had two children in day care. He had come to Fish for help with clothing, food, and Holiday gifts. Gerry introduced Michael to the Food Room volunteers. Once again he thanked everyone for helping his family, in particular, for the Holiday toys. He said, "I am happy that there are groups like you to help other people." We at Fish wish him and his family God's blessings as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

South Plainfield Senior Center First Father's Day Breakfast a Success

South Plainfield Senior Center hosted its first Father's Day Breakfast on June 23rd. The event was well attended and members had the opportunity to catch up with friends. Breakfast for about 100 attendees consisted of muffins, cookies and bagels donated by Fish, Inc. as well as yogurt and fresh fruit. Kerri Edwards from the Middlesex County Nutrition Program (MCNP) and volunteer members of the center also served eggs, French toast, sausage and hash browns provided by Fish, Inc. and MCNP. In addition, 20 frozen hams donated by Fish were raffled off to lucky members. The breakfast was enjoyed by all. South Plainfield Senior Center holds numerous gatherings throughout the year.

Coming Up ---

Third Thursday of each month: *Fishes & Loaves Café* ^I serves free lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church, 485 Hoes Lane, Piscataway. The next lunch will be held October 15. Everyone is welcome.

Third Friday of each month: *Fishes & Loaves Café* ^{II} serves free dinner, 5 to 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Our Lady of Fatima Recreation/Learning Center, 499 New Market Road, Piscataway. The next dinner will be October 16, 2015. All are welcome.

Third Saturday of each month: the Food Room and Clothing Room open 9-11 a.m.

Beginning in October: Fish will accept donations of new, unwrapped toys for the Christmas Toy Program. Please bring toys to the Food Room during regular operating hours, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

November 14; 16-21; 23 and 24

Thanksgiving Holiday food distributed at the Food Room.

Fish, Inc. 2015 Annual Meeting

The 45th Annual Meeting of Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area was held at Callard Hall, First Baptist Church of New Market, on Thursday, May 14, 2015. Refreshments were served prior to the meeting. The meeting opened with prayer by Assistant Treasurer Ned Halteman at 7:40 pm. President Phil Cox welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Treasurer Richard Couch reported that monetary donations were up over the last year and Fish is maintaining reserve funds for future operating expenses. A copy of the report was made available to attendees. The new answering service through Verizon shows a reduction in monthly costs.

President Cox stated that Fish is still in need of a maintenance volunteer to do minor repairs in the building as well as to call in appropriate contractors as needed.

Program Chairpersons Reports were given. A summary of those reports follows this article.

The membership unanimously elected the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee, to serve two-year terms ending in May of 2017. Those re-elected are: President, Phil Cox; Vice President, Lisa Couch; Corresponding Secretary, Kelly McHale; Treasurer, Rick Couch; Assistant Treasurer, Edward Halteman; and Trustee, Jerry Gargiulo. A new nominee for Recording Secretary, Nancy Goldsmith, was elected. Carol Papi could no longer serve as Recording Secretary due to a move out of state. We thank Carol for her many years of service to Fish, Inc.

The president called for volunteers from the general membership to serve on the Nominating Committee for the next two years. Three volunteers, Connie Cannata, Darlene McCann, and Debbie Turton, accepted. (Note: At their next regular meeting the president appointed two

members from the Steering Committee, Rick Couch and Kelly McHale, to serve on the Nominating Committee for a two-year term.)

Open discussion included information from Arlene Sroczynski about the new cooperative project between Fish, Inc. and Our Lady of Fatima Church. *Fishes and Loaves Café* " serves dinner the third Friday of every month. Kelly McHale commended Lisa Couch, Tom Pisack, and Fr. Lou Mattina for developing this endeavor. Jerry Gargiulo acknowledged volunteer Dolores Jackson for respectfully assisting clients in the Food Room. Steve Glowacki and Debbie Carr are looking for volunteers to staff the monthly food collection outside the Middlesex Acme Market the third Saturday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. This past year the project generated over 750 bags of groceries at an estimated total value of more than \$4,000. The Acme collection is sponsored by the New Market Baptist Church.

Phil Cox thanked all the regular volunteers for their faithful service to make it possible for Fish to help others. He made special mention of those recently deceased: Juanita Hearn, Bob Mitchell, Fred Gleason, Betty Gill and Leo Zmuda.

The closing prayer was offered by Gerry Halteman.

Program Chairpersons Reports

Food Room Report: In the absence of Chairperson, Lisa Couch, Rick Couch presented a brief overview of program activities in the past year. The Food Room receives food items from collections by church groups, civic groups, school projects, and others. Additional food, including meat and eggs, is purchased through the Community Food Bank of NJ. Fresh produce and other food items are received from Shop Rite, Acme and Stop & Shop through The Direct Gleaning Program through Community Food Bank of NJ.

Clothing Room Report: Gerry Halteman, Chairperson, reported the Clothing Room is open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9-12 noon and the third Saturday of the month from 9-11 am. Clients are permitted to visit the clothing room 3 or 4 times a year. There is a significant increase in families needing assistance: 500 new clients and a total of 1,300 clients now being served. Gerry thanked the many corporations, businesses, scout troops, churches, schools and individuals who did clothing collections and made monetary donations to purchase new items such as sneakers, socks and underwear. Gerry thanked her faithful volunteers in the clothing room.

Telephone Volunteers Report: Telephone calls are returned by our volunteers 5 days a week. Approximately 200 calls are received per month; with up to 400 calls per month during the holiday season, October through December. Chairperson Debbie Turton reported the loss of three dedicated volunteers over the past year, Betty Gill passed away, Mona Lopez moved to Boston and John Ray resigned due to health problems. Fortunately we have three new volunteers this year: Sally C, Joan F, and Jeanette S. This makes a total of 13 volunteers.

Fish Hospitality Program Report: Emily Mlinarovich noted that 24 family units were served during the past year. The average stay is 60 days. A 15 passenger van transports clients to job interviews, medical appointments, and children to school pickups. Emily thanked Fish for providing new shoes, sneakers, underwear and food to departing clients.



Thanks and Welcome

Two of our loyal volunteers have relocated out of state. Special thanks to Carol Papi and Mona Lopez for their many years of service to Fish. Carol served as Recording Secretary from 2013-2015 and was the food

delivery coordinator when Fish served the New Brunswick seniors. Mona has been with Fish from the very beginning serving as a long-time Clothing Room volunteer and a valuable Telephone volunteer. We also thank Telephone volunteers Doreen Mazza and John Ray for the service they have given Fish, and we wish them well.

We welcome incoming Recording Secretary, Nancy Goldsmith. Nancy is a parishioner of Our Lady of Fatima Church, and an administrative assistant in the Piscataway school system. Also, we welcome our new Telephone Volunteers. Sally and Joan joined us in 2014; and Jeannette and Darlene started this year.



Come Join 'THE FISHNET'

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** and click on "The Fish Net" tab.



Thank You!

We would like to acknowledge some of the many groups and individuals in our communities who have conducted activities to support Fish programs. Thank you to the following who have donated recently:

Fish, Inc., Dunellen Area is pleased to receive \$1,000 from the Allstate Foundation in honor of Allstate Agent David Basile's volunteerism. We are pleased to partner with Allstate and their commitment to making our hometowns better, safer places to live.

The Clothing Room thanks Gianna T and Celeste K from South Plainfield Girl Scout Troop 65006. The girls, working for their Bronze award, collected food, clothing,

coats, flip flops, backpacks, and school supplies; and sorted clothes at the Clothing Room. They sent out fliers, posted on *facebook*, and sent emails to family and friends in the community asking for their support and donations. We appreciate all their efforts as we prepared for the new school year.

The Food Room thanks All Saints Lutheran Church, Piscataway; St. Francis Episcopal Church, Dunellen; Pepsi of Piscataway; Sue Vokral; Village Supermarkets, Springfield; Saker Supermarkets, Freehold; Acme Supermarket, Middlesex; Stop & Shop Supermarket, Piscataway.

Many churches in our communities continue to support the work of Fish, Inc. with activities to raise funds for Fish, with food collections, clothing collections, and more. We thank the following congregations for their generosity: The First Baptist Church of Metuchen; St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran, Dunellen; Our Lady of Mt. Virgin, Middlesex; St. John the Evangelist, Dunellen; St. Frances Cabrini, Piscataway; Wesley Methodist Church, South Plainfield; The First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen; Abundant Life Worship Center of Piscataway; and The First Baptist Church of New Market.



Now You Can Go Paperless!

If you would like to receive the *Fish Newsletter* via the internet, send an e-mail to: newsletter@fishdunellenarea.org, and new editions will be sent to you as they become available. We publish 3 or 4 issues per year. You can also download the Newsletter by logging onto our website and clicking on the "Newsletter" tab.

What Do We Need?

Clothing Room needs bedding. As we prepare for cooler weather, the Clothing Room needs all kinds of bedding including sheets, comforters, blankets and bedspreads; as well as towels and washcloths.

Food Room needs van drivers and ride-along helpers. Drivers and helpers should be at least 18 years of age, possess a clean driving record, and be able to lift 60 pounds. People who can commit to a regular schedule and those who can be called to fill in as required are both needed. To learn more, please call the Fish Hotline (732-356-0081) and leave a message for Lisa.

Telephone Volunteers needed. Work at home, returning calls from potential clients and scheduling appointments. Training is provided by our telephone Chairperson. Volunteers work one day per month. Some work additional days when needed. For more information or to volunteer, please call the Fish Hotline, 732-356-0081 and leave a message for Debbie.



The Last Word

For assistance, or if you would like to contribute or volunteer, call the Fish hotline: **732-356-0081**. For more information about Fish, Inc., please visit our website: **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 to the full extent allowed by law. We follow IRS requirements for receipts.